

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

1. Name of Property

Historic name Producers Ice and Manufacturing Company

Other names/site number N/A

Name of related Multiple Property Listing N/A

2. Location

Street & number 524 West Chase Street

N/A

not for publication

City or town Springfield

N/A

vicinity

State Missouri Code MO County Greene

Code 077

Zip code 65803

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

I hereby certify that this x nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property x meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

 national statewide x local

Applicable National Register Criteria: x A B C D

 Deputy SHPO

DEC 07 2017

Date

JP 12/06/17

Missouri Department of Natural Resources
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official

Date

Title

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

 entered in the National Register

 determined eligible for the National Register

 determined not eligible for the National Register

 removed from the National Register

 other (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Producers Ice and Manufacturing Company
Name of Property

Greene County, Missouri
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

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

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

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

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

INDUSTRY: Industrial Storage

INDUSTRY: Manufacturing Facility

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

VACANT/NOT IN USE

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

No style

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: Concrete

walls: Brick

Concrete

roof: Asphalt

other: Composite Roofing

☒

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION ON CONTINUATION PAGES

Producers Ice and Manufacturing Company
Name of Property

Greene County, Missouri
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

- ☒ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☐ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

- ☐ A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ B removed from its original location.
- ☐ C a birthplace or grave.
- ☐ D a cemetery.
- ☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ F a commemorative property.
- ☒ G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

Commerce

Period of Significance

1923-1973

Significant Dates

1923; 1924; 1950; 1951; 1953; 1954

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

unknown

☒ STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE ON CONTINUATION PAGES

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)

☐ previously listed in the National Register

☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register

☐ designated a National Historic Landmark

☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____

☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

☐ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

☒ State Historic Preservation Office

☐ Other State agency

☐ Federal agency

☐ Local government

☐ University

☐ Other

Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

Producers Ice and Manufacturing Company
Name of Property

Greene County, Missouri
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than 1 acre

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

1	<u>37.230541</u> Latitude:	<u>-93.296064</u> Longitude:	3	<u> </u> Latitude:	<u> </u> Longitude:
2	<u> </u> Latitude:	<u> </u> Longitude:	4	<u> </u> Latitude:	<u> </u> Longitude:

Verbal Boundary Description (On continuation sheet)

Boundary Justification (On continuation sheet)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Susan Jezak Ford, with Debbie Sheals
organization Historic Preservation Consulting date November 2017
street & number 29 South Ninth St. #210 telephone 573-874-3779
city or town Columbia state MO zip code 65201
e-mail debsheals@gmail.com

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

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

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

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

Producers Ice and Manufacturing Company

Name of Property

Greene County, Missouri

County and State

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 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: **Producers Ice and Manufacturing Company**

City or Vicinity: **Springfield**

County: **Greene**

State: **Missouri**

Photographer: **Debbie Sheals #s 1-14, 17-19. Susan Jezak Ford #s 15 and 16.**

Date

Photographed: **1-14, 17-19: Dec. 2016; 15-16: June 2017.**

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

- 1 of 19. Front, northeast corner; camera looking southwest.
- 2 of 19. East side wall; camera looking west-southwest.
- 3 of 19. East end of front (north) wall; camera looking south-southwest.
- 4 of 19. Front, north wall and loading dock; camera looking east-southeast.
- 5 of 19. West end of front (north) wall; camera looking south.
- 6 of 19. Northwest corner; camera looking southeast.
- 7 of 19. North end of west side wall; camera looking east.
- 8 of 19. Center of west wall; camera looking east.
- 9 of 19. South end of west side wall; camera looking east.
- 10 of 19. Section F; camera looking south.
- 11 of 19. Section G; camera looking southeast.
- 12 of 19. Section B; camera looking northeast to original door.
- 13 of 19. Section B; camera looking south.
- 14 of 19. Section B; camera looking north.
- 15 of 19. Section C (office); camera looking northwest.
- 16 of 19. Section A; camera looking southeast.
- 17 of 19. Section D; camera looking west.
- 18 of 19. Section D; camera looking south into Section E.
- 19 of 19. Section E; camera looking south to early door.

Figure Log:

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

1. Location of Producers Ice Building at 524 W. Chase Street from <https://www.bing.com/maps>. Accessed 5 July 2017.
2. Aerial photograph with property boundaries from <https://www.bing.com/maps>. Screenshot accessed 5 July 2017.
3. Greene County tax map of property with W. Chase Street marked. <https://beacon.schneidercorp.com/Application.aspx?ApProducersIceD=328&LayerID=3509&PageTypeID=1&PageID=2312&KeyValue=881311410016>. Accessed 5 July 2017.
4. Aerial map with construction dates and Sanborn map. <https://www.google.com/maps>.
5. Aerial view of rear of building from <https://www.bing.com/maps>. Accessed 5 July 2017.
6. Floor plan with sections noted. Susan Jezak Ford, not to scale.
7. 1933 Sanborn map, 524 W. Chase Street. *Insurance Maps of Springfield, Missouri*. New York: Sanborn Map Company, 1933. Vol. 1, p 201.
8. 1957 Sanborn map, 524 W. Chase Street. *Insurance Maps of Springfield, Missouri*. New York: Sanborn Map Company, 1933. Vol. 2, p 201.
9. Photo of Springfield Ice and Refrigeration Company buildings, photo by Deb Sheals 2014.

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

Producers Ice and Manufacturing Company

Name of Property

Greene County, Missouri

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Summary

The Producers Ice and Manufacturing Company, 524 W. Chase Street, Springfield, Greene County, Missouri is a sprawling one-story industrial brick and concrete building that was constructed over a thirty-year time.¹ It occupies Lots 1 through 5, in Block 20 of the Woodland Heights Addition to Springfield. (See Figure 3.) The oldest part of the building was built in 1923, just a few months after the company was formed. The newest section, in the southeast corner of the current complex, was completed in 1954.² (See Figure 4.) The roughly rectangular building measures approximately 144 feet wide by 176 feet deep. It has a flat roof and a concrete foundation. It is a simple utilitarian building with no applied ornamentation or stylistic embellishments. There are seven main sections, each built at a different time. Each section has at least one exterior door, and most of those are loading doors. There are also two exterior loading docks—one on the north wall, facing Chase Street, and one on the south wall, which faces the railroad tracks. Interior spaces reflect the function. All rooms have plain concrete floors, and most interior walls and ceilings are unfinished. The high-ceilinged original engine room retains unfinished brick walls and oversized metal roof trusses. The building is in good condition and retains integrity of location, design, setting, and materials. It is counted as a contributing building; an open gravel area west of the building is counted as a contributing site. They are the only two resources on the property.

Elaboration

Site

The Producers Ice building is just one block north of Commercial Street, mid-block between Lyon Street on the east and Grant Street (N. Farm Road 151) on the west. (See Figures 1 and 2.) The building's front loading docks are close to West Chase Street, which borders the property to the north. The south wall overlooks the Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) Railroad tracks, which run just a few feet from the south edge of the lot. (See Figure 3.) The south wall also has a small concrete loading dock, accessed by doorways in the south wall of the building. The east edge of the property adjoins a large empty lot. The west portion of the property has an open unimproved gravel parking area. That parking area is counted as a contributing site; it is categorized as a site because it is generally unimproved.

The building is in a historically industrial and working class residential area. The blocks south of Chase Street originally abutted the tracks of the St. Louis-San Francisco Railway. Between 1910 and 1933, the surrounding properties changed from a few houses, a feed store and a coal yard to include a junkyard, several oil warehouses, a filling station, feed mill and flour warehouse, as well as Producers Ice. The residential area north of Chase Street developed during the same time to include blocks of working class one- and two-story houses.³

Today the neighborhood retains an industrial feel. Many of the historic houses remain in the blocks north of Chase Street, but most have undergone alterations. The blocks between Chase

¹ The company is referred to as Producers, Producer's and Producers' Ice in City Directories, newspaper articles and advertisements. Unless quoted, Producers Ice will be used in this document for consistency.

² "Storage House To Be Erected By Company," *The Springfield Leader*, 25 January 1923, 11. *Insurance Maps of Springfield, Missouri* (New York: Sanborn Map Company, 1957), 201.

³ *Insurance Maps of Springfield, Missouri* (New York: Sanborn Map Company, 1933, 1950), 231, 232.

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

Producers Ice and Manufacturing Company

Name of Property

Greene County, Missouri

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Street and the BNSF railroad tracks either contain mostly modern industrial buildings or are bare. Few historic industrial buildings remain, but two are present within one block of Producers Ice—the St. Louis-San Francisco Railway General Warehouse at 220 E. Chase Street and a furniture warehouse at 700 W. Chase Street.⁴

Exterior Description

The industrial Producers Ice building has mostly red brick walls, with a concrete foundation. The seven sections of the building have flat composite roofs of varying heights. (See Figure 2.) Most of the short parapets on the outer walls are capped with ceramic tiles. Short dividing walls are also present on the roof between some of the sections.

The building's **north wall**, which faces Chase Street, has four distinct sections. Viewing from east to west, section F has a modern truck door in the east portion. Section F is fronted by a concrete loading dock with a metal awning supported by two metal posts. The dock appears to have been added when Section F was built in 1953. (See photo 3.) A set of four concrete stairs leads from ground level to the east end of the dock. The east portion of section C projects beyond the front of the building. It contains an early or original 12-light metal window with a concrete sill, now boarded from inside. The east wall of the projection is brick, with a chimney flue near the front and a metal downspout to the south. The west wall of the projection has an early or original 9-light window, and a pedestrian doorway with a modern door. (See photo 4.) The west portion of section C also has a wider pedestrian doorway that has been partially framed; it has a newer metal door.

The roof of section B, in the center of the building, is slightly higher than that of section C. (See photo 5.) Section B has a small framed in opening that may have been a doorway or access hatch, and a larger doorway that has an early heavy duty metal swinging door. Section A, the oldest portion of the building, is in the northwest corner. (See photo 6.) The north wall of section A is constructed of ornamental concrete blocks. The wall has five concrete block pilasters, and an early freight door opening that has a newer roll down metal door. A concrete loading dock fronts the recessed portion of section C, section B and the east portion of section A; it is accessed by a set of concrete stairs located on its east end. (See photo 5.) The dock was built between 1933 and 1957, and extended a few yards to the west in later years. (See Sanborn Maps, Figures 7 and 8.) Wide metal guttering spans sections B and A.

The **west side wall**, which overlooks the gravel parking area, has three sections. Section A, the northernmost, is clad in ornamental concrete blocks. (See photo 7.) The upper portion of the wall has smooth concrete blocks, possibly later replacements. Sections D and E, located south of section A, have walls of brick, set in a running bond with headers every seventh row. Each section has two large metal scuppers and downspouts. Section D, in the middle of the west wall, has a large truck entrance that has a newer metal roll-down door; that doorway may have been enlarged in recent decades. Metal downspouts are located in the north and south areas of Section D, which has a stepped parapet. (See photo 8.) Section E, in the south portion of the wall, also has a truck entrance, which is approached by an overgrown concrete ramp. The truck entrance appears to be original; it is filled with a modern roll down metal door. Sections D and E

⁴ *Insurance Maps of Springfield, Missouri* (New York: Sanborn Map Company, 1950), 201.

National Register of Historic Places
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Section number 7 Page 3

Producers Ice and Manufacturing Company

Name of Property

Greene County, Missouri

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

originally had vents in the upper portions of the walls. Two of these have been filled with brick; the southernmost vent in section E remains. (See photo 9.)

The **east side wall** has two sections, both of brick, with oversized metal scuppers and downspouts. Section F, on the north, is clad in running bond brick with headers in every sixth row. The wall is plain except for three metal vents set high in the wall. (See photo 2.) Section G, to the south, extends east of section F a few feet. The east side of Section G is a flat brick wall with no openings or embellishments. The short north wall of Section G has an early or original wood freight door. (See photo 1.) That doorway has an oversized concrete sill which serves as a truck bumper.

The **south wall** overlooks the BNSF railroad tracks which are only a few feet away.⁵ (That wall could not be photographed due to barbed wire fencing maintained by the railroad. See Figure 5 for an aerial view of that elevation.) A narrow concrete loading dock runs along most of the wall, and each section has at least one doorway that leads to the dock. All of the south walls are of brick. The south wall of Section E is flat, with a wide truck door on its east end. The doorway is filled with an early or original metal clad door. (See photo 19--interior view.) The southern portion of section B, which originally housed the engine room, is the tallest portion of the building. The word ICE is painted in large block letters across the upper part of that wall. The letters are white, against a black background. (See Figure 5.) The base of that section contains two freight doorways that are now filled with concrete blocks; the original brick openings of the doorways are intact. There is a narrow courtyard between sections B and G. The south wall of section G has a smaller loading door that contains an early or original door that has been infilled in recent times with concrete blocks.

Interior Description

Interior spaces are very basic, with concrete floors and flat brick or concrete walls. Some portions of walls and ceilings retain insulation materials. Lighting consists of bare bulbs in ceiling sockets, and only one section (C.) has any windows. Each section has at least one door. Some of the large interior doorways appear to have been made wider after initial construction.⁶

Section A, the oldest, was built in 1923. (See photo 16.) The interior walls are concrete, with stucco over cork. Non-supporting timbers are attached to the walls at regular intervals.⁷ The ceiling, approximately 16' high, is covered with cork that is deteriorating. Rough sawn posts with concrete bases support the ceiling. A newer office space has been framed out in the southwest corner of the room. A south doorway leads to section D, and an east doorway leads to section B. (See Figure 6.)

Section B, which was probably built in stages between 1924 and 1933, is divided into a small north room and a spacious south section. In the north room, three of the walls are of cork covered with concrete stucco, and the ceiling is approximately 16' high. The west wall has mastic over ornamental concrete blocks. Vertical timbers are spaced along the walls as in

⁵ "524 Chase Street, Springfield, MO." <https://www.bing.com/maps>.

⁶ These large doorways are between sections F and G, B and F, and D and E.

⁷ These timbers, which do not meet the ceiling or the floor, may have acted as bumpers to protect the interior stucco.

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Section number 7 Page 4

Producers Ice and Manufacturing Company

Name of Property

Greene County, Missouri

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

section A. Horizontal wood strips have been nailed to the historic timbers. A doorway leads to the south portion of section B.

The south end of section B is the largest space in the building, spanning nearly the full length of the Producers Ice facility. It originally housed the engine room and freezing equipment.⁸ Most of the walls are red brick. The exceptions to this are the west and east walls of the north end. The northeast wall is gray brick with pilasters and mid-height corbels. The northwest wall is a combination of ornamental concrete blocks and gray brick. Three west wood piers meet metal ceiling beams, approximately 14' tall that span the space. (See photo 14.) The ceiling here has additional wood and metal ceiling beams, as well as five peaked skylights. The south portion of the space has ceilings approximately 20 feet tall. (See photo 13.) Small metal north-south Warren trusses support the ceiling, perpendicular to larger metal Pratt trusses. A brick and concrete block room is built into the southeast corner of section B. The south wall has a large truck opening and a window opening, now filled with concrete block.

Section C, added between 1933 and 1950, is the building's smallest section, consisting of two rooms with approximately 12' ceilings. The north room, originally an office, projects from the front of the building. It has one modern door, an exterior west entrance. It is the only section of the building with windows, which are located on the west and north walls. (See photo 15.) A platform with a toilet has been built in the southwest corner of the room. This appears to be a recent addition. The larger rear room of section C, which was originally used for ice storage, is accessed through a door in the north end of section B. It has stucco walls and ceiling finishes that are in poor condition.

Sections D and E, built in 1950 and 1951, are on the west side of the building. (See photos 17, 18, 19.) Both have 11' high cork ceilings, walls of stucco over cork and large truck entrances. The two sections are linked by a wide interior doorway, and a smaller doorway in the east wall of section D leads to section B.

Sections F and G, built in 1953 and 1954, are on the west side of the building. An insulated door and a large doorway, now boarded over, are located between sections B and F. (See photo 12.) Section F has ceilings approximately 11' tall. (See photo 10.) The walls and ceilings in that section are covered with cork. A doorway in the north wall of that room leads to the front loading dock, and a wide south door leads to section G. Section G has metal ceilings that are approximately 16 feet tall and supported by metal trusses. (See photo 11.) The walls there are covered with mastic; the cork that served as the room's insulating material has been removed. Metal posts and beams line the space, standing approximately six inches away from the walls. A small doorway in the south wall original led to the south loading dock; it is now filled with concrete blocks.

Integrity

Aside from some removal of insulation and changes to exterior doors, the Producers Ice and Manufacturing building has seen no alterations of note since the last section was completed in 1954. Even with all of the machinery removed, it plainly conveys its original function as an

⁸ The machinery has been removed.

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 5

Producers Ice and Manufacturing Company

Name of Property

Greene County, Missouri

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

industrial and cold storage facility. Its form and materials emphasize its utilitarian purpose and its historic associations. In particular, the brick and molded concrete exterior, the north and south loading docks, the wide door openings, the spacious interior and the historic support posts and beams identify the building as an early twentieth century ice manufacturer and distributor. The building is in fair to good condition and continues to reflect its long history of industrial use.

National Register of Historic Places
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Section number 8 Page 6

Producers Ice and Manufacturing Company

Name of Property

Greene County, Missouri

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Summary:

The Producers Ice and Manufacturing Company building, at 524 W. Chase Street in Springfield, Greene County, Missouri, is significant under Criterion A in the area of COMMERCE. It is locally significant as one of the most prominent ice manufacturing and cold storage companies to operate in Springfield in the twentieth century. Producers Ice had a significant impact upon the ice industry in Springfield over the half century that it was in operation. Established in 1922, at a time when the ice industry was beginning to suffer from the competition of mechanical refrigeration, the Producers Ice Company saw early and sustained success, and was consistently one of the top two ice producers in Springfield for the next half century. The building on Chase Street was built specifically for Producers Ice and it was enlarged numerous times to meet the needs of the growing company. The first section of the building was placed in service in 1923, and the company made additions to the building in 1924, 1950, 1951, 1953, and 1954. Those changes increased its footprint by more than 600%. The period of significance for the property is 1923 to 1973. That period begins with the construction of the first section of the plant in 1923 and ends in 1973, when the building was sold and ceased to operate under the name of Producers Ice. Built during a time of rapid population growth in Springfield, as well as changing demands for ice and refrigeration, the Producers Ice building is a rare survivor of the early Springfield ice industry. It is one of just two mid-twentieth century ice manufacturing facilities left in Springfield, and it clearly reflects its long association with the Producers Ice Company. Criterion Consideration G has been marked for this property because the period of significance ends less than 50 years ago; however, the property achieved significance prior to 1967. The end to the period of significance was selected because it is a clear and logical end to the period of significance and it only extends 6 years beyond the arbitrary 50 year mark; the bulk of significant activities occurred in the 44 years prior to 1967.

Elaboration:

History of the Producers Ice Building

The Producers Ice and Manufacturing Company was established early in the summer of 1922, when articles were filed with the Greene County Recorder of Deeds. The company was valued at \$25,000 and stockholders were C. F. Cheek, Emma Cheek, L. F. Brignac and L. J. Haymes, all of Springfield.⁹ C. F. and Emma Cheek transferred a warranty deed for Lots 2 and 3 in the Woodland Heights Addition to the company in June 1922, and the partners began planning for the construction of a new facility on that property soon after.¹⁰ At the time, Springfield had two retail ice companies—Hoey Ice & Fuel and Merchants Ice & Fuel—and two wholesale ice companies—Hammond Brothers Ice and Cold Storage, and Springfield Ice and Refrigerating Company.¹¹ (See Timeline at the end of Section 8.)

The Cheeks and their partners wasted no time getting the business up and running. It was announced in January 1923 that “the Producers’ Ice Company is to build a concrete cold

⁹ “Articles Filed,” *Springfield Missouri Republican*, 28 May 1922, 2. Little is known of the 1922 investors. C.F. Cheek is listed in later newspaper articles as the president and manager of Producers Ice and manager of Merchants Ice.

¹⁰ “Realty Transfers,” *Springfield Missouri Republican*, 25 June 1922, 6.

¹¹ *Dunham’s City Directory of Springfield, Mo. 1921* (Springfield, MO: S.J. Dunham & Co., 1921).

National Register of Historic Places
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Section number 8 Page 7

Producers Ice and Manufacturing Company

Name of Property

Greene County, Missouri

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

storage house.”¹² That new facility, section A of the current building, was constructed at a location convenient to both railroad and road access. The site adjoined Chase Street to the north and the tracks of the St. Louis-San Francisco Railway (now BNSF) to the south. That type of site was favored by industries of the time, as noted in the Multiple Property Documentation Form (MPDF) “Historic and Architectural Resources of Springfield Missouri, Industrial Development in Springfield: 1838-1945.”¹³ That study noted that transportation networks played a major role in the development of industry in the city, first via rail service and later roads. With the advent of rail service in 1870, “the city became a major shipping point for manufactured products.”¹⁴ By the time Producers Ice was getting a plant in operation, the city also had access to an ever-growing network of good roads, which offered access for shipping via trucks as well as rail. From the 1920s on, it was common to see industrial sites with both rail and highway access. Examples listed in the MPDF include the Finkbiner Moving and Storage Company, which was listed under that document 05/25/2005.

The site apparently met the needs of the fledgling company, as they began improving and expanding the new plant almost immediately. The first change began in early 1924, just a year after the initial construction.¹⁵ That project, estimated to cost just \$1000, was likely for improvements to the original building, section A. Those changes were apparently minor, and may have been done to make the plant more accessible to the public. Several advertisements published that year show that they were selling produce and well as ice there at the time.¹⁶

By 1926, Producers Ice had already outgrown the new facility, and they began the first of a series of physical expansions to the plant. Early additions to the building appear to be for additional ice production, while those added later increased storage capacity. The 1926 addition, which was expected to cost \$30,000, was described in the local newspaper as a 35' x 55' brick building that was being constructed for a new engine and other equipment. (The 35-foot measurement corresponds to the width of section B in Figure 6.) The addition was expected to increase the capacity of the plant from 20 tons to 50 tons of ice per day.¹⁷ By 1933, the south portion of section B had reached its current size. The area contained freezing tanks, ice machines, an engine room and an ammonia tank, used for producing large quantities of ice. A Sanborn map of the building that was published in 1933 shows that by that time there was also a small new two-story section at the north end of what is now Section B, as well as a small office and garage on the northeast corner of the building.¹⁸ (See Figure 7. 1933 Sanborn map.)

Food was also sold out of the warehouse in the 1920s and 1930s, probably out of the north portion of section B. Advertisements frequently ran in local newspapers offering apples and watermelons for sale and the company even ventured into the poultry business for a short time.

¹² “Storage House To Be Erected By Company,” *The Springfield Leader*, 25 January 1923, 11.

¹³ Debbie Sheals, “Industrial Development in Springfield: 1838-1945,” *Historic and Architectural Resources of Springfield, MO*, MPDF, 2004, E.34.

¹⁴ Sheals, E.34.

¹⁵ “Building Permits,” *Springfield Missouri Republican*, 16 February 1924, 4.

¹⁶ “Ice Company To Establish Six Stations,” *The Springfield Leader*, 23 July 1924.

¹⁷ “Ice Company Starts \$30,000 Addition to Plant On North Side,” *The Springfield Leader*, 19 December 1926, 28.

¹⁸ Those elements were later replaced by Sections C and F.

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Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 8

Producers Ice and Manufacturing Company

Name of Property

Greene County, Missouri

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A 1930 article stated: "If you are wondering where your Thanksgiving turkey is coming from, we can tell you. It will probably come from the roof of the Producers Ice and Manufacturing Company where they are raising over 500 turkeys."¹⁹

The Producers Ice and Manufacturing Company expanded its holdings to include other businesses in that time period. New business ventures included a milling company in nearby Republic, Missouri and ice plants in other towns in Missouri, Kansas and Louisiana.²⁰ They also expanded locally; in 1927, the company purchased Merchants Ice and Fuel Company, a retail ice company based in Springfield.²¹ Producers retained the Merchants brand and operated the two businesses under the separate names of Merchants Ice and Producers Ice for the next 45 years. It has been assumed that Producers was in charge of all wholesale ice production for the Merchants brand from that point onward, and that Merchants handled all retail sales.

The Producers Ice plant on Chase Street continued to grow prior to, during and after the WWII era. Between 1933 and 1950, a one-story brick section (the north portion of Section B) and a small office (Section C) replaced the former two story center section of the building's north elevation. A concrete loading dock was also added to the north side. These changes provided ice storage and office space that was accessible to West Chase Street and convenient for customers.

Expansions continued into the 1950s. The company added three more lots to the Chase Street parcel, and between 1950 and 1954, four one-story additions for cold storage were built on the east and west sides of the plant. In 1950, an addition was made to the west side of the building (Section D.) It included a garage door that accessed the west parking lot. A second addition was made to the west side in 1951 of approximately the same size (Section E.) That addition included truck and train access, with a garage door to the west parking lot and a south door facing the railroad tracks. In 1953, the company began expanding to the east, with the construction of storage space on the northeast corner that included a covered loading dock facing Chase Street (Section F.) The final addition was made in 1954, on the southeast corner. That section has a small north truck loading dock and a south door that accesses the trackside loading dock. (Section G.)²²

Those larger additions were clearly designed for wholesale or commercial customers, likely for the storage of perishables such as produce or dairy products. The 1950s additions brought the overall size of the Producers plant to 20,000 square feet, which apparently met the long term needs of the company, as the building has seen no major changes since that time. The only issue the owners seemed to have with the property over the next few decades stemmed from vandals and petty thieves. Newspapers of the day show that the Producers building was vandalized several times in the late 1950s and early 1960s, but thieves never stole much of

¹⁹ Allen Oliver, "Springfield Slants," *The Springfield Leader*, 16 September 1930, 2.

²⁰ "Buys Property At Republic," *Springfield Missouri Republican*, 28 February 1926, 1.

²¹ "C. F. Cheek And His Associates Secure Ice Company Stock," *The Springfield Leader*, 28 January 1927, 22.

²² Springfield, Missouri Sanborn map, 1957. Vol 1, p 201.

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value. Six cans of cheese were nabbed in 1957, \$146 was stolen in 1960, and \$30 in 1962.²³ Vandals damaged a conveyor machine, windows and blocks of ice in 1964; the description of that break-in shows that they were still making ice there in the mid-1960s.²⁴

By the time the last addition to the plant was completed in 1954, the Producers Ice Company controlled two of the three commercial ice companies in Springfield, Missouri--Producers and Merchants Ice. (No warehouse or manufacturing buildings associated with the Merchant Ice Company have survived.) The third company was the Springfield Ice and Refrigeration Company, which had a five-building ice manufacturing and cold storage complex on Mill Street in that same time period. Three of those five buildings are still standing. They are contributing resources in the Springfield Warehouse and Industrial District, which was listed in the National Register 06/25/1999. (See Figure 9.) Those three companies controlled the local ice market into the early 1970s. (See the Timeline at the end of Section 8.)

Producers Ice continued to operate the Chase Street facility until 1973, when the Producers Ice and Manufacturing building was sold to Producers Storage Company. In 1974 the Producers Ice Company was officially dissolved.²⁵ According to the 1975 Springfield City directory, the Chase Street facility was by then the home of Ice Enterprises, one of two ice manufacturers in Springfield. (Springfield Ice was the other company.²⁶) The Chase Street building has been used for a variety of utilitarian functions in recent decades, and it is largely vacant today.

Ice Manufacturing History

The American ice industry began in Boston in the early 1800s, when New Englanders Frederick Tudor and Nathaniel Wyeth developed processes for harvesting and storing ice cut from frozen rivers and ponds. Large blocks of ice packed in straw and sawdust could last a year or more, allowing them to be transported by ship or rail to warehouses in southern states for wholesale or retail sale.²⁷ By the 1830s, ice was commonly used to preserve food in the United States. This had a direct impact on the American diet by increasing the availability of meat, produce, fresh milk and even beer, which needed to be brewed under constant cold conditions.²⁸

Jacob Perkins of Newburyport, Massachusetts is considered the father of artificial ice. In 1834, while living in England, he received a British patent for making ice by mechanical means. That process was developed in response to a growing market for artificial ice. The consumption of ice had increased during the 1800s, but warmer winters and the potential of polluted water led to concerns about harvesting from lakes or streams. Perkins addressed that need by constructing a machine that could produce quantities of ice by vaporizing a volatile liquid and then

²³ "Losses Reported," *Springfield Leader and Press*, 5 April 1957, 11; "Thief Gets \$146 At Ice Company," *Springfield Leader and Press*, 5 September 1960, 21; "Thieves Hit Two Places," *Springfield Leader and Press*, 15 November 1962, 19.

²⁴ "Caught in Act, Pair Still Flees With Loot," *Springfield Leader and Press*, 20 January 1964, 4.

²⁵ "Real Estate Sales in the Mid-40s," *Springfield Leader and Press*, 18 November 1973, 39; "Producers Ice & Manufacturing Company," John R. Ashcroft, Missouri Secretary of State.

²⁶ Springfield City Directories, 1925-1980. See timeline at the end of Section 8 for specific dates.

²⁷ Elizabeth Rosin, Historic Preservation Services, LLC, "Mutual Ice Company Building," National Register of Historic Places Inventory Nomination Form, 2004, Section 8, 6-7.

²⁸ Joseph C. Jones, Jr., *American's Icemen* (Humble, TX: JOBECO Books, 1984), 14.

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condensing the vapor in a continuous and closed cycle. A. C. Twinning of New Haven, Connecticut also obtained a British patent in 1850 and an American patent in 1853 for an ice-making machine. By 1855, he had built a machine in Cleveland that could produce 1600 pounds of ice in 24 hours.²⁹

The methodology behind Jacob Perkins' patent is still used today. Although Perkins used ether, most plants of the 1920s, including Producers Ice, used ammonia, which is cheaper than ether and not combustible. To make ice, the ammonia vapor was converted to a liquid through compression, cold or a combination of the two. The condensed, liquefied ammonia was forced into pipes where it would expand back into a vapor, creating a chilling effect. The pipes cooled tanks of circulating brine that held cans of water. The chilled brine froze the cans of water to create the large chunks of ice.³⁰

The first U. S. artificial ice manufacturing plant that operated on a regular schedule was built in 1868 in New Orleans. Ice was sold by the Louisiana Manufacturing Company for \$1.75 per hundred pounds, significantly cheaper than the cost of natural ice.³¹ The commercial availability of sanitary, convenient ice, which could be produced locally year-round, led to even more demand for the product. The development of refrigerated railroad cars expanded the market for ice, but also for meat, dairy and produce. By 1920, the industrial census reported that 4800 plants had produced 40 million tons of ice annually, while only 15 million tons had been harvested from waterways.³²

The ice industry developed to include several retail components from the late 1800s into the early 1900s. Springfield plants sold ice wholesale and offered huge spaces for cold storage, likely for commercial meat, produce and dairy products. Across the country, ice wagons delivered blocks of ice along city streets when customers posted "Ice Today" signs in their windows. Distributors also sold ice in smaller blocks through small ice houses located in neighborhoods.³³

Home refrigeration gradually developed in the early 1900s and mechanical refrigerators became nearly essential in the 1920s. In 1921 just 5000 refrigerators were manufactured in the United States. By 1931, more than one million were manufactured each year. By the beginning of World War II, that number rose to six million a year and by 1950, 90 percent of Americans in urban areas owned a refrigerator.³⁴

²⁹ Ibid.

³⁰ Frederik A. Fernald, "Ice-Making And Machine Refrigeration," *Popular Science Monthly*, Vol 39, May 1891, accessed 25 July 2017.
https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/Popular_Science_Monthly/Volume_39/May_1891/Ice-Making_and_Machine_Refrigeration.

³¹ Jones, 149-151.

³² Rosin, Section 8, 7.

³³ Barbara Krasner-Khait, "The Impact of Refrigeration," *History Magazine*, February/March 2003, <http://www.history-magazine.com/refrig.html>, accessed 17 July 2017.

³⁴ Krasner-Khait.

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The increase of that pervasive appliance decreased the need for industrial ice production, spurring changes in the ice business.³⁵ The trade shifted its focus from home consumption to commercial uses. By the early 1930s, the ice industry had expanded its product into growing chain grocery stores, the transportation of perishables, and the increasing consumption of soft drinks.³⁶ An article published in a Springfield paper in 1960 offers a good description of the changes that had taken place in recent decades. The author stated, "Whatever happened to the iceman? He didn't quit his job—he just changed his route."³⁷ In that article, Dan Diesel, manager of the Springfield Ice and Refrigeration Company, listed contemporary uses for ice. These included the familiar consumption of crushed ice and use in restaurants and poultry plants. He also noted that ice was often added to concrete to control the setting time and it was used by paint and pharmaceutical manufacturers. Shaved ice was also blown onto cargo that needed to be cooled, such as sweet corn and lettuce.³⁸ The growth of the Producers Ice facility through the 1950s is physical evidence that the company was changing its business to adapt with the modern age.

Springfield Ice Industry

The earliest ice manufacturer listed in the Springfield city directories was Springfield Ice and Refrigerating Company, first listed in the 1890-91 directory at 234 W. Phelps.³⁹ (Parts of the original Springfield Ice Complex are still standing; see Figure 9.) The company gradually expanded within its city block, continuing its growth to include a new building at 305 W. Mill Street in 1914 and an adjacent four-story building that grew in stages between 1927 and 1948 to provide additional storage and office space.⁴⁰ The company manufactured ice and provided cold storage. By 1926, Springfield Ice could produce 75 tons of ice a day, store up to 2,000 tons and provide cold storage of 600,000 cubic feet.⁴¹

Several ice companies entered and left the Springfield market between 1900 and the late 1920s. In 1901, the Springfield Brewing Company planned to improve the capacity of their ice plant.⁴² In that year, a group of businessmen also formed a partnership to raise \$40,000 to build a new ice plant and storage facility by spring 1902 at the corner of Clay and Chestnut. The article noted optimistically, "The ice business here last year was simply tremendous, the demand being far beyond the supply. The new institution will no doubt succeed from the start."⁴³ Members of the Retail Merchants' association made plans in 1910 to erect an ice manufacturing plant for the use of grocers, butchers and other businesses. The plant was expected to cost \$30,000.⁴⁴ Sprinkle Ice briefly operated in 1912 on Springfield's north side.⁴⁵ The Banfield

³⁵ Rosin, Section 8, 7.

³⁶ "Ice Industry Grows Despite 'Mechanicals,'" *The Springfield Leader*, 26 December 1930, 12.

³⁷ "Maybe This Will Cool You Off," *Springfield Leader and Press*, 21 July 1960, 25.

³⁸ "Maybe This Will Cool You Off," *Springfield Leader and Press*, 21 July 1960, 25.

³⁹ *Hoye's City Directory of Springfield, Mo.* (Kansas City, MO: Hoye Directory Co., 1889, 382.

⁴⁰ Philip Thomason, Thomason and Associates, "Springfield Warehouse and Industrial Historic District," National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form, 1998, Section 7, 3-4.

⁴¹ "Springfield Ice and Refrigerating Co." *Springfield Missouri Republican*, 3 December 1926, 10.

⁴² "To Spread Out," *The Leader-Democrat*, 1 November 1901, 2.

⁴³ "A New Factory," *The Leader-Democrat*, 10 November 1901, 5.

⁴⁴ "Merchants Will Build Ice Plant," *Springfield Missouri Republican*, 21 May 1910, 8.

⁴⁵ "New Ice Plant In Old Ozark Building," *Springfield Missouri Republican*, 3 July 1912, 5.

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Brothers built an ice plant in 1917 in conjunction with their meat market on Commercial Street but stopped operating in 1918 due to World War I fuel shortages.⁴⁶

The Springfield ice market proved strong enough to attract investment from other towns as well. Hammond Brothers Fuel & Ice Company was a large Kansas City conglomerate that also operated in Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul.⁴⁷ The business also had plants in the Springfield area, with additional facilities in Jasper (Jasper County) and West Plains, (Howell County) Missouri. They produced ice, which they sold along with fuel to railroads. The company also bought, sold and improved several facilities in Springfield. Hammond Brothers is mentioned in a 1909 Springfield newspaper article as the successors to the Frisco Ice Company, with plans to expand their Springfield plant in order to provide more ice to the Frisco Railway.⁴⁸ The company reportedly handled more than 100,000 tons of ice in 1909.⁴⁹ In 1920, they expanded a plant on the Frisco Railway east of the Springfield city limits, to increase output by 50 tons of ice per day.⁵⁰ They may have been a bit too ambitious in their expansion plans, however, as all of the company's assets were sold in a trustee's sale in 1926, to satisfy an outstanding debt on a 1923 loan of \$100,000.⁵¹ The local market for ice remained strong, and the closing of the Hammond plants appears to have merely made more room for other companies, including Producer's Ice, which opened their first facility in 1923.

As Springfield grew in the 1920s, so did the demand for ice, along with the number of ice dealers and manufacturers. Springfield's population was just under 40,000 in 1920 and more than 57,000 in 1930.⁵² That population growth, paired with the increasing commercial demands for ice from the grocery and transportation industry, produced a strong local market for ice. More than 300 tons of ice were reportedly being manufactured daily in Springfield in 1925. The Merchants Ice Company announced plans to build six ice stations in July 1925, each holding six to ten tons of ice.⁵³ In the summer of 1927, the volume of ice sold was lower than normal due to cooler weather, but local companies anticipated increased production with the area's growing exports of butter and milk. With transportation of dairy products to other markets and the development of the local dairy industry, the increased consumption of ice was regarded as certain.⁵⁴

Other ice companies entered and left the market in the 1920s, but Producers Ice experienced sustained success and an ever-increasing need for space at the Chase Street facility. Between 1923 and 1933, the plant expanded from a single room for ice storage to a large manufacturing

⁴⁶ "Ice Plant," *Springfield Missouri Republican*, 2 August 1917, 5; "New Ice Plant To Suspend Operation," *Springfield Missouri Republican*, 7 August 1918, 8.

⁴⁷ *Refrigerating World*, Volume 57, Issue 1, 1922.

⁴⁸ "Making Plans To Handle Big Crop," *Springfield Missouri Republican*, 8 April 1909, 10.

⁴⁹ "Will Erect Building on East Commercial," *The Springfield Leader*, 17 September 1910, 3.

⁵⁰ "Work Is Started On Ice Plant Addition," *The Springfield Leader*, 19 April 1920, 2.

⁵¹ "Legal Notices," *Springfield Missouri Republican*, 27 June 1926, 16.

⁵² "Missouri Population 1900-1990," Missouri Census Data Center, accessed 11 July 2017.

<http://mcdc.missouri.edu/trends/tables/cities1900-1990.pdf>.

⁵³ "Ice Company To Establish Six Stations," *The Springfield Leader*, 23 July 1924, 1. It is not known how many, if any, of those stations were constructed. None were identified during a recent search.

⁵⁴ "Dairy Industry To Aid Icemen," *The Springfield Leader*, 18 September 1927, 29.

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facility that included a freezing room, ice tanks and an engine room.⁵⁵ By the 1930s, the building had grown enough to have frontage on Chase Street to the north plus a loading dock on the railroad tracks to the south. (See Figure 7. 1933 Sanborn map.) That expansion also moved them from a mere storage unit to a full scale manufacturing and wholesale ice operation.

The ice industry in Springfield included retail ice sellers, as well as ice makers. The 1902 Springfield City Directory lists just two companies under "Ice Mfrs and Dealers," Springfield Brewing Company at 222 N. Campbell and Springfield Ice & Refrigerating Company at 230 W. Phelps. In 1920 and 1921, just before the opening of Producers Ice, directories listed Hammond Brothers Ice & Cold Storage and Springfield Ice & Refrigerating Company in the "Ice—Wholesale" category. Producers Ice and Manufacturing Company joined the category in the 1922 directory. Two companies, Hoey Ice & Fuel and Merchants Ice & Fuel, were listed in the "Ice—Retail" category from 1920 to 1922. In later years, directories split the ice business into retail and manufacturing categories. In 1925, the directory's categories became "Ice Manufacturers" and "Ice—Retail." Manufacturers that year were Producers Ice, Hammond Brothers, and Springfield Ice. Merchants Ice and People's Ice were listed in the retail category.⁵⁶

As in nearly every other city in the country, the retail ice business in Springfield included home delivery of ice. That practice sometimes led to disputes, and in the late 1910s, the problem was widespread enough to merit a new city ordinance. In 1919, the Springfield city health office received several complaints of short weights on ice deliveries. City Health Commissioner Ed Finch defined sizes of cubes and appropriate weights, declaring that anyone selling underweight loads would receive the maximum punishment. The city council passed an ordinance to enforce those standards, which decreed that offenders would be punished by a fine of three to five hundred dollars, or five to sixty days in the city jail.⁵⁷

That changing retail climate for ice may have impacted Producers decision to purchase the retail dealership of Merchants Ice in 1927, after which the partnership covered all phases of the ice industry in Springfield, from manufacturing to home delivery. That change gave them an edge on their competitors, and most likely contributed to the long life of the company. Although the two companies continued to operate under separate names, they were linked by stockholders and C. F. Cheek, who served as president and manager of Producers Ice, and the manager of Merchants Ice. Merchants Ice presumably received its ice for retail sale from Producers Ice. The two continued to be listed in city directories as separate companies for the next 45 years.

Between 1925 and 1929, the number of ice manufacturers in town grew from three to six. The 1929 City Directory lists six manufacturers: Producers Ice, Merchants Ice, Springfield Creamery, Springfield Ice, George Kieffer, and Service Ice. The directory lists four dealers: Merchants Ice, City Ice, Independence Ice and Service Ice. In 1930, commercial ice consumption accounted for

⁵⁵ 1933 Sanborn map, Springfield.

⁵⁶ The only buildings associated with those businesses that is known to survive are part of the original Springfield Ice and Refrigeration Complex. See Figure 9.

⁵⁷ "Col. Finch Defines Ice Measurements For Local Dealers," *Springfield Missouri Republican*, 16 August 1919, 3.

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the bulk of ice produced nationally and these numbers remained consistent into the late 1930s.⁵⁸ Producers Ice was well positioned to take its share of the Springfield market.

The growth of the Producers Ice Company and the expansion of its building on Chase Street during the 1920s and 1930s was backed by a strong commercial and industrial base in Springfield, which saw notable growth during the first half of the twentieth century. The building was ideally located adjacent to the St. Louis-San Francisco Railway tracks, making it a convenient site for produce deliveries to and from across the country. Civic leaders in the 1920s also focused on ensuring that Springfield was part of the developing statewide network of roads. By the mid-1920s, the city was at the intersection of several major highways, including Route 66. Local businesses were able to take advantage of over-the-road distribution, as well as rail service. Springfield's access to good roads provided a financial boost to local wholesale distributors.⁵⁹ The Producers Ice and Manufacturing Company's proximity to both types of transportation undoubtedly aided its commercial and physical growth. The four 1950s additions to the building were constructed to provide large-scale cold storage, likely due to a demand from commercial customers. Sections D, E, F and G all have large exterior doors for easy truck access. The building also has a small south dock that is adjacent to the railroad tracks, and Section E, with its south and west doors, is set up to receive deliveries from trucks or trains.

By 1946, the number of ice manufacturers in Springfield had dropped back to three companies—Producers Ice, National Ice, and Springfield Ice. These three companies controlled the ice market in Springfield into the 1970s. The 1950s and 1960s were called “the decades of the shovel” by the Springfield Chamber of Commerce, for the many shovels that were used for ground-breaking ceremonies during that time.⁶⁰ The expansion of the Producers Ice building between 1950 and 1954 was part of this citywide development. The growth of the company and its facility was evidence that Producers Ice was tied to the growth of the city, which gained more than 50,000 residents between 1950 and 1970.⁶¹

Conclusion

The Producers Ice building on West Chase Street is significant for its important association with the commercial ice industry in the city of Springfield. The plant and its sales contributed to the growth of Springfield and its business community during the period of significance. As noted in “Industrial Development of Springfield: 1838-1945,” manufacturing processing and other industrial activities played a major role in the history of Springfield, and the factories, warehouses, and other buildings that housed those activities “are important links to Springfield's commercial and industrial history.” The Producers Ice Company building not only supplied wholesale ice to Springfield and local businesses during its tenure, but also provided retail space during the 1920s and 1930s for the sale of fresh produce, and expansive cold storage through the 1960s.

⁵⁸ “Ice Industry Grows Despite ‘Mechanicals,’” *The Springfield Leader*, 26 December 1930, 12.

⁵⁹ Debbie Sheals, “Industrial Development in Springfield: 1838-1945,” *Historic and Architectural Resources of Springfield, MO*, MPDF, 2004, E.34-E.35.

⁶⁰ Dick Grosenbaugh, *A Million Hours of Memories*, (Springfield Sesquicentennial Committee, 1979) n.p.

⁶¹ “Missouri Population 1900-1990,” Missouri Census Data Center, accessed 11 July 2017.
<http://mcdc.missouri.edu/trends/tables/cities1900-1990.pdf>.

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Producers' savvy business sense and a partnership with Merchants Ice positioned the company to thrive in a competitive market, and to hold on to that position for half a century. The early ice industry was significant because the convenience of cold storage provided citizens and retailers with fresher food and the ability to store that food for longer periods of time. Producers Ice ensured its longevity in the market by taking advantage of later changes in mechanical refrigeration to adapt to a larger wholesale market that supplied to local and nationwide businesses. As a result, it was one of the most prominent ice companies to operate in Springfield during the twentieth century.

The Producers Ice building is home to one of the longest-lived ice plants in Springfield and one of just two of the city's most prominent twentieth century ice manufacturing facilities to have survived to modern times. The period of significance, 1923-1973, reflects the building's commercial longevity. From the date of construction, Producers Ice thrived when other ice companies failed, changing and expanding to adapt to market fluctuations. The company retained its top commercial position in this location until the building was sold and ceased to operate as Producers Ice in 1973. Because that end date falls after the traditional 50 year mark, Criterion Consideration G technically applies here, but it should be noted that the bulk of the significant activities happened more than fifty years ago.

Some buildings from the Springfield Ice plant on Mill Street are still extant, but the former Merchants and National Ice plants are no longer standing. The Producers Ice building is one of Springfield's most intact historic ice storage facilities, and it provides a tangible link to the commercial ice industry of twentieth century Springfield. The building retains integrity of form, setting, and materials. It clearly reflects its history as an important business that grew with the city of Springfield.

Timeline

1922, June. Producer's Ice and Manufacturing Company (PRODUCERS ICE) organized. Agent: W. K. McClancy, 524 West Chase Street, Springfield, MO 65805 ["Producers Ice & Manufacturing Company." John R. Ashcroft, Missouri Secretary of State. Accessed Feb. 10, 2017. <https://bsd.sos.mo.gov/BusinessEntity/BusinessEntityDetail.aspx?page=beSearch&ID=38580>] NOTE: 524 was west of here in 1922. Founders were C. F. Cheek, Emma Cheek, L. J. Haymes, and L. F. Brignac. ["Articles Filed," Springfield Republican, May 28, 1922, 2, newspapers.com.]

*At the time it was one of three wholesale ice companies in town—Hammond Brothers, and Springfield Ice and Refrigeration (SIR) were the others. (1922 Directory) **Producer's Ice was consistently one of the top three ice producers in Springfield for the next half century.***

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1923 Jan, Permit awarded for a "concrete cold storage house" at 414 W. Chase. [Storage House to be Erected by Company. Springfield Leader, Jan. 25, 1923. Accessed Feb. 10, 2017. Newspapers.com.]

1924. Producers Ice got a permit for a \$1,000 remodeling project of the plant on Chase Street. [Springfield Republican 2-16-1924, 4.] Ads in the paper show they were selling produce and offering cold storage services. (Ad in the Springfield Republican June 27, 1926, 7. From newspapers.com)

1925 One of three ice manufacturers in Springfield; same three listed in 1922. [Dunham's City Directory, Springfield MO, 1925. Springfield, MO: Inland Printing Co., 1925.] C. F. Cheek President, L. J. Haymes Secretary, L. F. Brignac, Treas.

1926 Producers Ice Company starts work on a \$30,000 engine room addition, which was expected to increase ice-making capacity from 20 to 50 tons of ice per day. ["Ice Company Starts \$30,000 Addition to Plant on North Side." Springfield Leader, Dec. 19, 1926. Accessed Feb. 10, 2017. Newspapers.com.]

1926 Producers Ice bought Rea-Patterson Milling Co. in Coffeyville, Kansas. ["Buys Property at Republic." Springfield Missouri Republican, Feb. 28, 1926. Accessed Feb. 10, 2017. Newspapers.com.]

1927 Producers Ice buys Merchant's Ice and Fuel Company, a retail ice company. Planned to operate both under their original names. Article about the merger noted the Producers Ice also owned a plant in Republic and "about a quarter million dollar investment in this section" (of the county). ["C.F. Cheek and His Associates Secure Ice Company Stock." Springfield Leader, Jan. 28, 1927. Accessed Feb. 10, 2017. Newspapers.com.]

1929 Six wholesale ice companies in town, including Producers Ice and Merchant's. [Polk's Springfield (Missouri) City Directory 1929. Kansas City, MO: R. L. Polk and Co., 1929.]

1933 Sanborn shows large T-shaped complex fronted by a two-story center section on the north side. [Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, 1933, 201.] Producers Ice listed as an ice dealer, but not wholesaler in this directory.

Between 1933-50 Two-story north section replaced with a one-story brick section, plus a small office wing. That new section has a large concrete loading dock that faces north to Chase St.

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1939 One of five ice manufacturers in Springfield. [Polk's Springfield (Missouri) City Directory 1939. Kansas City, MO: R. L. Polk and Co., 1939, 522.]

1946 One of three ice manufacturers in Springfield (directory). National Ice (2310 N. National), Producers Ice, and Springfield Ice and Refrigeration (227 W. Mill Street). Note: Some of the Springfield Ice complex is still standing.

1950 One-story addition to west side, with garage doors to the west parking lot.

1951 Second addition of approximately the same size, also on the west side with garage doors to the west parking lot. Also had doors to the south, facing the railroad.

1953 One-story addition to north east corner, with covered loading dock facing north to Chase St.

1954 Final addition, one-story, on the southeast corner. Small loading dock facing north plus a small fire door in the south wall, facing the railroad tracks.

1955, 1961, 1970: One of three ice companies in Springfield--Merchants, (600 N. Jefferson), Producers Ice, and Springfield Ice, in 1955. Since Producers owned Merchants, there were really just two companies. [Polk's Springfield (Missouri) City Directory 1955, 1961, 1970. Kansas City, MO: R.L. Polk and Co., 1955, 1961, 1970.]

600 N. Jefferson is no longer standing, so this is one of two mid-twentieth century ice manufacturing facilities left in Springfield.

1973 Producers Ice and Springfield Ice on Mill only ice manufacturers in town. [Polk's Springfield (Missouri) City Directory 1973, 1974. Kansas City, MO: R. L. Polk and Co., 1973, 1974.] SIR buildings s are still in place as well.

Producers Ice Sold in 1973.

1975 Ice Enterprises listed at the Chase Street location. SIR was the only other dealer, with two locations, one on Mill and one at 1301 Commercial St. [Polk's Springfield (Missouri) City Directory 1975. Kansas City, MO: R. L. Polk and Co., 1975.]

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*1980 Ice Enterprises on Chase, and SIR on Mill only Ice Companies. [Polk's
Springfield (Missouri) City Directory 1980. Kansas City, MO: R. L. Polk and Co.,
1980.]*

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N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

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Producers Ice and Manufacturing Company

Name of Property
Greene County, Missouri

County and State
N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

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Section number 9 Page 21

Producers Ice and Manufacturing Company

Name of Property

Greene County, Missouri

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

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National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 22

Producers Ice and Manufacturing Company

Name of Property

Greene County, Missouri

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Verbal Boundary Description

The property is located on Lots 1 through 5, in Block 20 of the Woodland Heights Addition to Springfield, coordinates 37.2305, -93.2960. The property is bounded by West Chase Street on the north, the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad tracks on the south and property lines on the east and west.

Boundary Justification

The current boundaries encompass all of the land currently and historically associated with the building.

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Figures Page 23

Producers Ice and Manufacturing Company

Name of Property

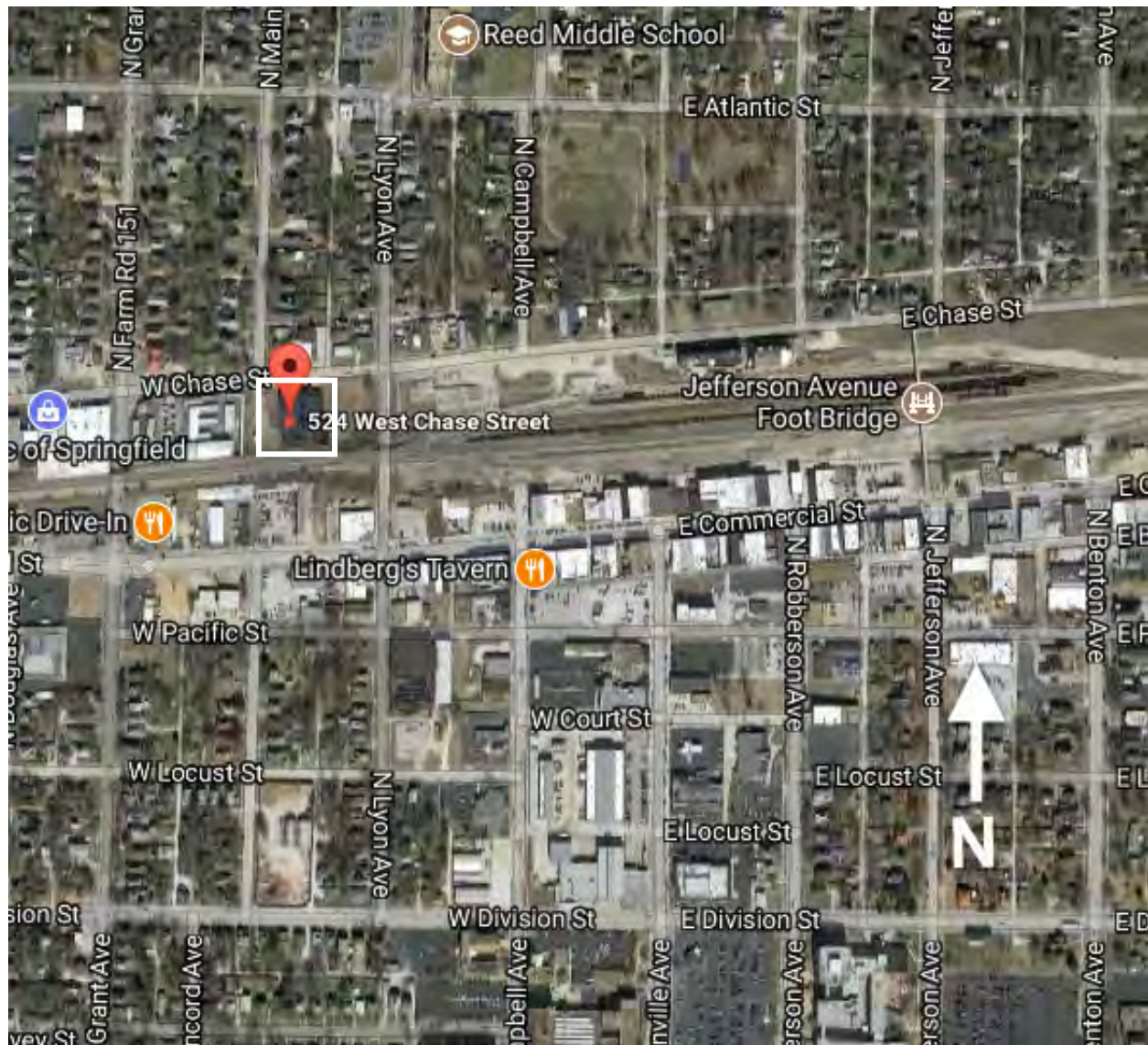
Greene County, Missouri

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Figure 1. Location of Producers Ice Building at 524 W. Chase Street from <https://www.google.com/maps>. Coordinates 37.2305, -93.2960. Screenshot accessed 19 July 2017.



National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Figures Page 24

Producers Ice and Manufacturing Company

Name of Property

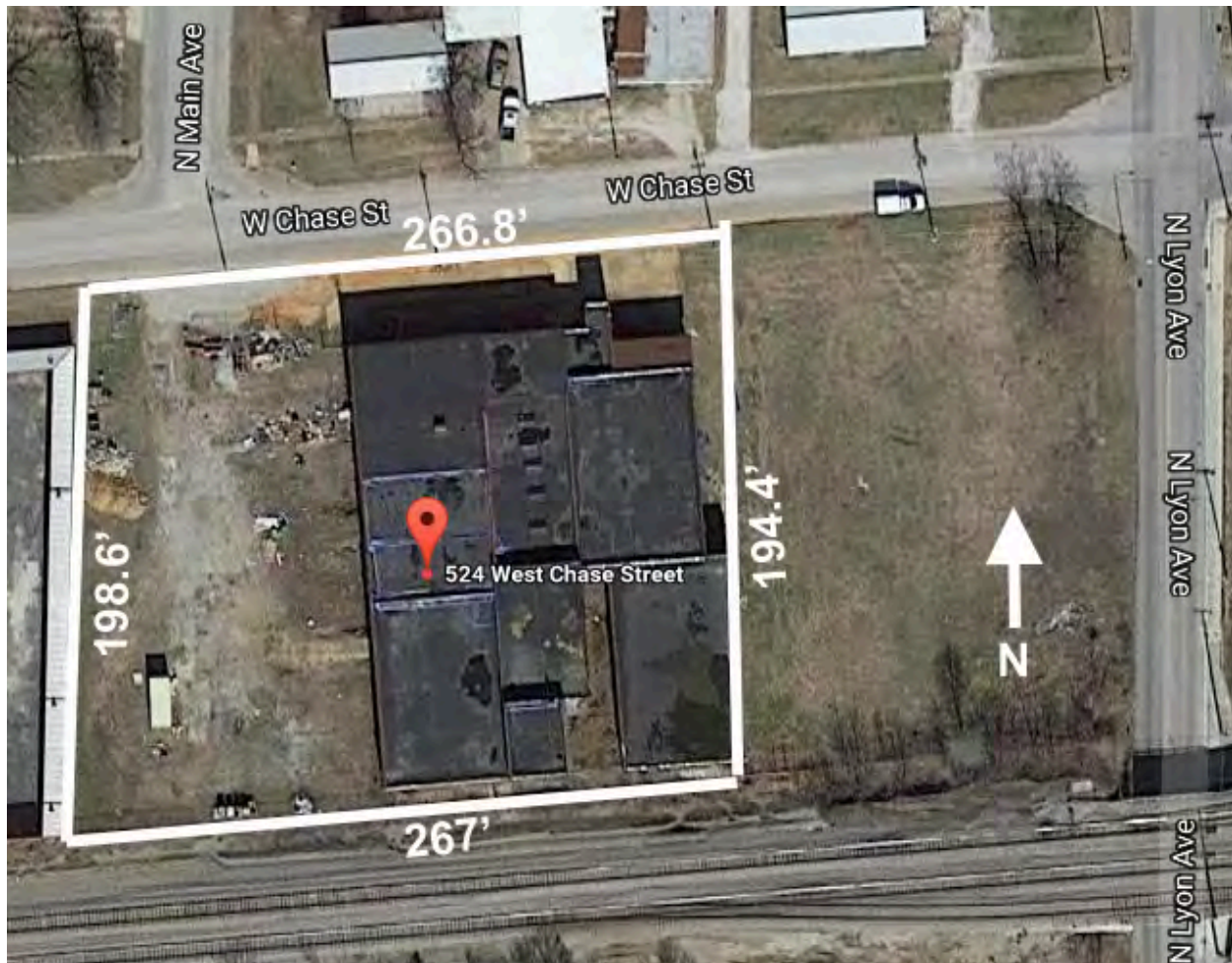
Greene County, Missouri

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Figure 2. Aerial photograph with property boundaries from <https://www.google.com/maps>. Coordinates 37.2305, -93.2960. Screenshot accessed 19 July 2017.



National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Figures Page 25

Producers Ice and Manufacturing Company

Name of Property

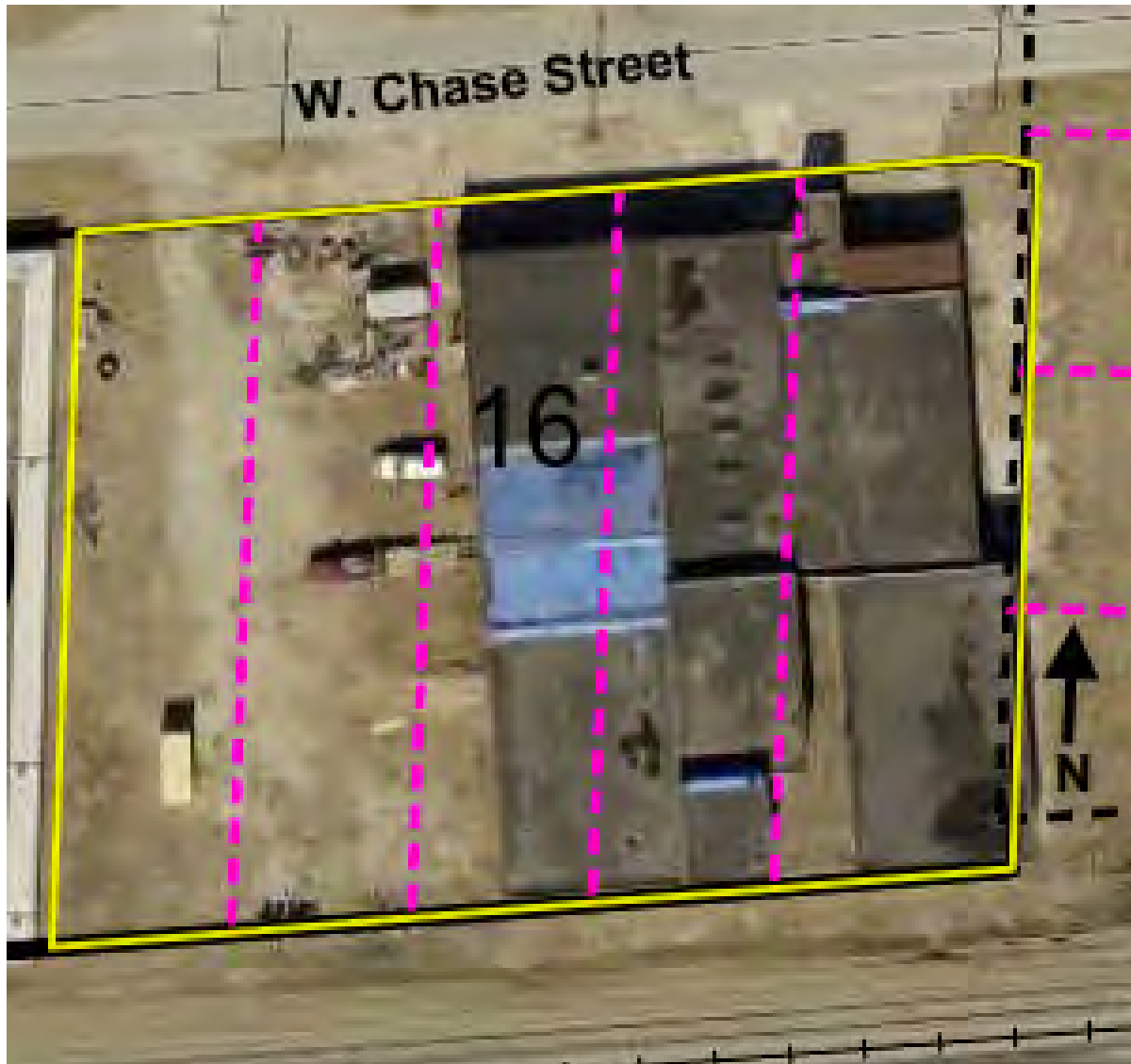
Greene County, Missouri

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Figure 3. Greene County tax map of property with W. Chase Street marked.
<https://beacon.schneidercorp.com/Application.aspx?ApProducersIceD=328&LayerID=3509&PageTypeID=1&PageID=2312&KeyValue=881311410016>.
Accessed 5 July 2017.



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Producers Ice and Manufacturing Company

Name of Property

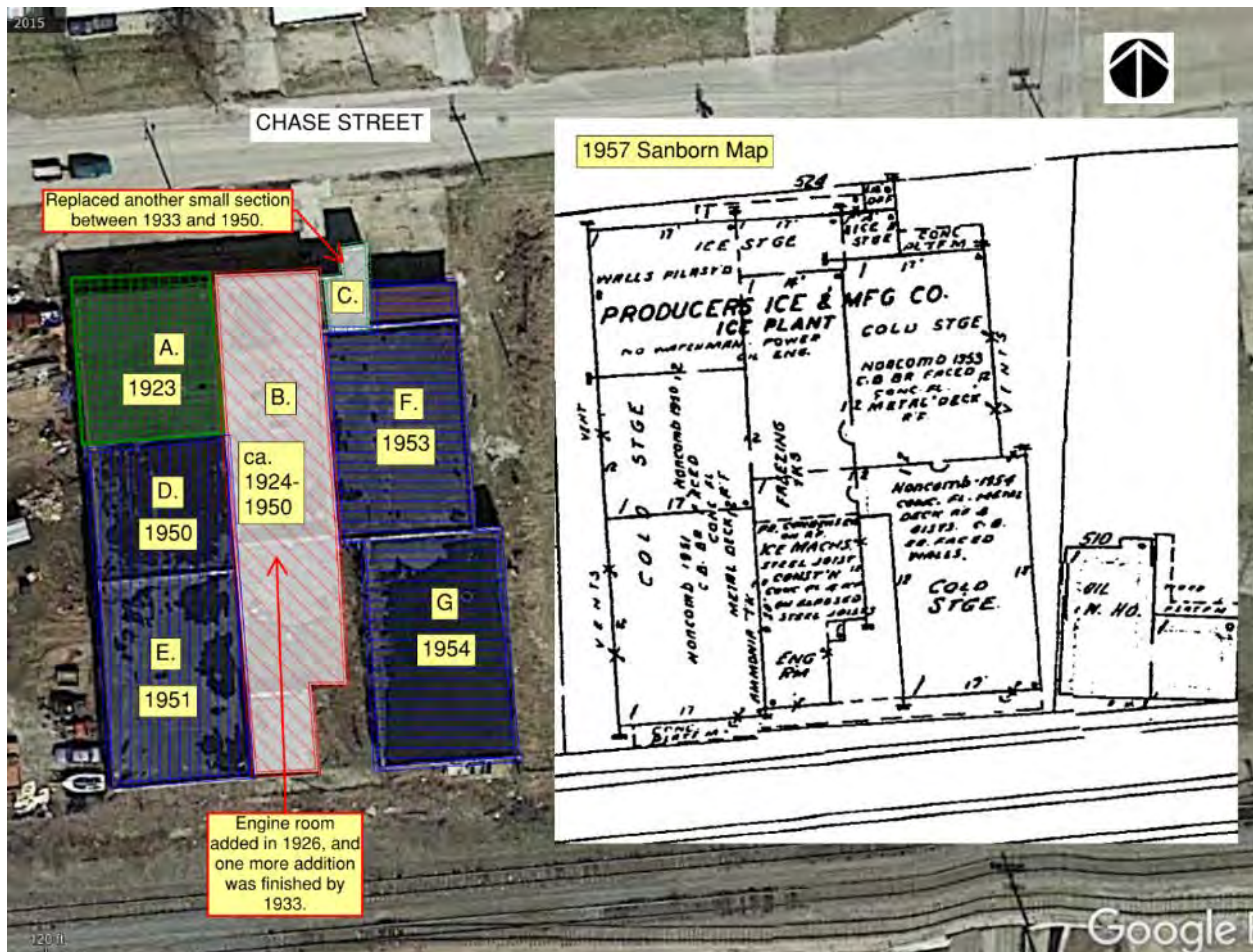
Greene County, Missouri

County and State

N/A

.....
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Figure 4. Aerial map with construction dates and Sanborn map. <https://www.google.com/maps>. Notes added by Debbie Sheals June 2017.



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Continuation Sheet

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Producers Ice and Manufacturing Company

Name of Property

Greene County, Missouri

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Figure 5. Aerial view of rear of building from <https://www.bing.com/maps>. Accessed 5 July 2017.



National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Figures Page 28

Producers Ice and Manufacturing Company

Name of Property

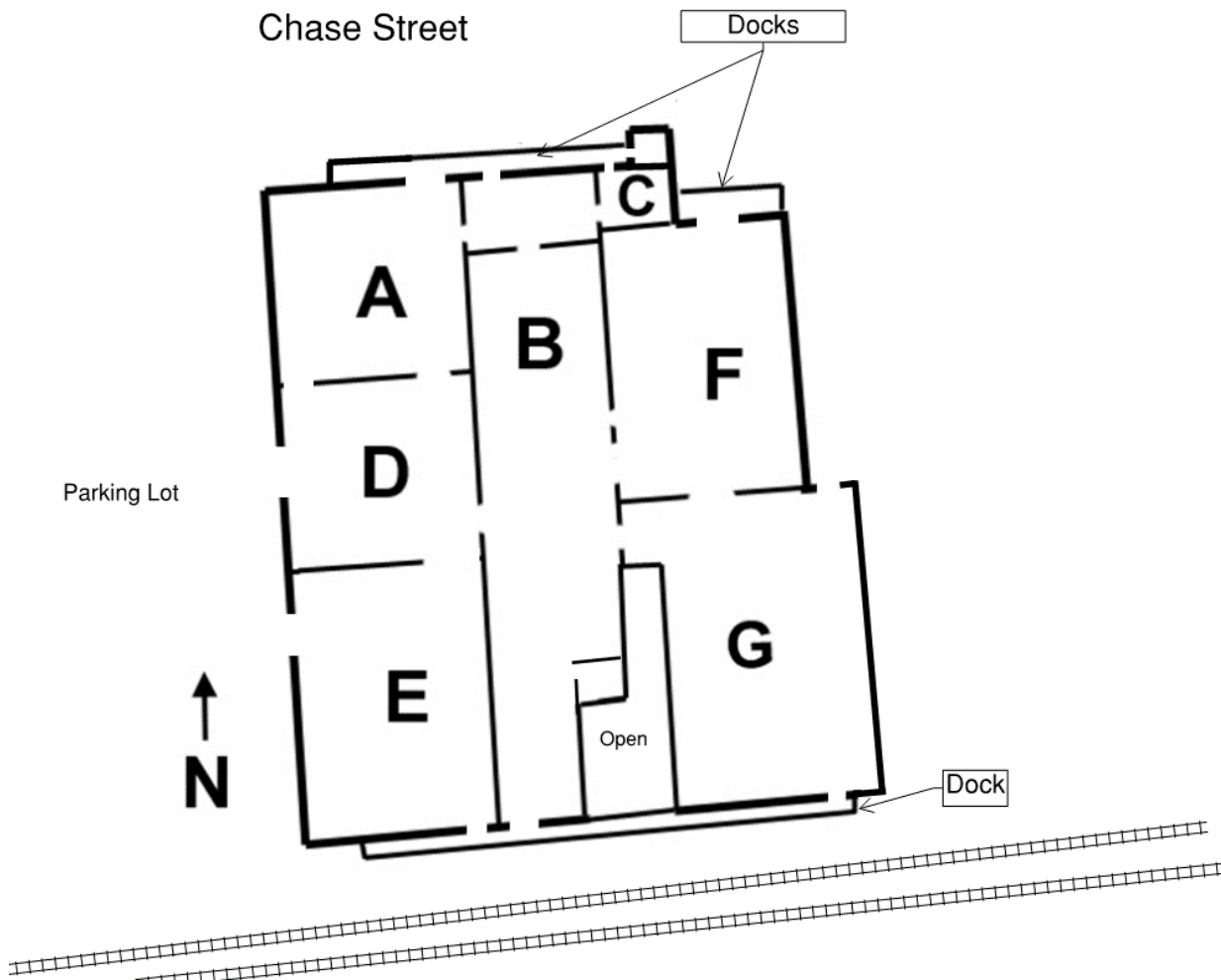
Greene County, Missouri

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Figure 6. Floor plan with sections noted. Susan Jezak Ford and Deb Sheals Nov. 2017. Not to scale.



National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Figures Page 29

Producers Ice and Manufacturing Company

Name of Property

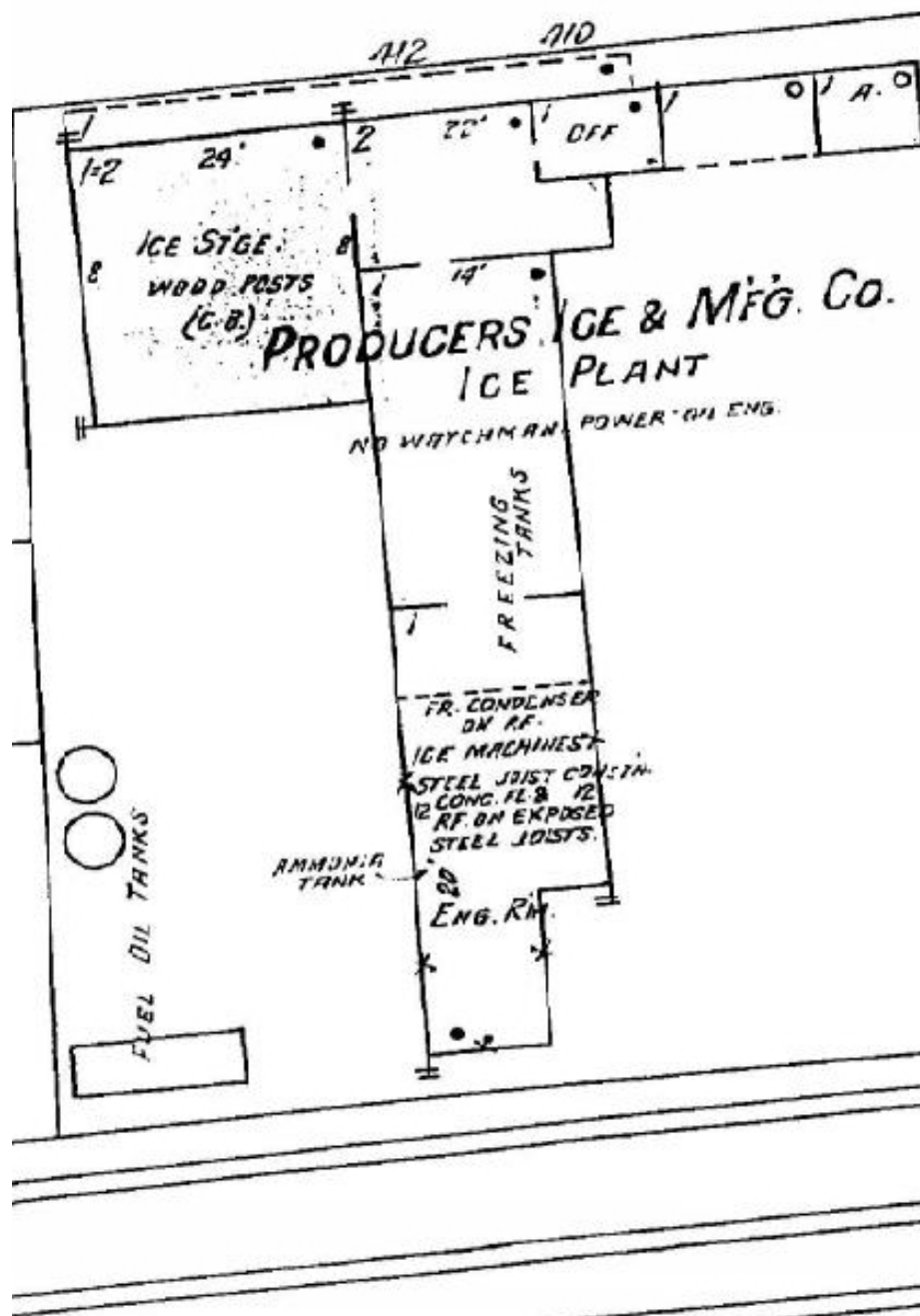
Greene County, Missouri

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Figure 7. 1933 Sanborn Map, 524 W. Chase Street, Springfield. 1933, Vol 1, p 201.



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Section number Figures Page 30

Producers Ice and Manufacturing Company

Name of Property

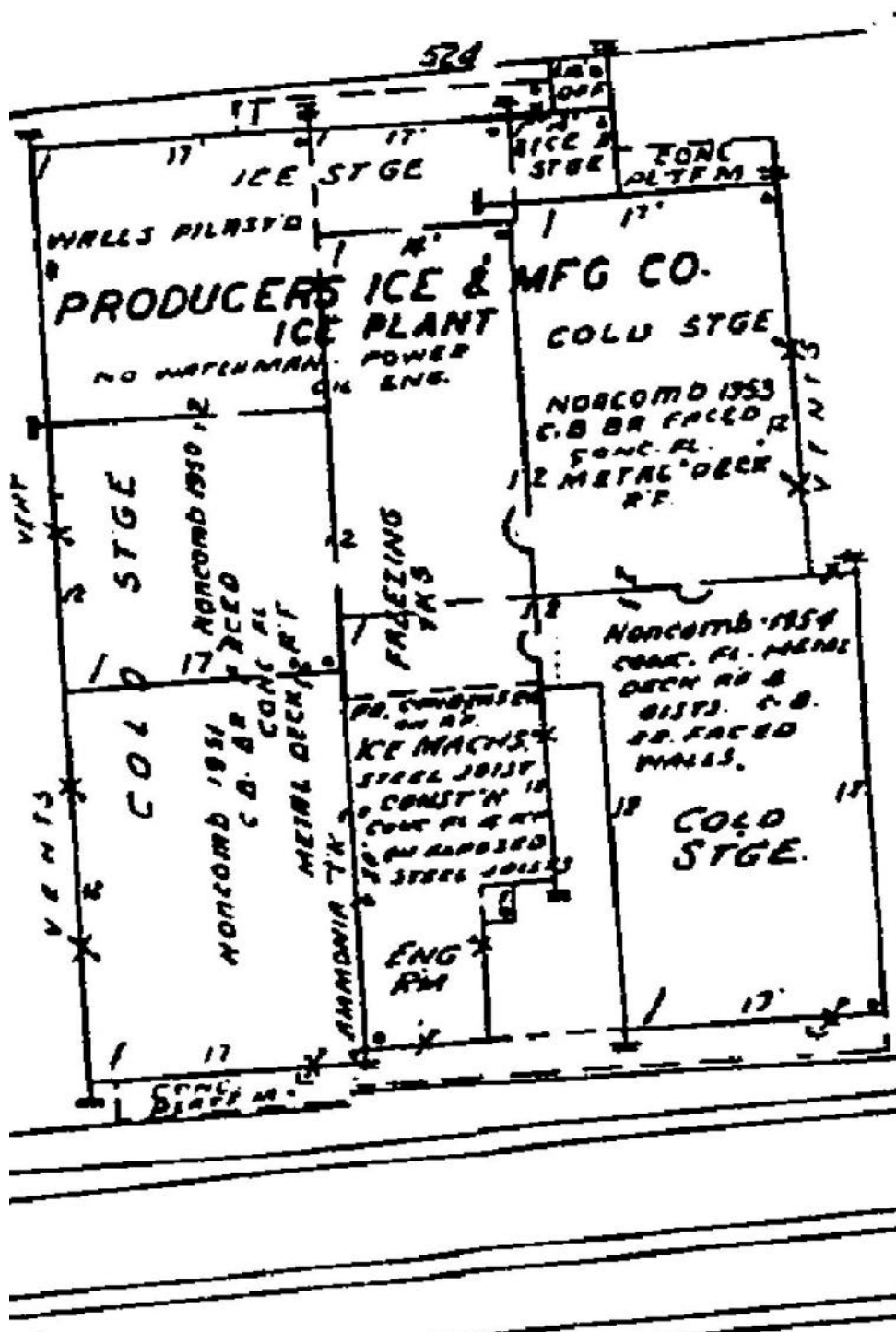
Greene County, Missouri

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Figure 8. 1957 Sanborn map, 524 W. Chase Street. Vol 1, p 201.



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Continuation Sheet

Section number Figures Page 31

Producers Ice and Manufacturing Company

Name of Property

Greene County, Missouri

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Figure 9. Photo of Springfield Ice and Refrigeration Company buildings, photo by Deb Sheals 2014. The two buildings on the left in this photo were used for cold storage and ice production.



National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Photos Page 32

Producers Ice and Manufacturing Company

Name of Property

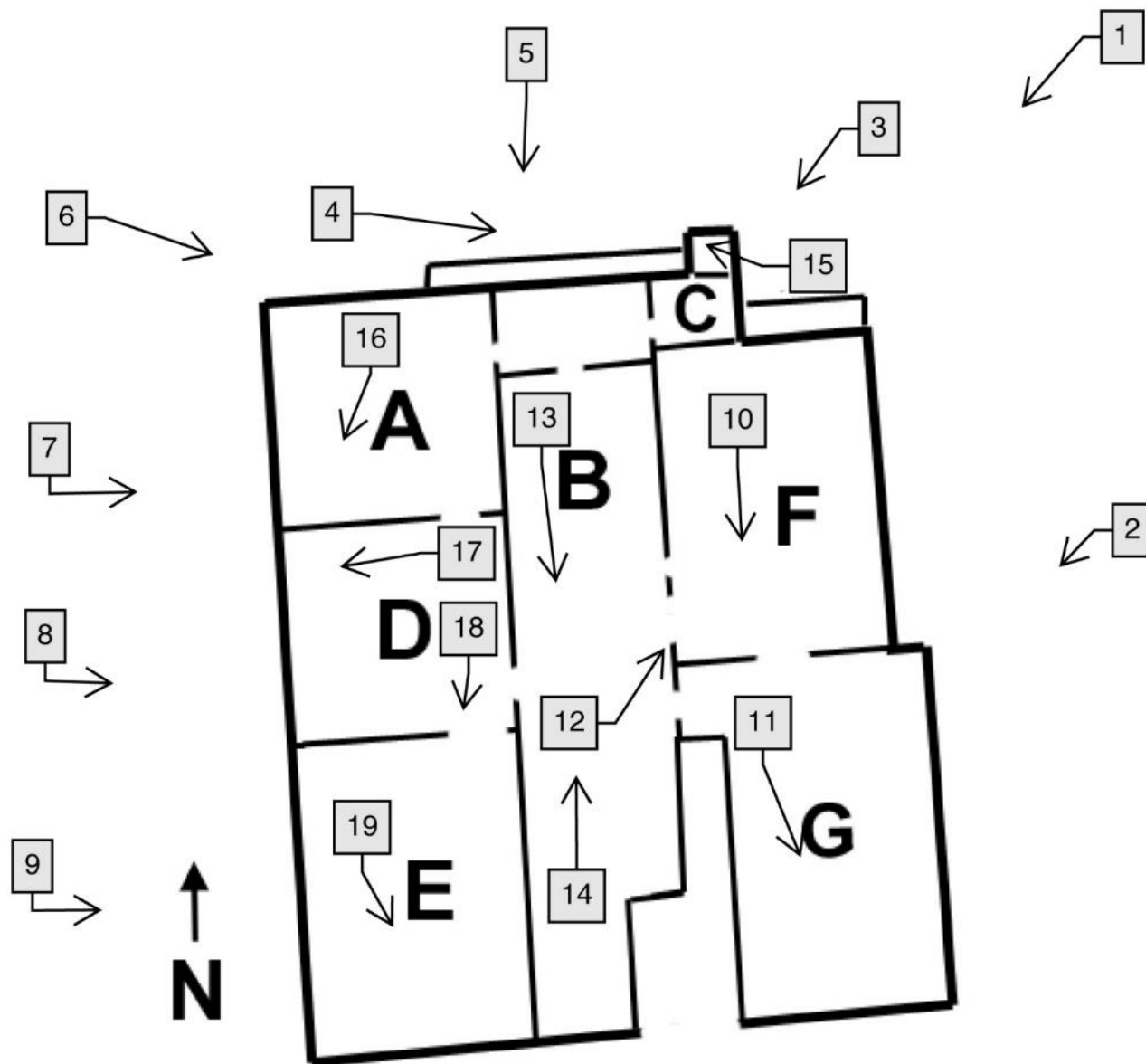
Greene County, Missouri

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Photo key. Not to scale.











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