# **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

J.B. Bruns Shoe Co. Building Historic name

Other names/site number River Park, International Shoe Co., Tweedie Shoe Co., Jefferson City Distributors (JCD),

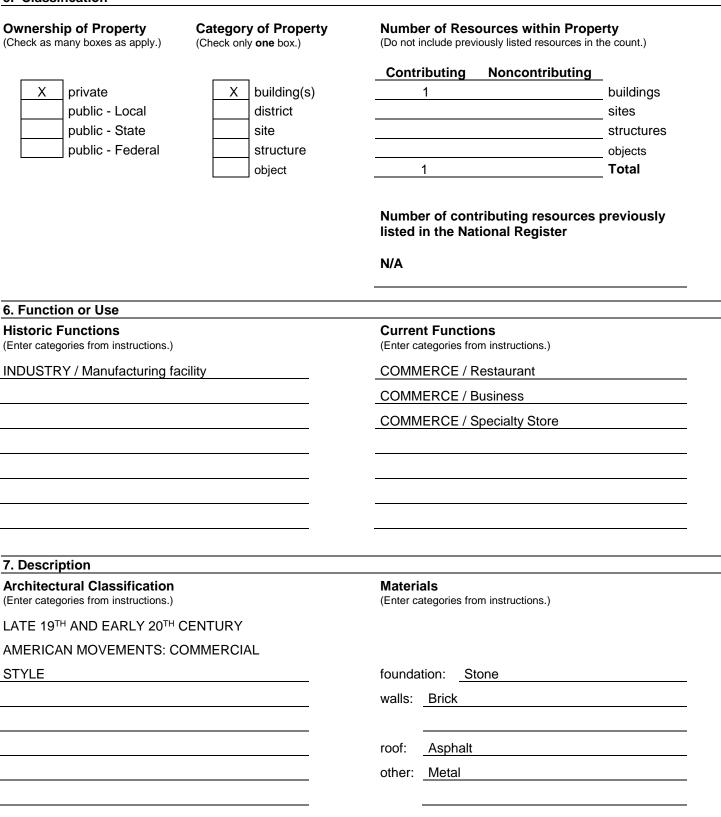
The Courtney Shoe Co's Factory No. 3

2. Location		
Street & number 627 W. McCarty St.	N/A	not for publication
City or town Jefferson City	N/A	vicinity
State Missouri Code MO County Cole Code 51	Zip co	de 65109
3. State/Federal Agency Certification		
As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,		
I hereby certify that this <u>x</u> nomination <u>request</u> for determination of eligibility meets t for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedu requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.	the docume iral and pro	entation standards ofessional
In my opinion, the property $\underline{x}$ meets $\underline{x}$ does not meet the National Register Criteria. property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:	l recomme	nd that this
nationalstatewidex_local		
Applicable National Register Criteria: <u>x</u> A _ B _ C _ D		
Signature of certifying official/Title /Date		
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 Gover	nment	
4. National Park Service Certification		
I hereby certify that this property is:		
entered in the National Register determined eligible for the	National Reg	ister
determined not eligible for the National Register removed from the National	al Register	
other (explain:)		
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action		

United States Department of the Interior NPS Form 10-900

J.B. Bruns Shoe Co. Name of Property

5. Classification



X NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION ON CONTINUTATION PAGES

National Park Service / National Register of Historic Places Registration Form OMB No. 1024-0018

Cole County, Missouri County and State J.B. Bruns Shoe Co. Name of Property

### 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.)

|--|

В

Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

С

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.



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:

D

A	Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

В removed from its original location.

- a birthplace or grave. С
- D a cemetery.
- a reconstructed building, object, or structure. Е
- F a commemorative property.
- less than 50 years old or achieving significance G within the past 50 years.

х
9.

#### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE ON CONTINUTATION PAGES \_\_\_\_ - -

His

National Park Service / National Register of Historic Places Registration Form OMB No. 1024-0018

Cole County, Missouri County and State

### Areas of Significance

INDUSTRY

### Period of Significance

1905 – 1930 and 1945 - 1956

### **Significant Dates**

N/A

### **Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

### **Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

### Architect/Builder

UNKNOWN

. Major Bibliographical References		
<b>ibliography</b> (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparir revious documentation on file (NPS):	ng this form.) 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 # recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey #	X State Historic Preservation Office Other State agency Federal agency Local government University Other Name of repository:	
istoric Resources Survey Number (if assigned):		

J.B. Bruns Shoe Co. Name of Property

Cole County,	Missouri
County and	l State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property	Less than one acre					
Latitude/Longitude C Datum if other than W0 (enter coordinates to 6	GS84:					
1 38.580716	-92.181739	3				
Latitude:	Longitude:	L	_atitude:	Longitude:		
2 Latitude:	Longitude:	4	atitude:	Longitude:		
UTM References (Place additional UTM refere NAD 1927	ences on a continuation sheet Or NAD 19	,				
1 Zone Easting	Northing		3 Zone	Easting	Northing	
2 Zone Easting	Northing		4 Zone	Easting	Northing	
Verbal Boundary Des	cription (On continuation	on sheet)				
Boundary Justification	on (On continuation shee	et)				
11. Form Prepared By	y					
name/title Jane Beet	em, Historic Preservatio	n Consulta	ant			
organization N/A						
street & number P. C	. Box 476			telephone 573-	680-0005	
city or town Jefferson	City			state MO	zip code 65102	

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

jbeetem@embarqmail.com

Maps:

e-mail

- 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.).

United States Department of the Interior NPS Form 10-900

J.B. Bruns Shoe Co. Name of Property National Park Service / National Register of Historic Places Registration Form OMB No. 1024-0018

Cole County, Missouri County and State

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

### Photographs

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

## Photo Log:

Name of Property:	J.B. Bruns Shoe Co.
City or Vicinity:	Jefferson City
County: Cole	State: MO
Photographer:	Jane Beetem
Date Photographed:	January 3, 2020; February 7, 2020; February 28, 2020; March 5, 2020; August 28, 2020

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

- 1. North side, 2/28/20, main restaurant entry at center left, pointing southwest.
- 2. North elevation, 2/28/20, closeup, pointing southeast.
- 3. West façade, 2/28/20, pointing southeast.
- 4. West side entry door, 2/28/20, reopened during rehab, pointing southeast.
- 5. West and south façades, 2/28/20, pointing northeast.
- 6. South side, 2/28/20, pointing northeast.
- 7. East façade, 8/28/20, pointing west.
- 8. North side fire escape closeup, 2/28/20, pointing south.
- 9. Basement, south side, 1/3/20, facing southeast.
- 10. Basement, 3/5/20, north side, facing northeast.
- 11. Basement, 1/3/20, scale, facing southeast.
- 12. Basement, 3/5/20, facing southwest.

13. First floor, main entry to restaurant, 3/5/20, original factory doors retained, elevator weights visible through glass doors, pointing northwest.

- 14. First floor, north side of restaurant, 3/5/20, pointing east.
- 15. First floor, south side of restaurant, 3/5/20, pointing east.
- 16. First floor, restaurant bar, 3/5/20, facing southwest.
- 17. First floor lobby, view of east exterior wall, 3/5/20, pointing east.
- 18. First floor, retail space on west, 3/5/20, pointing southwest.
- 19. First floor, retail space on west, 3/5/20, pointing northwest.
- 20. First floor, main entry to restaurant ceiling, elevator cage visible above, 3/5/20, pointing up.
- 21. Stair from first to second floor, 3/5/20, pointing northeast.
- 22. Second floor, event space on east end, 3/5/20, pointing southeast.
- 23. Second floor, work area, south exterior wall visible, 3/5/20, pointing southwest.
- 24. Second floor, work area, north and south exterior walls visible, 3/5/20, pointing east.
- 25. Second floor, lobby and office reception area, 3/5/20, pointing southwest.
- 26. Second floor, training room, south exterior wall visible, 3/5/20, pointing southwest.
- 27. Third floor, north side corridor, 3/5/20, pointing northeast.
- 28. Third floor, lobby and conference room, 3/5/20, pointing southeast.
- 29. Third floor, two conference rooms, lobby and hallway, 3/5/20, pointing southwest.
- 30. Third floor, north side corridor, 3/5/20, pointing west.
- 31. Third floor, office space, 3/5/20, pointing southeast.
- 32. Third floor, original factory doors, 2/7/20, pointing northwest.

Cole County, Missouri County and State

J.B. Bruns Shoe Co. Name of Property

- 33. Third floor, office reception area, 2/7/20, pointing north.
- 34. Third floor, northwest office, 2/7/20, pointing northwest.
- 35. Third floor, top of stairs, 3/5/20, pointing northeast.

### Figure Log:

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

- 1. Navigational reference map. JB Bruns is not oriented facing north, south, east or west, so a map is provided as an aid to the reader.
- 2. J.B. Bruns Shoe Co. Nomination Boundary.
- 3. Contextual map.
- 4. Historic photo, circa 1969 1970, north and west elevations, pointing southeast.
- 5. Historic photo, circa 1961, west and south elevations, pointing northeast.
- 6. Historic photo, circa 1961, south and east elevations, pointing northwest.
- 7. Historic photo, circa 1961, west elevation, pointing east.
- 8. Historic photo, circa 1961, north and west elevations, pointing southeast.
- 9. 1960 Aerial Photo, showing additions.
- 10. 2019 Photo, showing parking lot before expansion and repaving.
- 11. 2019 Photos, West Side. Plaque above center doorway "J.B. Bruns Mfg. Co. 1905."
- 12. Sanborn Maps.
- 13. Historic interior photos of other shoe factories.
- 14. 2019 Photo, showing elevation of Bolivar St. adjacent to J.B. Bruns Shoe Co.
- 15. Brick infill removed, doors returned to windows, window made into door. North façade.
- 16. Brick infill removed, arched doorway re-opened, windows returned to full size. West façade.
- 17. 2019 Photo of East Wall.
- 18. Current basement floor plan.
- 19. Current first floor plan.
- 20. Former restroom, first floor.
- 21. Current second floor plan.
- 22. Current third floor plan.
- 23. Photo Key Basement.
- 24. Photo Key Exterior & First Floor.
- 25. Photo Key Second Floor.
- 26. Photo Key Third Floor.
- 27. Henry J. Dulle Farm map.
- 28. International Shoe Bolivar Street Factory, 1929.
- 29. International Shoe Factory, 1101 Capitol Avenue, circa 2014.
- 30. International Shoe Factory, 1101 Capitol Avenue, circa 2018.
- 31. International Shoe Factory, 1101 Capitol Avenue, circa 1906.
- 32. Tweedie Footwear Corporation Factory, 100 block of Jefferson Street.
- 33. MSP Old Shoe Factory.
- 34. Former A. Priesmeyer Shoe Factory.
- 35. Newspaper ads, seeking workers for International Shoe.

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J.B. Bruns Shoe Co. Building
Name of Property
Cole County, Missouri
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

#### Summary

The J.B. Bruns Shoe Co. building, located at 627 W. McCarty St. in Jefferson City, Cole County, Missouri, is a locally significant former shoe factory that is the sole contributing historic resource in this nomination (Figure 2). The periods of significance reflect the area of significance under Criteria A, Industry and cover the periods when the building was used as a shoe factory, from construction in 1905 to 1930 and from 1945 to 1956. This former factory is a 3-story red brick industrial building, largely rectangular in shape, with a partially exposed stone foundation and a flat roof. The main character defining features of the exterior of the building are the red brick walls, stone foundation, flat roof with small parapets on the east and west ends and the rhythmic pattern of large modern multi-pane windows with segmental arched tops that are aligned both horizontally and vertically. The windows are not original. The replacement windows are the same size as the originals and retain alignment of the openings. They differ in being single pane rather than double-hung, with glass that is lightly tinted green. The building was designed to be functional and has very little ornamentation. The former factory is similar in size, shape and design to other Jefferson City shoe factories constructed after 1900, making it easily recognizable as a former shoe factory. Relatively few additions have been made historically. A brick addition on the south façade at basement level dates to the periods of significance. Recently, a shed roof extending over the basement level on the east wall was replaced by a concrete deck with black metal railings, having approximately the same footprint. A similar deck was added on the second floor and a balcony on the third floor. On the north wall, a shed roof over the first-floor windows was extended across the stair tower to cover the current main entry. The historic main entry was likely on the west elevation as discussed below. Two large character defining exterior features are the historic metal fire escapes. In the interior, character defining features include large open spaces that reflect the building's original use as a factory, as well as exposed brick walls (stone walls in the basement), original wood floors, lines of exposed original wooden posts, full height exposed wood ceilings, wood beams and other historic artifacts that provide a sense of the building's industrial past. Original stairways and elevators remain largely unchanged from the periods of significance.

The former factory remains in an industrial setting, located adjacent to Highway 50 and Bolivar Street, separated from W. McCarty Street by a parking lot sloping upward to the street and from Wears Creek and Missouri Boulevard on the east by a level parking lot and an open space. A small service parking area is located south of the building.

While there have been some changes over the years and during rehabilitation in 2019, the building continues to retain its appearance as a historic shoe factory.

#### Elaboration

#### Setting

The J.B. Bruns Shoe Co. building is located at the corner formed by Highway 50 and Bolivar Street in Jefferson City, Missouri. West McCarty Street is located

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J.B. Bruns Shoe Co. Building Name of Property Cole County, Missouri County and State N/A Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

to the north, Wears Creek and Missouri Boulevard to the east (Figures 1 - 3).<sup>1</sup> From 1905 to at least 1939 the property boundaries were the building's west façade adjacent to Bolivar Street, an adjacent alley on the north and just east of the east side of the building, with most of the land located south of the building extending to W. Miller St. and Wears Creek (See Sanborn maps -Figure 12). Highway 50 was developed circa 1960, replacing W. Miller Street and burying Wears Creek underground.<sup>2</sup> This resulted in a loss of land associated with the building (Figures 1, 2 and 9). This land was in the floodplain of Wears Creek, open ground without significant outbuildings (see Sanborn maps - Figure 12). As Highway 50 remained at approximately the same elevation as before the expansion, there is an encroachment by the highway but the sense of open space remains.

The nominated property boundary follows part of City of Jefferson Inlots 546 -549 plus part of an adjoining vacated alley along the north boundary, with the southern and western boundaries being the lot lines adjoining the adjacent Highway 50 and Bolivar Street rights of way. The parcel is somewhat rectangular in shape, with the southern boundary angled to the southeast corner, making the eastern boundary longer than the western boundary. The west side is straight and the shortest, at 95 feet. The north side is straight, approximately 225 feet in length; the east side is straight and approximately 118 feet. The south side is straight and 227 feet long (Figure 2). The nominated property represents the property's current legal description, excluding the parking area immediately adjacent to the east and vacant land further to the east (Figure 2).

The boundary for the nomination follows the original property boundaries on the west, north and east sides, and the highway right-of-way on the south, as this is the remaining parcel associated with shoe manufacturing. (See Sanborn maps and 1960 aerial photo, Figures 12 and 9.) Inside the boundary is the building and a small service area with a few parking spaces. Bolivar Street was raised above Highway 50 circa 1960, just after the periods of significance.<sup>3</sup> The west elevation of the former factory is now somewhat overshadowed by the elevated Bolivar Street, which reaches the second floor level of the building (Figures 10 and 14, Photos 1 and 3). Based on the photos in Figures 6 and 8 and Photos 1, 3 and 5, the distance between the building and Bolivar Street remains about the same, as the property's west wall was built on the property line.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> In Jefferson City, most buildings face the Missouri River, so the façade facing the river is typically known as "north" even though this may be more correctly "northwest." A navigational map in Figure 1 shows north, northeast, east, southeast, south, southwest, west and northwest as used in this nomination to aid the reader.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>"Traffic at Key Points in City Rises Sharply in 11-Year Period," *The Sunday News and Tribune*, October 20, 1957, 1; "Auction Ad, Houses, Garages, Commercial Buildings, etc. Located on the Cole County Route 50 Urban Project, Jefferson City, Missouri," *The Sunday News and Tribune*, November 30, 1958, 19; "Public Hearing Slated for Monday Night," *The Sunday News and Tribune*, May 5, 1957, 6.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Ibid.

 $<sup>^4</sup>$  Historic photos shown in Figures 4 – 8 were provided to the current owner by the previous owner, whose father opened Jefferson City Distributors Inc. after purchasing the building in 1958. The photos date from circa 1958 to 1969 or 1970. According to the previous owner, Figure 4 depicts crowds responding to a

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J.B. Bruns Shoe Co. Building Name of Property Cole County, Missouri County and State N/A Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

The nomination boundary and current legal description differ, as the legal description includes a triangular piece of ground east of the building. This land appears to have been an addition after Highway 50 was expanded, as it follows the highway right-of-way on the south side and includes land where a house stood in the 1960 aerial photo (Figures 2 and 9). Based on the aerial photo in Figure 9, the legal descriptions during the periods of significance were the same, with the property bounded on the west by Bolivar Street, on the south by Highway 50, by an alley immediately to the north and by the presence of a house to the east prior to circa 1960.

Three smaller buildings are located immediately adjacent to W. McCarty St. to the north, with parking between them. These 1-story buildings were not historically associated with J.B. Bruns Shoe Co. or the building but are over 50 years of age. Their appearance has changed, with one having its brick exterior painted and one resided recently. To the north of the building, a paved parking lot slopes uphill, between these smaller buildings to W. McCarty Street (Photo 1, Figure 14). This parking lot was not part of the shoe factory property during the periods of significance, as it was developed later on the yards of these houses, but half of it is visible in the 1960 aerial photo and in a more recent photo (Figures 9 and 10). The J.B. Bruns Shoe Co. building was sold for commercial use in 1958,5 which may be when this parking area was initially constructed. A historic duplex facing W. McCarty St. was demolished sometime after 2010 (see Sanborn maps, Figure 12). This allowed the parking area to double in size and be paved in 2019, with the addition of a concrete divider wall separating the new lot to the east from the old and a small retaining wall added to the west (Photo 1). This parking lot is outside the nomination boundary. On the opposite side of Highway 50, south of the building, is the former location of St. Mary's Hospital, which was recently demolished. (St. Mary's Hospital is shown on the 1908 Sanborn Map, Figure 12.) To the east, a level area contains a parking lot adjacent to the building, with Wears Creek and Missouri Boulevard beyond. This parking lot was not historically associated with the nominated property until an adjacent house was acquired after 1960. (The house remains visible in a 1960 aerial photo, Figure 9.) This eastern parking lot was gravel until it was paved in 2019. Immediately south of the building is a recently paved service area, located between the two 1-story extensions on the south side, which is included in the nomination boundary. The small area west of the 1940s era brick addition on the south side remains undeveloped. An active railroad spur remains on the north side of W. McCarty Street and dates to the periods of significance. Due to its height J.B. Bruns Shoe Co. remains clearly visible from W. McCarty Street. Due to its size, distinctive shape and red brick walls, the J.B. Bruns Shoe Co. building dominates this area. The three nearby buildings are located on separate lots, were not historically associated with shoe manufacturing and are dominated by the former factory, so are not included in the nominated boundary.

radio promotion held circa 1969 or 1970. Figure 8 was printed in August 1961 according to the date on the photo's edge. Yet this photo depicts the building during its transformation from factory to retail business, with the storm windows not yet installed on the third floor nor the painted signage between the second and third floor on the north elevation. Figure 5 shows the south elevation at an earlier date than Figure 6, as the water tank is still present in Figure 5.

<sup>5</sup> Anniversary ad, *Jefferson City Post-Tribune*, December 31, 1969, 22.

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J.B. Bruns Shoe Co. Building
Name of Property
Cole County, Missouri
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Character Defining Features and Alterations

(Specific elevation descriptions are provided further below.) The J.B. Bruns Shoe Co. Building's rectangular shape and multi-story red brick walls are the most visible features distinguishing it as a shoe factory from the early twentieth century. Although they are replacements, the rhythmic pattern of large multi-pane windows with segmental arched tops that are aligned both horizontally and vertically are another defining feature. The building's flat roof has small parapets on the east and west ends and a stone foundation is partially exposed. The overall shape of the building is rectangular, with one small historic addition. The main block is approximately 200 feet by 55 feet. A 1-story stone basement level extension resembles an addition in its placement but appears on all Sanborn maps beginning in 1908. The Sanborn maps show this extension as housing a coal fired boiler to heat the factory, so it is likely original to the building. This extension is located at the southeast corner,  $^{\rm 6}$  sized 50 feet by 30 feet.  $^{\rm 7}$  A 1-story brick addition extends from the basement level on the south facade. This addition does not appear on the 1939 Sanborn map (Figure 12) but does appear on the 1960 aerial photo (Figure 9), so is believed to date to the 1940s. The red brick elevator tower and stair tower on the north façade appear on all available Sanborn Maps (Figure 12), so appear to be original. In 2019, a shed roof extending over the basement level on the east wall was replaced by a concrete deck with black metal railings, having approximately the same footprint. A similar deck was added on the second floor and a balcony on the third floor. On the north wall, a shed roof over the first-floor windows was extended across the stair tower to cover the current main entry.

A historic characteristic of the building is its lack of ornamentation, resulting in the most striking features of the building being its red brick walls, stone foundation and its numerous windows, which form a strong pattern, being aligned both horizontally and vertically. The numerous large windows provide plenty of natural light to all interior spaces. The building was rehabilitated in 2019 after being vacant for 10 years, so the building is in good condition but changes were made during rehabilitation. The current windows are replacements, with the windows retaining the original size openings, rhythmic pattern and horizontal and vertical alignment of the originals. The replacement windows reflect the paint color of the historic windows, as shown in Figure 8 before storms were added (compare to Photos 2 and 1). Most of the replacements differ from the originals by having single panes, rather than being double-hung, and have flat mullions between the glass that is a nod to the original window design. A few of the replacement windows are double hung windows, located on each level by the fire escapes for safety purposes. Several window and door openings have been returned to their historic size (see Figures 15 and 16). Some of the smaller windows on the stair tower were originally paired and are now single windows. The replacement windows have lightly tinted glass with a green color that does not completely obstruct the view of the interior but does darken this view. The window glass can appear highly reflective in bright light. In some areas where white

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> J.B. Bruns Shoe Co. is not oriented to face north, south, east or west, as buildings in Jefferson City tend to face the Missouri River, which is considered "north" locally. Figure 1 is provided as a reference to illustrate how the facades and corners are described in the nomination. <sup>7</sup> See navigational map in Figure 1 for details regarding compass directions for this property.

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interior walls are located near windows or doors, the glass appears clear. When interior lights are off, the windows can appear dark.

Unless otherwise noted, all windows are replacement multi-pane windows with lightly tinted green glass. Similarly, all replacement doors are single commercial black metal doors with full view glass and no transoms unless otherwise noted. The replacement windows reflect the original windows in size, shape, placement and paint color but the appearance of the windows has been changed from that of the originals. The light tint to the glass is an alteration that along with the single panes changes the overall appearance of the windows, but does not prevent the viewer from realizing the building's function as a shoe factory during the periods of significance.

It has been removed, but painted signage displayed the names of owners and tenants of the building during the factory era and through the 1970s. On the primary west facade, the photo in Figure 28 shows the name "INTERNATIONAL SHOE CO., BOLIVAR STREET FACTORY" on two lines. Figures 7 and 8 date to circa 1958 - 1961, when signs on the west elevation proclaimed the building's owner as "JEFFERSON CITY DISTR. INC." and "PRIMARY Maytag DEALER" on two horizontal lines and "WHOLESALE" and "APPLIANCES" on the left and right corners, respectively. On the north elevation, the signage in Figures 8 and 28 is not legible, but the space between the second and third floors was clearly used for signage. This sign was altered circa 1958 to read "JEFFERSON CITY DISTRIBUTORS INC" with "AUTHORIZED Maytag DEALER" painted horizontally between the first and second floors. An additional sign reading "WHOLESALE" was located just west of the stair tower. The stair tower itself was covered with signage from basement level to roofline, advertising the company's products. Photographs of the east elevation are largely not available, perhaps because it was on the opposite end of the building from the primary elevation and considered least important. We can see in Figure 6 that there was signage circa 1958 only at the top of this wall. The south elevation had signage on the pavilion similar to that shown on the stair tower on the north side. Extending from the basement level to the roofline, this sign advertised the company name and its products, with the company name repeated on both sides of the pavilion (Figures 5 and 6). There is more text shown in the sign in Figure 5 (which was taken earlier due to the presence of the water tower in the background), than in the sign shown in Figure 6, illustrating that these signs evolved over time. These signs have all faded or been removed, and most dated to after the periods of significance.

Current three dimensional signage on the west elevation for Initially Yours is at the southern edge of the wall between the first and second floor windows (Photo 3). Signage on the north elevation includes cut-out letters at the top of the stair tower with the name "River Park," a sign above the entry at the west end of the wall for Initially Yours and two initial logos for Big Whiskeys - one on the east side of the elevator tower and one at the east end of the first floor windows (Photos 1 and 2). No permanent signage is located on the east elevation (Photo 7). The south elevation has a fairly large sign for tenant Big Whiskeys covering air handling equipment on the first floor level. A third sign for Initially Yours is located at the west end of this wall between the first and second floor windows. Given the size of the building, the current signage does not detract from its appearance as a historic shoe factory. Comparing the current signage to the historic signs shown in Figure 28, the present signage covers a similar amount of the exterior as signage present during the periods of significance. The current

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N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

signs are in keeping with the historic signage practice and do not obscure large areas of the building's exterior, minimizing their impact on the historic resource.

Two other large character defining exterior features are the historic metal fire escapes, which were recently repaired, painted black and retained on the north and south elevations (Photos 1, 2, 5, 6 and 8). The building's exterior walls were tuckpointed during rehabilitation.

In the interior, character defining features include large open spaces that reflect the building's original use as a factory. Other features that reflect the building's industrial past are exposed brick exterior walls (stone walls in the basement), original wood floors, lines of exposed original wooden posts, full height exposed wood ceilings, wood beams and other historic artifacts that provide a sense of the building's industrial past. Original stairways and elevators remain largely unchanged from the periods of significance.

#### Elevation Descriptions

#### West Elevation

The west façade was the primary façade during the periods of significance, with the main entrance in the center of this wall (Figure 28). The name shown in the photo in Figure 28, "International Shoe Factory, Bolivar Street Factory" clearly indicates that the factory's primary elevation faced Bolivar Street, on the west end of the building. The main entrance has been altered over time, shown with a full arched transom window circa 1929 in Figure 28, with the transom bricked in and covered by a metal awning circa 1961 (Figures 5, 7 and 8) then completely bricked in when the photos in Figures 11 and 16 were taken in 2019. This entry has been returned to its original configuration, retaining its historic 5-row arched brickwork around the door and half-round transom. A new two-part glass transom and glass sidelights surround the modern solid black metal door. An original plaque marking the building as "J.B. Bruns Shoe Mfg. Co. 1905" is mortared in the brick above this original entry, further signifying this elevation as the primary facade (Figure 11). Steps pictured in 1929 (Figure 28) and 1961 (Figures 5, 7 and 8) show the steps facing west, toward parking on Bolivar Street. This is further evidence that this entrance served as the main entry. Another factor in considering this elevation the primary entrance is comparison to two other factories built around the same time in Jefferson City with nearly identical designs - these both appear to have their main entries in the narrow end of the building (Figures 31 and 32). New concrete steps and black metal railing lead to the newly opened doorway. The number of steps remains the same as historically, although the new steps face north (Figures 7 and 5; Photos 4 and 3). The current concrete sidewalk extends from the steps at the door to the concrete deck on the north side, and a concrete parking spot slopes from the sidewalk to the western boundary of the nomination (Photos 4 and 3).

The elevation of Bolivar Street circa 1960 to about the second-floor level of the building has resulted in this wall being in shadow at certain times of the day, but room remains between the building and the street for a walkway and a small parking area, recently paved. The grade has not been changed on this side of the building, as Bolivar Street is elevated on concrete columns in this area. Figures 5, 7 and 8 show the west side of the building along with parked cars and Bolivar Street before it was elevated. Figures 4 and 6 show

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this area after the street was elevated. Photos 3, 5, 6 and 1 show this elevation at present. As previously noted, the National Register boundary excludes the area right outside of this elevation as this small strip of land was not within the boundary during the periods of significance.

This wall has three windows on the first floor plus a door in the third bay, four windows on the second and third floors. These first-floor windows had been partially infilled, with smaller metal windows dating to the late 1950s or early 1960s (Figures 5, 7 and 8). During rehabilitation, these three window openings were restored to their full historic size (Figures 16 and 28; Photos 3 and 5). The basement on this wall is below grade. Air handling equipment is located between the arched entry and the southern window on the first floor, on a concrete pad (Photos 3, 5 and 6).

Changes to this elevation have resulted in several windows having brick infill removed and being returned to their historic size and the arched doorway returned to use as a door with sidelights with its historic brickwork intact. New concrete steps and railing are small in scale and do not detract from the view of this elevation. The air handling equipment added to this wall is unfortunate, as it is modern in appearance and does obscure a bit of the exterior wall. As the primary entrances are now located on the north wall, this is a less visible elevation, so the air handling equipment is less visible to current visitors.

#### North Elevation

The north side retains its historic brick wall and partially exposed stone foundation and has served as the primary elevation since circa 1958, after the periods of significance. This wall was adjacent to an alley from at least 1905 to 1939 (Figure 12). Entrances have been made on this side, but they were and are single doors in the side of the stair tower (was a window in the 1960s -Figures 28 and 15, Photo 2). The entrance at the west end of this façade appears in a 1929 photo (Figure 28). Two red brick towers are among the most distinguishing elements of this wall. The eastern tower is a single bay addition for an elevator with no windows, extending a bit further from the north façade than the second tower and ending at the roofline. A second tower, located near the center of the north façade, is almost three times as wide but not as deep as the single tower. This second tower houses the stairs and has five full sized windows, one on each floor on the right side, also one narrow window per floor on the left side of the second and third floors, leaving a blank space between the windows. The windows on the right side of the stair tower were originally paired and are now single windows (Figures 10 and 4, Photos 1 and 2). The changes to the stair tower windows are not noticeable without having historic photos as a comparison, as the window openings remain the same size. The left third of this second tower extends above the roofline approximately 1 ½ stories (Photos 1 and 2). A water tank was located on top of this section of the tower, as seen in a 1929 photo in Figure 28 and in a circa 1958 photo in Figure 5. The tank was removed about 1958 to 1961,<sup>8</sup> as it is no longer visible in Figures 4 and 6. New concrete steps and accessibility ramp, black metal railings and a new flat metal roof are located adjacent to and

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> Christiansen interview by Jane Beetem, April 30, 2020. The previous owner relayed that the tank was removed due to its weight creating problems with the brick tower below. Information regarding changes to the building during the retail era were provided by Charlie Christiansen, who was informed by the previous owner of these changes.

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above the new entry in the stair tower (Photos 1 and 2). A historic metal shed type roof extends over the west side of the north façade on the first floor, covering two entrances and a raised concrete deck. The new shed roof is an extension of the historic roof; both roofs have been painted black (Photos 1 and 2). The north wall has 20 windows on the second and third floors, 18 windows on the first floor and eight windows on the basement level (Photo 1). In the western portion of the north façade on the first floor, during rehab one later period (circa 1960s) door was returned to use as a window, a door that filled part of a window was returned to use as a window and an original doorway that had been infilled with brick and a modern window was reopened as a doorway (Figure 15, Photos 2, 3 and 4). The current main entrances are located on the first floor on the north façade. The first-floor lobby area has two entrances, a pair of doors located where the left window was on the first floor of the stair tower, and a single door on the west side of the tower where a modern window and brick infill had replaced an original door (Figures 15, 4 and 28, Photos 2 and 1). A retail store entrance is located in the western most bay of the first floor, the same location as the historic retail entry (Figures 28, 4 and 8). This is a single commercial door with wide sidelight (Photos 1, 3 and 19; Figure 4). In 1929, this was a tall door, then brick infill was added at the top of the door which remains at present (Photos 19 and 1; Figure 28). A historic metal fire escape, painted black, reaches from the basement level to the third floor on this elevation, beginning at the eastern most basement window and terminating at a landing on the third floor with a ladder to the roof. Replacement double hung windows provide access from the interior to this landing, in the sixth window from the east wall, as well as on the first and second floors (Photos 1 - 2). At the far east end of this elevation, new decks on the first and second floors of the east wall and a new balcony on the third floor are visible. Plain black metal railings surround these additions, giving them a modern but simple industrial style appearance. As the decks can be seen through, the background beyond can be viewed. The decks are fairly small in comparison to the size of this elevation. Their comparative size, combined with the fact that they do not obscure the view of the background and are simple in design result in the decks being a minimal disruption to the north elevation. During the 1960s and 1970s, the J.B. Bruns Shoe Co. building had large scale painted signage on the north side, especially on the elevator tower and west side of this elevation (Figures 4, 7 and 8.) In 1929, the building had the International Shoe name painted between the second and third floor windows (Figure 28). This signage was changed circa 1958 when Jefferson City Distributors opened in the building (Figures 8 and 4). The painted strip was visible even after having been painted a solid color, shown in Figure 10. All of these painted signs have faded, been changed as the use of the property changed or removed over the years, and recently were replaced with the name River Park on top of the stair tower and signage for Initially Yours over their entry door, as well as an initial logo for Big Whiskey's on the east side of the elevator tower and another at the east end of the first floor (Photos 1 and 2).

Additions to this elevation include an extension of the historic shed roof over the main entry, new signage and addition of new concrete steps, railings and accessibility ramps. These additions do not significantly obscure the exterior walls, are minor in terms of scale and do not prevent the viewer from seeing this elevation as it appeared during the periods of significance. Loss of the water tank on top of the stair tower is regrettable, as this dated to the periods of significance (Figure 28). At the far east end of this elevation, new decks on the first and second floors of the east wall and a new balcony on the third floor are visible when viewing the north elevation. Their

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comparative size, combined with the fact that they do not obscure the view of the background and are simple in design result in the decks being a minimal disruption to the north elevation. Overall, this elevation retains historic character and largely reflects its appearance from the periods of significance.

#### East Elevation

The east wall was among the most austere of all the elevations. The brick exterior and fully exposed stone foundation have been retained. Floors 1 - 3have three windows each and a door in the third bay that had all been infilled around a square metal vent. These are above a stone walk-out basement with the same arrangement of windows and door. The doors have stone sills similar to the windows, and segmental arched tops. But the tops and bottoms do not align with the windows - the bottom of all the doors are at a lower level than the windows (Photo 7, Figures 6 and 17). A close look at Figures 6 and 17 show the bottom of the first-floor door aligning with the shed roof extension, clarifying that despite the partial vent infill, these openings had been built as doors. No photo or map documentation exists to show what these doors originally accessed, but it seems logical that there may have been stairs to each level for access. During rehabilitation, the doors have been reopened with black metal full glass commercial doors topped by a two-part glass transom and glass sidelight installed. A shed roof extended over the basement level over a concrete pad (Figures 6 and 17). The shed roof was replaced by a new concrete deck with black painted metal supports and railings, having approximately the same footprint. There is a new deck on the second floor, with a smaller balcony on the third and connecting stairs extending to the south side of the decks. The two decks are 12 feet deep. This makes them equal to about 13% of the length of the

building. Since they are see-through and are not large compared to the overall size of the building, they do not significantly alter the building's appearance from the periods of significance. These recent additions do not obscure the view of the exterior walls, and do not significantly alter the appearance of the north and south elevations (Photos 1, 6 and 7). The reopened doorways provide access to the new decks / balcony on each level. The basement retains its historic door. The east façade has an original iron I-beam extending over the third-floor door with a pulley attached (Photo 7). One side of the one-story stone extension is visible at the southeast corner, with most of the wall consisting of concrete block (Photo 7).

The east elevation appears to have been considered the least important historically. During the periods of significance this wall faced the side of an adjacent house and was some distance from any roadways, which were located across Wears Creek. The absence of any main level entries, lack of historic photos of this elevation and the minimal amount of signage exhibited on this elevation indicate this façade was largely ignored. This elevation has experienced the greatest change of all the facades in terms of percentage of wall impacted. The first-floor deck replaced a shed roof of the same size, so the noticeable change is the addition of black metal railings. Addition of the second-floor deck, third floor balcony and connecting steps do alter the appearance of this wall. While the sun still illuminates the second and third floor exteriors, the first-floor exterior is shaded by the deck above. Extending the full width of this wall, the decks have a greater impact on this elevation than on the larger north and south elevations, but far less than if they were a solid enclosed addition. Reopening the doors on first, second and third floor has restored the openings that were formerly infilled with brick

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to their full historic size. The glass and metal doors do not detract from the historic character of this elevation. The basement level retains its historic door, and details such as wall anchors and the I-beam with attached pulley help this elevation reflect its periods of significance.

N/A

### South Elevation

The south elevation was historically the back side, less visible than the west and north sides due to the closest street, W. Miller Street, being on the south side of Wears Creek during the periods of significance (See Sanborn maps, Figure 12). This elevation retains its brick exterior wall and stone foundation. The only entrances on this side are historic single doors on the basement level additions and a door on the first floor accessing a raised grate floor between the two extensions. On the southeast corner, a 1-story stone flat roofed extension is located on the basement level, covering 5 window bays (Photos 5 and 6; Figure 6). This extension has two small square modern multipane windows located high above the only exterior door, near the southeast corner. A modern concrete block wall extends from the southeast corner of the building to the east. A circa 1940s addition is located in the center of the south façade, also on the basement level. This flat roofed addition is brick, with two wide horizontally oriented sets of modern multipane windows on the south side (Photos 5 and 6, Figure 6). The south façade has 14 windows on the first floor, 21 on the second and third floors and 16 windows on the basement level (Photos 5 and 6, Figures 18, 19, 21 and 22). A historic metal fire escape, painted black, reaches from the basement level to the third floor on this elevation, beginning at the west end of the basement level and terminating at a landing on the third floor with a ladder to the roof (Photo 5). Modern double hung windows provide access from the interior to the third-floor landing, in the fifth window from the west wall and on the first and second floors (Photos 5 and 6). Air handling equipment on the firstfloor level between the two extensions is obscured from view by a sign for Big Whiskey's (Photos 5 and 6). The sign is fairly large, so as to be seen from Highway 50, but only covers about 7% of this elevation. Smaller air handling equipment is located on the roofs of the two 1-story extensions on this side and just west of the pavilion there is a smaller air handling unit raised on a metal platform, connecting to the building through the top of the window closest to the addition. The south façade has a service doorway that is mostly obscured by air handling equipment that extends from the first floor on a metal grid deck (Photos 5 and 6). An opening at the west end of the deck allows access to new metal stairs leading to a concrete deck and driveway with small parking area. The brick addition on the basement level of the south side has a historic sliding industrial door that faces east, obscured from view by metal stairs leading to the service area. This sliding door has been fixed in an open position, with a new solid metal door installed in the former opening. A window at the west end of the building's first floor had been partially brick infilled; this window has been returned to its full size (Photos 5 and 6; Figures 5 and 6).

Most of this elevation remains largely unchanged from the periods of significance. New air handling equipment has largely been installed low on this elevation, so it obscures little of the exterior wall. The new sign for Big Whiskey's obscures the view of otherwise unsightly air handling equipment and covers a small portion of this elevation. One window on the first floor has been returned to its original size. As it has always been the rear of the building, the addition of air handling equipment on this side is not unusual. The location of the air handling equipment low on this elevation minimizes the

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amount of wall obscured. Viewing this elevation, an observer could easily identify this building as a historic factory.

#### Interior

With its central columns and lack of load bearing interior walls, the building's original floorplan would likely have been largely open. During the period when the building was used as a factory few partitions would have been needed, other than enclosures around restrooms and supervisors' offices. The 1916 Sanborn Map shows an office in the southwest corner of the building, along with what appear to be three raised frame platforms, so the floorplan during the periods of significance was not entirely open. Several large significant spaces remain open, reflecting the original factory configuration. This sense of openness is most visible in the undeveloped basement (Photos 9 -12) and on the first floor (Photos 13 - 20). The basement's interior remains open as it was historically, with views of the exterior stone walls, wood ceilings, wood central posts and concrete floor. On the first floor the current retail space and restaurant are mostly open, with clear views of the exterior walls, ceilings, central posts and wood floors (Photos 14 - 16, 18 -19). The upper floors retain a sense of openness in several large open spaces. On the second floor these include an open event space that retains the open factory era appearance (Photo 22) and open work areas where glass walls or glass in the upper portion of partitions allow views from one exterior wall to another (Photos 23 - 24). Spaces on the third floor include a conference room and several large offices and the lobby (Photos 28 - 29, 31 - 34). Unless otherwise noted, all interior partitions were installed in 2019.

All floors served as space for factory equipment when the J.B. Bruns Shoe Co. building was used as a factory. The 1916 Sanborn Map identifies the basement as the sole leather and cutting area plus a machine and carpenter shop, the first floor as the packaging and finishing area, lasting and making space on the second floor with stitching and cutting located on the third floor. With no known architect, floor plans may never have been completed to guide construction. So it is unknown where exactly some of the partitions may have existed, or for how long. Most likely, workspaces were divided by floors or by type of work conducted, as indicated on the 1916 Sanborn Map, and the location of worktables or equipment defined the work areas. There are indications of heavy equipment on the original wood floors such as depressions and rust marks from nails. Numerous patches, bumps, and outlines on the wood floors indicate that partitions have been added and removed over the years, but no partitions from the factory era remain.<sup>9</sup> Any interior partitions did not extend to the ceilings, as these remain unchanged. There were two sinks in the south pavilion area of the first and second floors prior to rehabilitation, and outlines of walls around these sinks, indicating two restrooms (Figure 20). What little information is available about historic partitions is provided in

<sup>9</sup> Changes were made by the four different companies that manufactured shoes in this building, and by other users. The J.B. Bruns Shoe Co. owned and operated the building from 1905 to December, 1907. The Courtney Shoe Co. contracted to purchase the building under a five year agreement, but moved out before 1911, when Roberts, Johnson and Rand acquired the building. This company merged with the Peters Shoe Co. to form International Shoe Co., which operated the factory until 1930. International Shoe returned to shoe manufacturing in 1945 and continued until September, 1956. Tenants included the Works Progress Administration (WPA), 1936 to around 1943 and the Tweedie Footwear Corporation, around 1943 to May, 1945. Jefferson City Distributors owned the building from 1958 to 2019, ceasing operations in 2010.

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the description of each floor. While no historic photos of this building's interior have been found, historic photos of other shoe factories depict large open spaces with rows of wooden tables holding sewing machines rather than partitions as well as some partitioned areas. Interior photos from the two other large shoe factories in Jefferson City are provided in Figure 13, along with two other Missouri shoe factories. Lightweight wood partitions are visible in the photo from the International Shoe Factory in Franklin County, Missouri (Figure 13).

More is known about interior partitions during periods of non-factory use. The State of Missouri rented part of the building during the Depression for use as storage, likely the basement.<sup>10</sup> Also during the Depression, the WPA operated in the building beginning with sewing operations (1936 - 1943),<sup>11</sup> expanding into office use when partitions were added on three floors.<sup>12</sup> When the building was used by Jefferson City Distributors (JCD), 1958 to 2010, there were partitions known to be in some areas. The retail spaces were initially on the first and second floors, while the basement was used for storage.<sup>13</sup> No partitions from either the WPA or the JCD eras remain.

A number of the exterior brick walls were never painted, and paint has been removed in other areas to showcase the original brick. Paint removal during rehabilitation was done carefully and gently to protect the original brick by using walnut hulls.<sup>14</sup> Each level is divided in the center by a series of regularly spaced original square wood columns. These have been gently cleaned with walnut hulls revealing the original wood grain, and many remain exposed. Natural light from the numerous large original window openings reaches deep into the interior. On the second and third floors this is accomplished through use of glass in the newly added partitions. Exposed pipes throughout the building impart an industrial feel. Some of these are historic, particularly in the basement, and some are new or have been painted, evident by the intact black paint with red valve handles. The historic sprinkler system noted on the Sanborn Map of 1908 remains throughout the building but is no longer functional<sup>15</sup> (Figure 12). The stairways remain as they were during the factory era, with beadboard partitions, bare brick walls and wood steps and flooring. Original sliding metal doors on tracks have been retained, mostly in the center of each floor, with modern doors installed in the openings for ease of use. Historic elevators remain, with the older metal cage fixed in place and the newer (1950s era) elevator still in use. Painted original wooden ceilings and exposed pipes and ductwork contribute to the industrial feel of the interior.

The interior retains much of its industrial feeling and association, with character defining features that include large open spaces with views of two or three exposed exterior walls at once, bare brick exterior walls (stone

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> "WPA Offices to Remain in City," *Jefferson City Post-Tribune*, October 20, 1936, 1.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> "\$14,000 Additional Given Cole County for Sewing Project; Work Will Be Given 54 More Women Here, Starting Monday," *Jefferson City Post-Tribune*, January 14, 1936; "WPA Sewing Project to Larger Quarters," *Jefferson City Post-Tribune*, January 14, 1936.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> "WPA Offices to Remain in City."

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> Christiansen interview.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> Ibid.

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walls in the basement), full height ceilings with exposed wood beams on three floors, lines of exposed original wooden posts in many areas, original elevator cage, original rolling metal doors on each floor, exposed pipes and ductwork and original wood floors. There is more open space on the basement level, which is completely open and on the first floor, where large open spaces reflect the factory era configuration. Some open spaces remain on the second floor, especially the event area on the east end that reflects the periods of significance. The least open space is found on the third floor, although the use of glass walls and glass topped partitions on the second and third floors maximizes the sense of openness.

#### Possible World's Fair Connection

One of the significant features of the interior are the central wood posts on each level of the building. Stories have suggested over the years that these posts were salvaged from buildings demolished following the 1904 World's Fair in St. Louis, Missouri, then shipped by barge to Jefferson City.<sup>16</sup> This is possible, as the World's Fair consisted of nearly 1,500 buildings on 1,200 acres. Virtually all these buildings were removed following the fair. The fair closed on December 1, 1904,<sup>17</sup> so the timing would be right for construction of the J.B. Bruns Shoe Company in 1905. Plus, as this was the first industrial building built with funding assistance by the Jefferson City Chamber of Commerce, keeping costs to a minimum would have been a priority, so salvaged materials makes even more sense. Since the Chamber of Commerce helped build three factories at the same time in the same design, a barge load of wood columns would have been worth the effort involved in salvage. As with salvaged materials today, there is no documentation to track the pieces and parts that made up the World's Fair buildings.

#### Description by Level

#### Basement (Figure 18.)

The basement is currently undeveloped, due to its location below flood stage of nearby Wears Creek. The entire basement is open, a significant space that remains largely unchanged since its period of construction. The basement reflects the building's industrial past, with full height original wood ceilings, multiple large original window openings, exposed stone walls, exposed original wood beams, exposed pipes, concrete floor and artifacts such as metal rolling doors. The original central wood posts have been cleaned, revealing the beautiful wood grain. The other main feature of the basement is the original exterior stone walls, with stains marking the height of various floods. Original window openings allow light into the space. Some of the windows on the north side are smaller due to being below grade and some have been covered. The floor plan of the basement is original and exemplifies the original floor plan of the upper three floors. Views of the basement's interior are unimpeded, as no partitions remain in this area. Partitions from the JCD era were lightweight, made of wood and/or wire as temporary

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> The current owner shared these stories with the author, but documentation does not exist to prove their validity. Similar stories are referenced in "Shoe factory helped make JC top manufacturing city in state in 1909," *News Tribune*, <u>https://www.newstribune.com/news/news/story/2014/apr/20/shoe-factoryhelped-make-jc-top-manufacturing-city/492008/, accessed April 24, 2020. <sup>17</sup>"The 1904 World's Fair," Missouri Historical Society, accessed February 12, 2020, http://mohistory.org/exhibitsLegacy/Fair/WF/HTML/Overview/index.html.</u>

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dividers.<sup>18</sup> A historic scale remains in the basement (Photos 9 - 12). The stone extension to the southeast housed a large boiler to heat the building, which was removed during rehabilitation<sup>19</sup> (Figure 18). The brick addition to the south retains a U-shaped track, believed to have been used during tanning of hides during the factory period.<sup>20</sup>

#### First Floor (Figure 19.)

Large open spaces on the first floor reflect the shoe factory period of the J.B. Bruns Shoe Co. building's history. The largest spaces are found in the retail shop currently on the west end and in the restaurant currently on the east end of the first floor. In these areas, three exterior walls are visible, as well as the original wood ceilings and floors. The store is a mostly open space, highlighting the original central wood columns, original wood floors, exterior brick walls and large original window openings. The retail space reflects both the factory and retail eras, with a large portion of the space unimpeded by dividers as in the factory era (Photos 18 - 19, Figure 19). In the JCD era (1958 - 2010), the exterior walls on the first two floors were painted and drywall added on both sides of the central wood posts for dividers.<sup>21</sup> Staircases were added during this era between the first and second and second and third floors but these have since been removed to meet current fire codes. Partitions on the first floor separated an office area from the showroom area, enclosing an area that extended from the sixth column from the west wall to the southern and western exterior walls.<sup>22</sup> A current work area is somewhat smaller, partitioned around four of the wood columns. In the restaurant a medium height divider recently built between the central support posts shields patrons from the table on the other side and new partitions enclose the kitchen and give a meeting area some privacy (Photos 14 - 17, Figure 19). The divider is low enough that views of the exterior walls are exposed when standing. The view across the restaurant spaces is reminiscent of the factory era, with tables and chairs and the bar replacing shoe manufacturing equipment (Photos 14 - 15). A new wood bar is located on the south wall (Photo 16). A modern commercial glass door with sidelight on the east wall allows access to the outside deck. Views of the restaurant on each side of the central posts extend from the kitchen area, near the center of the floor, to the eastern exterior wall, with a meeting room partitioned in the northeast corner (Photos 14 - 16).

Between the current restaurant on the east end and the retail store on the west end is a lobby with restrooms and the restaurant kitchen. The lobby connects the two large open spaces and is open to the restaurant (Photos 13 and 17). From the lobby area, views extend to the eastern exterior wall of the restaurant and the western exterior wall of the retail store. A new glass wall separates the lobby from the retail store, giving the lobby unimpeded views of most of the space from the north to south exterior walls (Photos 18 and 19). The entrance to the lobby is in an original opening, where a window used to be in the stair tower. A set of original sliding metal doors remain, locked in place, but with new glass entry doors that create an airlock and are easier

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> Christiansen interview. Dividers that remained in the basement were made of lightweight wood and wire. These likely dated to the JCD period of use and have since been removed.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>22</sup> Ibid.

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and more energy efficient to use (Photo 13). The original elevator cage remains visible locked in place above the vestibule at the main restaurant entrance (Photo 20). Weights for the elevator can be seen through the new glass entry doors (Photo 13). The lobby area can be accessed from the restaurant entry when that venue is open, or through a door on the side of the elevator tower where a door had been located originally (Photo 2, Figure 19). This door was reopened during the rehab effort and provides access to the stairs. New restrooms are located at the south end of the lobby behind partitions.

The first-floor interior retains character defining features typically associated with historic factory spaces. The significant areas on the first floor retain large open spaces with brick exterior walls having multiple full size window openings, full height original wood ceilings with original wood beams, wood columns aligned in the center of the floor, original hardwood floors, original metal industrial sliding doors and the original metal elevator cage, all dating to the periods of significance. There have been changes made to the first floor since the factory was closed in the late 1950s. Partitions dating to the building's retail period have been added, then removed and new modern partitions added. The new partitions are located around the restaurant kitchen and bathrooms in the center of this level and around a workspace and meeting area in the southwest and northeast corners, respectively. A wooden bar was added in the southwest corner of the current restaurant. The windows have been replaced with modern single pane sash. During rehabilitation restrooms and new heating and cooling were added. The original wood floors were refinished, the exterior brick walls and central columns cleaned of paint and dirt and the original wood ceilings were painted.

#### Second Floor (Figure 21.)

Several large open spaces are located on the second floor, which retain a sense of the building's factory history. These can be reached by the original stairs or by elevator. The significant spaces include the meeting / event space at the east end, which remains open as in the building's factory era, with the central wood columns and three exterior brick walls exposed and clearly visible (Photo 22). A large work space is located adjacent to the event space, containing numerous low cubicles that allow a view of the southern exterior wall, with the northern exterior wall visible through glass on the upper section of a partition wall (Photos 23 and 24). The work area is reminiscent of the factory era layout, with workflow centered on the equipment, in this case phones and computers. As the cubicles are not full height, it is easy to view the full expanse of this space from the south exterior wall across the workspace through the glass topped partitions to the north wall. This view encompasses much of the east side of the second floor (Photos 23 and 24). An open break room is located at the southwest corner of the workspace (Figure 21). A central lobby by the elevator is separated by a glass wall from the west side office suite's reception area and training room (Photos 25 and 26). All of these spaces reflect the building's industrial past, with exposed brick exterior walls, full height ceilings, exposed original wood beams, multiple large original window openings, original wood floors and artifacts such as metal rolling doors dating to the periods of significance (Photos 21 - 26). The original stairs retain their appearance from the building's factory period, with exposed brick walls, wood beadboard on the sides of the stairs, wood floors and stairs (Photo 21). Opposite the stairs and elevator in the center of the building is a new glass enclosed reception area. The original wood floors are sloped on this floor, in some

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areas more than others, which evidently was designed to facilitate factory use. Spills and waste materials would have been easier to capture near the outside walls with sloped floors. Due to this slope, the floor has recently been elevated about four inches in front of the reception area, with accessibility ramps from the north hallway to the south hallway via a short hall just west of the lobby (Photo 25, Figure 21). Restrooms were partitioned historically on the first and second floors in the south pavilion (Figures 19, 20 and 21). Current restrooms are located near their historic locations on each floor, on the south side but just west of the south pavilion. West of the entrance is a new glass wall with double doors, enclosing an office suite with four offices along the north wall (Photo 25). The north offices are separated by a central corridor from two offices and a work / training area with new kitchenette on the south side (Photo 26). The ceiling on the second floor has been insulated and painted white (Photos 22 - 26).

The large, open spaces on this floor reflect the factory era configuration. This floor retains the brick exterior walls with multiple full size window openings, full height ceilings with original wood beams, wood columns in the center of the floor, original hardwood floors and original metal industrial sliding doors, all dating to the periods of significance. There have been changes made to the second floor since the building ceased to be used as a factory. A central staircase and partitions dating to the building's retail period have been added, then removed and new modern partitions added.<sup>23</sup> These new partitions enclose a hallway on part of the northeast wall and divide the event space from the open work area and break room on the east side of this floor. The entry area by the elevator and stairs is separated from a suite of offices on the west side of the floor and from a reception area by a glass wall. Offices on the west side are on both sides of a central hallway. These include a large training room and a reception area, three offices, a utility area and work space. The windows have been replaced with modern single pane sash. During rehabilitation restrooms and new heating and cooling were added. The original wood floors were refinished where possible and leveled in some areas, with new flooring added that has the appearance of wood. The exterior brick walls and central columns were cleaned of paint and dirt and the ceilings were insulated and painted.

#### Third Floor (Figure 22.)

The third floor has more partitions than the other levels but features a large lobby and conference area plus several large offices that give a sense of open space typical of the factory era. The third floor spaces retain their original exterior walls, wood ceiling and wood floors. Entering the third floor from the stairs or elevator leads a visitor to a large open central lobby, flanked by new glass walled conference rooms on either side. The third floor houses a number of offices and meeting spaces (Photos 28 - 29, 31, 33 - 34). Several of these offices are large, with exposed brick exterior walls visible (Photos 31 and 33). All of these spaces reflect the building's industrial past, with full height wood ceilings, exposed original wood beams, multiple large window openings, exposed brick walls, exposed pipes, original wood floors and artifacts such as metal rolling doors. A corridor along the eastern half of the north wall allows light into the space from the numerous original window openings, while exhibiting the exterior brick wall and the original wood floors (Photo 27). A new commercial door on the east wall allows access to the outside balcony, which is not as deep as the decks below. Original metal

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>23</sup> Christiansen interview.

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sliding doors are retained on the third floor, as on the other two floors, with modern doors installed in the openings (Photo 32). Restrooms are located south of the western conference room, near their historic location. The original wood ceiling on this level is exposed and painted white (Photos 27 -32). JCD installed a partition on the third floor, dividing the area from north to south into two spaces, one approximately two thirds of the floor and the other one third, about where the eastern wall of the restrooms in currently located. This partition wall was made of cedar planks and was removed during rehabilitation.<sup>24</sup>

While new partitions have been added to this floor, large spaces remain visible through use of glass walls. The open spaces retain the brick exterior walls with multiple full size window openings, full height original wood ceilings with original wood beams, wood columns in the center of the floor, original hardwood floors and original metal industrial sliding doors, all dating to the periods of significance. There have been changes made to the third floor since the periods of significance. Partitions and a set of interior stairs dating to the building's retail period have been added and then removed and new modern partitions added. The windows have been replaced with modern single pane sash. During rehabilitation restrooms and new heating and cooling were added. The original wood floors were refinished, the exterior brick walls and central columns cleaned of paint and dirt and the original wood ceilings were cleaned and sealed.

#### Integrity

Although the setting has been impacted due to the elevation of Bolivar Street and the proximity of Highway 50 the building is still located in an industrial neighborhood. A railroad siding is located across W. McCarty Street and the Missouri River is just a couple of blocks to the north. (Figures 12 and 3). Changes to the building's exterior and interior are clearly visible. The rectangular design of the building is largely unchanged, even with some smallscale changes. Historically, there is one small addition on the basement level of the south side and a number of doors and windows were bricked in or changed from a window to a door. Interior partitions were added and removed, then added again, leaving a number of significant interior spaces that reflect the building's factory era. More recently, the decks and balcony on the east elevation are the largest exterior additions. The view through the deck railings is largely unimpeded, so the east elevation is still visible and the background remains visible when the decks are viewed from the side. The east elevation appears to have been the least important elevation historically. Smaller additions include new concrete steps, ramps and metal railings on the north and west, an extension of the shed roof on the north elevation and air handling equipment on the west and south sides. These additions are minor in size and are located low on the building, so do not significantly alter the building's appearance. The signage has changed over the years with the various tenants and owners and this trend continues. Comparing the size of the building to these alterations, they represent alterations to a small percentage of the exterior. The window replacements are the most significant exterior alteration, changing from double hung to single pane windows with tinted glass. Storm windows that were installed after the periods of significance gave the windows a brighter, narrower appearance. These were removed when the replacement windows were installed in 2019. The change is noticeable, perhaps even more so going from a brighter to a darker color. Yet the window openings retain their size and horizontal and vertical alignment,

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so the rhythmic pattern of the building's design remains. On the interior, the basement retains its factory era configuration, being completely open. The first floor has two large spaces connected by the lobby, so a visitor can view from one end of the building to the other. The stairs retain their factory era appearance with bare brick walls, wood treads and wood beadboard panels. Modern partitions are more numerous on the second and third floor, although several large spaces reflect the periods of significance. The cumulative impact of these changes does not prohibit a viewer from recognizing the building as a historic shoe factory on both the exterior and interior. The J.B. Bruns Shoe Co. building has a high level of historic character, retaining original materials and workmanship that are exhibited on both the interior and exterior, with exposed brick walls, exposed wood ceilings and beams, stone foundation, central wood support columns, hardwood floors and artifacts such as rolling metal doors retained. These materials date from the periods of significance. The manner in which these materials are combined exhibits the original workmanship. The J.B. Bruns Shoe Co. building retains integrity, as it continues to reflect the periods of significance when the building was used to manufacture shoes.

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### Summary

The J.B. Bruns Shoe Co. building, located at 627 W. McCarty Street in Jefferson City, Cole County, Missouri, is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A as a locally significant resource in the area of Industry. The building is one of a few survivors that tells the story of Jefferson City's once booming shoe industry and is readily recognizable as a shoe factory from the first part of the twentieth century. In 1900, Jefferson City led all Missouri cities in terms of manufacturing<sup>25</sup> and was the second largest producer of footwear west of the Allegheny Mountains.<sup>26</sup> As one of four remaining former shoe factories that were built in Jefferson City, the J.B. Bruns Shoe Co. building reflects Jefferson City's early manufacturing history and the significance of shoe manufacturing to Jefferson City's economy over a 51 year period. This building informs our understanding of historic trends or patterns of activity under Industry relative to the rise and fall of shoe manufacturing as a major industry in Jefferson City and in Missouri. The building was operated as a shoe factory by four different companies from 1905 until September 1956,27 except during the Depression and two years during World War II when the building was used in manufacturing military supplies (the shoe factory period was 1905 to 1930 and 1945 to 1956). The periods of significance extend from construction in 1905 to 1930 and from 1945 to 1956. During these periods of significance the shoe industry in Missouri and International Shoe Company in particular were rising to dominance. The boom and bust cycles due to volatility in the shoe industry are shown by the patterns of factory use followed by vacancy evident in this building's history. Factory use ended in the 1950s as shoe manufacturing shifted overseas, ending Missouri's dominance in the shoe industry.

#### Elaboration

The J.B. Bruns Shoe Co. building is eligible for listing on the National Register under Criteria A, as a locally significant resource in the area of Industry. The building's eligibility under Criteria A is focused on the connection between this building and trends in history, or patterns of activity associated with Industry. The J.B. Bruns Shoe Co. building was built in 1905 to function as a shoe factory and was associated with the rise and fall of shoe manufacturing in Jefferson City and Missouri. Shoe manufacturing occurred in the building from its construction in 1905 to 1930, then again from 1945 to 1956. In Jefferson City, this building was more specifically a part of the shift from manufacturing occurring behind the walls of the Missouri State Penitentiary (MSP) using prison labor to operating in the broader community using fair market labor, a huge boost to the local economy. The J.B. Bruns Shoe Co. building was the first of three shoe factories the Jefferson City Chamber of Commerce (originally called the Commercial Club) helped build to aid in retention of manufacturing interests in the community. To explain how the building is associated with the rise and fall of shoe manufacturing, an overview of this industry's evolution is needed.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>25</sup> Carl O. Sauer, The Geographic Society of Chicago Bulletin No. 7: The Geography of the Ozark Highland of Missouri (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1920), 216.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>26</sup> James E. Ford, History of Jefferson City, (Jefferson City: The New Day Press, 1938), 305.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>27</sup> "Industry Needed in Old Plant," Jefferson City Post Tribune, September 17, 1956, 4.

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Shoe Manufacturing - from Craft to Industry

Through the 1850s, shoes were largely manufactured using hand tools. While shoes were made in cobbler's shops, women were also employed binding shoes by hand in their homes, using materials provided by the manufacturer. Adaptation of the sewing machine to stitch leather uppers allowed the shift from home to factory operations, reducing the number of women employed in the shoe industry. The shift to factory operations marked the change from a shoe craft, as practiced in homes and by local cobblers, to a shoe industry, fueled by introduction of machines like the automatic pegging machine (1818), the sole cutting machine (1844), and the leather rolling machine (1846).<sup>28</sup> New England was the center of shoe manufacturing in the country throughout the nineteenth century, with Massachusetts alone responsible for over 50% of the nation's total shoe production from 1850 to the 1880s.<sup>29</sup>

After the Civil War, inland locations became more attractive to entrepreneurs for factories. Westward migration of people placed them farther from New England manufacturers, plus the difficulty in obtaining tanned hides along the coast and a decreasing reliance on skilled workers as machines played a larger role in manufacturing were all influences drawing factories toward the Midwest. These factors helped move factory production westward, into cities such as Rochester, Cincinnati, Chicago, St. Louis, Milwaukee and into many smaller communities.<sup>30</sup>

Another factor in the growth of the shoe industry in St. Louis specifically was the rise of labor unions on the east coast. Begun in Milwaukee, Wisconsin in 1867, the Knights of St. Crispin developed to thwart the growing pressure on skilled laborers as unskilled laborers were hired to operate new machinery, for reduced wages.<sup>31</sup> The Knights organized in Massachusetts by 1868 and held a protest of 50,000 shoe workers around the end of the Civil War, one of several in the Northeast during the 1860s and 1870s.<sup>32</sup> The Knights dissolved by 1873, in a year of national depression. Concern over use of "green hands" continued, resulting in formation of the Knights of Labor in Philadelphia in the 1880s.<sup>33</sup> Lack of organized labor unions west of New England encouraged investment outside the area, and also drew investors seeking factory locations to smaller Missouri communities.

#### Shoe Manufacturing in St. Louis Area

<sup>28</sup> Information on the early technological developments in the shoe industry can be found in Frederick J. Allen, *The Shoe Industry* (New York: The Vocation Bureau of Boston, 1922) and in Blanche Evans Hazard, *The Organization of the Boot and Shoe Industry in Massachusetts before 1875* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1921).
<sup>29</sup> Edgar M. Hoover, Jr. Location Theory and the Shoe and Leather Industries

(Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1937), 180.

<sup>30</sup> Blake McKelvey, "A History of the Rochester Shoe Industry", Rochester History, XV (New York: Rochester Public Library, 1953), 1-28.
<sup>31</sup> "St. Crispin Organizations,"

https://www.encyclopedia.com/history/encyclopedias-almanacs-transcripts-andmaps/st-crispin-organizations, accessed April 24, 2020.

<sup>32</sup> John R. Commons, "American Shoemakers, 1648-1895: A Sketch of Industrial Evolution," *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 24, November, 1909, 39-83.
 <sup>33</sup> New York State, *First Annual Report of the Board of Mediation and Arbitration*, 1887 (Albany, 1888), 22,28,42,73.

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St. Louis was perfectly located as a manufacturing hub city, and the manufacture of shoes was an important part of Missouri's economy for many years. After 1900, the shoe industry in St. Louis surged from ninth to third largest in the country. Transportation was available by rail and by water, and the availability of skilled German immigrants as a labor force facilitated the low-cost production that allowed Missouri facilities to challenge New England competitors.<sup>34</sup> The city's excellent labor force contrasted with labor problems in factories in Massachusetts. Competition in the industry became intense as new companies were founded, often by salesmen from existing firms, with the number escalating in St. Louis between 1890 and World War I. Following World War I, changes in women's fashion included shorter skirts, focusing more attention on women's feet, increasing demand for both greater numbers of shoes and more styles.<sup>35</sup> By 1919, shoe manufacturing dominated St. Louis' economy.<sup>36</sup> So it was natural that shoe factories would be developed in other Missouri communities that also offered a supply of German immigrants ready to perform factory work.

As the shoe industry grew in St. Louis, entrepreneurs sought suitable locations for additional factories nearby. Also, after 1900, companies began to build factories that specialized in making only one shoe component, requiring multiple factories to produce one shoe. Shoe factories developed in numerous communities within 200 miles of St. Louis, including Cape Girardeau, Washington, DeSoto, Hannibal, Hermann and St. Charles,<sup>37</sup> as well as Columbia,<sup>38</sup> Kirksville and Mexico, Missouri.<sup>39</sup> Expansion continued so that by 1928 there were 56 shoe factories surrounding St Louis in Missouri and across the Mississippi River in Illinois.<sup>40</sup>

#### Shoe Manufacturing in Jefferson City

Manufacturing Began Inside the Walls of MSP Shoe manufacturing initially developed in Jefferson City as a way to pay for maintenance of prisoners at the Missouri State Penitentiary (MSP). Jefferson City was selected as the location for Missouri's capital in 1821 due to its central location on the Missouri River, but not much of a community existed at the time. Many other existing communities jockeyed for the honor as the location of the state capital. In order to solidify Jefferson City's place as the seat of government, Governor Miller proposed the city house a state prison. Construction was completed on the Missouri State Penitentiary (MSP) in

<sup>34</sup> Mary M. Stiritz, Landmarks Association of St. Louis, Inc., "Brown Shoe Company's Homes-Take Factory," (National Register nomination, on file with Missouri DNR State Historic Preservation Office, 1980), 8.1. <sup>35</sup> Stiritz, "Brown Shoe Company's Homes-Take Factory," 8.1. <sup>36</sup> Susan Sheppard and Mimi Stiritz, Landmarks Association of St. Louis, "Buster Brown Blue Ribbon Shoe Factory," (National Register nomination, on file with Missouri DNR State Historic Preservation Office, 2004), 8.11. <sup>37</sup> Mike Jones, "Lafayette Square - First in Shoes," <u>https://lafayettesquare.org/lafayette-square-first-in-shoes/</u>, accessed February 5, 2020. <sup>38</sup> Debbie Sheals, "Hamilton-Brown Shoe Factory," (National Register nomination on file with Missouri DNR State Historic Preservation Office, 2002), 8.7. <sup>39</sup> Friedman-Shelby Shoe Company ad, *Kansas City Times*, Feb. 15, 1910, 9. <sup>40</sup>Jones, "Lafayette Square - First in Shoes."

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1836.<sup>41</sup> State government began in 1839 to recoup the cost of maintaining prisoners at MSP, contracting the operation of MSP to private companies who then hired out prisoners to individuals for local projects. This caused several problems, including numerous escapes,<sup>42</sup> which led to termination of this system by 1853,<sup>43</sup> although it was tried once more in 1873 - 1875.<sup>44</sup>

The penitentiary population continued to grow, from 406 in 1860 to 2,200 by 1895,45 pressuring state officials to find a way to make the prison selfsufficient. By the 1870s, the state began experimenting with leasing prison laborers, without relinquishing management of the prison. This coincided with the growth of shoe manufacturing in St. Louis, which caused factory owners to seek locations in nearby communities. George Corning, a shoe company official who moved from St. Louis to Jefferson City to contract for factory space and prison labor at MSP, testified to the success of this approach. He stated that his operation employed 70 prisoners at a rate of \$0.40 per day, generating an annual profit of \$5,000.46 In a 1879 message to the General Assembly, Governor Phelps stated his committment to making the prison self supporting: the state would manage the prison and construct state owned factory buildings, then negotiate multi-year contracts with manufacturers for use of prison labor. This change in approach worked, resulting in attraction of manufacturers of shoes and other products to MSP. The number of factory buildings built by the state at MSP increased, with the construction of seven factories between 1876 and 1884.47 In 1898, the following manufacturers are shown as having factories within MSP: J.B. Bruns Shoe Factory, Jacob Strauss Saddlery Co., Hoskins-Ross Manufacturing (broom factory), Giesecke Boot & Shoe Manufacturing Co., A. Priesmeyer Shoe Company, Vaughn Monning Shoe Cutters and L. S. Parker Shoe Co..48 In 1900, shoe factories in operation within the walls of the penitentiary produced a combined daily output of 7,000 pairs of shoes daily. Growth in manufacturing continued, and in 1903, five shoe factories operated within MSP, producing 10,000 pairs of shoes per day, along with one of the largest saddletree factories in the world and a clothing factory making work clothes. By 1904, the number of shoe manufacturers within the prison had decreased to four: Bruns Manufacturing Company, Giesecke-D'Oench-Hays Shoe Company, L. S. Parker Shoe Company, and A. Priesmeyer Shoe Company. A binding twine plant was added in 1905, churning out three million pounds of high-grade

<sup>41</sup> "History / Heritage of Jefferson City," https://www.jeffersoncitymo.gov/live\_play/history\_heritage/index.php accessed April 24, 2020 Jane Beetem, "Capitol Avenue Historic District," (National Register nomination, on file with Missouri DNR State Historic Preservation Office, 2005), 8.51. <sup>43</sup> Urbana Group, "Historic East Survey Report", 1992, 12. COAS001-R.pdf (mo.gov) 44 Ibid. 45 Ibid. <sup>46</sup> Gary R. Kremer and Thomas E. Gage, "The Prison Against the Town: Jefferson City and the Penitentiary In the 19th Century." Missouri Historical Review (Vol. LXXIV, Number 4, July 1980): 427. https://shsmo.org/search?q=Vol.+LXXIV%2C+Number+4%2C+July+1980. Accessed February 20, 2020. <sup>47</sup> Historic East Survey Report, 12. <sup>48</sup> Jefferson City Sanborn Map of 1898. https://dl.mospace.umsystem.edu/mu/islandora/object/mu%3A141504, accessed April 24, 2020.

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binder twine.<sup>49</sup> This was the high point of manufacturing at MSP, with the penitentiary being referred to as "the industrial heart" of the city in the early twentieth century.<sup>50</sup>

All this industry was good for reducing the state's cost of maintaining MSP, but it was not necessarily good for Jefferson City's economy. Had these factories been using free market labor, their workers would have needed to pay for housing and purchase food, clothing and other items from local retail establishments, which would be a benefit to the local economy. As pressure increased from labor unions throughout the state to abandon use of prison labor, Jefferson City remained neutral on the issue. Jefferson City's labor force was not unionized, as much of the local industry depended on prisoners for labor, so labor unions did not hold great influence with the citizens. Instead of hearing from workers calling for more free market jobs, Jefferson City residents were influenced by the guards and prison officials, who supported the practice of hiring prisoners as laborers for manufacturing concerns and were members of the community. Concerns had been raised in previous decades about the dangers of idleness, as the community feared a prison revolt in their midst. Another concern was that prisoners who did not remain physically active through work might become weak, requiring more expensive care.<sup>51</sup> In 1885, seventy calls from throughout the state for abolition of use of prisoners by for-profit companies were made, with only one arising from Jefferson City.

While Jefferson City residents may have been ambivalent regarding use of prison labor, use of prison labor was causing concerns for shoe manufacturers within MSP around 1900: (1) the state did not renew their leases for use of prison labor, hoping to force an increase of \$0.10 per hour per worker and (2) agitation by the labor unions resulted in "widespread prejudice against prison-made shoes."<sup>52</sup> Eventually, the state's desire to recoup the expense of operating the prion, along with calls from labor unions for elimination of prison labor in factories inside MSP<sup>53</sup> resulted in the state increasing the daily rate for prison labor from \$0.50 per man per day to \$0.60 per man per day in 1905.<sup>54</sup> (Female prisoners were leased for \$0.20 per woman per day.)<sup>55</sup> A bill proposed in Congress would prohibit sale of products made by prisoners outside the state.<sup>56</sup> These factors resulted in the three shoe companies whose contracts had not been renewed deciding to leave MSP and build new factories elsewhere. These facilities were the J.B. Bruns Shoe Company, A. Priesemeyer and Son (later known as the Tweedie Footwear Corporation at 100 Jefferson

<sup>52</sup> "Contractors Fail to Renew State Prison Leases," *St. Louis Republic*, November 19, 1904, 1.

<sup>55</sup> "Compares Wages Paid To Other States and Discusses Plans for Improving Condition in Penitentiary," *The St. Louis Republic*, Jan. 7, 1905, 12. <sup>56</sup> "Contractors Fail to Renew State Prison Leases," *The St. Louis Republic*, November 19, 1904, 1.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>49</sup> The Jefftown Journal, 11.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>50</sup> Historic East Survey Report, 12.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>51</sup> Kremer and Gage, 430.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>53</sup> John Giesecke recalled in 1947 that "the labor unions were the direct cause of the contract system finally being abolished by the state." "John Giesecke Recalls Beginning of City's Industrial Development," *The Sunday News and Tribune*, March 23, 1947, 14.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>54</sup> "Contractors and Prison Officials Disagree With Result That Outsiders Are Barred," *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, June 16, 1905, 6.

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Street, since demolished, Figure 32) and the Giesecke D'Oench Shoe Company (now known as International Shoe Company at 1101 Capitol Avenue, Figures 29 - 31).<sup>57</sup> Shoe and other manufacturing continued at MSP through the 1970s or 1980s, but never achieved the productivity evident in 1900. Two former shoe factories remain at MSP and their current status is discussed below (Figures 33 and 34).

#### Shoe Manufacturing Moves Outside MSP

With three shoe factories leaving MSP at around the same time, the Commercial Club (now Jefferson City Chamber of Commerce) saw a great opportunity to gain employment for the community. More workers would lead to more purchases at existing businesses, resulting in a positive impact on the community. Financing the construction of factories secured jobs for Jefferson City, rather than have a nearby community employ the same tactic to lure jobs to their communities.

Under the leadership of J.H. Bruns as President (son of J.B. Bruns), the local Commercial Club decided to raise funds for construction of three almost identical shoe factories. To raise the necessary funds, the Chamber purchased the 85 acre Jacob Renn farm, east of the city, and the 97 acre Henry J. Dulle farm, west of the city (Dulle Farm, Figure 27). These farms were divided into lots for houses and sold, for \$225 each, to help fund factory construction. A portion of the Dulle farm was found unsuitable for lots, due to Wears Creek and related gullies. This portion was donated to Jefferson City and used to establish Washington Park.<sup>58</sup> A portion of this farm appears to have been used to construct the J.B. Bruns Shoe Co. building (Figure 27). The facilities financed by the Chamber were the J.B. Bruns Shoe Company building, A. Priesemeyer and Son (later known as the Tweedie Footwear Corporation at 100 Jefferson Street, since demolished, Figure 32) and the Giesecke D'Oench Shoe Company (now known as International Shoe Company at 1101 Capitol Avenue, Figures 29 - 31).<sup>59</sup> These factories operated for decades, with the J.B. Bruns factory building being operated by four shoe companies until International Shoe closed the factory due to the Depression in 1930, then resumed shoe manufacturing from 1945 to 1956. The A Priesemeyer and Son factory changed its name to the Tweedie Footwear Corporation when Priesemeyer retired in 1921, leaving John Tweedie in charge. The company operated their factory at 100 Jefferson Street for decades, continuing under family management after John Tweedie's death. But foreign competition and pressures from labor unions for higher wages plagued shoe manufacturers after World War II. The Tweedie factory closed in the late 1960s, was purchased by the state and was demolished circa 1976. Older buildings that were part of the Tweedie complex

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>57</sup> "Chamber Played Major Role," *The Sunday News and Tribune*, April 5, 1964, 34; "Will Erect \$60,000 Factory," Henry County Democrat, May 18, 1905, 4. At the time the Giesecke D'Oench Shoe Company's factory was constructed, Capitol Avenue was known as E. Main Street. The name was changed after completion of the current Missouri State Capitol, which was dedicated on October 6, 1924. <u>https://mostateparks.com/page/55186/missouri-state-capitol</u> Accessed August 21, 2020. In an attempt to clarify this issue, any reference to the International Shoe Co. factory prior to October 6, 1924 will use the name E. Main Street, and Capitol Avenue for any references after this date. <sup>58</sup> "Chamber Played Major Role," 34.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>59</sup> Ibid, "Will Erect \$60,000 Factory," 4.

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remain as the Jefferson Landing Historic Site,<sup>60</sup> restored for the bicentennial in 1976 (Figure 32). The Giesecke D'Oench Shoe Company was acquired by the Friedman-Shelby Shoe Company in 1910.<sup>61</sup> Friedman-Shelby was then acquired in 1912 by International Shoe Company.<sup>62</sup> This factory on Capitol Avenue was the last privately operated factory to close, run by the International Shoe Company until 1970. Inside the walls of MSP, the Parker Boot and Shoe Manufacturing Company is shown as operating at the penitentiary on the Sanborn Map of 1916. By 1923, the Sanborn Map indicates that all factories were owned and operated by the state, ending the use of prison labor by for profit corporations. Shoes continued to be manufactured by the state in various buildings, with the former J.S. Sullivan Saddletree factory used for this purpose in the 1970s or 1980s.

#### Jefferson City Development Related to Shoe Manufacturing

Shoe manufacturing had a significant impact on Jefferson City, even though most of the goods were made by prisoners prior to 1900. By 1909, the city led Missouri in manufacturing output, with \$5,446,000 in goods made by 1,572 workers. Owners of several of the factories at MSP constructed sizeable homes nearby on Capitol Avenue to display their wealth.<sup>63</sup> Worker housing also developed near the shoe factories, once they relocated from MSP. Park Place Addition is a residential neighborhood adjacent to the former Giesecke-D'Oench-Hays Shoe factory on Capitol Avenue that provided housing for shoe factory workers, prison guards and railroad employees.<sup>64</sup> Development of the Dulle Farm for factory construction (discussed previously) resulted in development of Washington Park and sale of residential lots on St. Mary's Boulevard, Colorado, Georgia, Kansas, Michigan, Montana, Ohio and Oregon Streets, plus Indiana Avenue. Houses built in this area were within walking distance of the Bolivar Street shoe factory.

### Shoe Factories at J.B. Bruns Shoe Co. Building

Shoe manufacturing was a volatile industry in the early 1900s, lacking generally accepted accounting principles or government regulations, with exponential growth resulting in mergers, acquisitions and bankruptcies within relatively short periods of time. This is evident at the J.B. Bruns Shoe Co. building, where several different shoe companies operated.

J.B. Bruns Shoe Company

The company was started by J.B. Bruns, member of a family who were considered Cole County pioneers.<sup>65</sup> Bruns operated the J.B. Bruns grocery at Broadway and W. Main Streets before starting the shoe factory. His son, J.H. Bruns, joined him in operating the factory, located at MSP. J.H. Bruns was born in Jefferson City, attended St. Peters School and worked in his father's grocery<sup>66</sup>, then in

- <sup>63</sup> Beetem, "Capitol Avenue Historic District," 8. 44.,"
- <sup>64</sup> Historic East Survey Report, 15 16.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>60</sup> "Jefferson Landing Restored," *The Sunday News and Tribune*, January 30, 1977, 61.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>61</sup> "Shoe Company Merger Means New \$2,000,000 Corporation," 16.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>62</sup> "Friedman-Shelby Join Shoe Merger; Third Concern, Capital \$1,500,000, to Become International Branch," St. Louis Globe Democrat, October 4, 1912, 7.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>65</sup> "Bruns was Active in Shoe Factory Early Days," The Daily Capital News, June 30, 1943, 26.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>66</sup> J.B. Bruns was listed on the 1880 Federal Census as a merchant, living at 208 Broadway, with J.H. Bruns listed as Herman, 7 years old. J.H. Bruns lived at 701 W. Main in 1910, per 1910 Census. Ancestry.com. A grocery was located

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a shipyard in Los Angeles for a time before moving to St. Louis, where he became a manager for the Brown Shoe Company.<sup>67</sup> By the time the J.B. Bruns Shoe Company was ready to relocate from MSP, J.H. Bruns was President of the Chamber of Commerce, an advantageous position. Not only was J.H. Bruns President of the Chamber of Commerce, he was Henry J. Dulle's son-in-law,<sup>68</sup> which likely facilitated the purchase of the Dulle farm.

The first of the three shoe factories to be completed outside MSP, J.B. Bruns began operation at Bolivar and West McCarty "in the western part of the city"<sup>69</sup> in July 1905, employing 400 men.<sup>70</sup> While J.H. Bruns benefitted from the Chamber's assistance, he invested a significant amount of assets in the shoe company's new location. In 1907, the building, grounds and machinery were subject to a mortgage of \$40,000, secured by \$90,000 worth of assets. These included \$3,000 for his residence, \$40,000 for equity in the company, \$29,146.88 in machinery, plus accounts receivable, and personal property of \$41.80.<sup>71</sup>

The J.B. Bruns Co. would not operate the Bolivar Street factory for long. In December 1907, newspapers reported that the J.B. Bruns Shoe Company had closed,<sup>72</sup> and the Courtney Shoe Company of St. Louis was purchasing the factory. Perhaps Bruns was ready to reap the profits from this endeavor, as the sale was believed to have been for an amount exceeding \$200,000.<sup>73</sup> Or perhaps he was in over his head, as another report indicated that the company's assets were \$90,000 and its liabilities were \$160,000. This same report indicated that the factory would be leased to a St. Louis shoe company.<sup>74</sup> Despite the fact that J.B. Bruns Shoe Co. did not operate in this building very long, the name is retained in the nomination as they were the first shoe company to use the building, the Bruns family was instrumental in getting this and two other shoe factories built, and the building retains the name on an original plaque over the former main entry on the west façade.

Courtney Shoe Company

The Courtney Shoe Company operated at the J.B. Bruns Shoe Co. building for a short time, as their name appears on the 1908 Sanborn Map (Figure 12). Newspaper reports of the sale of the building in 1907 to Courtney Shoe Company indicate that the sale amount was in excess of \$200,000, employees numbered

here, where headquarters for the Missouri Local Government Employees Retirement System is now located. Jane Beetem, "Henry and Elizabeth Bockrath House," (National Register nomination, on file with Missouri DNR State Historic Preservation Office, 2013), 8.10.

<sup>67</sup> "Bruns was Active," 26.

<sup>68</sup> "Buffet Supper for Week End Visitors," *The Sunday News and Tribune*, July 1, 1934, 6.

<sup>69</sup> "Missouri Convicts May Take a Rest; One of Three Shoe Factories Moves From Prison and Others Will Follow," *Mexico Weekly Ledger*, July 20, 1905, 4. <sup>70</sup> "Chamber Played Major Role," 34.

<sup>71</sup> "Shoe Factory Assigns; Assets of Jefferson City Shoe Plant are Estimated at \$90,000," The Sedalia Democrat, Dec. 15, 1907, 14.

 $^{72}$  "Jefferson City Shoe Company Closes," The Weekly Post, Nevada, Missouri, December 13, 1907, 7.

<sup>73</sup> "The Courtney Shoe Co. Buys J.B. Bruns Shoe Co. at Jefferson City," Sedalia Democrat, October 7, 1907, 10.

<sup>74</sup> "A Shoe Company Fails," King City Democrat, December 20, 1907, 7.

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500 and title to the property would not transfer until the end of five years.  $^{75}$ 

Roberts, Johnson and Rand Shoe Company

In 1911, Roberts, Johnson and Rand Shoe Company of St. Louis purchased the plant "formerly operated by the J.B. Bruns Shoe Manufacturing Company." <sup>76</sup> The factory was expected to produce 4,000 pairs of shoes per day.<sup>77</sup> If title to the building never was held by the Courtney Shoe Company, this may explain why Roberts, Johnson and Rand described their purchase as being from the J.B. Bruns Shoe Co. less than five years later.

#### International Shoe Company

The same year they purchased the J.B. Bruns Shoe Co. building, the Roberts, Johnson and Rand Shoe Company merged with the Peters Shoe Company to form the International Shoe Company. In the period from 1900 to 1922, St. Louis evolved from a distribution center for eastern-made shoes to the nation's foremost center of shoe manufacturing. During this period, the Roberts, Johnson & Rand / International Shoe Company emerged as the largest single shoe manufacturing company in the country and an important contributor to St. Louis' economy.<sup>78</sup> Roberts, Johnson & Rand operated 13 manufacturing plants in 1912, employing over 5,000 shoemakers and generating \$13,671,186.19 in sales in 1911.<sup>79</sup> Just as Roberts, Johnson & Rand had begun to speed up movement to smaller cities after World War I, as the industry leader, the new International Shoe Company competed with other shoe companies by establishing factories outside of St. Louis, where labor costs were less.<sup>80</sup>

Another industry merger gave International Shoe Co. greater control over the Jefferson City shoe industry. The Friedman-Shelby Shoe Company acquired the Giesecke-O'Dench-Hays Shoe Company in 1910, giving them ownership of the former company's factory on East Main Street (now 1101 Capitol Avenue) in Jefferson City.<sup>81</sup> Friedman-Shelby was then acquired in 1912 by International Shoe Company,<sup>82</sup> giving International Shoe control of two factories in Jefferson City, the J.B. Bruns Shoe Co. building and the former Giesecke-O'Dench-Hays factory on E. Main Street. It is interesting to note that while the factory on E. Main St. continues to be known as "the International Shoe Factory," the J.B. Bruns Shoe Co. building was the first factory in Jefferson City to be owned by International Shoe. The plant on E. Main Street operated

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>75</sup> "The Courtney Shoe Co. Buys J.B. Bruns Shoe Co. at Jefferson City," 10.
<sup>76</sup> "Buys Burns Shoe Company; Roberts, Johnson & Rand Acquire Jefferson City Plant," St. Louis Globe Democrat, January 12, 1911, 11.

<sup>77</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>78</sup> Mary M. Stiritz, Research Associate, Landmarks Association of St. Louis, Inc., "Roberts, Johnson & Rand/International Shoe Company," (National Register nomination, on file with Missouri DNR State Historic Preservation Office, 1984), 8.1.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>79</sup> Dun's Review, Volume 20, 1912, 82.

https://books.google.com/books?id=4sopAAAAYAAJ&dq=roberts+johnson+rand+shoe+co mpany+number+of+facilities&source=gbs\_navlinks\_s, accessed April 24, 2020. <sup>80</sup> Lynn Josse, Landmarks Association of St. Louis, Inc., "Hamilton-Brown Shoe Factory, St. Louis," (National Register nomination, on file with Missouri DNR State Historic Preservation Office, 2000), 8.9.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>81</sup> "Shoe Company Merger Means New \$2,000,000 Corporation," 16.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>82</sup> "Friedman-Shelby Join Shoe Merger," October 4, 1912, 7.

NPS Form 10-900	
United States Department of the Interior	
National Park Service	J.B

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under the International Shoe name longer (until 1970)<sup>83</sup> and continues to retain the company name painted on the side of the building (Figures 29 - 31).

By 1917, International Shoe had 23 factories located in St. Louis, Hannibal, Washington, Cape Girardeau, St. Charles, Jefferson City, Kirksville, Mexico, Hermann and De Soto, Missouri and Belleville, Springfield, Jerseyville and Chester, Illinois.<sup>84</sup> Several communities evidently had multiple factories, with each factory specializing and performing specific functions, such as cutting leather, sewing shoes or attaching soles. This was by design, as International Shoe explained in 1912 after acquiring the East Main Street factory, that their factories operated as "specialty plants devoted to the making of certain kinds of footwear."<sup>85</sup> The company planned to enhance this specialization, cutting leather and assembling shoes in different factories to maximize efficiency.<sup>86</sup> Such specialization was evident in 1919, when International Shoe manufactured misses' and children's shoes at their Bolivar Street Factory (the J.B. Bruns Shoe Co. building), while their E. Main Street facility made infant's and men's heavy nailed shoes.<sup>87</sup>

International Shoe would continue to own the J.B. Bruns Shoe Company Building until 1958. But the impact of two world wars and a world wide depression would ultimately prove fatal to the American shoe industry.

American Shoe Industry Faces Competition after World War I

Leather shoes were the main product for American shoemakers, but after World War I, foreign manufacturers began to compete successfully with American shoe factories. This started a long-term trend that would eventually end America's dominance of the shoe industry. Leather shoe purchases per capita did not increase from 1900 to 1987. Rubber companies introduced rubber soles around 1900. Imported shoes and a trend toward canvas and rubber shoes, rather than the traditional leather, began to erode sales of American made shoes. Popular new sports such as tennis and baseball resulted in development and marketing of athletic shoes in the 1910s and 1920s. In the 1930s, most companies added traction to their shoe soles and began selling different models for different sports. Production changes after World War II included improved tannery machinery and methods and leathers that were washable, waterproof or scuff resistant. The sneaker business expanded in the 1950s, with synthetic leather

<sup>85</sup> Shoe and Leather Reporter, October 3, 1912, Vol. 108, 17.

https://www.google.com/books/edition/Shoe\_and\_Leather\_Reporter/7fE-

AQAAMAAJ?hl=en&gbpv=1&bsq=jefferson%20city%20mo, accessed April 24, 2020. <sup>86</sup> Ibid.

<sup>87</sup> Shoe and Leather Reporter, Annual 1919, 675.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>83</sup> "Shoe Sales Slump Forces Shutdown," *Jefferson City Post-Tribune*, 5 October 1970, 1, 6.; "Shoe Factory to Close," *Jefferson City Post-Tribune*, 28 July 1970, 1; "Chamber's Industrial Plan Lightens Loss of Plant," *Jefferson City Post-Tribune*, 29 July 1970, 4.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>84</sup> Moody's Analyses of Investments, Part II, Utilities and Industrials, by John Moody, 1917. 1031.

https://www.google.com/books/edition/Moody\_s\_Manual\_of\_Investments\_American\_a/ IxwMAQAAMAAJ?hl=en&gbpv=1&dq=international+shoe+company+jefferson+city+mo+1911 +1930&pg=PA1031&printsec=frontcover, accessed April 24, 2020.

https://www.google.com/books/edition/The\_Shoe\_and\_Leather\_Reporter\_Annual/RdM-AQAAMAAJ?hl=en&gbpv=1&dq=international+shoe+company+jefferson+city+mo&pg=PA675 &printsec=frontcover, accessed April 24, 2020.

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introduced in 1963, but it was not until the 1970s that athletic shoes became big business, well after the factory's periods of significance.<sup>88</sup>

Despite Competition, International Shoe's Sales Were Booming in 1929 By 1929, International Shoe Company's business was booming, described as being "at the head of its industry. It is the world's greatest producer of shoes. It is the world's largest tanner of leather."<sup>89</sup> The company had reason to boast they were manufacturing over 50 million pairs of shoes per year in more than a thousand styles for men, women, children and infants, sold through 70,000 dealers in every state in the union. The company operated 43 specialty shoe factories, each making one type and grade of shoe, supplied by 14 tanneries, each making one particular type of leather, one rubber sole and heel plant, producing 125,000 pairs of heels and 30,000 pairs of soles per day and one cotton mill, producing seven million yards of lining fabric per year. The company was vertically integrated, with 59 auxiliary plants making "welting, dyes, chemicals, shoe boxes, shipping cartons, trunks, gloves, etc."<sup>90</sup> valued at more than \$30 million per year.

Based on this level of success, the company had big plans for expansion, with plans to hire 300 more employees and add new equipment for both Jefferson City factories. Promises were made to relocate divisions from other cities, to keep the plant "in operation at full blast the entire year around,"<sup>91</sup> The Bolivar Street factory (the J.B. Bruns Shoe Co. building) was described as having "been in operation here for many years and has gone through several expansions and capacity enlargements. In this plant several hundred employees produce high grade turns,<sup>92</sup> infants, childrens, juniors and senior misses shoes. This is one of the International's specialty plants and is under the management of J.H. Nolan."<sup>93</sup>

The Great Depression Impacts the J.B. Bruns Shoe Co. Building Unfortunately these plans for expansion came just before the stock market crashed in October, 1929, the country entered the Great Depression and people stopped buying new shoes.<sup>94</sup> (While unemployment data was not maintained in the 1930s, it is estimated that unemployment reached 24.9% during the Great Depression. More recently, the peak unemployment rate was 10.8% in 1980,

although unemployment due to COVID-19 in April 2020 was officially 14.7%, and

press-releases/leather-and-leather-products-industry, accessed April 24, 2020. <sup>89</sup> "International Shoe Factories in Expansion," Jefferson City Post-Tribune,

September 19, 1929, 30.

<sup>90</sup> "International Shoe Factories in Expansion."

<sup>91</sup> Ibid.

definitions/#:~:text=Turn%20or%20turned%3A%20(6403.59.&text=Applies%20only%20t
o%20footwear%20with,right%20side%20out%20by%20hand. Accessed September 2,
2020.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>88</sup> "Boot and Shoe Manufacturing," and "Leather and Leather Products Industry," encyclopedia.com, <u>https://www.encyclopedia.com/history/dictionaries-</u> thesauruses-pictures-and-press-releases/boot-and-shoe-manufacturing and https://www.encyclopedia.com/history/dictionaries-thesauruses-pictures-and-

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>92</sup> "Turns" are leather shoes that are sewed with the leather wrong side out, then the leather is turned right side out by hand. <u>https://fdra.org/key-</u>issues-and-advocacy/footwear-customs/key-footwear-

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>93</sup> "International Shoe Factories in Expansion."

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>94</sup> "Great Depression History," <u>https://www.history.com/topics/great-</u> depression/great-depression-history, accessed April 25, 2020.

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may end up much higher.<sup>95</sup>) International Shoe Company closed their Bolivar Street factory in March, 1930,<sup>96</sup> while their East Main Street factory continued to operate until 1970.<sup>97</sup> Shoes had been manufactured at the J.B. Bruns Shoe Co. building more or less continuously from 1905 to March 1930, when the factory closed. The local Chamber of Commerce worked furiously to find work for the unemployed factory workers, by trying to convince International Shoe to expand their operations.<sup>98</sup> Unable to attract a manufacturer as a tenant, International Shoe rented some of the J.B. Bruns Shoe Co. building to the state for storage space,<sup>99</sup> while the rest remained vacant.

Shoe production in the United States never completely recovered after the Depression. Some companies, such as Hamilton-Brown, declared bankruptcy.<sup>100</sup> There was an exciting rumor in 1933 that the factory had been purchased by Anheuser-Busch Brewery of St. Louis<sup>101</sup>, but this proved to be wishful thinking and the building remained vacant until 1936.

International Shoe Returns Shoe Manufacturing to the J.B. Bruns Shoe Co. Building

Shoe manufacturing returned to the J.B. Bruns Shoe Co. building after World War II. During the period 1936 to 1945 the building was rented and the activities that took place during this timeframe, while noteworthy, are not considered significant as the focus of the nomination is the shoe industry. These will be described in a section following the shoe manufacturing history of the building.

International Shoe Company announced in November 1945 that it would reopen their factory on Bolivar Street, employing 125 to 150 men and women. The company continued to own the building while it was rented from 1936 to 1945, and announced on October 21 that 7,000 former workers who had served in the military would be able to return to their jobs, saying the "company is proud of this fine group of men and women" and "[e]ach of the employees who return within 90 days of ... honorable discharge, and who is physically able, will find his job waiting."<sup>102</sup> The company planned to produce their Dun-Deer shoes and Boy Scout kits in the factory. The Dun-Deer line of shoes had been produced

<sup>97</sup> "Shoe Sales Slump Forces Shutdown," 1, 6.; "Shoe Factory to Close," 1; "Chamber's Industrial Plan Lightens Loss of Plant," 4.

<sup>98</sup> "Plan to Secure Opening of Shoe Factories Here," 1.

<sup>99</sup> "Seeking Office Space for WPA in Capital City, Business Leaders Virtually Assured Headquarters Will Not Be Moved," *Jefferson City Post-Tribune*, October 1, 1936, 1.

 $^{\rm 100}$  Sheals, Hamilton-Brown Shoe Factory, 8.10.

<sup>101</sup> "Rumor Shoe Factory Might Be Beer Depot," *The Daily Capital News*, March 24, 1933, 2.

 $^{102}$  ``7,000 International Employees Serving," The Sunday News and Tribune, October 21, 1945, 4.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>95</sup> Jeffry Bartash, "Great Depression 2020? The unofficial US jobless rate is at least 20% - or worse," <u>https://www.marketwatch.com/story/great-depression-</u> <u>2020-the-unofficial-us-jobless-rate-is-at-least-20or-worse-2020-05-08</u>, May 8, 2020, accessed May 10, 2020.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>96</sup> "Plan To Secure Opening of Shoe Factories Here; Chamber of Commerce Directors and Workers To Work Together in Assuring Owners of Cooperation Toward Making Capital City Shoe Center Again," *Jefferson City Post-Tribune*, December 15, 1931, 1.

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before World War II, but production had been put on hold due to government restrictions on sole leather.<sup>103</sup> (Their Capitol Avenue plant had been able to continue operation through the Depression and World War II.) Manufacturers Struggle with Labor Issues

Apparently International Shoe expected shoe manufacturing to return to "normal" after World War II, that they could throw open their factory doors and workers would return. But a number of factors beyond their control may have hindered their plans. First, many women who worked in the factories during the war returned to their roles as housewives, even though some may have preferred to stay on the job.<sup>104</sup> Another factor was the GI Bill, signed into law in 1944. In the first seven years, about 8 million veterans took advantage of the college tuition provisions of this bill.<sup>105</sup> The GI Bill also supported the construction industry, with 4.3 million home loans issued to veterans by 1955.<sup>106</sup> This meant a boom in the construction industry increased demand for workers outside of factories. Despite welcoming returning service men and women, after World War II shoe manufacturers struggled to find workers. International Shoe began to advertise as early as August 1945 and appealed to women, girls and boys (over age 16) in newspaper ads to apply for work<sup>107</sup> (Figure 35).

The second time International Shoe occupied the J.B. Bruns Shoe Co. building, from 1945 to 1956, labor issues bedeviled the company. Labor unions had agreed not to strike during the war, but once it ended a wave of strikes swept the country, with a record number of strikes in 1946. <sup>108</sup> These strikes in numerous industries began to impact distribution of goods. In St. Louis, food shortages were expected to occur due to a week-long truck driver strike, as International Shoe closed several factories in Missouri and Illinois and

<sup>104</sup> "History at a Glance: Women in World War II,"

resources/research-starters/women-

HNQYPgQ0Do2aZxRoq6hoCwj8QAvD\_BwE Accessed September 8, 2020.

<sup>105</sup> "75 Years of the GI Bill: How Transformative It's Been,"

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>103</sup> "Bolivar Street Shoe Factory to Reopen Monday," *The Daily Capital News*, Jefferson City, November 15, 1945, 1; The products produced at the Bolivar Street Factory were confirmed in findings related to a labor dispute between United Shoe Workers of America, CIO and International Shoe in 1947, where the National Labor Relations Board noted in their findings that the Bolivar Plant manufactured "juvenile Goodyear welt shoes, Dun Deer shoes and Boy Scout moccasin kits." Decisions and Orders of the National Labor Relations Board, Volume 74, 608.

https://books.google.com/books?id=3P9ZAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA609&lpg=PA609&dq=Dun+Deer+ International+shoe&source=bl&ots=kFKVzk\_jXI&sig=ACfU3U0wPKumejuP4uvz8kQZOhSTT5 xFew&hl=en&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwjg6aDC3dzqAhV\_Ap0JHeEsCVUQ6AEwFHoECAoQAQ#v=onepage& q=Dun%20Deer%20International%20shoe&f=false, accessed April 24, 2020.

https://www.nationalww2museum.org/students-teachers/student-

wwii?gclid=CjwKCAjw19z6BRAYEiwAmo64LVblsRvAXUgDMJ00B0\_9pkz-ZZv9dm0Kot-

https://www.defense.gov/Explore/Features/story/Article/1727086/75-years-ofthe-gi-bill-how-transformative-its-been/ Accessed September 8, 2020.

<sup>106</sup> Ibid.

 $<sup>^{107}</sup>$  Classified ad, The Sunday News and Tribune, August 19, 1945, 13.  $^{108}$  "US Labor Unions in the 1940s,"

http://www.crosscurrents.hawaii.edu/content.aspx?lang=eng&site=us&theme=work&s ubtheme=UNION&unit=USWORK010. Accessed April 25, 2020.

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anticipated additional closures.<sup>109</sup> The strike by the CIO (Congress of Industrial Organizations) Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union started a ripple effect, as refusal of 4,000 employees to cross picket lines held by 24 employees at five International Shoe plants and a materials distribution warehouse in St. Louis resulted in closure of fourteen International Shoe plants outside St. Louis, leaving thousands without work<sup>110</sup> (in a time before unemployment benefits). The following day a total of 16,300 International Shoe workers were out of work, with five more plant closures in Kirksville, Dexter, Sikeston, and Windsor in Missouri and Steelville, Illinois. Nineteen plants outside St. Louis were closed due to lack of materials from St. Louis warehouses.<sup>111</sup> Both International Shoe factories in Jefferson City were impacted during this strike, but materials were gathered from both plants allowing 200 employees to continue work at the Bolivar factory while 300 of 350 workers at the Capitol Avenue plant were idled. The strike ended after 17 days when International Shoe and the union agreed on a pay increase of \$0.07 per hour. By the end of the strike, 18,000 International Shoe employees had been off work. The pay increase was retroactive from to June 3 from August 10, giving a boost to 550 workers in the two Jefferson City factories.<sup>112</sup>

After the strike, ads continued to encourage women and girls to apply for jobs with International Shoe (Figure 35). In 1947, ads promoted "minimum wage guarantee 57 1/2¢ per hour" as well as paid vacation and low-cost insurance.<sup>113</sup> This was not enough to keep labor unions happy. Less than a year later in September 1947, the CIO United Shoe Workers union was pushing for an increase of 18 1/2¢ an hour, plus three more paid holidays (for a total of six per year). Workers threatened to strike at 39 International Shoe plants if an agreement wasn't reached by October 1. The union's contract for 91¢ per hour expired at the end of August. About 40% of International Shoe's workers were CIO United Shoe Workers Union, the rest were unaffiliated.<sup>114</sup> Unions at all 39 factories voted to strike on September 27. After a court order blocked the strike, the union agreed to a 3¢ per hour increase just five minutes before the strike deadline.<sup>115</sup>

In 1947, Congress passed the Taft-Hartley Act as concerns grew that unions were becoming too powerful.<sup>116</sup> This act restricted union activities, protected workers from coercion by unions and from excessive dues or initiation fees.<sup>117</sup>

<sup>109</sup> "Food Shortages in City This Week Likely in Strikes," St. Louis Post-Dispatch, January 13, 1946, 1, 3. <sup>110</sup> "Three Missouri Shoe Plants Were Closed Wednesday," The Chillicothe Constitution-Tribune, August 1, 1946, 7. <sup>111</sup> "Five More Shoe Plants Shut Due to Strike Here," St. Louis Post-Dispatch, August 2, 1946, 13. <sup>112</sup> "Shoe Workers Back to Plants Here Next Week," The Daily Capitol News, August 10, 1946, 1. <sup>113</sup> Classified ad, Washington Missourian, January 2, 1947, 7. <sup>114</sup> "International Shoe Strike at 39 Plants Threatened," St. Louis Post-Dispatch, September 20, 1947, 3. <sup>115</sup> "Zero Hour Wage Accord, Following State Injunction, Ends Threat of Shoe Strike," The St. Louis Star and Times, October 1, 1947, 1. <sup>116</sup> "US Labor Unions in the 1940s." "1947 Taft-Hartley Substantive Provisions," https://www.nlrb.gov/aboutnlrb/who-we-are/our-history/1947-taft-hartley-substantive-provisions. accessed July 18, 2020.

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The power of unions was reduced by this law and the number of strikes was reduced.<sup>118</sup>

The Impact of Automation

Despite passage of the Taft-Hartley Act, employment numbers began to decline in 1947 and continued to decline. Manufacturers began to replace equipment and modernize their factories, with a focus on efficiency and maximizing profit. Improved machinery required fewer man hours per unit of output. These changes resulted in an economic recession, the worst since the Great Depression. By 1958, Caterpillar had laid off 6,000 workers in Peoria, Illinois and reduced remaining workers to a four-day workweek. In July, the national unemployment rate hit 7.5%. That summer General Electric sent 25,000 workers home, and General Motors laid off 28,000. Studebaker announced they would not honor their pensions for more than 3,000 workers.<sup>119</sup> Factories that couldn't meet postwar expectations were closed.<sup>120</sup> One example was the Milius Shoe Company, which in 1947 announced it was disposing of its "novelty shoe business" with factories in St. Louis and Festus that employed 1,000 workers. The previous year the company had sales of \$6 million, on production of 1.6 million pairs of shoes.<sup>121</sup>

#### Volatility Plagues the Missouri Shoe Industry

In May of 1948, steep declines in production occurred throughout the shoe industry<sup>122</sup> yet rebounded three months later, attributed to the change in quality of output - St. Louis shoe companies were producing a "better made" shoe than they had prior to the war.<sup>123</sup> Additionally, shoe prices in Missouri were higher than elsewhere in the country.<sup>124</sup> The following September, in 1948, International Shoe implemented a four day work week at ten factories in Missouri and Illinois, citing a lack of demand for their shoes.<sup>125</sup> The impact of foreign manufacturers since the end of World War I was beginning to take a toll, which was causing volatility in the American shoe industry. Still, 1948 was a good year for the company, as they sold nearly 600,000 more pairs of shoes than in 1947, for a total of \$219,804,880 in sales; more than 11% of all shoes produced in the country. At the end of 1948 the company had 58 shoe factories, nine sole cutting plants, 27 plants manufacturing other shoe supplies and four warehouses, 126 making it the largest shoe company in the world in 1949.127 International Shoe was awarded a contract to provide shoes for the military in 1951 - 1,437,000 pairs of shoes and boots valued at more

<sup>118</sup> "US Labor Unions in the 1940s."

<sup>119</sup> Rick Wartzman, "The First Time America Freaked Out Over Automation," https://www.politico.com/magazine/story/2017/05/30/rick-wartzman-book-excerptautomation-donald-trump-215207, May 30, 2017, accessed May 10, 2020. <sup>120</sup> Ruth D. Keenoy, "Shoe Industry of St. Louis 1870 - 1980," https://www.stlouis-mo.gov/government/departments/sldc/projectconnect/nga/history/upload/The-Shoe-Industry-of-St-Louis.pdf, 24. Accessed July 18, 2020. <sup>121</sup> "Milius Shoe Co. is Withdrawing From Business," St. Louis Post-Dispatch, September 20, 1947, 3. <sup>122</sup> Keenoy, 24. <sup>123</sup> "Shoe Decentralization," St. Louis Post-Dispatch, December 25, 1949, 23G. 124 Ibid. <sup>125</sup> "Shoe Factory Now on Four Day Week," The Sikeston Herald, September 30, 1948, 17. <sup>126</sup> "International Had Big Year in 1948," Jefferson City Post-Tribune, January 18, 1949, 4.

<sup>127</sup> Keenoy, 24.

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than \$13 million.<sup>128</sup> Unfortunately for the Bolivar Street factory, they specialized in women's and children's shoes, so did not benefit from this military contract.

#### Decline of Missouri Shoe Industry

By 1952, International Shoe had moved much of their manufacturing out of St. Louis, with fewer shoe factories in the city than they had before World War I. Twenty-three shoe companies had their headquarters in St. Louis, but by the mid-1960s, neither Brown Shoe or International Shoe manufactured any shoes in St. Louis. The company anticipated the effect of foreign manufactured shoes by moving into retailing shoes and foreign investments. Shoe companies began to acquire shoe retailing firms and by 1955 International Shoe owned 155 major shoe retailers. International Shoe began investing in shoe factories overseas in the 1950s.<sup>129</sup>

International Shoe may have been the largest shoe company in the world in 1949, but that did not make them immune to outside pressures. Beginning after World War II, foreign competition put pressure on companies, resulting in relocation of some American shoe factories overseas in the 1950s and 1960s, to countries where lower wages allowed greater profits.<sup>130</sup> By 1954, the writing must have been on the wall for the Bolivar Street factory, as International Shoe announced they were closing the plant for one week. The purpose of the closure was to "adjust its inventory of the types of shoes manufactured at the local unit," and company officials said the plant would reopen at the same production level as before. But by July of 1956, local chamber officials were in St. Louis, meeting with International Shoe officials trying to prevent closure of the Bolivar Street plant.<sup>131</sup>

## Closure of International Shoe's Bolivar Street Plant

International Shoe moved its equipment out of the Bolivar Street plant in September 1956, explaining that they could make juvenile shoes more economically in their other plants. The company planned to sell the building for office or warehouse use, but the Chamber of Commerce held out hopes that the building would continue as an industrial location. When it closed, the Bolivar Street factory employed 190 people, with an annual payroll of just over \$400,000. This plant was smaller than the larger plant on Capitol Avenue, but its loss was felt in Jefferson City's economy.<sup>132</sup> International Shoe's plant on Capitol Avenue continued to produce adult shoes and was rated as one of the company's top producing plants,<sup>133</sup> operating until 1970.<sup>134</sup> It is not known exactly why the Bolivar Street factory was closed. Certainly, the years of labor disputes, pressure from foreign manufacturers and

<sup>128</sup> "Footwear for Military is Made in Missouri," Jefferson City Post-Tribune, March 1, 1951, 1.
<sup>129</sup> Keenoy, 25.
<sup>130</sup> Jones, "Lafayette Square - First in Shoes;" Loren Gatch, "The Origins of Poll Parrot Shoe Money," <u>https://www.spmc.org/blog/origins-poll-parrot-shoe-money, Accessed February 2</u>, 2020.
<sup>131</sup> "Another Meeting Set on Shoe Plant," Jefferson City Post-Tribune, July 27, 1956, 1.
<sup>132</sup> "There's Still Hope on Shoe Plant," Jefferson City Post-Tribune, July 26, 1956, 4.
<sup>133</sup> "Industry Needed in Old Plant," 4.
<sup>134</sup> "Shoe Sales Slump Forces Shutdown," 1, 6.; "Shoe Factory to Close," 1;

"Chamber's Industrial Plan Lightens Loss of Plant," 4.

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International Shoe's move toward retail rather than manufacturing were factors in the decision. But the company's statement that "they could make juvenile shoes more economically in their other plants" is telling, especially if they were referring to other plants overseas. After introduction of rubber soled shoes circa 1900,<sup>135</sup> sales of inexpensive canvas and rubber soled shoes for children would have increased (rather than more expensive American made leather shoes). Parents know how fast children outgrow shoes, so it makes sense that they would select less expensive shoes for them to wear, making cheaper foreign made shoes more attractive. Since the Bolivar Street plant made children's shoes, foreign competition would have impacted this plant more severely than facilities that made adult shoes, eventually ending this factory's shoe manufacturing history.

## What Remains of the Jefferson City Shoe Industry?

Only four buildings remain in Jefferson City today that were associated with the community's shoe industry: the nominated J.B. Bruns Shoe Co. Building, International Shoe at 1101 Capitol Avenue, the "old shoe factory" or former J. S. Sullivan Saddletree factory at MSP and a portion of the former A. Priesmeyer factory at MSP. In 1900, Jefferson City, with a population of around 10,000 people, led all Missouri cities in terms of manufacturing with \$5,446,000 worth of products and employing 1,572 individuals.<sup>136</sup> At the same time Jefferson City was the second largest producer of footwear west of the Allegheny Mountains.<sup>137</sup> To attract manufacturers, Jefferson City offered low taxes and rentals, cheap labor, and competitive freight rates.<sup>138</sup> The availability of cheap labor and factory space offered by the State of Missouri at the Missouri State Penitentiary (MSP) was a key factor that allowed Jefferson City to dominate the state in terms of manufacturing. Sanborn maps show that factory buildings came and went at MSP between the years 1885 and 1939, with factories shifting locations as their operations expanded or retracted, factory buildings burned or were replaced by larger cell block buildings. In 1885 there were three shoe factories and two saddletree companies at MSP. The number of shoe factories grew to a total of seven shoe factories in 1908, plus three other factories. Shoe factories declined to two in 1916, then to one in 1923 and 1939, with six clothing, twine and furniture factories.

Yet little remains at MSP of this manufacturing powerhouse due to two factors: the Riot of 1954 involved burning of numerous factory buildings<sup>139</sup> and the decision by Governor Mel Carnahan's administration in 1998 to close MSP and construct the Jefferson City Correctional Center east of town.<sup>140</sup>

<sup>137</sup> Ford, History of Jefferson City, 305.

 $<sup>^{\</sup>rm 135}$  "Boot and Shoe Manufacturing," and "Leather and Leather Products Industry," encyclopedia.com.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>136</sup> Sauer, "The Geography of the Ozark Highland of Missouri," 216.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>138</sup> Sauer, 216.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>139</sup> Mark S. Schreiber and Laura Burkhardt Moeller, *Somewhere In Time - 170 Years of Missouri Corrections*, (Marceline, MO: Walsworth Publishing Company, 2004), 201; Mike Lear, "Historian, inmate, former troopers recall 1954 penitentiary riot," <u>https://www.missourinet.com/2014/09/22/historian-and-</u> <u>former-inmate-troopers-recall-mo-penitentiary-riot-of-1954/</u>. Accessed August 30, 2020.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>140</sup> "Commissioners will set price state must pay for prison land," *Jefferson City News Tribune*, December 20, 1998. Accessed August 30, 2020.

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The penitentiary was closed in 2004,  $^{141}$  and federal environmental funds were used to demolish a number of potentially contaminated sites, including several former factories.  $^{142}$ 

There are two extant former shoe factories at MSP. The building known locally as the "old shoe factory" and designated as such in a draft National Register nomination<sup>143</sup> (also known as J. S. Sullivan Saddletree Factory) was not used to manufacture shoes from 1885 to 1939 according to the Sanborn maps. Historian Mark Schreiber recalled that building was used for making shoes during his tenure at MSP, circa 1970s to early 1980s.<sup>144</sup> This building is similar in design to the J.B. Bruns Shoe Co. building, having three full floors and a fourth partially below grade, built of brick, approximately 230 feet long by 45 feet wide.<sup>145</sup> Oriented with the long sides to the north and south, this building has windows aligned horizontally and vertically, a flat roof and corbelled parapets on the east and west walls. This building has been painted since at least 1954<sup>146</sup> and based on memory of a tour circa 1999 by the author, all interior walls and ceilings are painted as well.<sup>147</sup>

At the prison's southwest corner, just inside the walls at Lafayette and Capitol Avenue stands the remains of the A. Priesmeyer Ladies & Children's Shoe Co.. In 1885 this company and the Giesecke Boot & Shoe Co. shared this building, a factory labeled "New No. 2" on Sanborn maps. This complex eventually grew to four factory buildings, but all of these buildings burned during the Riot of 1954.<sup>148</sup> Following the riot, one floor of the former Priesmeyer factory was salvaged (this was at least a two story brick building

<sup>141</sup> Samantha Sunne, "Neglect a threat for Missouri State Penitentiary," May 23, 2012. <u>https://www.kbia.org/post/neglect-threat-missouri-state-</u>

penitentiary#stream/0 Accessed August 31, 2020.

<sup>142</sup> Matt Noonan, "Demolition Begins at Former Missouri State Penitentiary," March 13, 2012, <u>https://www.komu.com/news/demolition-begins-at-former-</u> missouri-state-penitentiary Accessed August 31, 2020.

<sup>143</sup> Draft National Register Nomination for Missouri State Penitentiary Historic District, Chris Koenig, original author, 2008: Revised by Camilla Deiber, 2015, on file with SHPO or

https://dnr.mo.gov/shpo/docs/MissouriStatePenitentiaryHistoricDistrict.pdf <sup>144</sup> Interview with Mark Schreiber by Jane Beetem, August 31, 2020.

<sup>145</sup> Draft National Register nomination.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>146</sup> Lear, "Historian, inmate, former troopers recall."

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>147</sup> The author served in 2003 on the committee of city, county and state representatives that developed the MSP Master Redevelopment Plan, and toured many of the buildings onsite at that time, including the "old shoe factory," but the Priesemeyer Boot & Shoe Factory was not opened to the group due to its condition. The old shoe factory was not mentioned in the Master Plan as a site for potential reuse. The MSP complex is state owned and a limited portion is available for tours through the Convention and Visitor's Bureau. Neither former shoe factory is on the tour and chain link fences prohibit exterior access. The former Priesemeyer factory is visible from Capitol Avenue, although surrounded by small trees and brush, but the view of the other factory from the end of Lafayette St. is obscured by trees. <sup>148</sup> Tim O'Neil, "Sept. 22, 1954: Seething Missouri inmates go on a rampage," September 22, 2019, <u>https://www.stltoday.com/news/archives/sept-22-1954-</u> <u>seething-missouri-inmates-go-on-a-rampage/article\_d43bee6f-df13-5403-994d-</u> b6993eeeb3bd.html Accessed August 29, 2020.

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originally, based on Sanborn maps and post-riot photos)<sup>149</sup>. This building was later referred to as Housing Unit #8 as overcrowding in the 1980s led to its use as an open dormitory with bunk beds. Mark Schreiber recalled that it was in poor condition then, forced into use only by the overcrowded conditions, later used for storage. The building was not open to members of the committee working on the MSP master plan circa 1999. At some point the lower portions of the windows were infilled with concrete block, perhaps when used as housing in the 1980s as bars were installed above the block (Figure 34). While these two buildings remain standing, one was used for shoe manufacturing late in its life as a factory and the other was significantly altered after it burned in 1954.

Two other shoe factories were built outside of MSP around the same time as the J.B Bruns Shoe Co. building, circa 1905 - 1907, with the J.B. Bruns building being completed first: A. Priesemeyer and Son (later known as the Tweedie Footwear Corporation at 100 Jefferson Street, since demolished, Figure 32) and the Giesecke D'Oench Shoe Company (now known as International Shoe Company at 1101 Capitol Avenue, Figures 29 - 31).<sup>150</sup>

Unfortunately, the Tweedie Footwear Corporation's factory at 100 Jefferson Street was demolished by the state between 1966 and 1976 as part of the first urban renewal project in Jefferson City.<sup>151</sup> The Tweedie factory closed between 1963 and 1965.<sup>152</sup> A valiant effort by Elizabeth Rozier and the Cole County Historical Society saved the Lohman Building and the former Union Hotel that were part of the Tweedie complex from demolition. (The former Union Hotel is now called the Rozier Building in her honor, and both buildings are part of the Jefferson Landing State Historic Site at 100 Jefferson St.) But in the 1960s saving some of the oldest buildings in town was difficult enough to accomplish, particularly with the Governor and other state and local officials in favor of complete demolition. The preservationists' fight began circa 1962<sup>153</sup> and ended in 1976 when exterior restoration of the Lohman's Landing State Historic Site was celebrated.<sup>154</sup>

<sup>149</sup> Schreiber, Somewhere In Time - 170 Years of Missouri Corrections, 201.
<sup>150</sup> "Chamber Played Major Role," 34; "Will Erect \$60,000 Factory," 4.
<sup>151</sup> "Extensive Urban Renewal Plan for City Unveiled by Governor," Jefferson City Post-Tribune, March 8, 1962, 1; "Hearnes Says He Will Block Hotel Planned Near Capitol," St. Louis Post-Dispatch, March 6, 1966, 12; "Jefferson Landing Restored," 61.

<sup>152</sup> Sources disagree - W.R. Tweedie's obituary says the company ceased operation in 1965, "W.R. Tweedie Funeral Rites Set Wednesday," *Daily Capital News*, May 21, 1968, p. 1 and in "Hearnes Says He Will Block Hotel Planned Near Capitol," p. 12, the article says operations ceased in 1964. A photo of a group of ladies titled "Last Shift at the Tweedie Footwear Corporation, February 1963" from the Missouri Department of Natural Resources' State Museum was published by the Jefferson City Chamber of Commerce,

http://www.jcchamber.org/clientuploads/PDFs/Web%20site%20-

<sup>%20</sup>general/A%20Century%20of%20Success.pdf, pages not numbered, accessed August 21, 2020.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>153</sup> "Extensive Urban Renewal Plan for City Unveiled by Governor," 1.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>154</sup> "Jefferson Landing Restored," p. 61. This article did not mention the name "Lohman's Landing State Historic Site," so the current name may have been applied once interior restoration was complete.

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Not long after the Tweedie Footwear Corporation closed, International Shoe Company succumbed to pressures in the footwear industry, closing in 1970.<sup>155</sup> This building remains on Capitol Avenue, having been used for storage and similar uses during the last few decades.

Typical Missouri Factory Design Circa 1900

While this nomination does not seek listing under Criteria C: Architecture, it is worth noting that the J.B. Bruns Shoe Co. building's design is similar to shoe factories in Jefferson City and elsewhere in Missouri. Factories from circa 1900 in Missouri share a multi-story rectangular shape, built of brick on a stone foundation with a rhythmic pattern of windows aligned both horizontally and vertically. The design of the three factories built in Jefferson City circa 1905 was similar. These three buildings shared a multistory rectangular design with red brick walls, a stair tower and elevator tower topped by a water tank on one long side and a pavilion on the other. J.B. Bruns has three stories and a basement while the Tweedie factory had four stories and the former International Shoe Company on Capitol Avenue has five stories, each with a basement. All were built of brick with a stone foundation, with the longest walls on the north and south sides. All three factories share the same rhythmic pattern of windows aligned horizontally and vertically on all elevations. All three buildings have / had flat roofs and short parapets topping the east and west facades. All three buildings appear to have the main entrance centered on one of the narrower walls (the east or west façade) but these doorways differ slightly. The doors at J.B. Bruns Shoe Co. and the Tweedie Footwear Corporation's factory both have / had rounded arched tops with multi-pane transoms. The main entrance at the Tweedie factory was on the east wall, adjacent to Jefferson Street. The main entrance to the J.B. Bruns Co. building was on the west wall, adjacent to Bolivar Street. International Shoe's west entry has a decorative architrave with a squared top. The Tweedie factory had raised clerestory windows in the center of the roof, unlike the other two factories. The J.B. Bruns Shoe Co. building has a door on each level of the east elevation, something the other factories did not have (Photo 7, Figures 17, 30 and 32). Another difference is the J.B. Bruns Shoe Co. building has a 1-story stone extension at the basement level that housed the heating system. International Shoe has decorative brackets at its eaves and had a clock on the elevator tower, features the other two factories lack / lacked. The factories all had metal fire escapes on the north and south walls. (It is interesting that the International Shoe has storms similar to those previously on J.B Bruns Shoe Co., with two storms per window. The repetition of this window treatment has made it easy to believe that this was the original appearance of the windows on these factories.)

A review of six former shoe factories listed on the National Register in Missouri reveals further similarities of design. In nearby Columbia, Missouri, the Hamilton-Brown Shoe Factory Building is the most similar building reviewed, being a large brick rectangular three-and-one-half story building with a flat roof. Constructed in 1906-1907, all four elevations have rows of large, regularly spaced windows. The lack of ornamentation, brick walls, rows of vertically aligned windows, exposed brick interior walls and wooden floors are characteristics shared by both buildings.<sup>156</sup> In St. Louis, the Brown Shoe Company's Homes-Take factory was constructed in 1904 of red brick. The fourstory building is a bit longer than the J.B. Bruns Shoe Co. building but

<sup>155</sup> "Shoe Sales Slump Forces Shutdown," 1, 6.; "Shoe Factory to Close," 1;
"Chamber's Industrial Plan Lightens Loss of Plant," 4.
<sup>156</sup> Sheals, "Hamilton-Brown Shoe Factory," 7.1.

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similar in size and shape. Also sparingly detailed, the building features a pattern of large windows that are aligned horizontally and vertically.<sup>157</sup> The Roberts, Johnson & Rand / International Shoe Company Complex is a group of five red brick flat roofed industrial buildings, one to five stories high located in south St. Louis. The 5-story red brick main block of the earliest building (1903) is similar in size and shape to the J.B. Bruns Shoe Co. building and has the same fenestration pattern, with multiple large windows aligned vertically and horizontally. Other National Register listed buildings reviewed were two former shoe factories in Franklin County, smaller in scale but having a similar rectangular shape, lack of ornamentation and fenestration pattern.<sup>158</sup>

Non-Shoe Manufacturing Tenants & Owners of the J.B. Bruns Shoe Co. Building From 1936 to 1945 the J.B. Bruns Co. building was leased for non-shoe manufacturing purposes. While the activities that took place during this timeframe are of local interest, they are not considered significant to this discussion as the focus of the nomination is the shoe industry. They are described here since they are part of the building's and the community's history.

#### Works Progress Administration (WPA)

The J.B. Bruns Shoe Co. building served as an office building when it was occupied by the Works Progress Administration (WPA).<sup>159</sup> The WPA was a tenant at J.B. Bruns Shoe Co. building during the Depression, when International Shoe was unable to manufacture shoes or attract another industrial tenant. The WPA was established 1935 by President Roosevelt to help put Americans to work during the Depression.<sup>160</sup> In November, 1935, the WPA arrived in Jefferson City, employing women to sew projects and having a temporary location for administrative offices at the Missouri State Capitol. Their original location for the sewing project was in space at Monroe and High Streets in downtown Jefferson City (most likely in or below city hall, which was located at this corner during this period, where Cole County Abstract is currently located). By January 1936, the WPA had outgrown this space and relocated the sewing project to part of the J.B. Bruns Shoe Co. building. Fifty-six women were employed at this location.<sup>161</sup> In October 1936, the WPA faced a deadline of November 15 to relocate their temporary headquarters from the Missouri State Capitol (likely due to the offices being needed for state business when the legislative session started again in January). Competition for jobs during the Depression was stiff, with Columbia and Sedalia both vying for the WPA to locate in their communities. The J.B. Bruns Shoe Co. building, listed as the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>157</sup> "Brown Shoe Company's Homes-Take Factory," 7.1.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>158</sup> John O. Roberts, St. Clair and Steve Mitchell, SHPO, "International Shoe Company Building, Franklin County, Missouri," 1993.(National Register nomination, on file with Missouri DNR State Historic Preservation Office, 1993), 7.1.; Cydney E. Millstein and Mary Ann Warfield, Architectural and Historical Research, "Fore Shoe Company Building, Franklin County, Missouri," (National Register nomination, on file with Missouri DNR State Historic Preservation Office, 2005), 7.1.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>159</sup> "Bolivar Street Factory to Reopen Monday," *The Daily Capital News*, November 15, 1945, 1.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>160</sup> Works Progress Administration (WPA), History.com, last modified June 10, 2019, https://www.history.com/topics/great-depression/works-progressadministration. Accessed April 25, 2020.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>161</sup> "WPA Sewing Project to Larger Quarters," 1.

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"West End International Shoe factory," was already being used by the WPA for the sewing project and as warehouse space by the state administrative office. The WPA needed more than just office space, needing 20,000 square feet to spread out blueprints. Thorpe J. Gordon traveled to St. Louis to meet with company officials, in his capacity as President of the Jefferson City Chamber of Commerce.<sup>162</sup> After securing an agreement with International Shoe, the Chamber provided funds and the WPA provided labor to remodel three floors for office use by the WPA. Due to the availability of the Bolivar Street factory and the efforts of Thorpe J. Gordon, the WPA remained in Jefferson City, keeping more than 200 workers employed in Jefferson City. Keeping these workers employed was imperative for Jefferson City's economy. The city's population in 1930 was 21,596.163 Assuming that approximately one third of the population was of working age, and that half of these were men, the city's work force would have been around 3,599 people, since women usually didn't work outside the home at that time. Keeping 200 jobs represented approximately 5.6% of the city's workers. Losing that many jobs would have had a detrimental impact on the local economy. As weapons factories began to develop in preparation for World War II, the WPA was no longer needed and funding ceased in June 1943.164

## Tweedie Shoe Company

After the WPA vacated the property, the Tweedie Footwear Corporation leased the building for manufacture of military supplies such as tents and jackets during World War II. John Tweedie moved to Jefferson City from St Louis in 1874 as foreman for the A. Priesemeyer Shoe Company.<sup>165</sup> When Priesemeyer retired in 1921, the company was renamed the Tweedie Footwear Corporation.<sup>166</sup> The company began operations within MSP and moved circa 1906 to a factory at 100 Jefferson Street where the Jefferson Landing State Historic Site is now located in Jefferson City. This factory closed by July of 1967,<sup>167</sup> and was demolished circa 1976, when the state cleared the lot and restored the buildings at the Jefferson Landing Historic Site<sup>168</sup> (Figure 32).

The Tweedie Footwear Corporation also rented space in the J.B. Bruns Shoe Co. building during World War II to produce goods for the military, such as tents and uniforms. In May of 1943, this factory stayed open while other businesses closed for Memorial Day, a sign of how important their contribution to the war effort was viewed.<sup>169</sup> One of the Tweedie Company's contributions to the war

<sup>162</sup> "Seeking Office Space for WPA in Capital City," 1.

<sup>163</sup> "Jefferson City, Missouri,"

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jefferson\_City,\_Missouri, accessed April 25, 2020.

<sup>164</sup> "Great Depression History," History.com.

<sup>165</sup> "Aged Businessman Ends Life by Inhaling Gas," St. Louis Post-Dispatch, March 29, 1908, 20.

<sup>166</sup> "Big Plant in Capital City, Tweedie Footwear Corp. Puts Shoes Into Millions of Homes," *The Sunday News and Tribune*, March 31, 1957, 43.

<sup>167</sup> "Close Out Public Sale, Tweedie Footwear Corporation, 100 block Jefferson Street," classified ad, The Sunday News and Tribune, July 16, 1967, 40.
<sup>168</sup> "Jefferson Landing Restored," The Sunday News and Tribune, January 30, 1977, 61.
<sup>169</sup> "Memorial Day to be Generally Observed Here; Public Buildings, Stores and

Factories to be Closed," Jefferson City Post Tribune, May 26 1943, 1.

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effort was design of the invasion jackets worn by U.S. troops as they arrived on the beaches of France in 1944, designed by William Tweedie Sr.<sup>170</sup> In May 1945, the Tweedie Shoe Corporation was celebrated for its contributions to the war effort. Charles and William Tweedie hosted a luncheon with Governor Phil M. Donnelly and "high ranking army and navy men" and one hundred local businessmen at the Governor Hotel. This was followed by a tour of the "Tweedie Bolivar Street plant" where the production award was achieved. Local stores closed for the 3:30 presentation of the award at the Junior College (now the Jefferson City Academic Center at 501 E. Miller St.). Bands from the local Jefferson City and St. Peters High Schools provided music. Recognition was given to all who served in the war, and especially to the four Tweedie Shoe employees who gave their lives: Ward Kniest, Otto Lutz, William C. Sanders and Paul H. Schmidt.<sup>171</sup> With the war winding down in August 1945, the factory became vacant once again, and was listed for sale.<sup>172</sup>

## Jefferson City Distributors

The former J.C. Storage bought the former factory from the International Shoe Company and moved into the Bolivar Street plant in 1958, renaming their company Jefferson City Distributors (JCD). The new company sold furniture and large household appliances, ending the building's history as an industrial facility.<sup>173</sup> JCD operated in the former J.B. Bruns Shoe Co. until 2010, causing many locals to refer to the building today as the "JCD Building." The building then sat vacant for ten years, until it was purchased and rehabilitated in 2019. The building now houses a restaurant and retail store on the first floor, with offices on the upper floors. The basement is currently vacant and undeveloped due to being in the Wears Creek floodplain.

#### Conclusion

The J.B. Bruns Shoe Co. building is one of a few survivors that is able to tell the story of Jefferson City's once booming shoe industry. The building is readily recognizable as a shoe factory from the first part of the twentieth century. The other extant properties include two former factories at MSP and one on Capital Avenue. One of the factories at MSP operated as a shoe factory in a much later period, the 1970s to early 1980s. The other former factory burned in the Riot of 1954 and was later reduced to a single story with partially infilled windows. The J.B. Bruns Shoe Co. building operated as a shoe factory under four different companies during the periods of significance, from 1905 to 1930 and from 1945 until September 1956,174 a period when shoe manufacturing in Missouri and the International Shoe Company in particular rose to dominance and then began to decline. The boom and bust cycles due to the shoe industry's dependence on a strong economy are shown by the patterns of factory use followed by vacancy evident in this building's history. The fact that this factory made children's and women's shoes made it more susceptible to competition from cheaper foreign made shoes, as children outgrow shoes quickly, resulting in buyers' demand for lower cost products.

<sup>174</sup> "Industry Needed in Old Plant," 4.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>170</sup> Michelle Brooks, "Former Tweedie Footwear Corporation storefront building is city Landmark'" The News Tribune, October 17 2015, accessed February 2, 2020.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>171</sup> "Tweedie Award to be Made at Junior College; Governor, Army and Navy Officials at Luncheon," Jefferson City Post-Tribune, May 15, 1945, 1.
<sup>172</sup> Classified ad, The Sunday News and Tribune, Jefferson City, May 6, 1945, 11.
<sup>173</sup> Anniversary ad, 22.

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American shoe manufacturers primarily produced leather shoes, making their children's shoes more expensive than foreign shoes for children made of canvas and rubber. Military contracts for shoes obtained by International Shoe did not help sustain their Bolivar Street factory, as this factory was not used to manufacture men's shoes. Eventually, economic pressures due to labor demands, pressure from foreign shoe manufacturers and a shift by International Shoe from shoe manufacturing to shoe retailing resulted in the factory's closure in 1956. Factory use ended about the same time as shoe manufacturing shifted overseas, ending Missouri's dominance in the shoe industry. Unable to attract an industrial tenant or buyer, the building was converted to retail use in 1958, which continued to 2010. While there have been alterations that have impacted the property's historic appearance, it is still able to reflect its use as a factory, which was once a locally important part of Jefferson City's shoe industry.

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# Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property consists of part of City of Jefferson Inlots 546 - 549 plus part of an adjoining vacated alley, with the southern and western boundaries being the lot lines adjoining the adjacent Highway 50 and Bolivar Street rights of way, respectively. The parcel is somewhat rectangular in shape, with the southern boundary angled from the southwest to the southeast, making the east boundary longer than the west. The west side is straight and the shortest, at 95 feet. The north side is nearly straight, approximately 225 feet in length; the east side is straight and approximately 118 feet. The south side is straight and approximately 227 feet (See Figure 2).

### Boundary Justification

The J.B. Bruns Shoe Co. building's National Register boundary is the same as the historic boundaries during the 1905 - 1930 and 1945 - 1956 periods of significance, less the area lost to Highway 50 construction.

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Figure 1. Navigational map – in Jefferson City, most buildings face the Missouri River, so the façade facing the river is typically known as "north" even though this may be more correctly "northwest." Map shows north, northeast, east, southeast, south, southwest, west and northwest as used in this nomination to aid the reader. Source: midmogis.org. Accessed July 14, 2020.

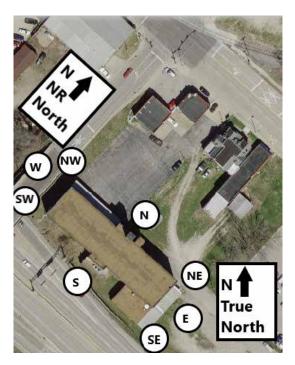
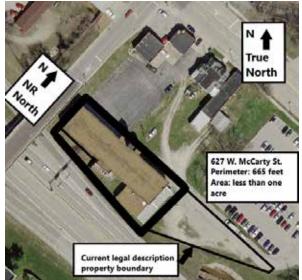


Figure 2. J.B. Bruns Shoe Co. Nomination Boundary. 627 W. McCarty St., Jefferson City, MO Lat: 38.580716 Long: -92.181739 Source: midmogis.org Accessed February 12, 2020. Thick black line = nominated boundary



Not to scale.

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Figure 3. Contextual Map, Source: https://www.bing.com/maps/ Accessed March 3, 2020.



Figure 4. Historic Photo, circa 1961, north and west elevations, pointing south. Source: Charlie Christiansen.



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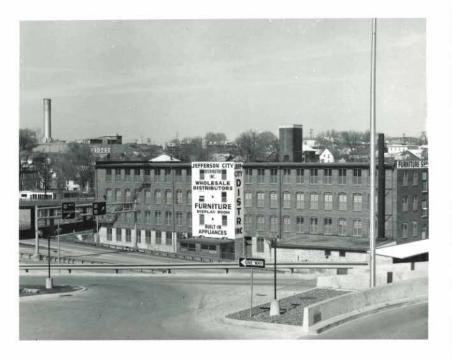
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Figure 5. Historic Photo, circa 1961, west and south elevations, pointing northeast. Source: Charlie Christiansen.



Figure 6. Historic Photo, circa 1961, south and east elevations, pointing northeast. Source: Charlie Christiansen.



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Figure 7. Historic Photo, circa 1961, west elevation, pointing east. Source: Charlie Christiansen.



Figure 8. Historic Photo, circa 1961, north and west elevations, pointing south. Source: Charlie Christiansen.



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Figure 9. 1960 Aerial Photo, showing addition. Source: midmogis.org. Accessed August 30, 2020.



Figure 10. 2019 Photo, showing parking lot before expansion and repaving. Source: Charlie Christiansen.



Figure 11. 2019 Photo, West Side. Plaque above center doorway "J.B. Bruns Shoe Mfg. Co. 1905." Source: Jane Beetem, January 17 and 14, 2019.

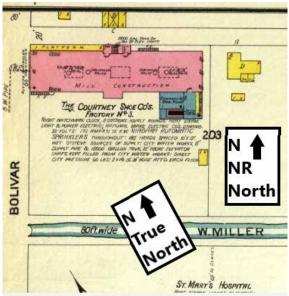


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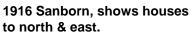
Section number <u>Figures</u> Page <u>57</u>

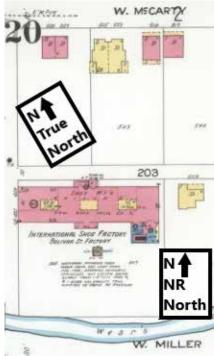
Figure 12. Sanborn Maps. Source:

https://dl.mospace.umsystem.edu/mu/islandora/object/mu%3A141507



1908 Sanborn - alley to north, creek to south.

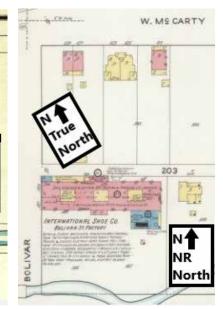


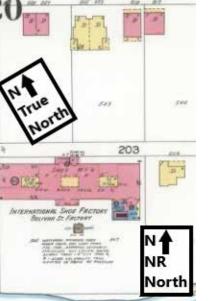


W. MECARTY 8331.110 H & M 31815 8 NR North W. MILLER

1923 Sanborn, same.







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Figure 13: Historic interior photos of other shoe factories, showing open floor plan in work areas. A. East End International Shoe Factory, Capitol Ave., Jefferson City MO. Source: Jefferson City Post-Tribune, Sept. 17, 1929, p. 30.

B. Buster Brown Blue Ribbon Shoe Factory, St. Louis, MO. Source: Sheppard National Register nomination.



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Figure 3: Fourth floor interior of Buster Brown Blue Ribbon Shoe Factory, 1918. (Brown Shoe Company archives).



в.

Figure 13: (con't.) Historic interior photos of other shoe factories.

C. Tweedie Shoe Factory interior, 100 Jefferson St., Jefferson City MO. Source: Jefferson City Post-Tribune, September 17, 1929, p. 32.

D. International Shoe Factory, Franklin Co. MO. Source: Roberts National Register nomination.



Interior View of Tweedle Shoe Factory

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Figure 14: 2019 Photo, showing elevation of Bolivar St. adjacent to J.B. Bruns Shoe Co. Source: Charlie Christiansen.

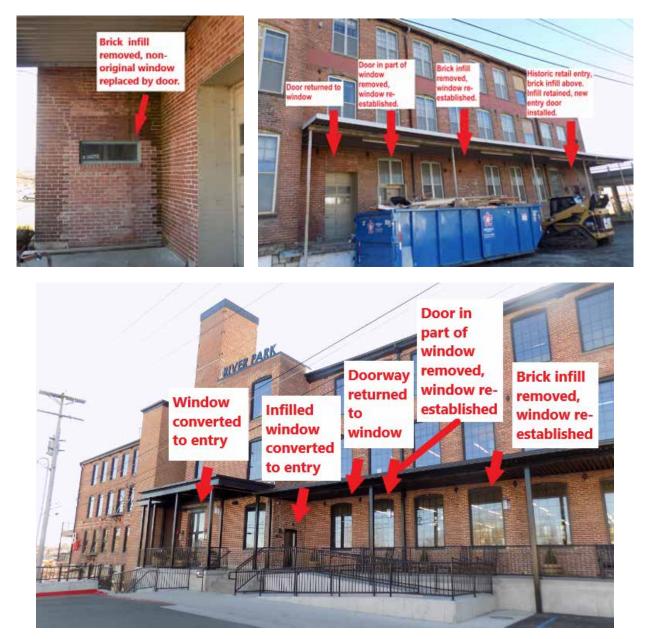


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# Figure 15: Brick infill removed, doors returned to windows, window made into door. North façade. Source: Jane Beetem, January 14, 2019.



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Figure 16: Brick infill removed, arched doorway re-opened, windows returned to full size. West façade. Source: Jane Beetem, January 14, 2019.



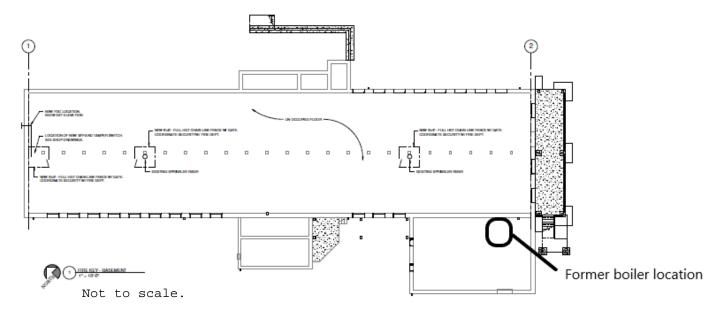
Figure 17. 2019 Photo of East Wall. Source: Jane Beetem, January 14, 2019.



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# Figure 18: Current Basement Floor Plan. Source: R.I. Miller Architects.

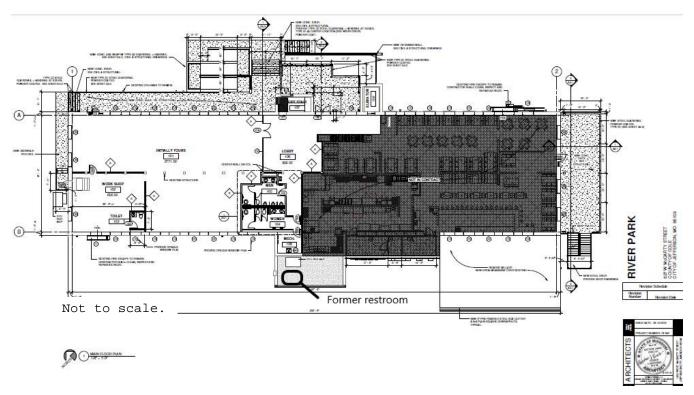


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# Figure 19. Current First Floor Plan. Source: R.I. Miller Architects.



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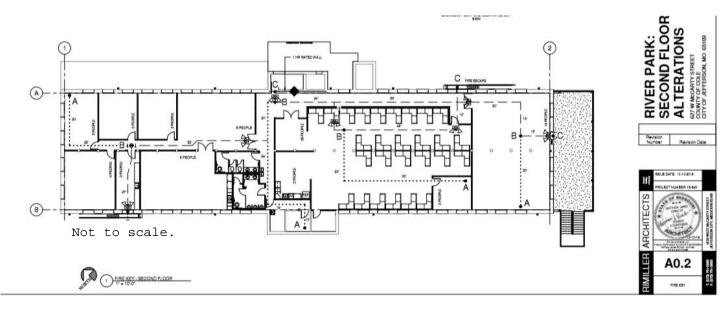
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J.B. Bruns Shoe Co. Building Name of Property Cole County, Missouri County and State N/A Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

# Figure 20: Former restroom, first floor. Source: Jane Beetem, January 14, 2019.



Figure 21: Current Second Floor Plan. Source: R.I. Miller Architects.



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# Figure 22. Current Third Floor Plan. Source: R.I. Miller Architects.

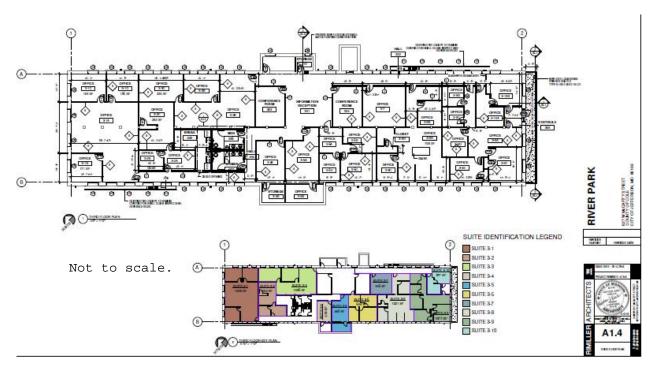
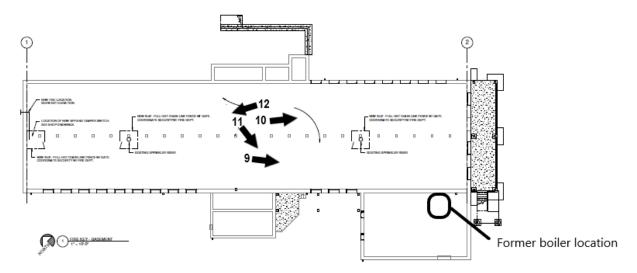


Figure 23: Photo Key – Basement. Source of plan: R.I. Miller Architects.



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## Figure 24: Photo Key – Exterior & First Floor. Source of plan: R.I. Miller Architects.

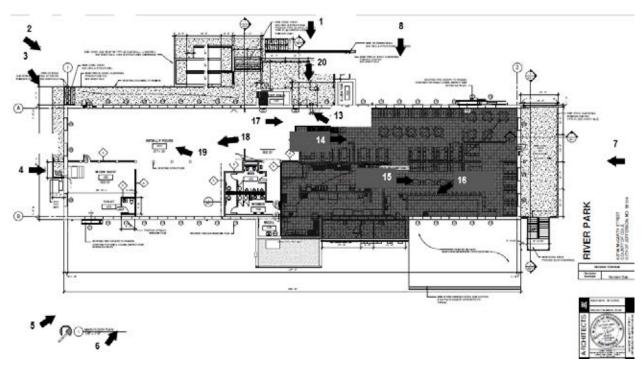
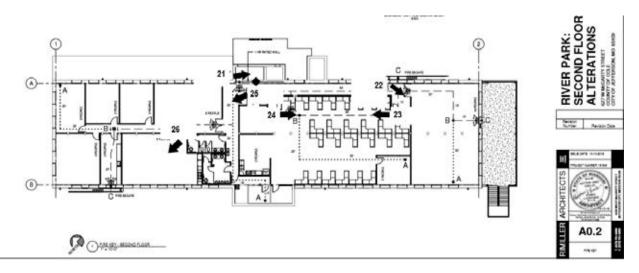


Figure 25: Photo Key – Second Floor. Source of plan: R.I. Miller Architects.



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OMB No. 1024-001

## Figure 26: Photo Key – Third Floor. Source of plan: R.I. Miller Architects.

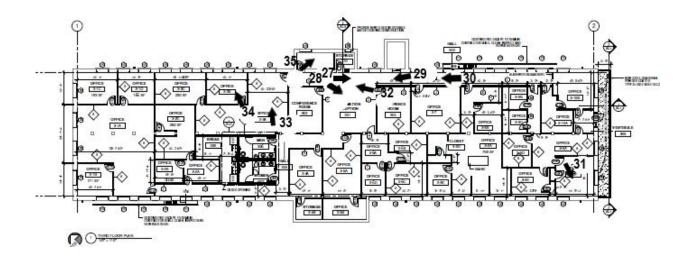


Figure 27: Henry J. Dulle Farm map. Source: Standard Atlas of Cole County, Missouri, 1914. The State Historical Society of Missouri, Plat Map Collection. https://digital.shsmo.org/digital/collection/plat/id/5232 accessed April 28, 2020.

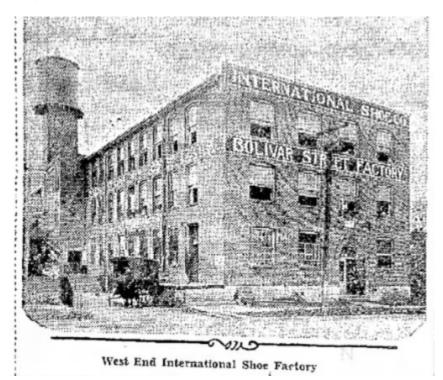


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## Figure 28: International Shoe Bolivar Street Factory, 1929. Source: Jefferson City Post-Tribune, September 17, 1929, 30.



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Figure 29: International Shoe Company Factory, 1101 Capitol Avenue. Source: News-Tribune, April 19, 2014. <u>https://www.newstribune.com/news/news/story/2014/apr/20/shoe-factory-helped-make-jc-top-manufacturing-city/492008/</u>, circa 2014, facing northeast, accessed April 24, 2020.



Figure 30: International Shoe Company Factory, 1101 Capitol Avenue, circa 2018, facing north. Source: Larry Kolb, Realtor.

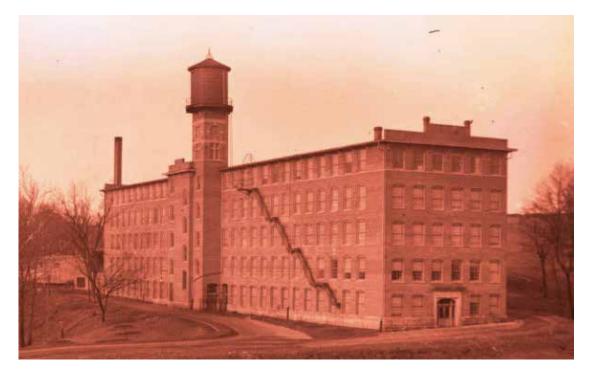


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Figure 31: Circa 1906 Giesecke-O'Densche / International Shoe Company Factory. Source: The State Historical Society of Missouri, <u>https://digital.shsmo.org/digital/collection/imc/id/10925/</u>. Labeled JCD Old Shoe Factory, but top of tower has round indentations for a clock like on International Shoe Factory, and hill behind factory make this more likely International Shoe at 1101 Capitol Avenue. Towers are reversed – perhaps printed from a glass plate negative?



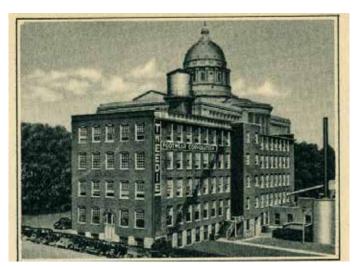
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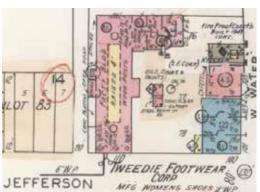
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Figure 32: Top left: Tweedie Footwear Corporation Factory, north side, 100 block of Jefferson Street, Jefferson City, Missouri. Source: Order card, Tweedie Footwear Corporation. Bob Priddy Collection, Missouri State Archives. Accessed April 24, 2020.

<u>http://cdm16795.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/ref/collection/postjc/id/334</u> Top right: 1939 Sanborn Map. Bottom: Tweedie Shoe Factory, circa 1938, south side, Jefferson City Convention and Visitors Bureau booklet "Historic Tours." Accessed August 30, 2020.







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Figure 33. MSP Old Shoe Factory, Photo taken by Michelle Diedriech, 2008. Courtesy MO SHPO.

N/A

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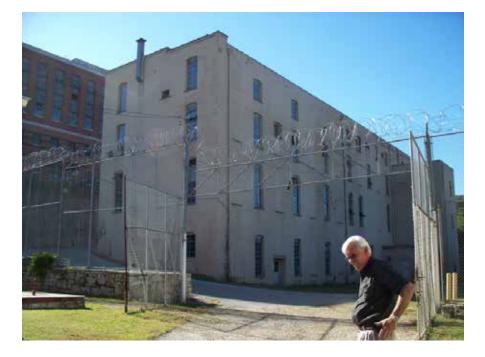


Figure 34: Former A. Priesmeyer Shoe Factory, September 4, 2020, photo by Rachel Senzee, City of Jefferson Neighborhood Services Supervisor.



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Figure 35: Newspaper classified ads, A. The St. Louis Star and Times, August 29, 1946; B. The Cuba Review, January 14, 1945; C. The Marthasville Record, June 15, 1945 and D. Washington Missourian, January 2, 1947.







































































