

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 Star Bucket Pump Company Building
other names/site number Star Pump and Cooler Corporation Building

2. Location

street & number 1218-1224 North 15th Street N/A not for publication
city or town St. Louis N/A vicinity
state Missouri code MO county St. Louis [City] code 510 zip code 63107

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

I hereby certify that this 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 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 local

Mark A. Miles
Signature of certifying official/Title Mark A. Miles, Deputy SHPO

July 30, 2012
Date

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

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

Signature of commenting official _____ Date _____

Title _____ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal 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 _____

Star Bucket Pump Company Building
Name of Property

St. Louis (Independent City), MO
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

Category of Property
(Check only **one** box.)

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

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

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1		Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

COMMERCE/TRADE - Warehouse
INDUSTRY/Manufacturing Facility

COMMERCE/TRADE - Warehouse
INDUSTRY/Manufacturing Facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Other: Warehouse Building

foundation: limestone

walls: brick

roof: asphalt

other: _____

Star Bucket Pump Company Building
Name of Property

St. Louis (Independent City), MO
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- 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

Industry

Period of Significance

1911-1950

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Powers, Herbert (H.W.)/Architect

Johnston (Phillip G.) & Company/Builder

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: Landmarks Association of St. Louis

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): N/A

Star Bucket Pump Company Building
Name of Property

St. Louis (Independent City), MO
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 15 743880 4280400
Zone Easting Northing

3 _____
Zone Easting Northing

2 _____
Zone Easting Northing

4 _____
Zone Easting Northing

Verbal Boundary Description (On continuation sheet)

Boundary Justification (On continuation sheet)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title See continuation page

organization _____ date _____

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____

e-mail _____

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.**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Property Owner:

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Cheryl Rogers Pierce

street & number 1218 North 15th Street telephone _____

city or town St. Louis state Missouri zip code 63107

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.

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**Star Bucket Pump Company Building
St. Louis (Independent City), MO**

SUMMARY

The Star Bucket Pump Company Building is a brick, three-story, flat-roofed building located at 1218-1224 N. 15th Street in the Carr Square neighborhood of St. Louis. The building, currently used as a warehouse, has a rectangular footprint measuring approximately 61 feet by 128 feet. It rests on a foundation of rubble limestone. The primary (western) elevation extends to the sidewalk on Fifteenth Street, where the slightly recessed main entrance is just to the right (south) of center. The building has a full basement. Under a shaped parapet, the nearly symmetrical façade is divided into bays with window openings at each level. The other elevations are also divided into window bays, most containing wooden multi-light sash that provide a consistent, industrial/warehouse character to the building. Except for some enhancement of the front parapet, there is little ornament to be found. The building retains integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. Integrity of setting has been compromised by changes in the built environment.

SETTING

The Star Bucket Pump Company Building stands in the Carr Square neighborhood north of downtown St. Louis. The Carr Square neighborhood is laid out on a rectilinear grid of streets and alleys. Just east of the Star Bucket Pump Company Building, the widened and partially re-routed Fourteenth Street runs on a path that cuts through the historic street grid. Much of the built environment to the east and south of the site has been demolished and the area has many open lots which are used for storage or parking. To the west is the Carr Square Village public housing complex (1942), which consists of seven blocks of two and three-story Modern Movement red brick housing buildings. To the north is the low-rise multi-block residential development of O'Fallon Place, which dates to 1985. A handful of historic buildings still stand in Carr Square including Carr School to the south, the Biddle Market, Cass Bank & Trust Company Building, and a municipal garage to the east.

Generally, Carr Square no longer reflects the urban character it possessed when the nominated building was constructed in 1911.

ELABORATION

The primary, west-facing elevation has a rubble stone water table (photo 1). The smooth red bricks are laid in a common bond. At the top, corbeled brick steps out under a soldier course of brick. The middle third of the parapet is raised. A projecting label course encloses a rectangular panel at the center. The front and side parapets have segmental tile coping. The front elevation is divided into eight symmetrical bays containing 9/9 double-hung windows on the second and third floors; the main floor has

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**Star Bucket Pump Company Building
St. Louis (Independent City), MO**

six windows similar to those above. All openings have jack arches with soldier course headers while window openings at the basement level have limestone sills. The basement openings, which continue around the building, generally have been in-filled with glass block. The only disruption to the fenestration is the location of the main entrance in the fifth and sixth bays from the left (at the north). The entrance is at sidewalk level. It contains two wood paneled doors under single-light transom windows (now painted). A vertical divider separates the doors (photos 1 and 2).

The side and rear elevations are multi-windowed. Window types similar to those in the primary elevation are present at each story, although a few windows are smaller than the others. On the north elevation, bays are separated into sections. At the east end of the north elevation, two window bays containing 9/9 sash on all three floors flank a windowless stretch of flat brick wall from which a tall, square brick chimney emerges. The next bay to the west consists of slightly recessed openings containing wooden double-leaf doors (apparently for loading) on all three floors. The remaining twelve bays contain windows at all three levels, with the exception of a first floor loading bay (with a 16-light transom) somewhat west of the building's midpoint. While most windows are 9/9s, there are also a couple of 6/6s. Some openings are covered with plywood. In addition to the tall chimney, three small chimneys rise above the parapet (photos 2 and 3).

The rear (east) elevation is divided into eight bays distributed irregularly with 9/9 windows at each level except as noted. Four bays, each containing a pair of wooden doors, occupy the south half of the first floor. This appears to have been the main loading dock. North of the loading area is an opening with a steel fire door in a bay that rises to a penthouse at the roof level. The penthouse contains a 6/1 window centered in its brick east wall; its other sides are clad with slate shingles. Windows at the second and third floors are grouped in a four-one-three pattern across the elevation. Only one third floor window is plywood-covered (see photo 4).

The south elevation is divided into 21 window bays, nearly half of which are covered with plywood. All of the visible windows are 9/9s. At some point, just west of center, two first floor windows apparently were removed and a recessed loading entrance with a roll-up door was constructed (photos 5 and 6).

The interior is wood post and beam mill-method construction with wood joists. It retains its original open floor plan, displays wooden floor boards exposed on each side, unfinished brick walls, and a general industrial character (see photo 7).

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**Star Bucket Pump Company Building
St. Louis (Independent City), MO**

INTEGRITY

While the Carr Square neighborhood has greatly changed, the Star Bucket Pump Company Building has had relatively few alterations since construction. The building retains its original footprint, form, materials and most of its wooden windows (some are missing, boarded over or, at the basement level, replaced with glass block. The interior retain its original open plan. The Star Bucket Pump Company Building “reads” as an early twentieth century manufacturing facility. It retains integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

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**Star Bucket Pump Company Building
St. Louis (Independent City), MO**

SUMMARY

The Star Bucket Pump Company Building at 1218-1224 North 15th Street in St. Louis, Missouri, is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for significance in the area of INDUSTRY. Completed in 1911, the factory and office building is associated with some of the peak production years of the Star Bucket Pump Company, a St. Louis manufacturer of bucket-type pumps for pulling water from wells and cisterns in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Having secured patents for pumps and various pump components prior to construction of the building, Star Bucket was able to compete successfully with its local competitors including the mammoth L. M. Rumsey Manufacturing Company which, unlike Star Bucket, manufactured pumps but did not specialize in them. Eventually the emergence of modern plumbing with “faucet-based” water systems made bucket pumps all but obsolete, but not before the devices manufactured and sold by Star Bucket and similar firms had enhanced the lives of untold numbers of rural customers in the St. Louis area and throughout the Midwest. The period of significance runs from 1911 when the building was completed through 1950, by which time the demand for well and cistern pumps had become so low that the company changed its focus to milk coolers and its name to the Star Pump and Cooler Corporation.

ELABORATION

Outside St. Louis and other larger metropolitan areas, public water systems sometimes served portions of small towns but otherwise were nonexistent in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Most rural residents obtained water for drinking and cooking from one or more natural sources such as a well when underground water was available or a cistern (filled by rainwater or otherwise) when a water table was not within reach. The earliest systems for drawing water out of wells and cisterns were extremely labor-intensive, but firms like the Star Bucket Pump Company made life easier by manufacturing pumps that were capable of hoisting water to the surface with relatively little effort. Such water conveyance systems were based on ancient models first used in the Middle East and China.

The distance water had to be lifted varied, with the average well or cistern running about fifteen to twenty feet deep and about eight feet in diameter. Cisterns, since they were used for water storage only, were generally shallower than wells. In Missouri, some

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**Star Bucket Pump Company Building
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wells bottomed a mere ten feet below the surface while others were more than thirty feet deep.¹

Bucket pumps (aka elevator and chain pumps) typically utilized a continuous metal chain running between one or two wheels (windlasses) operated by some sort of hand crank or handle. Attached to the chain was a series of water containers or buckets designed to pivot and scoop water from the bottom of the well or cistern. At the top, the water was dumped into a small reservoir before emerging from a faucet attached to one side of a pump curb, a headstone-shaped wood and metal box which enclosed the topside machinery. Some later pumps were connected to pipe systems that delivered well or cistern water directly into homes. There were many hundreds of pump variations (L. M. Rumsey—a local Star Bucket competitor—alone claimed to offer more than a thousand different styles of pump) and an undetermined number of pump manufacturers in the U.S.,² but apparently few of their buildings are still standing, and the number that retain integrity is assumed to be small.

STAR BUCKET PUMP COMPANY: 1898 – 1943

Charles A. Bartliff and Dennis J. Dowling founded the Bartliff & Dowling pump manufacturing firm in St. Louis in about 1896. A couple of years later, with the addition of D. D. Fisher, the name was changed to Star Bucket Pump Company. Star Bucket's original office and factory building was located at 100 S. Commercial Street on the St. Louis riverfront. Bartliff, an engineer, designed and held patents on pumps and various components including pump curbs and reservoirs. He already owned the patent on at least one chain pump at the time he partnered with Dowling, an 1893 graduate of St. Louis University. In 1887, ten years before Bartliff & Dowling was founded, Bartliff was a Canadian citizen living in Memphis, Tennessee.³

Gould's City Directory listed the company at 115 S. Main Street in 1897 and 1898, and in 1906 the firm's invoice gave the address as "113 to 119" S. Main Street. Actually, all of these Main and Commercial Street addresses could have been for the same building. Many small manufacturing firms originally occupied properties in this central riverfront area before moving to more desirable downtown locations. In the 1940s, this portion of

¹ "Eliminating an Unnecessary Risk: Abandoned Wells and Cisterns."

<http://www.dnr.mo.gov/geology/geosrv/wellhd/plugging.htm> (Accessed July 20, 2012.)

² Charles H. Wendel. *Encyclopedia of American Farm Implements & Antiques*. (Iola, Wisconsin: Krause Publications, 2004), p. 363.

³ Bartliff identified himself as a citizen of Canada living in Memphis on a patent application filed with the U.S. Patent Office for a chain pump on December 28, 1887 (Patent No. 385,786). Bartliff was associated with Star Bucket Pump Company and was living in St. Louis (and by 1900 had become a U.S. citizen) when his other (known) patents were issued.

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**Star Bucket Pump Company Building
St. Louis (Independent City), MO**

the St. Louis riverfront was cleared of all manner of buildings to provide space for the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial.

Following incorporation In May 1898 (with a capital stock of \$40,000), the new business apparently grew quickly.⁴ At that time the firm was one of a dozen St. Louis companies listed in *Gould's City Directory* that were involved in pump manufacturing. Of those firms, Bartlett and Dowling apparently was the only company that specialized in the manufacture of bucket pumps and their components. According to the firm's invoice in use in 1906, it manufactured a "complete line" of pumps and components. Cutaway drawings of two pumps, neither of which is exactly like the one patented by Bartliff in 1887, are depicted on the invoice (which was for 75 feet of Crescent chain and a #50 Crescent curb and fixtures, sold to Schleer Bros. of Jefferson City, Missouri, for a total price of \$9.75).⁵ Other St. Louis firms, including L. M. Rumsey Manufacturing Company and St. Louis Wood Pump and Pipe Company, manufactured bucket pumps and other commercial pumps along with other items ranging from agricultural implements, pitchforks and fire engines to boilers, bells and "everything requisite for equipping railroads."⁶

Charles A. Bartliff, who as noted above already owned the patent for at least one chain pump when he partnered with Dennis J. Dowling in about 1896, soon obtained additional patents for pumps and components. (Actually, the likelihood that Bartliff held patents on various other pumps and pump components at the time the company was founded is probably high, but difficult to confirm. And since all of Bartliff's known patents were obtained prior to construction of the nominated property, invention is not claimed as an area of significance.)⁷

In his 1887 application for a chain pump, Bartliff wrote: "The object of my invention is to provide an endless chain pump with links, which connect the buckets together and are adapted to prevent the chain from becoming kinked or entangled while in operation, and thereby enable me to dispense with the wheel or pulley, which is usually arranged near the bottom of the well or cistern, and around which the lower side of the endless chain passes." By dispensing with a bottom wheel to guide the lower portion of the chain, the pump could be manufactured at lower cost. Patent No. 617,219, applied for in December 1897 and awarded on January 3, 1899, was for a cheaper and more easily

⁴ "New St. Louis Corporations," *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, May 12, 1898, p. 4.

⁵ *Gould's City Directory*, 1898; <http://www.ebay.com> (Accessed July 18, 2012.)

⁶ "L.M.Rumsey Manufacturing Co., St. Louis, Mo."

<http://vintagemachinery.org/mfgindex/detail.aspx?id=1099> (accessed July 20, 2012).

⁷ Unfortunately, there seem to be limits on the search-ability of the Patent Office website. While all of the patents are scanned and available online, patents issued prior to the mid-1970s apparently are searchable by number but not by the name of the inventor. (All of the Bartliff patents mentioned in this nomination were found only because they were referenced in post-1976 patents.)

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**Star Bucket Pump Company Building
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assembled pump curb—achieved by “providing grooves in the edges of the end pieces, in which grooves are arranged flanges of the side panels, said side panels being bent over the top cleats and also holding in position the reservoir, which is attached to one of said end pieces, and in arranging strengthening cleats at the top and bottom of the structure.” Although this device was “especially designed for use in...chain-and-bucket pumps,” Bartliff (interestingly) added, “but I do not wish to be understood as limiting myself to these particular pump mechanisms.” In other words, at this point Bartliff seemed to think that he was in danger of being type-cast as an inventor!⁸

Other known chain pump-related Bartliff inventions include two for improvements in pump curb reservoirs, patented in 1899 and 1900. In addition to the usual goal of designing products that were less expensive to manufacture, these particular devices featured a reinforcement “so that no matter how tight the yoke is clamped the reservoir will not be crushed” and (in the case of Patent No. 617,712) an improved method of attaching a conduit pipe to the bottom of the reservoir without the usual soldering (which was subject to failure).⁹ Patent No. 673,971 dated May 14, 1901 was for a pipe joint that could be made cheaper and lighter of galvanized sheet metal instead of the usual wrought iron. Patent No. 441,121 dated November 25, 1890 was for a rain water filter designed to prevent impurities from entering the well or cistern.

Though Bartliff’s known patents predated the construction of the nominated property by a few years, his designs undoubtedly found their way into pumps manufactured at the 1218-1224 N. 15th St. location.

In 1908, the periodical *Farm Implement News* published *Farm Implement News Buyer’s Guide: A Classified Directory of Manufacturers of Farm and Garden Implements* in which was included a directory of companies offering products useful to farmers. Star Bucket Pump Company’s listing (in the Missouri section) stated that it offered the following products: galvanized iron and wood curb purifying pumps, galvanized chain pump curbs, galvanized rubber tubing, and rubber pump buckets.¹⁰ Again, Star Bucket Pump Company apparently was the only St. Louis manufacturer listed that specialized in bucket pumps and accessories.

In 1911, the Star Bucket Pump Company purchased a large parcel of land at 1218-1224 North 15th Street as the site of a newer, more modern plant for manufacturing its

⁸ Charles A. Bartliff, specification narrative for “Pump-Curb” Patent No. 617,219 (January 3, 1899.) Bartliff patents for a joint for extension handles and for a feed bag for animals were also found on the U.S. Patent Office website.

⁹ Bartliff, specifications for “Pump Curb Reservoir” Patent No. 617,712, February 21, 1899; “Pump Curb Reservoir” Patent No. 643,619, February 20, 1900; “Pipe Joint” patent No. 673,971, May 14, 1901; and “Filter for Rain Water” Patent No. 441,121, November 25, 1890.

¹⁰ *Farm Implement News Buyer’s Guide*. Farm Implement News Company. 1908, page 432.

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**Star Bucket Pump Company Building
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products. *Gould's City Directory* in that year listed 21 pump manufacturers in the city, which was a significant number. Again, Star Bucket was the only specialist in bucket pumps for well and cistern water systems. Among the other makers were: S.F. Bowser & Company, which specialized in pumps for underground gasoline and oil tanks; the Hooker Steam Pump Company, which specialized in commercial steam pumps; the Reliance Machine and Tool Works, which specialized in pumps used in brick manufacturing; and Western Oil Pump and Tank Company, which specialized in pumps for conveying gasoline, oil, and chemicals out of storage tanks. Most of the other companies listed in the directory manufactured products targeted to urban commercial use, and apparently none of the companies that produced bucket pumps in 1898 still produced them. By 1911, Star Bucket Pump Company had become the only St. Louis firm exclusively manufacturing a pump product line targeted primarily to rural or farm-based customers.

Star Bucket Pump Company's new site was located in the Carr Square neighborhood just north of the downtown core.¹¹ Deterioration of mid-19th century housing stock and changes in land use through 1910 opened up a number of new building sites in what had been a previously crowded residential neighborhood. Such a transformation was often attractive to business owners—having a centrally-located manufacturing building surrounded by a potential work force—and likely influenced the decision to build the new Star Bucket Company facility at this location.

By 1911, the Dowling family had full control of the company and Charles A. Bartliff's role (if he still had one) is undetermined. On company stationery, the only names listed were Paul M. Dowling as president, Dennis J. Dowling as vice president, and Patrick J. Dowling as secretary.

Architect Henry W. Powers (1859-1941) was commissioned to design and construct the modern plant at 1218-1224 North 15th Street. Powers designed a typical fireproof, flat-roofed industrial building for its time. The design maximized the amount of daylight available to workers through ample fenestration on all floors, much of which is intact. The amount of ornamentation was, however, minimal. Powers began his St. Louis architectural career in 1892. Powers' obituary credits him with design of part of the Chain of Rocks Water Treatment Plant (a Romanesque Revival facility) and the Holland Building (located downtown at Seventh and Olive, since demolished), and makes the erroneous assertion that he designed the Compton Hill Water Tower.¹² Powers also

In 1906, the city of St. Louis built a modern playground at Carr Square two blocks south of the future Star Bucket Pump Company site. This was followed with the construction of a new Carr School (NR 12/13/2000) on the block between Carr Square and the Star Bucket Pump Company site. The location was also near rail lines on the north riverfront, although it was not rail-served. Much of the neighborhood building stock was demolished between 1950-1980.

¹² "Funeral of Henry W. Powers will be Monday Afternoon." *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*. January 4, 1941.

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designed the Jack Rabbit Candy Company Building (NR listed 2/9/07). Outside of architecture, Powers was organizer and first master of the Apollo Masonic Lodge and one of the founders of the DeMolay Masonic youth organization.¹³ Powers relocated to Los Angeles in the 1920s, but no documentation shows that he practiced architecture there.

Contractor Philip G. Johnston was hired to build the new factory. During construction, a dispute over whether a fire wall was built according to specifications led to what has become an often-cited legal case in contract law. Instead of suing upon the contract, Johnston elected to sue in *Quantum Meruit* for material and labor.¹⁴ The reasonable value of materials and labor furnished was greater than the contractor paid his subcontractors. Since his suit was under *Quantum Meruit* rather than breach of contract, Johnson was able to recoup the amount of his work measured at fair market value. While this did not change the measure of recovery, the contractor was entitled to the benefit of his bargain with his subcontractors. So in order to extinguish liens, Star Bucket Pump Company paid many of the subcontractors directly. A circuit court ruling refused credit on these payments, but the Missouri Supreme Court overturned the lower court ruling since Johnston himself never performed any of the work and was not indebted to any subcontractor for work done on the building. Not restricted to a pro rata share of the contract price, Johnson was allowed to recover a sum considerably larger than his out-of-pocket loss.¹⁵

Six additional pump manufacturers appeared in the 1912 edition of *Gould's City Directory*, but apparently none of them manufactured bucket pumps and parts. For the rest of its years, the Star Bucket Pump Company remained St. Louis' only exclusive manufacturer of pumps and other devices for well and cistern water systems. By the mid-20th century, with the advent of mechanized pumps and the continued development of public water systems, the demand for bucket pumps was seriously waning and change was in the offing.

COMPANY TRANSITION: 1943 – 1950

When a sufficient number of farmers had transitioned from bucket pumps to more modern water supply systems, the Dowlings continued serving their predominantly agricultural base but retooled their factory at 1218-1224 N. 15th Street to focus on the

¹³ Ibid.

¹⁴ L. L. Fuller and William R. Perdue. "The Reliance Interest in Contract Damages." *Yale Law Journal*. (New Haven Connecticut: Yale Law Journal Company, 1936). *Quantum Meruit* is Latin for "as much as he deserved," in the law of contracts, a doctrine by which the law infers a promise to pay a reasonable amount for labor and materials furnished.

¹⁵ Ibid.

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**Star Bucket Pump Company Building
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manufacturing of milk coolers.¹⁶ Star Bucket Pump Company continued its innovative ways, as indicated by U.S. Patent No. 2,315,603, dated April 6, 1943, for the invention of a combination refrigerator and aerator. The inventor this time was George R. Duncan of Washington, Missouri, assignor to the Star Bucket Pump Company. The device (for which Duncan had filed a patent application on April 7, 1938) provided for filtering and cooling milk or cream and featured an insulated casing with an auxiliary chamber for storing such dairy products as butter, eggs, etc. The method of mounting the aerator in order to provide easy access for cleaning was also improved.¹⁷

Reflecting the new line of business, Star Bucket Pump Company renamed itself Star Pump and Cooler Corporation in 1950. Since the name change in 1950 apparently signaled the end of bucket pump production as a primary corporate activity, this date also is the closing date for the period of significance.

By 1968, the Star Pump and Cooler Corporation had become, simply, the Star Cooler Corporation. Several other St. Louis companies produced cooler components for dairy products, and no evidence suggests that the new company distinguished itself in its new product lines. In 1958, the Star Pump and Cooler Corporation relocated to Bridgeton, Missouri. Upon leaving the factory building in Carr Square, Star Pump and Cooler Corporation sold the building to Elkay Manufacturing Company. Elkay continues to occupy the building and manufactures custom commercial communications systems, including intercom systems and speakers. In 1984, the Star Cooler Corporation went out of business. .

¹⁶ "D. J. Dowling Completes 60 Years in Business Here." *St. Louis Globe-Democrat*. August 11, 1955.

¹⁷ George R. Duncan. "Combination Refrigerator and Aerator" Patent No. 2,315,603.

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**Star Bucket Pump Company Building
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Bibliography

Bartliff, Charles A. "Chain Pump." Patent No. 385,786. July 10, 1888.

Bartliff, Charles A. "Pump Curb." Patent No. 617,219. January 3, 1899.

Bartliff, Charles A. "Pump Curb Reservoir." Patent No. 617,712. February 21, 1899.

Bartliff, Charles A. "Pump Curb Reservoir." Patent No. 643,619. February 20, 1900.

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National Register of Historic Places
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Section number 9 Page 12

**Star Bucket Pump Company Building
St. Louis (Independent City), MO**

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Star Bucket Pump Company Building
St. Louis (Independent City), MO

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Verbal Boundary Description

The Star Bucket Pump Company Building is located at 1218-1224 N. 15th Street in the Carr Square neighborhood of St. Louis (Independent City), Missouri. The building is legally known by the assessor's office as parcel number 05660000100 and is located on St. Louis City Block 566 on a lot which measures 116 feet and 3 inches by 125 feet. Historically a part of Ann Biddle's Addition, it is also referred to as Lots 11 to 15. A dashed line on the accompanying map entitled "Star Bucket Pump Company Building Boundary Map" indicates the boundary of the nominated property.

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the tract of land historically associated with the 1911 Star Bucket Pump Company Building.

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 11 Page 14

**Star Bucket Pump Company Building
St. Louis (Independent City), MO**

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July 25, 2012
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National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Photo/Figure Page 15

**Star Bucket Pump Company Building
St. Louis (Independent City), MO**

PHOTOGRAPHS

The following is true for all photographs:

Name of Property: Star Bucket Pump Company Building

City or Vicinity: St. Louis

County: St. Louis (Independent City)

State: Missouri

Photographer: Meghan Cotner

Date Photographed: January 24, 2012

Photo 1: Primary (west) and south elevations, facing northeast

Photo 2: North and primary (west) elevations, facing southeast

Photo 3: North elevation, facing approximately south

Photo 4: East (rear) elevation, facing west

Photo 5: South elevation, facing approximately north

Photo 6: Primary (west) and north elevations, facing northeast

Photo 7: Interior view

FIGURE INDEX

Figure 1: Star Bucket Pump Company Boundary Map

Figure 2: Existing Floor Plan: Basement

Figure 3: Existing Floor Plan: First Floor

Figure 4: Existing Floor Plan: Second Floor

Figure 5: Existing Floor Plan: Third Floor

Figure 6: 1909 Sanborn Map

Figure 7: 1932 Sanborn Map

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Continuation Sheet

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**Star Bucket Pump Company Building
St. Louis (Independent City), MO**

Figure 8: 1950 Sanborn Map

Figure 9: Star Bucket Company Letterhead Illustrations

Figure 10: Patent Sketch of Chain Pump

Figure 11: Patent Sketch of Pump Curb

Figure 12: Patent Sketch of Pump Club Reservoir

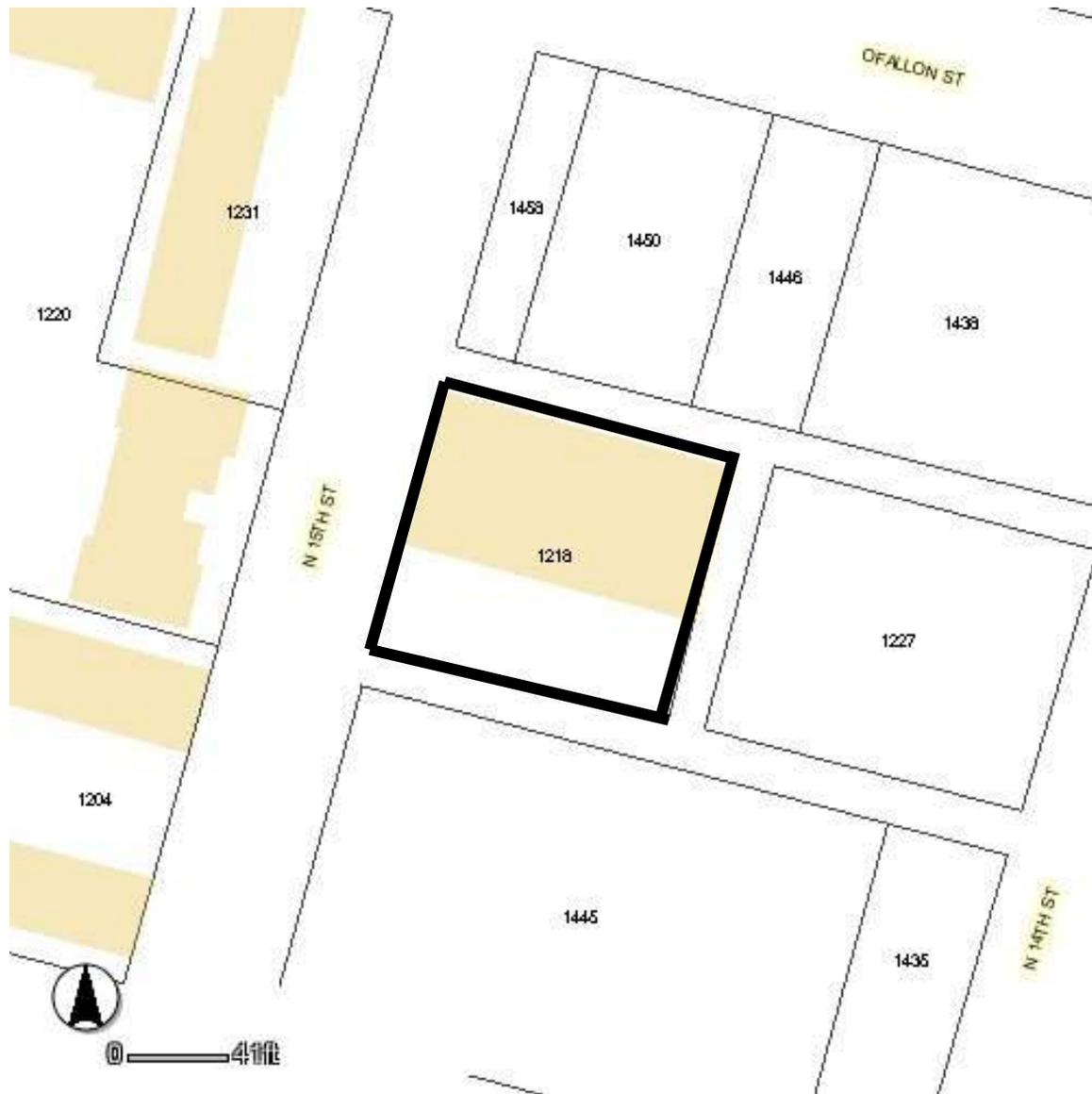
Figure 13: Patent Sketch of Combination Refrigerator and Aerator (Vertical Sectional View)

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Photo/Figure Page 17

**Star Bucket Pump Company Building
St. Louis (Independent City), MO**

Figure 1: Star Bucket Pump Company Building Boundary Map
(Boundary indicated by heavy black line)

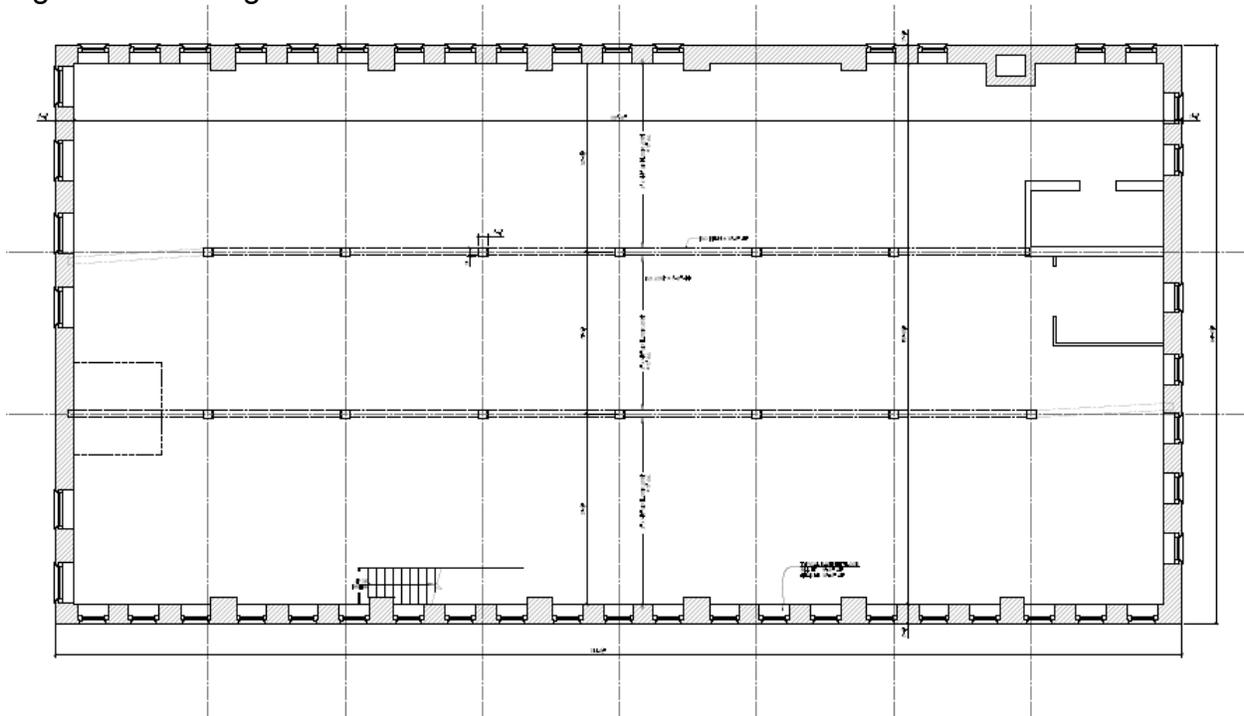


National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Photo/Figure Page 18

**Star Bucket Pump Company Building
St. Louis (Independent City), MO**

Figure 2: Existing Floor Plan: Basement



EXISTING CONDITIONS BASEMENT PLAN



ELKAY BUILDING PROJECT
BASEMENT FLOOR
EXISTING
SCALE: 1/8\"/>

8/20/17
8/20/17
8/20/17

KWA
KURTZ
WATSON &
ARCHITECTS
P.C.
1218-1224 N. 18TH
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI 63108
EXISTING CONDITIONS

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Photo/Figure Page 19

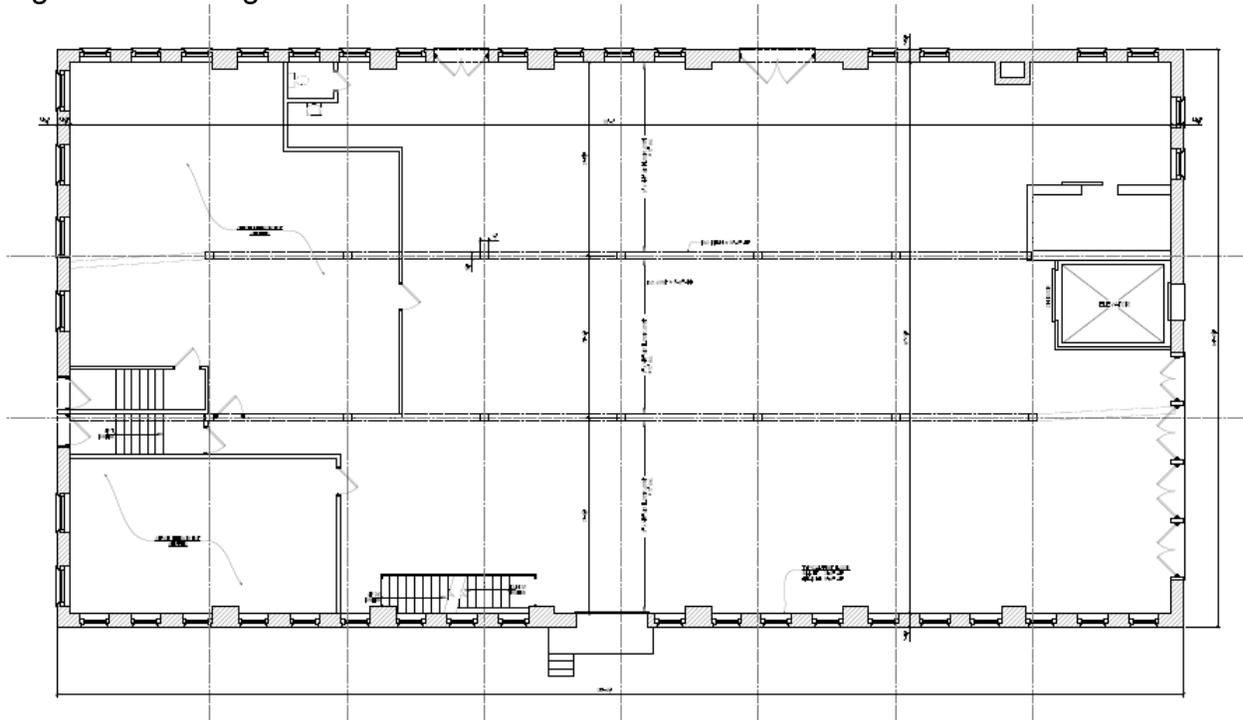
**Star Bucket Pump Company Building
St. Louis (Independent City), MO**

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Photo/Figure Page 20

**Star Bucket Pump Company Building
St. Louis (Independent City), MO**

Figure 3: Existing Floor Plan: First Floor



EXISTING CONDITIONS FIRST FLOOR PLAN



GRID SQUARE FOOTAGE PER FLOOR:
1-10 FT 8,200 SF
11-12 FT 8,200 SF
13-14 FT 8,200 SF

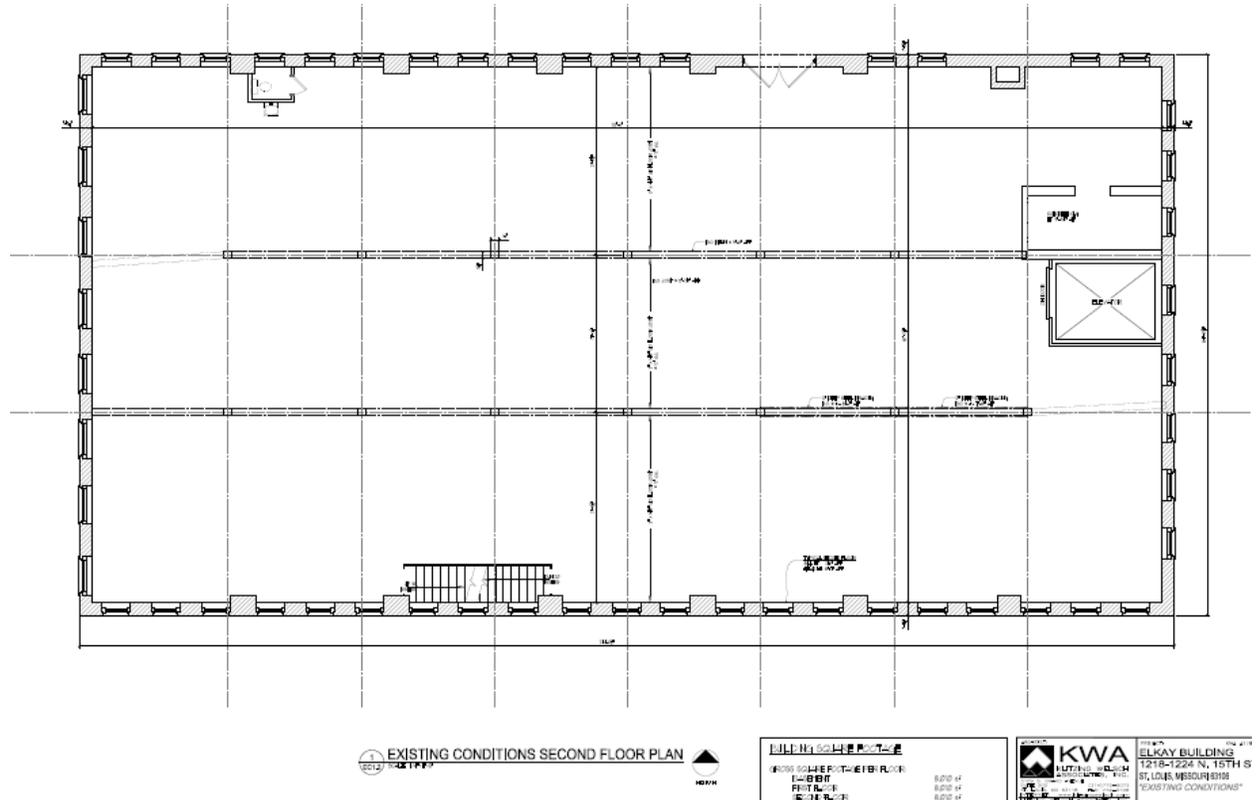
KWA
KIEWIT ARCHITECTURE
1218-1224 N. 15TH
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI 63108
EXISTING CONDITIONS

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Photo/Figure Page 21

**Star Bucket Pump Company Building
St. Louis (Independent City), MO**

Figure 4: Existing Floor Plan: Second Floor



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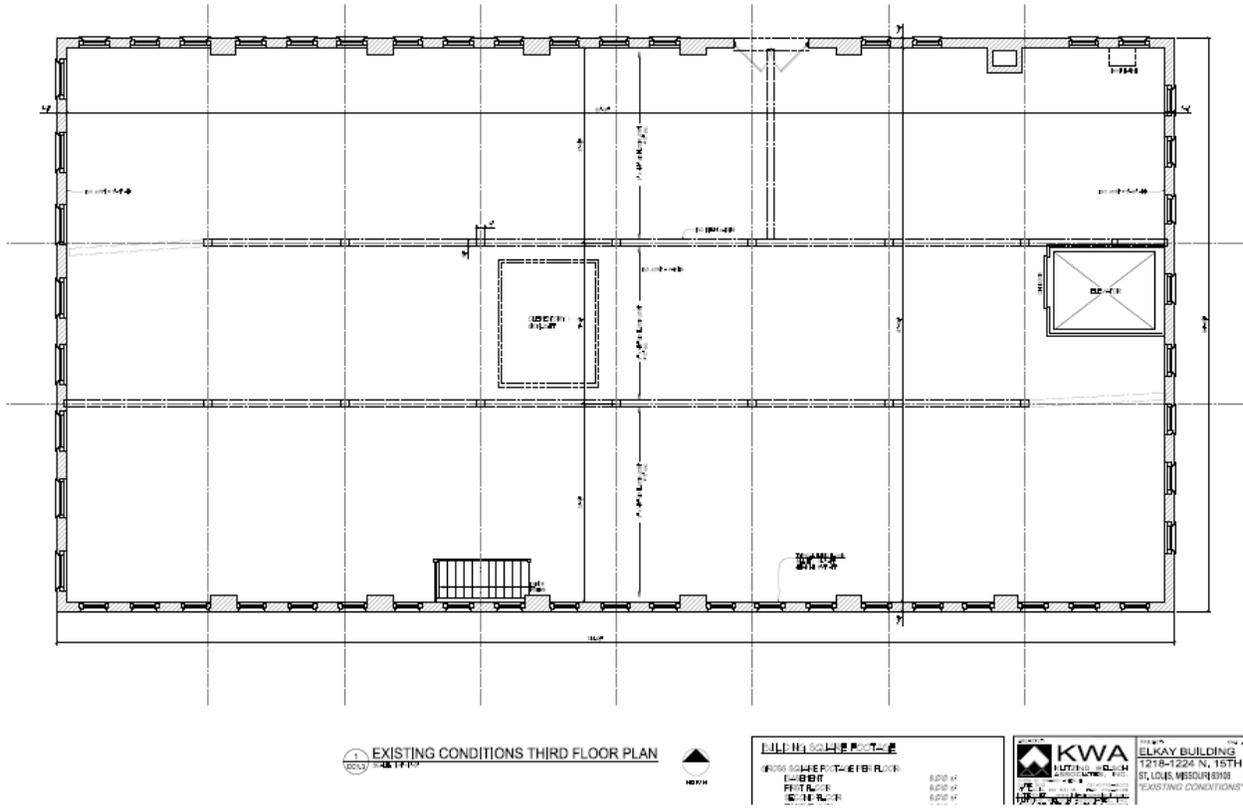
**Star Bucket Pump Company Building
St. Louis (Independent City), MO**

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Photo/Figure Page 23

**Star Bucket Pump Company Building
St. Louis (Independent City), MO**

Figure 5: Existing Floor Plan: Third Floor



EXISTING CONDITIONS THIRD FLOOR PLAN



ELKAY BUILDING
1218-1224 N. 16TH ST.
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI 63103

KWA
KURTZ WALLACE ASSOCIATES
ARCHITECTS
1218-1224 N. 16TH ST.
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI 63103

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Photo/Figure Page 24

**Star Bucket Pump Company Building
St. Louis (Independent City), MO**

Figure 6: 1909 Sanborn Map

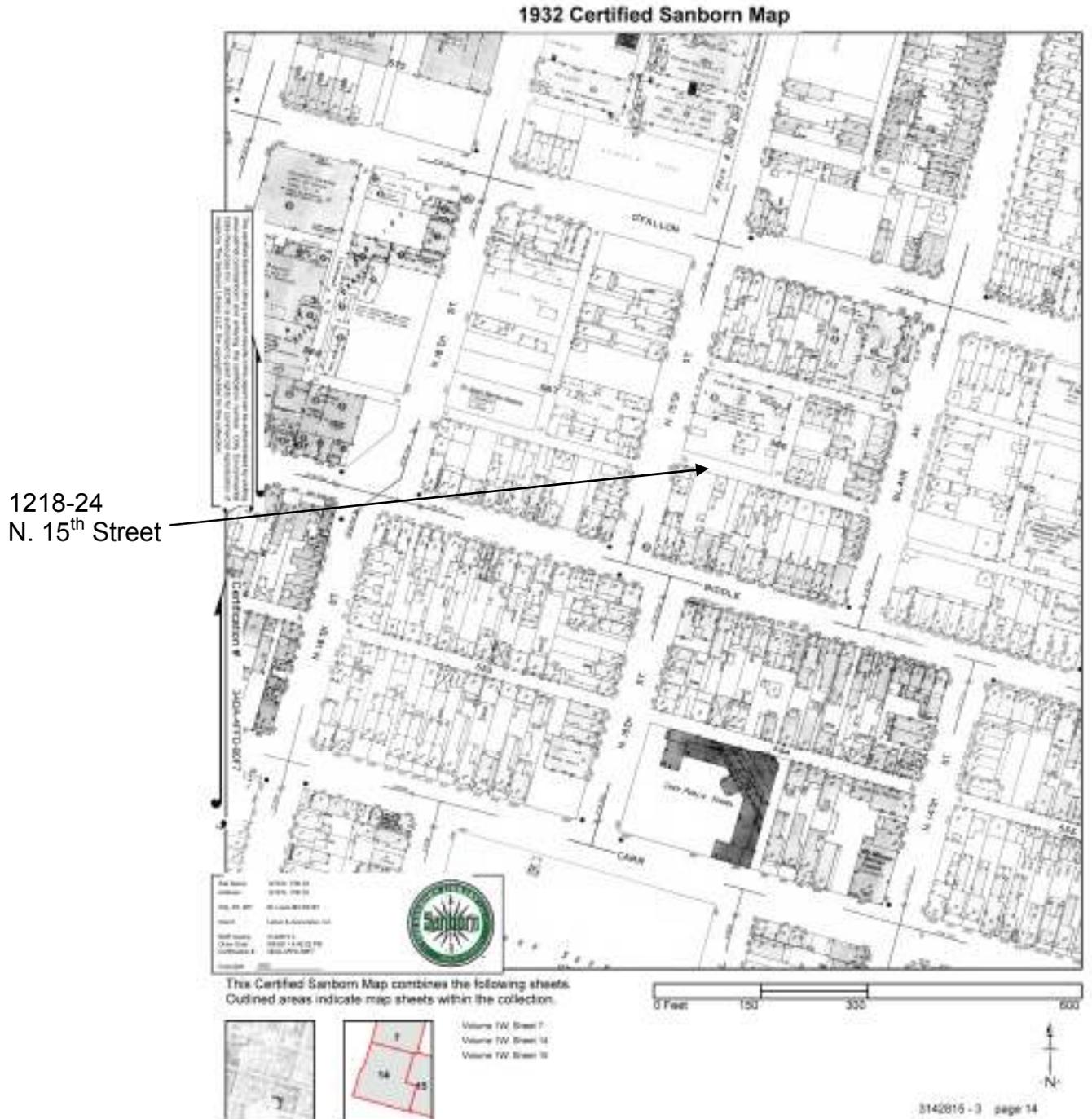


National Register of Historic Places
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**Star Bucket Pump Company Building
St. Louis (Independent City), MO**

Figure 7: 1932 Sanborn Map



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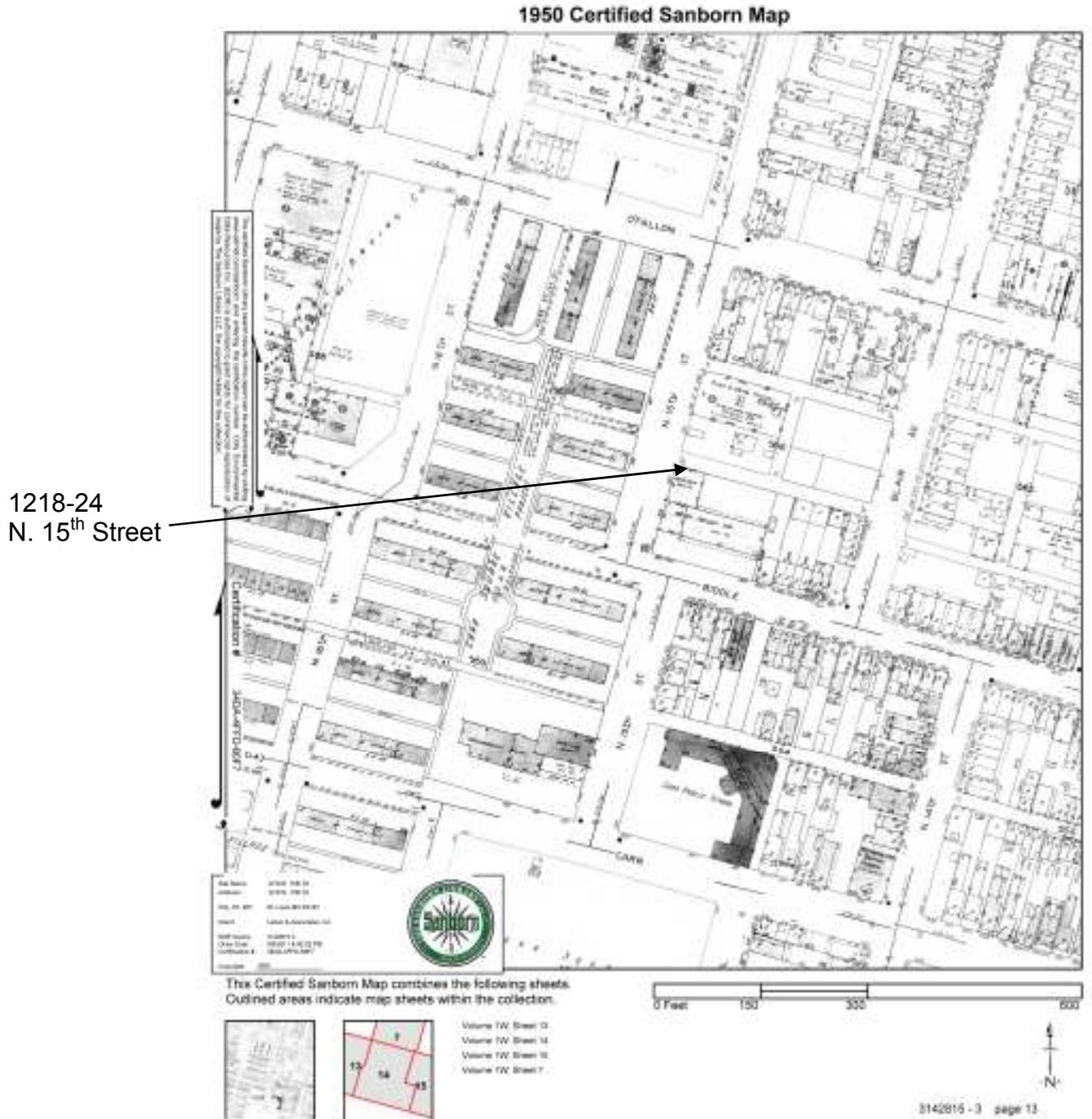
**Star Bucket Pump Company Building
St. Louis (Independent City), MO**

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

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**Star Bucket Pump Company Building
St. Louis (Independent City), MO**

Figure 8: 1950 Sanborn Map



National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Photo/Figure Page 28

**Star Bucket Pump Company Building
St. Louis (Independent City), MO**

Figure 9: Star Bucket Pump Company Letterhead Illustrations

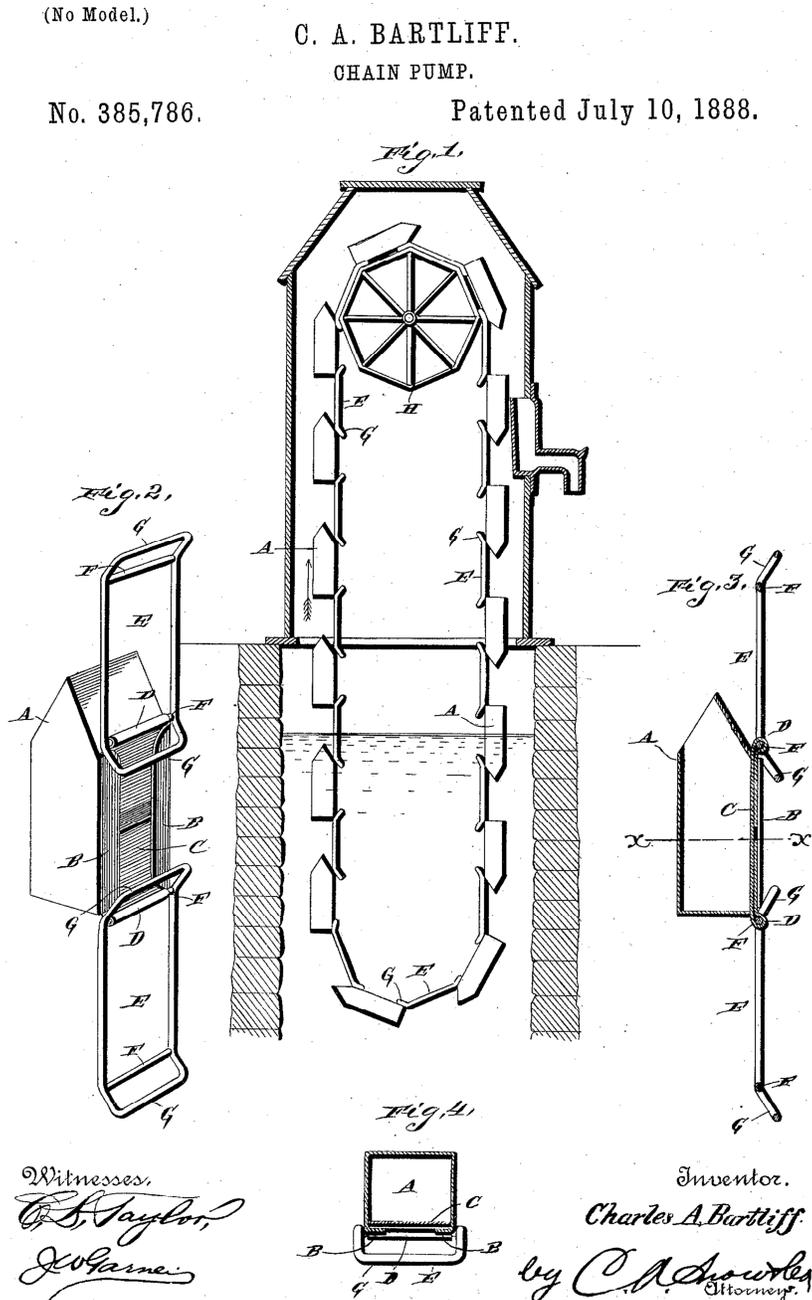


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Section number Photo/Figure Page 29

Star Bucket Pump Company Building
St. Louis (Independent City), MO

Figure 10: Patent Sketch of Chain Pump

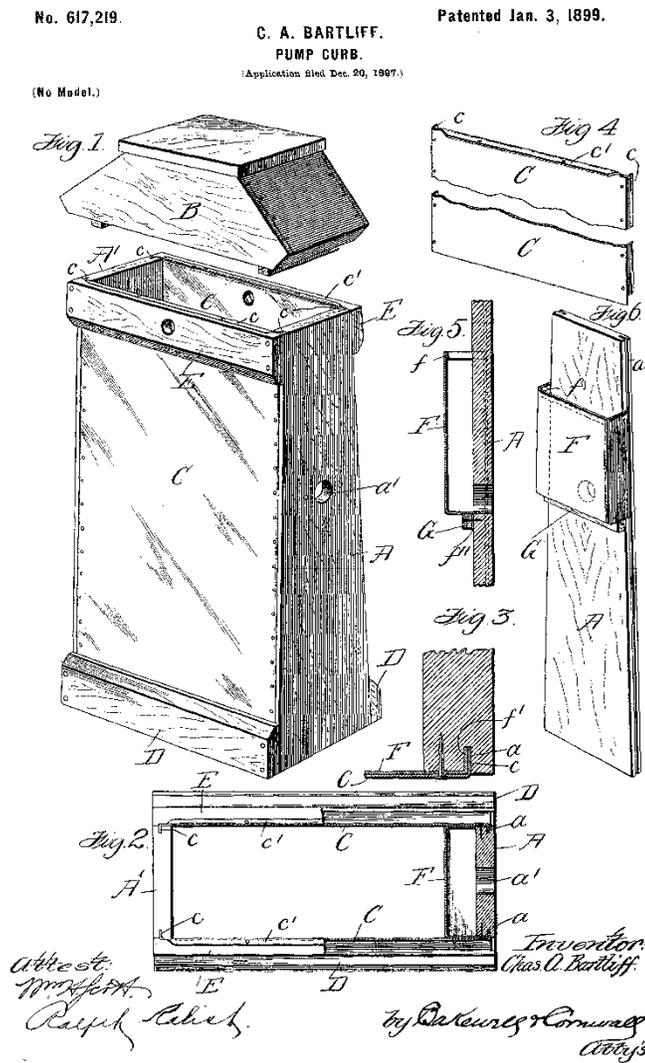


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**Star Bucket Pump Company Building
St. Louis (Independent City), MO**

Figure 11: Patent Sketch of Pump Curb

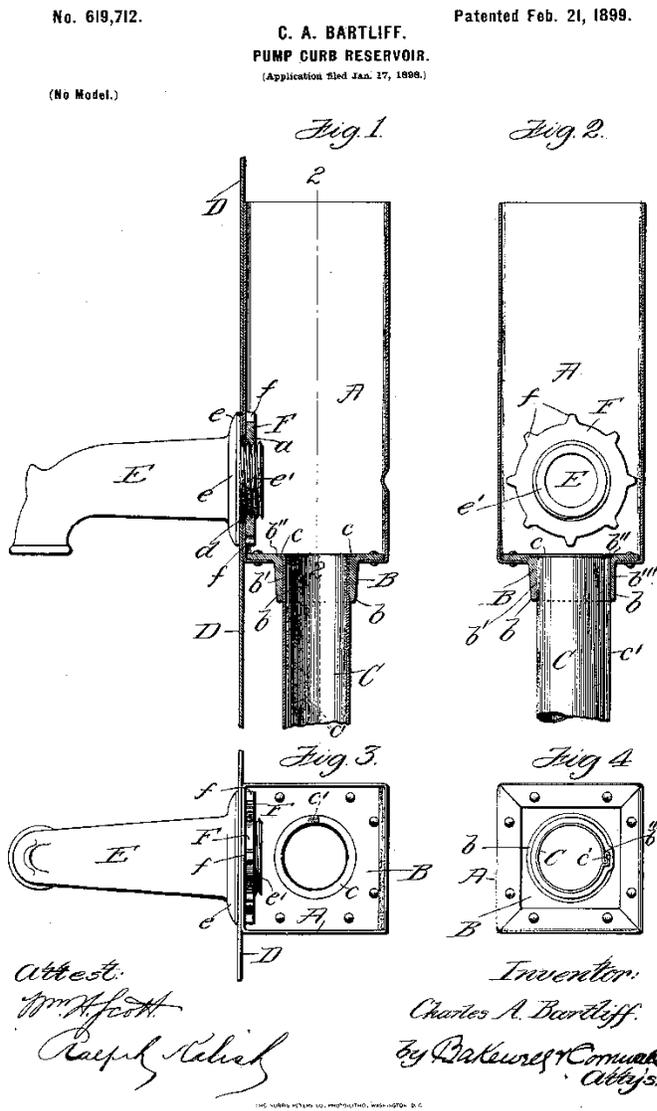


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**Star Bucket Pump Company Building
St. Louis (Independent City), MO**

Figure 12: Patent Sketch of Pump Curb Reservoir



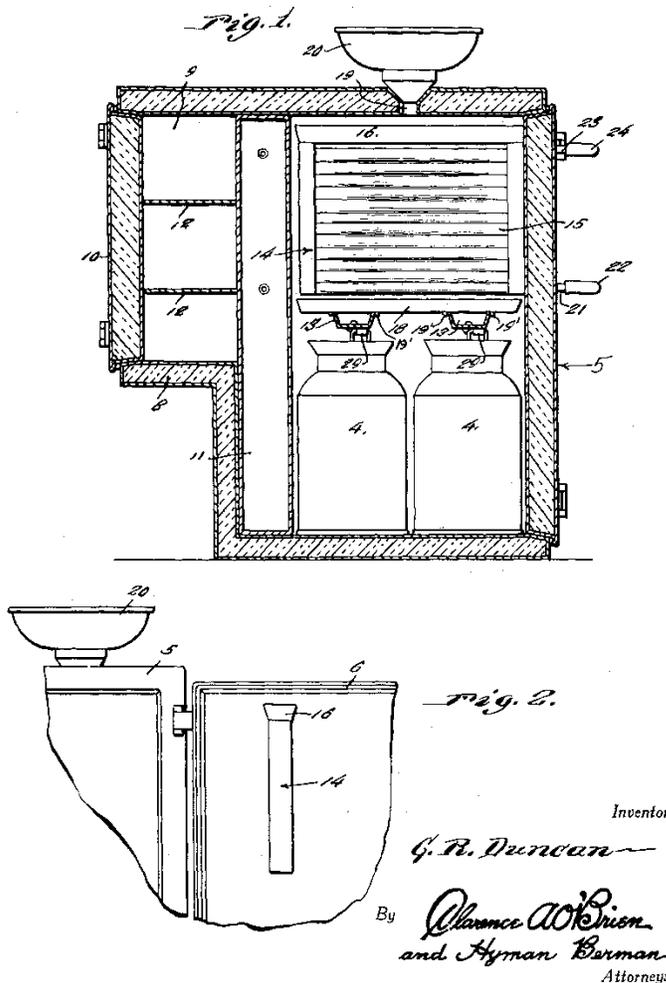
National Register of Historic Places
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**Star Bucket Pump Company Building
St. Louis (Independent City), MO**

Figure 13: Patent Sketch of Combination Refrigerator and Aerator (Vertical Sectional View)

April 6, 1943. G. R. DUNCAN 2,315,603
COMBINATION REFRIGERATOR AND AERATOR
Original Filed April 7, 1938 4 Sheets-Sheet 1



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**Star Bucket Pump Company Building
St. Louis (Independent City), MO**



EIKAY MFG. CO.

121324

THE
EIKAY
MFG. CO.











ERKAY MFG CO

119-25



