United States Department of the Interior Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form



See instructions in How to Complete National Register Forms

Type all entrie	s—complete appl	icable section	ns				
1. Nan	ne						
historic	The Wiltsh	ire and I	The Versaille	s Historic	Buildi	ngs	
and/or common							
2. Loc	ation				· ·		
street & numbe	er 725 and	709 Ski	nker Blvd.			not for publica	ation
	St. Louis		vicinity of	congressional	district 1s	st - William	Clay
	Missouri	code	29 county	St. Louis	City	code	510
	ssificatio	n	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·				
Category district X building(s) structure site object	Ownership public	Sta X — tion Ac X dered —	atus _ occupied _ unoccupied _ work in progress cessible _ yes: restricted _ yes: unrestricted _ no	Present Useagricultucommerceeducatioentertairgovernmindustriamilitary	ire cial nal nment nent	museum park private res religious scientific transporta X other: A	ation
4. Ow	ner of Pro	operty					
name	O'Fallon	Investme	nt Company				
street & numbe	er 1900 Nor	rth Marke	t Street				
city, town	St. Louis	5	vicinity of		state ¹	lissouri	
5. Loc	ation of	Legal	Descripti	on			
	gistry of deeds, etc.		er of Deeds,				<u> </u>
street & numbe			cker Bouleva	ras		Missouri	
city, town	St. I		Existing	SIIPVAVE		11550411	
6. Rep	resenta						
title MO St	ate Historic	cal Surve	y has this pro	perty been deter	mined eleg	ible? yes	X no
date 198		Jiotomio	Preservation		_X_ state	county	local
depository for	survey records	dissouri Missouri	Department of	f Natural F	lesourc	es: P.O. E	lox 176

Jefferson City city, town

Missouri 65102

			•	
Condition		Check one	Check one	
X excellent	deteriorated	unaltered	X original site	
good	ruins	_X altered	moved date	
fair	unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

7. Description

The Wiltshire and the Versailles are period revival, luxury high-rise apartment houses, dating to 1924-26 and 1927-29 respectively. The structures are sited on adjacent lots along a major boulevard at the western edge of St. Louis' largest park.

The Wiltshire is a nine story, steel frame structure laid out on a rectangular plan. The first floor contains public spaces and offices; floors two through nine contain twenty-four units, with three units per floor. As is typical of period revival buildings, the interior arrangement of rooms has little relation to the historic style of the exterior. The Wiltshire ascribes to the Jacobethan revival, by means of the high color contrast between the redbrown brick wall finish and the light-colored trim and the use of Jacobethan decorative elements, such as quoining, spandrel panels emblazoned with heraldic symbols and a traceried parapet wall.

The Versailles is a ten story, steel frame apartment building laid out on a modified U-shaped plan. The first floor contains two large, elegantly appointed lobbies and one apartment; floors two through ten contain forty-five additional units, with five units to a floor. The exterior decoration of the Versailles references European historicism, although its plan, form and lay out do not. The use of a modicum of Renaissance detailing, set against terra cotta and beige brick cladding at the lower seven stories, provides a sharp, well-calculated contrast to the exuberant planar treatment of the upper floors. The shallow recession of the wall plane at the outer bays and the low relief motives of the architectural terra cotta accentuate the two-dimensional quality of the pilastered wall treatment of the top two floors and the decorated parapet wall; only the modillioned cornice and cartouches at the roof line appear to be three-dimensional.

8. Significance

Period prehistoric 1400–1499 1500–1599 1600–1699 1700–1799 1800–1899X 1900–	Areas of Significance—Cl — archeology-prehistoric — archeology-historic — agriculture — X architecture — art — commerce — communications	community planning conservation economics education engineering exploration/settlement industry	landscape architecture law literature military music philosophy politics/government	science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater transportation
	The Wiltshire: 192	invention	-Wiltshire: Willi	other (specify)
	The Versailles:	1116	Wiltshire: Willi Versailles: Pres	
	1927-2	29		

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Wiltshire and the Versailles are significant properties pursuant to National Register criteria A and C to wit: they are associated with the ascendency of multi-unit residential buildings after World War I and they embody distinctive characteristics of 1920's, period revival design.

The Wiltshire and the Versailles are indicitive of the phenomenal development of the tall apartment house during the housing crisis of the Twenties as a means to accommodate a large number of urban dwellers in a single structure. The development of the luxury-class of high-rise apartment houses in St. Louis occurred principally along major transportation routes in a clearly defined and relatively narrow east-west demographic corridor. Because of the widespread demolition of buildings associated with the first half-century of the westward movement of affluent St. Louisans through this corridor, the importance of the Wiltshire and the Versailles as examples of luxury high-rise apartment buildings is enhanced.

The Wiltshire and the Versailles exemplify other prominent characteristics of their type as they are situated on a major urban artery facing a park. They illustrate the use of design formulas alluding only vaguely to distant stylistic precedents and their historic styles have no bearing on their plans or forms. Further, the Wiltshire and the Versailles illustrate the overwhelming popularity of period revival styles in speculative residential construction.

The Fidelity Bond and Mortgage Company of St. Louis, which developed the Wiltshire and was involved at least in a minor capacity in the development of the Versailles, retained a staff architect, William H. Mills, to whom the design of the Wiltshire is credited. The Versailles was laid out by Mills, but finished by and credited to Preston J. Bradshaw, for reasons believed to stem from the nature of the company's involvement in the building's financing and development.

Bradshaw (1884-1953), who studied at Barnard School, New York, and Atleier Hornbostel, presumably in Paris, gained national recognition for collaborating with Stanford White on buildings at Columbia University and the House/Senate Buildings in Washington, D.C. Locally, Bradshaw is most strongly identified as a popular apartment and hotel designer; representative commissions by Bradshaw include the Mayfair Hotel (c. 1924-26; NRHP); the Chase Hotel (1922; now part of the Chase-Park Plaza which is pending Certification of Significance to the

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THE WILTSHIRE AND THE VERSAILLES

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Item number

Central West End Historic District), the Paul Brown Building in the central business district (1925); and the Bellerive Hotel, Kansas City (1921-22; NRHP). Less is known about Mills, as his accomplishments are synonymous with those of the Fidelity Bond and Mortgage Company. Mills' son recalls that his father had no formal architectural training, although he worked for Marcel Boulicault and with Bradshaw and Harris Armstrong. His designs include the Fairmont Hotel in the Central West End, the East Gate Hotel in Chicago (which was constructed with little deviation from the Fairmont plans) and numerous apartment, hotels and commercial buildings in St. Louis, Chicago and Denver, where the Fidelity Bond and Mortgage Company had offices.

The development of luxury high-rise apartment buildings at the western edge of Forest Park was curtailed by the stock market crash of October 1929. The crash and the transmission of the modern movement to the United States during the early 1930's and its challenge to historicism in architecture mark the waning of the period revival in the St. Louis area and, more narrowly, at the western edge of Forest Park. The Wiltshire and the Versailles therefore coincide with and are representative of a late phase of the period revival high-rise apartment house in St. Louis.

9. Majo	or Bibliogra	buica	ii Ketere	nces		
Mills, W	illiam H., Jr.	Downer	s Grove, Ill	inois.	Interview	, 15 June 19
	, Preston. The aw, 1925.	Works	of Preston I	Bradshaw	. St. Lou	is: Preston
10. Ge	ographical	Data				
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A 1 5 7 3 Zone Easti	4 6 4 0 4 2 7 9 Northing	7 2 0	B Zone	Easting	Northi	ng
C			D			
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ne nominated iltshire: lo	properties compris ts nos. 97 and 98 and counties for prop	e two ad of DeMun	Park, a subdi	vision, ad	ccording to	s follows: plat recorded i
state	and obtained to prop	code	county			ode
state		- COUC				_
state		code	county		С	ode
11. For	rm Prepare	d By				
name/title 1.	Jill Johnson	- Archi	tectural Hi	storian		
organization	Department of	l Natura	l Resources	date 1	8 June 198	32
street & number	P.O. Box 176			telephone 3	14-751-409	96
city or town	Jefferson Cit	t y	•	state	Missouri	65102
	te Historic	Pres	ervation	Office	er Certi	fication
The evaluated si	gnificance of this proper	ty within the state	X local	•		
As the decimate	national: ed State Historic Preserva			toric Preserv	ration Act of 1966	6 (Public Law 89-
665). I hereby no	minate this property for i	inclusion in 1	the National Registe	er and certify	that it has been	evaluated
	criteria and procedures	1	The Hentage Conse		ecreation Jervic	· c.
	eservation Officer signat		and Who	於 —		
Direct	tor, Department tate Historic P	oi natt reservat	irai Resourc tion Officer	432	date 8	14/82
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	National Publishers					
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The Wiltshire and The Versailles

Continuation sheet

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Page

Who's Who in St. Louis. St. Louis: St. Louis Civic Union, 1931.

ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 1

Plat Book 21 page 30 and in Block No. 5934 of the City of St. Louis, having an aggregate front of 160 feet, more or less, on the West line of Skinker Boulevard, by a depth Westwardly of 157 feet, more or less, on the North line and 160 feet, more or less, on the South line to an alley on which they have an aggregate width of 160 feet bounded by Southwood Avenue of DeMun Park, a subdivision, as aforesaid; Versailles: lots nos. 95 and 96 of DeMun Park, a subdivision according to plat recorded in Plat Book 21 page 30 and in Block No. 5934 of the City of St. Louis, having an aggregate front of 175 feet, more or less, on the West line of Skinker Boulevard by a depth Westwardly of 156 feet 112 inches, more or less, on the South line of said lot no. 96, and 150 feet 3 3/4 inches, more or less, on the North line of said lot no. 95, to the East line of a North and South alley; bounded North by the South line of Rosebury Avenue and South by the North line of lot no. 97 of DeMun Park, a subdivision, as aforesaid.

ITEM NUMBER 11 PAGE 1

April Hamel and Charles Schagrin O'Fallon Investment Company 1900 North Market Street St. Louis, Missouri



Photo Log:

Name of Property:	Wiltshire and Versailles Historic Buildings				
City or Vicinity:	St. Louis [Independent City]				
County: St. Louis	[Independent City] State: MO				
Photographer:	Greg Brown (unless otherwise noted)				
Date	Window 4004 00 (code on otherwise material)				
Photographed:	Winter 1981-82 (unless otherwise noted)				

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

- 1 of 17. View of the E (principal) façade of the Wiltshire.
- 2 of 17. Detail of the E (principal) façade of the Wiltshire.
- 3 of 17. Detail of the E (principal) façade of the Wiltshire.
- 4 of 17. Detail of the Wiltshire's interior, showing the elevator.
- 5 of 17. View of the E (principal) façade of the Versailles.
- 6 of 17. View of the N elevation of the Versailles.
- 7 of 17. Detail of the primary elevation of the Versailles.
- 8 of 17. Detail of the primary elevation of the Versailles.
- 9 of 17. View of the Rosebury lobby of the Versailles.
- 10 of 17. View of the Skinker lobby of the Versailles.
- 11 of 17. Detail of the Versailles lobby, showing a ceiling medallion.
- 12 of 17. Photocopy of a 1924 blueprint of the Wiltshire façade.
- 13 of 17. Photocopy of a 1924 blueprint showing a typical floor plan in the Wiltshire.
- 14 of 17. Photocopy of the 1926 blueprint (revised 1927) showing the Versailles façade.
- 15 of 17. Photocopy of the 1926 blueprint (revised 1927) showing the N elevation of the Versailles.
- 16 of 17. Photocopy of a 1926 blueprint (revised 1927) showing a typical floor plan in the Versailles.
- 17 of 17. Photocopy of a 1926 blueprint (revised 1927) showing interior details of the Versailles.











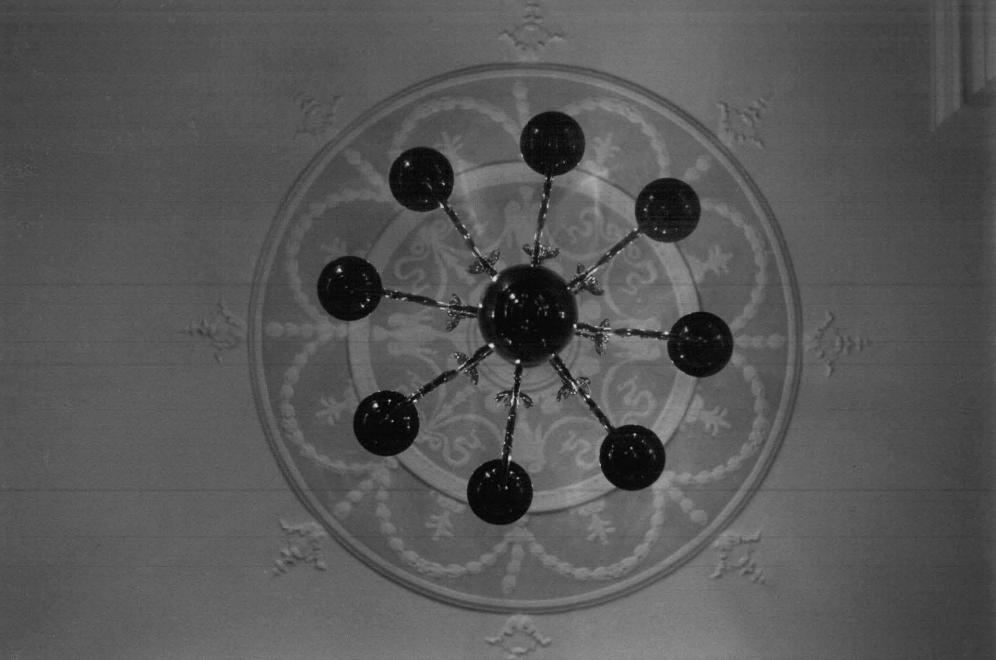


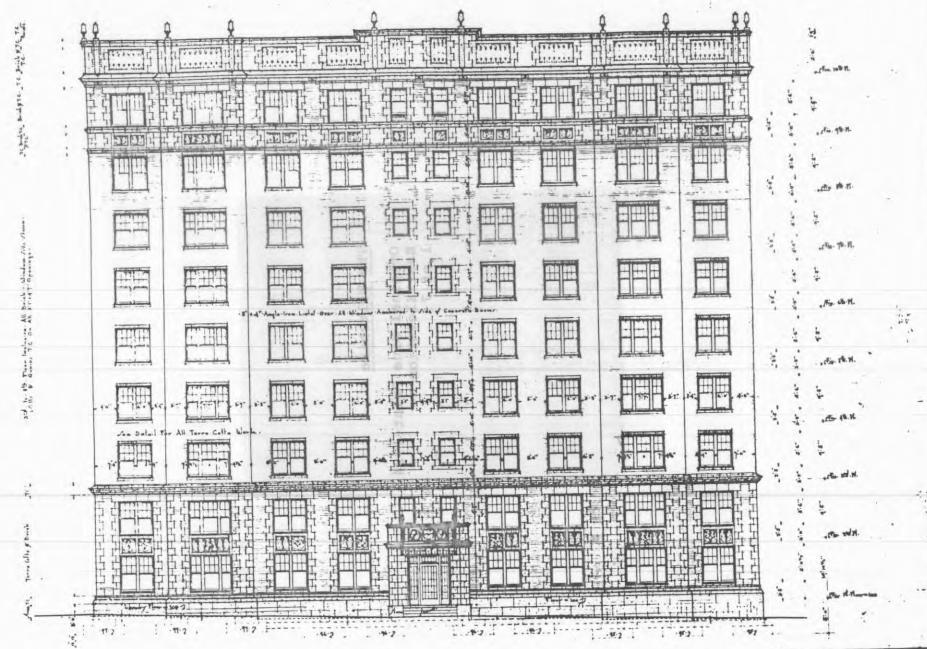












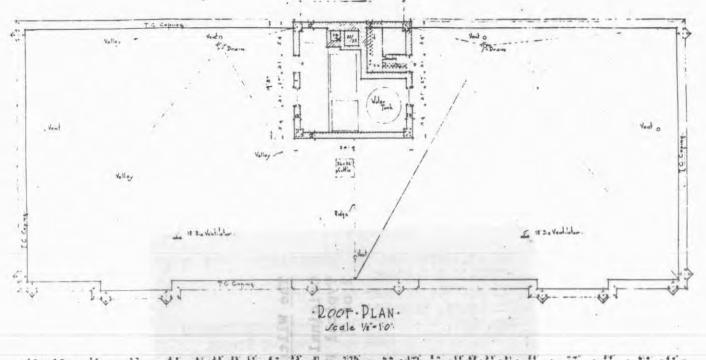
- EAST - ELEVATION -

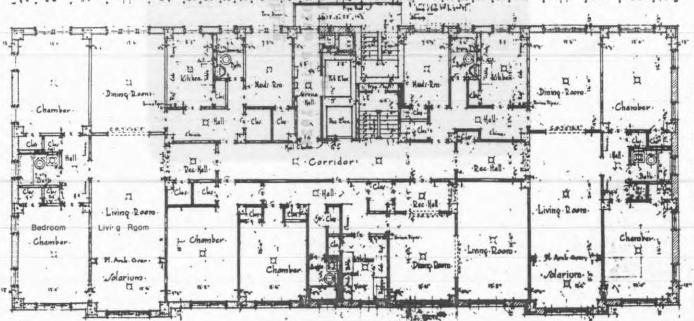
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