

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC Professional Building

AND/OR COMMON Professional Building

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 1101-1107 Grand Avenue

CITY, TOWN Kansas City VICINITY OF #5 Hon. Richard L. Bolling

STATE Missouri CODE 64106 COUNTY Jackson CODE 095

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDEN.
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Alexander Barket, Building Leasing Corporation

STREET & NUMBER 600 East 60th Street

CITY, TOWN Kansas City VICINITY OF STATE Missouri 64130

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE, Office of the Recorder of Deeds
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Jackson County Courthouse, Kansas City Annex

STREET & NUMBER 405 East 12th Street

CITY, TOWN Kansas City STATE Missouri 64152

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Missouri State Historic Survey

DATE

1979

☐ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Department of Natural Resources

CITY, TOWN P.O. Box 176, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

___EXCELLENT

___GOOD

XFAIR

___DETERIORATED

___RUINS

___UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

___UNALTERED

XALTERED

CHECK ONE

XORIGINAL SITE

___MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Professional Building at 1101-07 Grand Avenue in Kansas City, Missouri's Central Business District is a U-shaped edifice. The sixteen story building is bounded on the west by Grand Avenue and on the north by Eleventh Street. An alley separates the east front from the neighboring National Garage Building. Interrupted by a recessed rectangular light court which gives the building its U shape, the south facade is divided into east and west wings both of which are visible only from floors nine to sixteen, owing to a party wall shared by the building to the south. The Professional Building has approximately 180,000 gross square feet of space with 140,000 square feet net leaseable office space. It has a frontage of 96' on Grand Avenue and 118' on Eleventh Street. The height of the building measures 194'5" to the crown of the parapet, and 208'1" to the top of the penthouse roof. The building is constructed primarily of reinforced concrete and steel. Red and buff colored brick and Bedford stone comprise exterior facing with buff colored glazed terracotta, painted wood and steel, marble and granite being used for decorative detailing.

As an example of the Modernistic style, the Professional Building is characterized by an emphatic verticality enhanced on the west and north faces by the uninterrupted treatment of the piers which give the building as a whole the appearance of having been hewn from a single tall block of material.¹ The piers divide the facade into five bays on the west and seven on the north; each bay is subdivided by mullions extending from floors three to sixteen. These stories are fenestrated by one-over-one light double hung sash windows disposed in triplet within the three central bays of the west facade, and grouped in pairs in the northwest and southwest bays of the west face and along the entire north facade. The second floor of the west facade is fenestrated by a central grouping of three pairs of recessed casement windows with glass transoms flanked in the bays to either side by five consecutive casement windows with glass transoms. Tripartite casement windows with glass transoms are located in the northwest and southwest bays and similarly fenestrate the entire second floor of the north facade. The far northeast bay terminates with two recessed pairs of casement windows with glass transoms. The principal entrance to the Professional Building at 1103 Grand is centrally located on the west facade and consists of four recessed double leaf glazed swinging glass doors. In the bays to either side of the principal entrance are double plate glass display windows with paired glass transoms. A similar arrangement occupies the far southwest bay altered from the original through the addition of double leaf glazed swinging glass doors set in from the facade at a 90 degree angle and flanked at the northeast by a display window. In the far northwest bay, a third original entrance placed into the facade at a 45 degree angle adjoins another identical group of display windows. This entrance, and one identical to it in the northwest corner of the north facade, opens into a triangularly shaped foyer where a third entry door leads into a now occupied shop space. Five pairs of display windows (their height proportionate to the Eleventh Street slope between Grand and McGee) fenestrate the first floor of the north face. Grills have replaced the surmounting glass transoms in some cases and in one entrance there is no transom at all. Federman's Drug Store, the only retail shop in the building, has altered its store front from the original through the addition of a recessed wooden entryway with a leaded art glass transom and two more display windows.

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PROFESSIONAL BUILDING, THE

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

The principal entrance to the north facade, situated in the far northeast bay, consists of recessed double leaf glazed, swinging glass doors framed in corrugated steel and surmounted by a glass transom. The east and south facades are fenestrated by coupled one-over-one light double hung sash windows. Access into the building is made available through two metal service doors on the first floor of the east face. A built-up, flat roof covers the entire building.

The Modernistic decorative treatment of the west and north facades is evidenced in the combination of both rectilinear and curving geometric motifs carved in bas relief with a flat front plane. This type of ornament, arranged in horizontal bands flanking doors and windows, is coupled with square and oblong blocks of cut stone disposed symmetrical around the principal entrances and forms the crenelated parapet on top of the building. The piers are left unadorned with the exception of some decorative detailing near the top. The spandrels show one of two types of decoration: either a complimentary bas relief or bands of plain undulating cut stone. An ornamental painted steel lintel surmounts each set of display windows while polished granite forms the baseboard beneath rising as well six feet in height to enframe the windows on either side. The east and south facades are composed of red brick inset with simple rectilinear patterns of buff colored brick and crowned with a parapet of the same. No exterior alterations other than those mentioned above are noted. However, the Studebaker prospectus of 1929 states that ornamental flood lights mounted on either side of great antique bronze entry doors were originally planned, as well as ornamental iron portals above the doorways designed to harmonize with special store fronts and wrought iron flood lamps attached to columns.²

The first two floors of the Professional Building are constructed on the arcade plan with an entrance off Grand Avenue leading directly into the lobby and an entrance off Eleventh Street opening onto the arcade floor and lobby. The high vaulted ceilings are plastered in white and yellow stucco while the floors and six foot wainscoting are of marble. Five antique bronze elevator doors line the central south wall of the lobby. All hardware and fixtures are of bronze and harmonize with the decorative Modernistic motifs of the lobby as a whole.

The Professional Building is in fair condition; however there are plans to renovate the structure in preparation for its continued use as a commercial office building.

FOOTNOTES

1. Marcus Whiffen, American Architecture Since 1780: A Guide to the Styles (Cambridge, Mass.: M.I.T. Press, 1969), p. 235.
2. The Professional Building (Missouri: Studebaker Securities Co., 1929), p.3.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) Medical
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1929

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Charles A. Smith & George E. McIntyre

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Professional Building is significant for both architectural and historical reasons. First, as designed in 1929 by the prominent local architects Charles A. Smith and George A. McIntyre, the Professional Building is one of Kansas City's earliest examples of Modernistic architecture. The popularity of the Modernistic style during the late 1920's and early 1930's was prompted by the Exposition des Arts Décoratifs held in Paris in 1925. The American architects, unlike the Europeans, placed less emphasis on stylistic consistency in their designs, exhibiting a greater concern for modernity and the ways in which it could be expressed through decoration. These new ideas alleviated the architect's burden of having to adapt past styles to modern requirements (when commissions permitted) and stimulated the growth of the modern movement in architecture.¹ The Professional Building and those Modernistic structures that followed its lead in Kansas City during the 1930's, notably City Hall, the Jackson County Courthouse, Municipal Auditorium, the Kansas City Power and Light Building and the Bryant Building, are all fine representations of the new stylistic sentiment.

Secondly, the historical importance of the Professional Building lies in its recognition as the first medical building designed exclusively for the use of doctors and dentists in Kansas City. The Studebaker prospectus of 1929 best describes its historical significance:

"For years there has existed in Kansas City a widespread need for a building especially designed and equipped for the use of the professional man. The doctors and dentists are scattered all over the city and, in many cases, are working in buildings which do not provide modern facilities. They have thus been handicapped in their work and the continued growth of Kansas City has made the need for a professional building decidedly acute. Not only is the doctor himself handicapped, but the patients also are sometimes compelled to suffer from this lack of centralization."²

It is also noted that, due to the lack of such a building, Kansas City was falling behind other first class cities.³

The location of the Professional Building is of some interest, for at the time of its conception Eleventh Street was known as the "great retail district of Kansas City" and plans for two neighboring office buildings (the Bryant Building at Eleventh Street and Grand Avenue, and the Law Building at Twelfth Street and Grand Avenue), as well as a five million dollar bus terminal and hotel (the Pickwick Hotel and bus terminal at McGee Street between Ninth and Tenth Streets), were underway.⁴ Centrally situated,

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1

housing doctors and dentists beneath one roof and reserving its first two floors for commercial shops, the Professional Building not only extended the Eleventh Street retail district but also provided an impetus that resulted in the eventual construction and prosperity of adjacent properties.⁵ The Professional Building was described as "quiet and dignified, reflecting in spirit the ethics of the profession to which it is dedicated."⁶

Charles A. Smith (1866-1948) is best known as the architect of many of the Kansas City public schools. He was associated with William F. Hackney from 1887 until Hackney's death in 1898. That year he replaced Hackney as architect for the school board. From 1910 to 1920 he was a member of the prominent Kansas City firm of Smith, Rea, and Lovitt. In addition to schools, Smith designed numerous residences, apartments, churches and commercial buildings in Kansas City.⁷

A 1913 graduate of the University of Illinois, George E. McIntyre (1884-1965) was associated for a number of years with the Smith, Rea, and Lovitt firm, and later with Charles A. Smith, as an architectural engineer. In later years he opened his own architectural practice.⁸

The survey of Missouri's historic sites is based on the selection of sites as they relate to theme studies in "Missouri's State Historic Preservation Plan." The Professional Building, therefore, is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places as an example of the themes of "Architecture," "Economics" and "Society."

FOOTNOTES

1. Marcus Whiffen, American Architecture Since 1780: A Guide to the Styles (Cambridge, Mass.: M.I.T. Press, 1969), pp. 235-40.
2. The Professional Building, (Missouri:Studebaker Securities Co., 1929), p.3.
3. Ibid., p.3.
4. "Barket Buys Downtown Landmark," Kansas City Star, 26 February 1978, sec.F., p.3.
5. The Professional Building, p.7.
6. Ibid., p.9.
7. "Charles A. Smith Dies," Kansas City Times, 12 Jan. 1948, p.9; Men of Affairs in Greater Kansas City, 1912, (Kansas City:The Kansas City Press Club, 1912),p.224.
8. "George E. McIntyre," Kansas City Star, 6 March 1965, p.8.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1. "Barket Buys Downtown Landmark." Kansas City Star, 26 February 1978, sec F., p. 3.
2. "Charles A. Smith Dies." Kansas City Times, 12 January 1948, p. 9.
3. "George E. McIntyre." Kansas City Star, 6 March 1965, p. 8. (continued:)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

QUADRANGLE NAME Kansas City, Missouri-Kansas (1975)

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES

A 1 5 3 6 3 3 6 0 4 3 2 8 9 5 0

B

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Swopes add. lots 93 & 94

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

1. Patricia Brown Glenn, Researcher

ORGANIZATION

Landmarks Commission of Kansas City, Missouri

DATE

November 21, 1978

STREET & NUMBER

26th Floor East, City Hall, 414 E. 12th Street

TELEPHONE

(816) 274-2555

CITY OR TOWN

Kansas City

STATE

Missouri 64106

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE X

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE Director, Department of Natural Resources and

DATE

State Historic Preservation Officer

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I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

4. Men of Affairs in Greater Kansas City, 1912. Kansas City: The Kansas City Press Club, 1912.
5. The Professional Building. Missouri: Studebaker Securities Co., 1929.
6. Whiffen, Marcus. American Architecture Since 1780: A Guide to the Styles. Cambridge, Massachusetts: M.I.T. Press, 1969.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

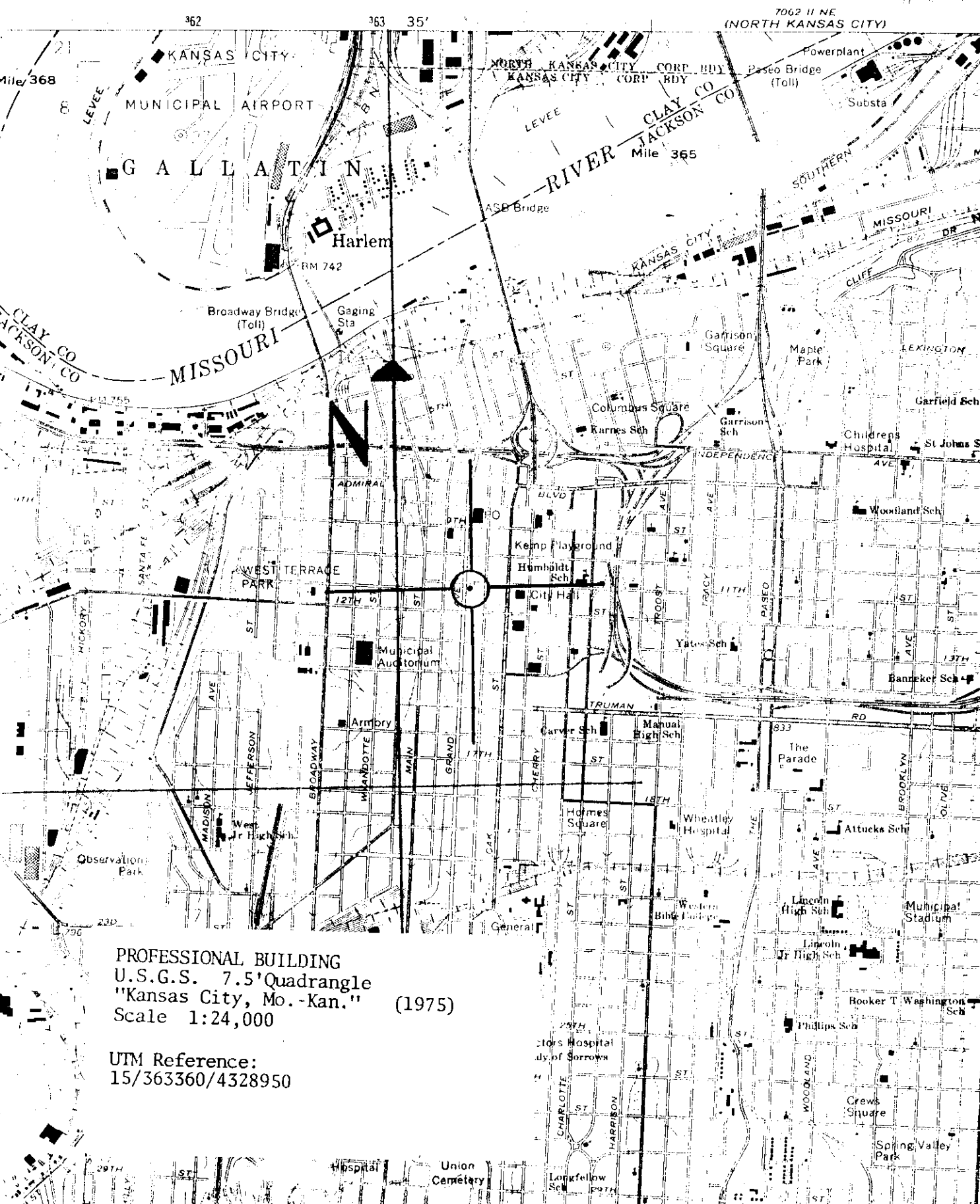
ITEM NUMBER 11

PAGE 1

2. James M. Denny, Section Chief, Nominations-Survey -
and State Contact Person
Department of Natural Resources
Office of Historic Preservation
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City

January 23, 1979
314/751-4096

Missouri 65102



PROFESSIONAL BUILDING
U.S.G.S. 7.5' Quadrangle
"Kansas City, Mo.-Kan." (1975)
Scale 1:24,000

UTM Reference:
15/363360/4328950

Photo Log:

Name of Property: **Professional Building**

City or Vicinity: **Kansas City**

County: **Jackson County** State: **MO**

Photographer: **Patricia Brown Glenn**

Date

Photographed: **Nov. 1978**

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

- 1 of 6. W façade, principal entrance. View looking NE.
- 2 of 6. Detail, N façade. View looking S.
- 3 of 6. Detail, N façade. View looking S.
- 4 of 6. Detail, N façade. View looking S.
- 5 of 6. N façade on left, W façade on right. View looking SE.
- 6 of 6. S façade, view looking NE.











