

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 Murdock, C.A., Manufacturing Company Building  
Other names/site number N/A  
Name of related Multiple Property Listing Railroad Related Historic Commercial and Industrial Resources in Kansas City, Missouri

## 2. Location

Street & number 1225-1227 Union Avenue

N/A
-----

 not for publication  
City or town Kansas City

N/A
-----

 vicinity  
State Missouri Code MO County Jackson County Code 095 Zip code 64101

## 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

Applicable National Register Criteria:  A  B  C  D

Toni M. Prawl 03/15/16  
Signature of certifying official/Title Toni M. Prawl, Ph.D., Deputy SHPO 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 \_\_\_\_\_

Murdock, C.A., Manufacturing Company Building  
Name of Property

Jackson County, Missouri  
County and State

**5. Classification**

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

- private
- public - Local
- public - State
- public - Federal

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

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

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

<b>Contributing</b>		<b>Noncontributing</b>		
1		0		buildings
				sites
				structures
				objects
1		0		<b>Total</b>

**Number of contributing resources  
previously listed in the National Register**  
N/A

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

INDUSTRY/PROCESSING /EXTRACTION:

manufacturing facility

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

COMMERCE/TRADE: specialty business

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE VICTORIAN: Romanesque Revival

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: Stone-Limestone

walls: Brick

roof: Asphalt

other

:

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION ON CONTINUATION PAGES

Murdock, C.A., Manufacturing Company Building  
Name of Property

Jackson County, Missouri  
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.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE ON CONTINUATION PAGES

#### Areas of Significance

COMMERCE

ARCHITECTURE

#### Period of Significance

1887 – 1918

#### Significant Dates

1887

1918

#### Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

#### Cultural Affiliation

N/A

#### Architect/Builder

Hamilton, Frederick B., architect (attributed)

Smith, Rea and Lovitt, architects: building repairs June 1918.

### 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: See additional locations in Sect. 9, p.20.
- Name of repository: Special Collections, Kansas City Public Library

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):

\_\_\_\_\_

Murdock, C.A., Manufacturing Company Building  
Name of Property

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**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreeage of Property** Less than one acre

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates**

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_  
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1 39.102201 -94.599444 3 \_\_\_\_\_  
Latitude: Longitude: Latitude: Longitude:

2 \_\_\_\_\_ 4 \_\_\_\_\_  
Latitude: Longitude: Latitude: Longitude:

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

\_\_\_\_\_ NAD 1927 or \_\_\_\_\_ NAD 1983

1 \_\_\_\_\_  
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 Cydney Millstein, Mary Ann Warfield and Kelsey Lutz  
organization Architectural and Historical Research LLC date November 16, 2015  
street & number 1537 Belleview Avenue telephone 816-472-4154  
city or town Kansas City state MO zip code 64108  
e-mail [Cydney@ahr-kc.com](mailto:Cydney@ahr-kc.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.

Murdock, C.A., Manufacturing Company Building

Jackson County, Missouri

Name of Property

County and State

## Photographs

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

## Photo Log:

Name of

Property:

**C. A. Murdock Manufacturing Company Building**

City or Vicinity:

**Kansas City**

County:

**Jackson County**

State:

**Missouri**

Photographer:

**Richard Welnowski**

Date

Photographed:

**August 25, 2015**

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

1. Main or north façade; view facing south
2. Main and west facades; view facing southeast
3. Main and east facades; view facing southwest
4. Rear (south) and west facades; view facing northeast
5. First floor interior; view facing south, southwest
6. First floor interior; view facing north
7. Fourth floor interior; view facing north
8. Fourth floor interior; view facing southwest

Murdock, C.A., Manufacturing Company Building

Jackson County, Missouri

Name of Property

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### Figure Log:

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

1. Location Map
2. Contextual Map
3. Floor Plan with Photo Key: First Floor
4. Floor Plan with Photo Key: Fourth Floor
5. Sanborn Map: Color 1895-1907
6. Sanborn Map: Black and White 1906 with Inset
7. Front Façade of the Campbell Paint and Glass Company
8. Front Façade, Seavey & Farsheim, 1317-19 St. Louis Avenue
9. 1200 Block of Union Avenue, c. 1902.
10. C. A. Murdock Manufacturing Company Building, c. 1900. View Facing Southeast
11. Main or North Façade of 1225-27 Union Avenue, c. 1940. View Facing Southeast
12. Main or North Façade, View Facing South
13. Advertisement for C. A. Murdock Manufacturing Company's Hecla Coffee, c. 1880-1900.
14. Advertisement for C. A. Murdock Manufacturing Company, c. 1904.
15. Advertisement, C. A. Murdock Manufacturing Company, c.1906-1907.
16. Tin Spice Packaging for C. A. Murdock Manufacturing Company, c.1880-1920.

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Railroad Related Historic Commercial and Industrial Resources in Kansas City, Missouri
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

**SUMMARY**

The C. A. Murdock Manufacturing Company Building (Murdock Building) is located at 1225-1227 Union Avenue, Kansas City, Jackson County, Missouri (Photos, 1-2) in the historic West Bottoms industrial district (Figures 1-2). Designed in the Romanesque Revival style, the five-story brick and stone commercial property was built in 1887. The design of the building is attributed to Frederick B. Hamilton, a prominent Kansas City architect who was responsible for the design of at least two other properties in the West Bottoms. The late 19<sup>th</sup> century building, constructed of heavy timber, has three bays and is characterized by a deeply recessed centered polygonal entrance bay, large wood framed storefront windows (protected by wood panels), and thick brick piers extending from the storefront level to the spring point of the fourth floor arches that form an arcade and define each bay. Its high-style design corresponds to the registration requirements for "Industrial Manufacturing Facilities and Warehouses" in addition to "Commercial Distribution Offices and Warehouses" as set forth in the "Railroad Related Historic Commercial and Industrial Resources in Kansas City, Missouri" MPDF. As designed and built, the C. A. Murdock Manufacturing Company Building incorporated spaces for "manufacturing and processing, offices and storage," as well as serving as a headquarters from which to "distribute the company's products."<sup>1</sup> Furthermore, the C. A. Murdock Manufacturing Company Building was designed in the "popular academic high style"<sup>2</sup> manner, in keeping with the registration requirements of the MPDF. The C. A. Murdock Manufacturing Company building has retained the majority of its historic features to convey its historic significance. In good condition, it retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association.

**ELABORATION**

**Setting**

The Murdock Building is located in the Turner & Company Addition, Lots 3 and 4, Block 43 (Figures 1-2 and 5-6). This commercial building is located in a block that is bounded by Union Avenue on the north, Santa Fe Street on the east, W. 11<sup>th</sup> Street on the south, and Mulberry Street

<sup>1</sup> Sally F. Schwenk, "Railroad Related Historic Commercial and Industrial Resources in Kansas City, Missouri." MPDF, 15 November 2000, F2.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

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on the west. The Kansas City Terminal Tracks<sup>3</sup> are located to the southwest and northeast of the Murdock building. The building exists within the West Bottoms Industrial area which retains an overall industrial feel today. Infrastructure in the immediate vicinity of the Murdock building includes concrete sidewalks and curbs, cobra streetlights, and two-way streets. Remnants of a historic trunk line are located to the rear or south side of the building. The historic Twelfth Street Trafficway Viaduct is located to the south and the Ridenour-Baker Grocery Company building, 933 Mulberry Street (NR, March 3, 2014) is located directly to the north of the Murdock building. Due to a disastrous fire in April 1918, the Murdock building stands as the sole survivor of the mid-to-late 19<sup>th</sup> century streetscape of the 1200 block of Union Avenue (Figure 9). Early twentieth-century two-story commercial buildings abut the Murdock Building's east and west walls.

### Exterior

The Murdock Building is a Romanesque Revival, five-story brick and stone commercial property that faces north onto Union Avenue. Built in 1887, the design of this building is attributed to Frederick B. Hamilton, a prominent Kansas City architect. The storefront level is characterized by a deeply recessed centered polygonal entrance bay where a single leaf wood framed and glass door is flanked by narrow sidelights. Large wood framed storefront windows, placed on either side of the entrance, and large transoms, are covered with wood. The flanking bays have been slightly modified; fenestration is non-original, however, the original transoms are covered with bead board. Bulkheads at the end bays have been clad with stone. A series of concrete steps lead to the entrance and appear to be original (Photos 1-3; Figures 10-12). Each bay on the upper level fenestration consists of two windows of multipaned eight-over-eight double-hung sash, with four light transoms at the second and third floors set within Roman arches. At the fourth floor, the center windows are six-over-six, double-hung, sash with flanking multipaned sidelights. The terminating level, or fifth floor, is articulated with a series of arched windows, three per bay, with six-over-six double-hung, sash wood framed units.

<sup>3</sup> The Kansas City Terminal Railroad currently serves the following Class I railroads: BNSF, Canadian Pacific Railway, Kansas City Southern, Norfolk Southern Railway and Union Pacific as well as Class III Missouri and Northern Arkansas Railroad plus Amtrak.

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Additional vocabulary of the main façade includes thick brick piers that divide the main façade into three bays, basket weave brick spandrels, continuous limestone sill coursing, and a corbeled cornice. While the east and west facades are without articulation and read as brick walls, the south or rear façade has six bays and features, from west to east, four bays of original eight-over-eight and one bay of four-over-four industrial sash windows, which are set within segmented brick arches; the freight elevator tower at the far east bay features smaller, two-over-two units. The first story dock level has been modified from the original with infilled openings and a metal overhead door (Photo 4: Figure 3). The concrete dock is irregular in shape and runs the width of the rear or south façade. A non-original wooden stair with open railing is placed at the eastern end of the dock.

### Interior

The open interior plan of the Murdock Building is remarkably intact from the original, especially at the second through fifth floors. Heavy timber columns with heavy timber haunches and beams, in excellent condition, characterize each floor; exposed timber ceilings, wood flooring (concrete flooring at the first floor) and brick walls are also intact on each floor (Photos 5-8; Figures 2-3). The first floor is divided by an off-centered non-original partition. The second and fourth floors also have non-original rooms for bathrooms made of dry wall set close to the west walls. The fourth floor also features a partition (made of drywall) at the rear near the elevator shaft (Figure 4).

A 1906 Sanborn Map of the Murdock Building illustrates the use of each floor, as follows: Offices (first floor), Baking Powder and Extract Room (second floor), Coffee Roast (third floor), Spice Mills and Packing (fourth floor), Coffee Cleaner and Clipper (fifth floor) (Figures 3-6).<sup>4</sup>

### Additional Description

Historic photographs illustrate that the Murdock Building was originally included as one unit of three storefronts; each unit featured three bays and individual centered entrances facing Union Avenue (Figure 10). Due to the massive fire in the West Bottoms in

<sup>4</sup> *Sanborn Insurance Map*, 1906, Sheet 28.

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1918, the eastern 2/3 of the building was destroyed, leaving the three-bay C. A. Murdock Manufacturing Building intact, except for damage to the roof (Figures 11-12). After close examination of the interior of the Murdock Building, there is no evidence of interior connections, (the east wall, at each floor, did not have any infilled areas where entrances may have been located) (Photo 3). Furthermore, Sanborn Maps indicate that there were no fire doors on any floors between the three joined addresses (Figures 5-6). To wit, while 2/3 of the original building no longer exists, the interior of the extant portion strongly suggests that the building was designed similar to a row house—each commercial space placed side by side and joined by common walls without fire doors (Figure 10). The Murdock Building only inhabited the far western unit of the building (1225-1227 Union Avenue); this is the unit that survived the 1918 fire and is extant today (Figure 11).

The C. A. Murdock Manufacturing Company Building stands as it was originally designed, except for the windows of the main façade, which were more than likely replaced during the renovations, after the heat of the surrounding flames damaged the original two-over-two, double-hung units (Figures 10-12). In June 1918, the prominent architectural firm of Smith, Rea and Lovitt was hired to make repairs to the building caused by the fire (Figure 11).

### Integrity

The C. A. Murdock Manufacturing Company building retains its historic integrity (all aspects) throughout the exterior and interior. The Romanesque Revival style commercial building occupies the same location. Over the years, the setting in the West Bottoms industrial area of Kansas City, where the Murdock building is located, has changed due to the disastrous fire of 1918 (described in further detail in Section 8) and the recent ongoing development of the area, stimulating several property listings in the National Register of Historic Places.<sup>5</sup> The design, materials and workmanship of the exterior, as planned by Frederick B. Hamilton (architect by

<sup>5</sup> Building located in the West Bottoms that are currently listed in the National Register of Historic Places: Faultless Starch Company Building (5/9/02); Sewall Paint and Glass Company Building (5/9/02); Marty, Albert, Building (2/5/13); Ridenour-Baker Grocery Company Building (4/21/14); and Perfection Stove Company Building (7/07/14).

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attribution), are intact and in good condition, including the original openings, original fenestration, and brickwork, contrasting stone detailing at the piers and sills, basket weave brick spandrels, and the corbeling throughout the cornice line (Photos 1-3: Figures 10-11).

Over the course of one hundred and twenty-eight years (since the building's completion), the original open floor interior, reflecting the use of the building, remains intact (with few exceptions that are described above) and in good condition. Heavy timber columns with heavy timber haunches and beams, in excellent condition, characterize each floor; exposed timber ceilings, wood flooring (concrete flooring at the first floor, Figure 3) and brick walls are also intact on each floor.

Lastly, the feeling and association with the period of significance has been retained.

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**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

**Summary**

The C.A. Murdock Manufacturing Company Building (Murdock Building), located at 1225-27 Union Avenue in Kansas City, Jackson County, Missouri, is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and C in the areas of COMMERCE and ARCHITECTURE. The Murdock Building is proposed for listing under the Multiple Property Documentation Form, "Railroad Related Historic Commercial and Industrial Resources in Kansas City, Missouri."<sup>6</sup> The historic context necessary to understand the significance of the nominated building is represented by the three contexts outlined in the MPDF: "The Evolution of Kansas City Railroad Freight Industry, 1859-1970"; "Commercial and Industrial Businesses located near Rail Freight Facilities, 1865-1970"; and "Commercial and Industrial Architecture in Kansas City's Railroad Freight Districts, 1869-1970". When the new Union Depot opened in 1878, the West Bottoms of Kansas City became the primary industrial freight area of the region and spurred the growth of Kansas City's rail transportation and its commercial and industrial development. The nominated building housed the C.A. Murdock Manufacturing Company during the period of significance from its construction date in September 1887 until April 1918 when Murdock moved his business. Employing a large number of salesmen and manufacturing personnel, the company manufactured, marketed, and distributed its own brand of coffee, tea, and exotic spices from the nominated building; located on a railroad spur, the building's rear loading dock is still extant and facilitated the exporting of goods to customers throughout the Midwest. The Murdock Building has attained significance as an important contributor to the commercial expansion of the railroad freighting industry in Kansas City. Designed in the Romanesque Revival style and attributed to local Kansas City architect Frederick B. Hamilton, the Murdock Building is also significant as an excellent local example of the "Industrial Facilities and Commercial Distribution Buildings" property type. The Murdock Building meets the registration requirements for the property type as outlined in the MPDF. Due to an installed automatic sprinkler system, the Murdock Building survived a destructive 1918 fire in the West Bottoms industrial area, making it the only 19<sup>th</sup> century building remaining in the 1200 block of Union Avenue today. The building

<sup>6</sup> Sally Schwenk, "Railroad Related Historic Commercial and Industrial Resources in Kansas City, Missouri." National Register of Historic Places, MPDF, 10 October 2010, E2.

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retains all seven aspects of integrity and communicates its historical and architectural significance. The period of significance is 1887, the date of the building's construction through 1918, the year C. A. Murdock Manufacturing Company relocated to 1219 West 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Kansas City.

#### ELABORATION

##### Historic Background

When the new Union Depot was completed in 1878, it established the West Bottoms as the region's manufacturing and distribution center. Subsequently, a building boom in the West Bottoms followed. As stated in the MPDF, "Kansas City's role as a rail center assured the establishment of a sizable manufacturing industry in the city. As each industrial enclave became established near freight lines, manufactures of a wide array of products erected plants and warehouses."<sup>7</sup>

The same year that Union Depot opened, C. A. Murdock, of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, chose Kansas City for locating his own spice, tea and coffee manufacturing and wholesale company. Although Murdock reportedly arrived in Kansas City in 1878, the C. A. Murdock Manufacturing Company was not officially established until 1881 and was initially located at 310 Delaware (extant and located in the Old Town Historic District; NR listed 6/07/78).<sup>8</sup> By 1884, his business had grown substantially. That year Murdock moved his main office to 1220 Union Avenue, across the street from the nominated building and located two blocks west of the Union Depot, thereby joining a growing number of manufacturing firms moving into the West Bottoms area to take advantage of the improved access to the expanding freight lines of the industrial district (Figure 9).<sup>9</sup>

By the end of 1884, Murdock moved his office and sales division from 310 Delaware to 1220 Union while continuing to manufacture his product line out of two factory buildings, Nos. 12 & 13, that were located on W. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street which he continued to use until late 1886.<sup>10</sup> Water permits issued between 1885 and 1886, as well as city directories for the same years, indicate that three adjoining buildings were under construction at 1217-1219; 1221-1223; and 1225-1227 Union Avenue. These three

<sup>7</sup> Schwenk, E21.

<sup>8</sup> "C. A. Murdock Manufacturing Company," *Hoye's Kansas City Directory: 1882-1918*, Microfilm Special Collections, Missouri Valley Room.

<sup>9</sup> *Ibid*, *Hoye's; 1884*, Main cover.

<sup>10</sup> *Ibid*, *Hoye's; 1886*.

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buildings were designed with identical Romanesque Revival style façades, but similar to urban row houses, did not share interior connections (Figure 10).<sup>11</sup>

In September 1887, C. A. Murdock Manufacturing Company moved his manufacturing operation and office to 1225-1227 Union Avenue, the western most building of the three Romanesque Revival style units (Figure 10).<sup>12</sup> The newly constructed five-story brick building, with a full basement, offered 32,000 square feet of space, with direct access to adjacent rail lines along the south side of the building where the loading dock was located (Figures 5-6).<sup>13</sup>

For the next thirty-one years, Murdock operated his manufacturing business at 1225-27 Union Avenue, with the manufacturing process beginning on the fifth floor, using the 'gravity plan,' to manufacture and process raw material. Once the product was packaged and ready to sell it reached its final destination on the first floor to be sold in the storefront or shipped by train from the loading dock, also located on the first floor, in the rear of the building (Figure 3). A 60-horsepower engine was housed in the basement providing the power source to operate the machinery used in the manufacturing of Murdock branded coffee, tea and spice products.<sup>14</sup> Information for the following is from Sanborn Maps published between 1895 and 1907 (Figures 5-6).<sup>15</sup>

#### Fifth Floor

- Raw material storage
- Coffee cleaner
- Coffee clipping machine

#### Fourth Floor (Figure 4)

- Raw spice measuring
- Spice mills; one set of rollers and four stone-rollers
- Spice mixer
- One spice cracker

<sup>11</sup> "Fire Protection; Service Permit No. 15244", Kansas City, Missouri Water Department, January 16, 1899.

<sup>12</sup> *Hoye's City Directories*, 1885-1920, various pages.

<sup>13</sup> Sanborn Map, Kansas City, Vol. 1, 1895-1907, Bar code: KC1\_1895\_07p020. On-line Kansas City Public Library, Bar code: KC1\_1895\_07p020. Sanborn-Perris Map Co. Limited, 2005; Accessed, October 2015.

<sup>14</sup> *Sanborn Insurance Maps* 1895-1907, Sheets 20, 28.

<sup>15</sup> *Ibid.*

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- Spice packaging

Third Floor

- Burn's coffee roasters (5)
- Coffee grinder
- Coffee stoner
- Cement floor for sanitation purposes

Second Floor

- Baking powder mixers and production
- Flavoring extract production room

First Floor and rear shipping dock (Figure 3)

- Bluing warehouse
- Vault
- Main office

During the thirty-one years that Murdock occupied this building, his firm continued to prosper. In 1900, Murdock's firm was described as follows:

One of the best and most successful institutions in our midst is that of the C. A. Murdock Manufacturing Company. . . The house has always shown exceptional foresight in anticipating trade conditions and is always fully prepared to meet an active demand for goods in its line. Its operations are on a scale of magnitude and paralleled only by the largest houses in the country.<sup>16</sup>

Murdock employed over fifty trained salesmen and clerks, and was represented by thirteen traveling salesmen who covered the southern and western states. Murdock was fully incorporated under the laws of Missouri in 1891 with a capital of \$100,000. The firm was comprised of C. A. Murdock, president; J. A. Ebert, treasurer; and W. F. Kirchmaier, secretary.<sup>17</sup>

During his years as a coffee, tea and spice manufacturer and wholesaler, Murdock developed his own line of products that were

<sup>16</sup> *Kansas City: The Convention City on the Eve of the 20th Century, 1900*, (Kansas City: Mercantile Illustrating Company, 1900), 59.

<sup>17</sup> *Ibid.*

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formulated by his company. He applied for and received a number of Trademarks on his specialty product line including four trademarks issued for coffee and two for baking powder in 1907. Brands associated with the Murdock line of products were Hecla and Tropical brand coffees.<sup>18</sup> His products were advertised and sold throughout the Midwest region (Figures 13-16).

In 1899, a 3,500-gallon water tank with 75 lbs. pressure was installed on the roof to supply water to the new Grinnell Automatic Sprinkler system that was added for fire protection.<sup>19</sup> This automatic sprinkler system, which was possibly the only such system in the 1200 block of Union Avenue, would prove advantageous nearly two decades later.<sup>20</sup> The Murdock building had one of only four known active fire protection systems in the West Bottoms, which proved to be invaluable when the Kansas City experienced the worst fire in the city's history on April 4, 1918 (Figure 5).<sup>21</sup>

Initially, reports stated that the Murdock building was destroyed in that fire. However, in June 1918, the *Engineering News-Record* stated that the sprinkler system at the Murdock building was responsible for stopping the spread of the fire to the south and west to Mulberry Street.<sup>22</sup> Because of this, the Union Bank building, located at the corner of Union and Mulberry, was spared (but has since been replaced by an early 20th century commercial building).<sup>23</sup>

The Murdock building suffered some damage on the roof and at the fifth floor level. In the aftermath of the fire, Murdock sold the building to T. W. Sterritt and subsequently, moved his manufacturing business to a larger six-story building at 1219 W. 10<sup>th</sup> Street, thereby remaining in the West Bottoms.<sup>24</sup>

<sup>18</sup> "C. A. Murdock Mfg. Company, Kansas City, Mo., *The Official Gazette of the United States Patent Office* Vol. 128, 129, Nos. 2, 3, 7; June-August 1907. Trademark Database, Linda Hall Library, Kansas City, Missouri.

<sup>19</sup> "Fire Protection; Service Permit No. 15244", Kansas City, Missouri Water Department, January 16, 1899.

<sup>20</sup> Landmarks Commission, Water Permits, 1899.

<sup>21</sup> "Last Night's Fire as Spectacular as Burning of Rome," *The Kansas City Post* 5 April 1918, 8.

<sup>22</sup> *Engineering News Record* 80:23 6 June 1918, 1102.

<sup>23</sup> Sanborn Map, Kansas City, Vol. 1, 1895-1907.

<sup>24</sup> "C. A. Murdock Mfg. Co., Kansas City," *Simmons' Spice Mill* XLI: 1 1918-1919, 718-19. Linda Hall Library, Kansas City MO.

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In June 1918, just two months after the fire, a building permit was issued for 1225-1227 Union Avenue. The new owner, T. W. Sterritt, hired the firm of Smith, Rea and Lovitt to repair the fire damage. The damage had been limited to the fifth floor and roof. Repair to the building entailed major roof repair to timbers and roof supports; windows were replaced, as many were severely damaged from the heat of the fire; and brickwork to the east façade and northeast corner was needed once the adjacent building at 1221-1223, having been consumed in the fire, was demolished (Figure 11). In 1919, with the damaged repaired, Sterritt leased the building to the Simplex Spreader Company (1225) and the Independent Harvester Company (1227).<sup>25</sup>

#### The 'Conflagration' of the West Bottoms on April 4, 1918

On the evening of April 4, 1918, a fire alarm was received at 5:40 pm for the southwest corner of St. Louis Avenue and Santa Fe Street in the West Bottoms area where Abernathy Furniture Company rented an inactive warehouse for the storage of furniture that was crated and wrapped in paper. Abernathy employees had vacated the building nearly two hours before the fire broke out. Once the fire was contained, sometime after midnight, an estimated twenty buildings and their contents were totally destroyed, while adjacent properties suffered considerable damage resulting in an estimated \$5.5 million dollar payout on insurance.<sup>26</sup>

Four buildings, including the Murdock Building, were credited as playing an important role in stopping the spread of the fire. Each of the four buildings had installed automatic fire-sprinkler systems, which in the case of the Murdock building, greatly limited the amount of damage sustained. As reported in the following excerpt from the National Automatic Sprinkler Association concerning the fire:

[The Murdock Building] was in the direct path of the fire on the south side of Union Ave., the building [1221-23 Union Ave.] adjoining was the same height and the flames sweeping over the parapet set fire to the roof. The fact that [Murdock's] building was sprinklered [*sic*] stopped the fire at this point and

<sup>25</sup> "Business Building Remodel: 1225-1227 Union Avenue," *Western Contractor* 33: 913, June 1918, 22. Microfilm, Special Collections Missouri Valley Room, Kansas City Public Library.

<sup>26</sup> *Twenty-Third Annual Report of the Board of Fire and Water Commissioners For year ending April 21, 1919*, (Kansas City: City Board of Commissioners, 1919) 102-112.

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served as a protection to property beyond... [The] four sprinklered buildings were involved and directly exposed in the fire. Sprinklers were undoubtedly an aid to the fire department in preventing the spread of the fire to other buildings.<sup>27</sup>

The Murdock Building aided in stopping the spread of the fire further south. Additionally, the fire department was able to tap directly into the secondary water supplies from tanks and water mains that were installed to operate the sprinkler systems of the four buildings.<sup>28</sup>

The other three buildings with fire protection included: the Moline Plow Company, northeast corner of Mulberry and 10<sup>th</sup> Streets; Ridenour-Baker Building, southeast corner of Mulberry and St. Louis Ave. (NR, March 3, 2014); and Broker's Warehouse and Storage, northeast corner of Santa Fe Street and Union Ave.<sup>29</sup>

As stated earlier, Murdock made the decision to sell his building at 1225-1227 Union Avenue to T. W. Sterritt, right after the fire, as indicated by building permits issued to Sterritt for the repair of the fire damage. Murdock reopened his business in the six-story building at 1219-21 West 10<sup>th</sup> Street (now 11<sup>th</sup> Street, extant). Murdock operated his new location on the 'gravity plan,' also described earlier.<sup>30</sup>

**Correlation with the Multiple Property Documentation Form:  
Railroad Related Historic Commercial and Industrial Resources in  
Kansas City, Missouri.**

The Murdock Building is proposed for listing under the MPDF *Railroad Related Historic Commercial and Industrial Resources in Kansas City*. The building is significant under Criterion A in the area of COMMERCE, and its significance in this area can be evaluated within the following historic contexts of the MPDF: "The Evolution of Kansas City Railroad Freight Industry, 1859-1970" and "Commercial and Industrial Businesses Located Near Rail Freight Facilities, 1865-1970". Beginning on page E-5, the MPDF describes the evolution of the railroad freight industry in the West Bottoms industrial area; the Murdock Building, constructed in the West Bottoms in 1887, played a role in that area's

<sup>27</sup> Ira. G. Hogland, Secretary, National Automatic Sprinkler Assoc. "Sprinklers of Equal Value as Construction in Kansas City Fire," *Engineering News-Record* 80: 6 June 1918, 1102-03.

<sup>28</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>29</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>30</sup> *Simmons' Spice Mill* XLI:1 1918-1919, 719.

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commercial expansion. As Kansas City became a major manufacturing and railroad distribution hub after the Civil War, the city's population expanded, with the greatest growth in numbers occurring between 1880 and 1887, when the population doubled to 125,000.<sup>31</sup> C.A. Murdock arrived in the city from Wisconsin and established his manufacturing company in the West Bottoms during this period of great growth. Beginning on page E-21, the MPDF describes the establishment of Kansas City's manufacturing industry in enclaves located near freight lines. The C.A. Murdock Company's establishment in the West Bottoms industrial area is indicative of the larger patterns of industrial growth occurring in Kansas City during the period of significance, 1887 - 1918.

The Murdock Building is also significant under Criterion C in the area of ARCHITECTURE and corresponds to the "Industrial Facilities and Commercial Distribution Buildings" property type as outlined in the MPDF beginning on page F-1. The MPDF's historic context "Commercial and Industrial Architecture in Kansas City's Railroad Freight Districts" provides a framework within which to understand the significance of the Murdock Building. The Murdock Building, at five stories and constructed of timber framing with brick cladding, is taller than the neighboring buildings and aptly communicates its large size and massing (two common characteristics of the property type.) The MPDF notes that some examples of the property type display a popular commercial "high style" architectural treatment, and the Murdock Building's Romanesque Revival style aligns with this description. The MPDF notes that examples of this property type have loading docks; the Murdock Building retains a rear loading dock that facilitated access to the trunk line that ran to the rear of the building. Buildings of this property type have large windows to capitalize on natural light and allow for ventilation; the Murdock Building's primary façade is characterized by large double-hung windows. The Murdock Building incorporated the latest fireproof technology for its period of construction, including an automatic sprinkler system that prevented its destruction during the 1918 conflagration of the West Bottoms industrial area.

Page F-2 of the MPDF notes that replaced window units are a common alteration to this property type. The Murdock Building has historic multi-pane double hung windows that were installed a short time after the 1918 fire, which damaged the original windows. The Murdock

<sup>31</sup> Schwenk, E-14.

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Building's historic windows and lack of additions make it an excellent example of the property type. Regarding setting, the MPDF explains that buildings of the property type occur in areas near or adjacent to rail freight services; located in the West Bottoms industrial area with a trunk line running to the rear of the building, the Murdock Building is located in a setting that appropriately conveys the property type.

The MPDF notes two subtypes of the "Industrial Facilities and Commercial Distribution Buildings" property type. The first sub-type is the "Industrial Manufacturing Facility and Warehouse." The Murdock Building retains features associated with this property sub-type, including the retention of open space in which manufacturing, processing and storage of goods occurred. At five stories, the Murdock Building also reflects the property sub-type's vertical arrangement of labor, a distinct difference from the assembly line production that reduced the number of stories of later manufacturing buildings. The second sub-type noted by the MPDF is the "Commercial Distribution Office and Warehouse." The Murdock Building served not only as the manufacturing, processing, and storage space for the C.A. Murdock Manufacturing Company, it also served as the company's headquarters and distribution office. The MPDF notes that buildings of this sub-type constructed in the late 1800s almost always exhibited a "high style" architectural treatment to communicate these functions, as the Murdock Building does.

Through its design, materials, and setting, the Murdock Building meets the registration requirements for the "Industrial Facilities and Commercial Distribution Buildings" property type outlined in the MPDF. The Romanesque Revival style Murdock Building is an excellent example of the property type in Kansas City. It retains its original fenestration pattern as well as historic multi-light double-hung windows that communicate its industrial function; this is somewhat rare in the West Bottoms, an area that has been prone to flooding. The building retains its original footprint and does not have any additions. Its' setting in an industrial area, location on a trunk line, and rear loading dock further underscores its significance as a representative property type.

**Architect: Frederick B. Hamilton (attribution)**

Frederick B. (F. B.) Hamilton was born in Whitewater, Wisconsin, to John Talman and Marion Hamilton in July 1844. He had two younger

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brothers as listed on the 1850 census record. Hamilton's life remains a mystery until he appears in the records of the Wisconsin Historical Society when Hamilton enlisted in the Union Army on April 25, 1861. He served in Company 'A' of the 4<sup>th</sup> Regimental Cavalry and discharged on April 11, 1862 after he suffered an unknown injury.<sup>32</sup>

By 1868, Hamilton's occupation was listed in the Milwaukee, Wisconsin, city directories as a draughtsman, although, no firm was notated. However, by the 1870s, Hamilton was practicing as Dixon and Hamilton in Chicago, Illinois. The following Chicago buildings are the firms' best known: Roanoke Building, seven-stories, 1872-1914, located at 1-17 LaSalle Street (no longer extant), and the LaSalle Building, five-stories, 1872-1908 at N. LaSalle and W. Madison Streets (no longer extant). Both buildings were demolished to make way for early 20<sup>th</sup> century Chicago skyscrapers.<sup>33</sup>

While in Chicago Hamilton was a member of the Western Association of Architects, which was formed by local architects and headed by Daniel Burnham, who felt the American Institute of Architects (AIA) was not involved in the architecture of the Midwest.<sup>34</sup> When Hamilton arrived in Kansas City to open a solo practice, c. 1879, he had a stake in organizing a professional group of Kansas City architects.<sup>35</sup> By 1882, as secretary and prominent Kansas City architect, Asa B. Cross as president, Hamilton helped to establish the Kansas City Society of Architects.<sup>36</sup> However, this organization disbanded due to lack of interest.

Three years later, April 11, 1885, the Kansas City society was revived under the presidency of F. B. Hamilton, with E. F. Fassett, secretary, with an estimated membership of twenty. In 1887, the society became a Chapter of the Missouri State Association of Architects and by 1889

<sup>32</sup> Carol Cartwright, Correspondence, October 29, 2015, Whitewater Historic Society, Whitewater, Wisconsin.

<sup>33</sup> Frank A. Randall, John D. Randall, *History of the Development of Building Construction in Chicago*, (Chicago: University of Illinois Press, 1999), 67.

<sup>34</sup> Sherry Piland, *Historic Kansas City Foundation Gazette* July/August 1986, 4-5.

<sup>35</sup> George Ehrlich, "Partnership and The Professionalization of Architecture in Kansas City, Missouri," *Missouri Historical Review*, July 1980, 465, fn. 19.

<sup>36</sup> Historical Sketch, "Kansas City Chapter," *Quarterly Bulletin* XIII: 3, (Washington D.C.: The American Institute of Architects, 1912), 243-244.

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merged into the American Institute of Architects (AIA). At the time the merger, F. B. Hamilton became a Fellow of the Institute.<sup>37</sup>

Although Hamilton's letters and news events concerning the Kansas City chapter of the AIA were frequently published in periodicals, such as the *Inland Architect*, little has been found about his own body of architectural work. For this reason, comparisons of buildings documented as designed by Hamilton, their dates of construction and location, as well as business alliances in the Kansas City business sector were considered in order to attribute Hamilton with the design of the Murdock Building.

F. B. Hamilton had business connections in common with Charles Murdock, most notably with Charles Campbell of Campbell Paint and Glass Company, also located in the West Bottoms just two blocks south the Murdock Building. Records verify that Charles Campbell commissioned Hamilton in 1888 to design a new factory and sales building for his Campbell Paint and Glass Company located at 1400 W. 12<sup>th</sup> Street (Figure 7).<sup>38</sup> It was completed just a little over a year after the Charles Murdock moved in the Murdock Building.<sup>39</sup>

The Campbell Building designed in the Romanesque Revival style and constructed in 1888, replicates the design, articulation, style, form, materials and size of the Murdock Building (Figures 7, 10) strikingly similar to the Murdock building, the three-bay wide Campbell building features a deeply recessed, centrally placed main entrance and wide piers stretching from the first to the spring point of the fourth floor arches that form an arcade. Fenestration throughout the west façade, especially at the fourth and fifth stories, echoes that of the Murdock Building.

Hamilton was also the architect for the Seavey and Farsheim building (Figure 8), 1317-1319 St. Louis Avenue, also located within two blocks of the Murdock Building in Kansas City's West Bottoms.<sup>40</sup>

<sup>37</sup> Henry F. Withey, AIA and Elsie Rathbun Withey, "F. B. Hamilton," *Biographical Dictionary of American Architects (Deceased)* (Los Angeles: Hennessey and Ingalls, Inc. 1970), 259.

<sup>38</sup> The Campbell Paint and Glass Company building is extant. The windows have been replaced with windows that are non-compatible in size and style.

<sup>39</sup> *Engineering and Building Record* 17 (1888), 128.

<sup>40</sup> Sherry Piland, "A Kansas City Architect: Frederick B. Hamilton," *Historic Kansas City Foundation Gazette*, July-August, 1986, 4, for the Seavey and Farsheim building.

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Built four years later than the Murdock Building, the Seavey and Farsheim building, while similar in size (three bays wide) and materials (brick and contrasting stone), is utilitarian in design. The only ornamentation is found at the cornice, which features a corbeled arched arcade (Figures 8, 10).

On May 1, 1907, F. B. Hamilton was appointed Kansas City's Building Superintendent. Again, no records have been found to verify his work during the years between his appointment in 1907 and 1918, when he was fired from his position with the city. In 1920, Hamilton proceeded with legal action against Kansas City for wrongful dismissal. The case went to the Missouri Supreme Court in 1923, at which time the courts ordered the city to reinstate Hamilton and to pay him \$22,000.00 in lost back pay.<sup>41</sup>

Hamilton returned to his position as Building Superintendent early in 1924 but shortly thereafter, resigned. Hamilton was 80 years old at the time. In 1925, he and his wife Harriet took an extended trip to Los Angeles to visit two of their four daughters. F. B. Hamilton remained in California until his death on August 18, 1928 at the age of 84. The family returned to Kansas City for his burial services held at Mt. Moriah Cemetery located on Holmes Road, Kansas City, MO.<sup>42</sup>

In addition to Campbell Paint and Glass Company Building and the Seavey and Farsheim Building, as discussed above, two other buildings designed by F. B. Hamilton in Kansas City have been confirmed: a residence at 4232 Windsor, 1903; and Rocco Brothers' Plaza Apartments, 611-13 Brooklyn Avenue.<sup>43</sup> Most likely, there is a body of Hamilton's buildings that are waiting to be discovered.

**Charles Austin Murdock: (1844-1919)**

Charles Austin Murdock was born in West Rupert, Bennington County, Vermont, on November 14, 1844. He was the third of four sons to parents Stephen Murdock and Catherine Jane Sherman.<sup>44</sup> The family later

<sup>41</sup> "F. B. Hamilton Passes Away," *The Kansas City Journal* 20 August 1928. See also, "The State Ex Rel. Fred B. Hamilton V. Kansas City Et Al., Appellants March 7, 1924, Accessed on-line October 22, 2015.

<https://casetext.com/case/state-ex-rel-hamilton-v-kansas-city>

<sup>42</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>43</sup> Piland.

<sup>44</sup> "Murdock," 1850 Census Records, On-line, Ancestry.Com. Accessed, October 29, 2015.

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moved to Wisconsin where C. A. Murdock eventually entered the tea and coffee trade. He was employed as secretary/treasurer of Jewett & Sherman's Merchant Mills Company, headquartered in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, under the tutelage of his uncle William Sherman.<sup>45</sup> Milo P. Jewett and William Sherman, who had been in the spice business as early as 1867, were co-owners. William Sherman was brother to Murdock's mother, Catherine.<sup>46</sup>

The firm of Jewett & Sherman was a major manufacturer and wholesaler of teas imported from China and Japan, as well as ground coffee, baking powder, flavoring extracts, prepared dried mustards, and a sundry of other exotic spices.<sup>47</sup> Their Merchant Mills building, designed by Milwaukee architect E. T. Mix, built in 1865, remains extant and is located at 225 E. St. Paul Avenue, Milwaukee, Wisconsin (NR: March 1984).<sup>48</sup> C. A. Murdock eventually became a partner at Jewett & Sherman.

In 1878, Murdock decided to establish his own coffee and spice manufacturing company. He began searching throughout the Midwest for an ideal location, finally choosing Kansas City, Missouri.<sup>49</sup> Information, other than city directory listings, is not available regarding Murdock's activity in Kansas City prior to 1881.

In 1889, Murdock married Nellie Eby, the daughter of Epton Eby, who was the treasurer and partner in the Riley, Eby, Wilson Wholesale Grocery Company of Kansas City. The couple had three sons, Charles Austin Jr., Joseph M., and Frederick J., and one daughter Catherine.<sup>50</sup>

<sup>45</sup> "Death of Charles A. Murdock," *The Kansas City Star* 13 February 1919.

<sup>46</sup> Both William and Catherine Sherman were cousins of General William Tecumseh Sherman, the renowned general of the Civil War.

<sup>47</sup> "Merchants Mills; No. 287-291 Broadway, Milwaukee," *Milwaukee, a Half-Century's Progress, 1846-1896: A Review of the Cream City's Wonderful Growth and Development from Incorporation Until the Present Time* (Milwaukee: Consolidated Illustrating Co., 1896).

<sup>48</sup> Katherine H. Rankin, "Historic Third Ward Historic District, Milwaukee, Wisconsin," *National Register of Historic Places*, 3 March 1984.

<http://focus.nps.gov/pdfhost/docs/NRHP/Text/84003724.pdf>

<sup>49</sup> It is possible that the two men knew each other while working in Milwaukee.

<sup>50</sup> "Death of Charles A. Murdock," *The Kansas City Star* 13 February 1919. Microfilm, Special Collections, Missouri Valley Room, Kansas City Public Library.

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Murdock was an active and supportive employer having organized a baseball team on behalf of his employees in an amateur league called "The Murdocks."<sup>51</sup>

In addition to his spice, tea and coffee business, Murdock was also highly active in Kansas City's business community serving on the board of directors for several concerns including: Fidelity Trust Company, Fidelity Trust and Savings Company, as well as Union Avenue Bank. The bank was adjacent to the west façade of 1225-27 Union Avenue.<sup>52</sup>

Charles Campbell of Campbell Paint and Glass was a close friend of C. A. Murdock. The two men sat on several board positions at various banking institutions in Kansas City, as well as directors in 1900 for the incorporation of the Mount Washington Cemetery.<sup>53</sup> Additionally, Murdock served as a pallbearer for Charles Campbell's funeral on December 25, 1913.<sup>54</sup>

Murdock was also actively involved with the River Navigation Company of Kansas City, Missouri, as well as an event organizer for the Priests of Pallas.<sup>55</sup> Among other organizations with which he was affiliated, he served on the board of directors of the Mount Washington Cemetery Association in 1900, joining fellow businessmen, including the Heim Brothers, J. T. Bird of Emory, Bird, and Thayer and landscape architect George E. Kessler, who served as the associations' landscape architect.<sup>56</sup>

On February 13, 1919, Charles A. Murdock died after complications from pneumonia. His employees, as requested by Mr. Murdock, served as his official pallbearers. Services were held at Linwood Presbyterian Church and followed by Murdock's burial at Mount Washington Cemetery, located in Independence, Missouri.<sup>57</sup>

<sup>51</sup> "Amateur Baseball," *The Kansas City Star* 22 June 1918, 12.

<sup>52</sup> "Death of Charles A. Murdock," *The Kansas City Star* 13 February 1919.

<sup>53</sup> *Ibid*, LaBudde Department of Special Collections.

<sup>54</sup> "Funeral of Charles Campbell," *The Kansas City Star* 25 December 1913.

<sup>55</sup> *Ibid*.

<sup>56</sup> "Mount Washington Cemetery," Archives, LaBudde Department of Special Collections, Miller Nichols Library, University of Missouri Kansas City.

<sup>57</sup> Obituary, "Charles A. Murdock," *The Kansas City STAR* 15 February 1919, 5.

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**CONCLUSION**

The C. A. Murdock Manufacturing Company Building (Murdock Building), 1225-1227 Union Avenue, Kansas City, Missouri, is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places and is locally significant under Criteria A and C in the following areas: COMMERCE and ARCHITECTURE. COMMERCE: The Murdock Building corresponds to the historic contexts and building types as outlined in the MPDF: "Railroad Related Historic Commercial and Industrial Resources in Kansas City, Missouri." In 1878, when the new Union Depot was constructed at West 12th Street and Union Avenue, the West Bottoms of Kansas City became the primary industrial freight area of the region. With the expansion of his successful manufacturing and commercial trade, Charles A. Murdock moved his company from Old Town to Union Avenue, less than a block from the West Bottoms depot; first to 1220 and then to newly constructed headquarters located at 1225-27 Union Avenue. It was there that Murdock spent the next thirty-one years marketing, selling, and manufacturing his own brands of coffee, tea, and spices. Employing over fifty salesmen and store clerks, Murdock's products were sold throughout Missouri and the region. The Murdock Building meets the requirements for registration outlined in the associated MPDF and is significant under Criterion A as an excellent local example of the commercial expansion of Kansas City's railroad freighting industry. Additionally, the Murdock Building is significant under Criterion C as an excellent local example of the "Industrial Facilities and Commercial Distribution Buildings" property type, as identified in the MPDF. The design is attributed to architect Frederick B. Hamilton who frequently designed in the Romanesque Revival style. The Murdock Building is an intact example of an industrial manufacturing facility and a commercial distribution warehouse. As the only surviving late 19th century commercial building in the 1200 block of Union Avenue, the Murdock Building retains the majority of its character-defining elements, thereby conveying its historic significance and period of construction.

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Whitewater Historical Society, Whitewater, Wisconsin.  
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Wisconsin Historical Society, Madison, Wisconsin.  
<http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/>

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**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

1225 UNION is located in TURNER & COMPANY'S ADDITION, LOTS 3 & 4 of Block 43.

**BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION**

The nominated property includes the entire parcel historically associated with the C. A. Murdock Manufacturing Company.

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Figure 1:  
Location Map: Murdock Building, 1225-27 Union Ave. Kansas City,  
Missouri. National Register boundary is outlined in yellow.

Source: City of Kansas City, Missouri: *Kiva Parcel Viewer*. Accessed 11  
November 2015. <http://maps.kcmo.org/apps/parcelviewer/>

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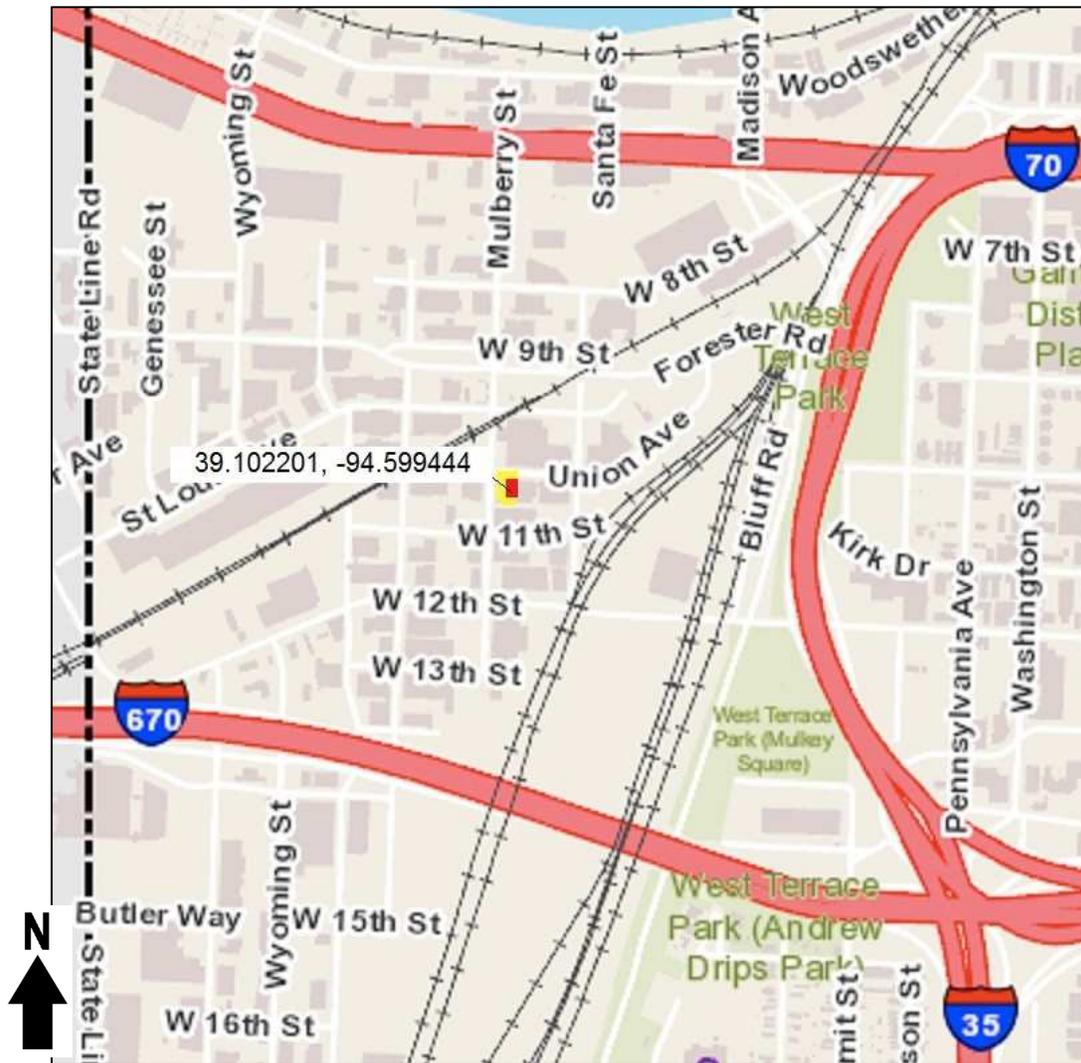


Figure 2:  
Contextual Map: Murdock Building, 1225-27 Union Ave. Kansas City,  
Missouri.

Source: City of Kansas City, Missouri: Kiva Parcel Viewer. Accessed 11  
November 2015. <http://maps.kcmo.org/apps/parcelviewer/>

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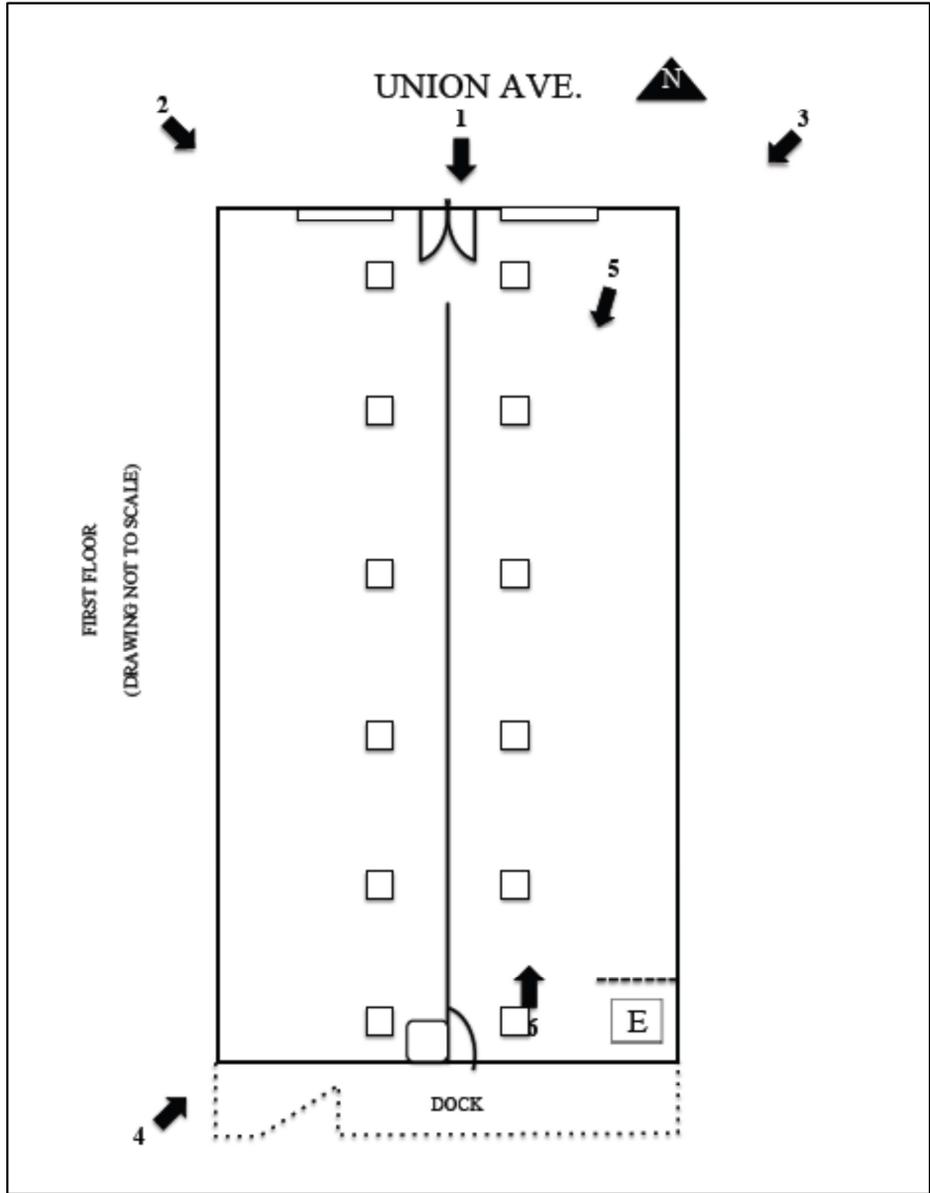


Figure 3: Photo Map

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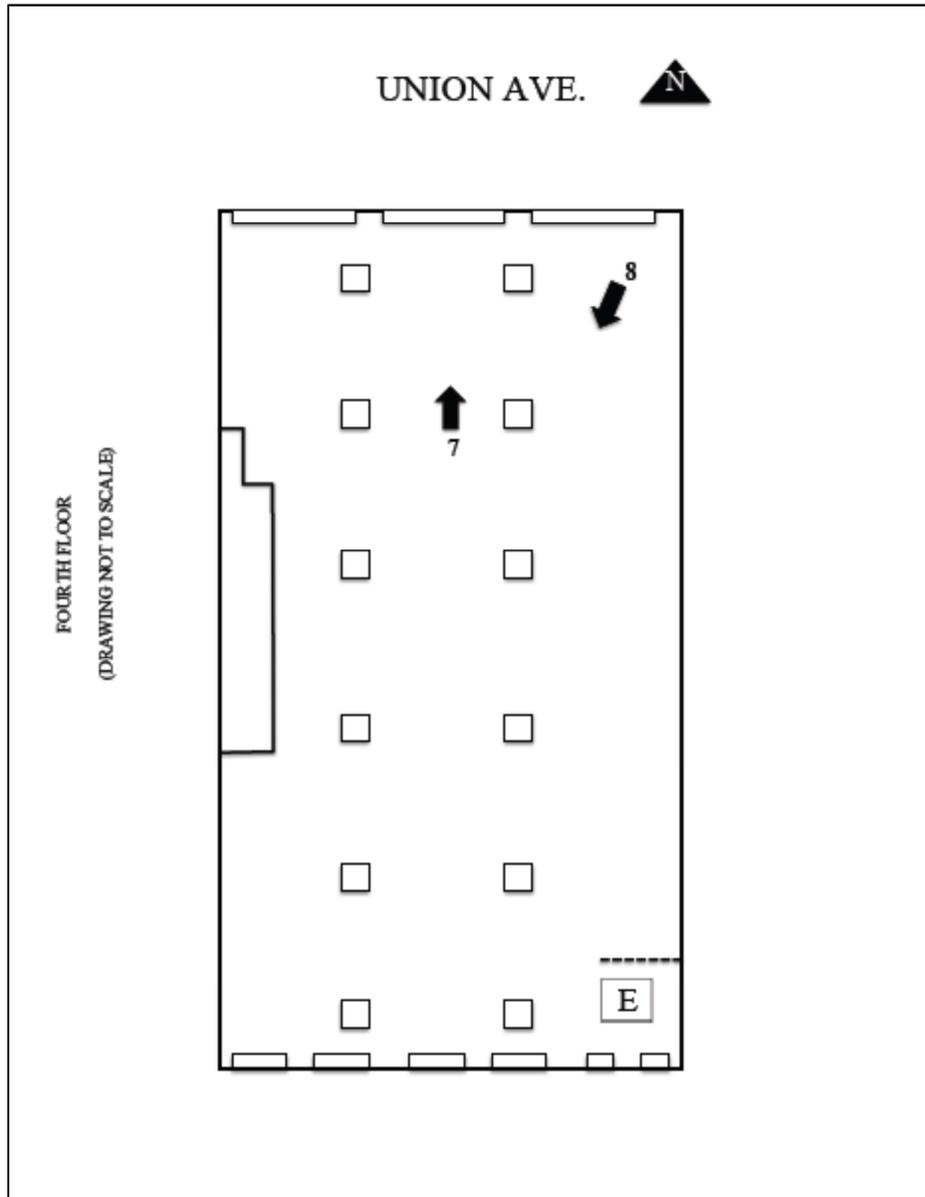


Figure 4: Photo Map

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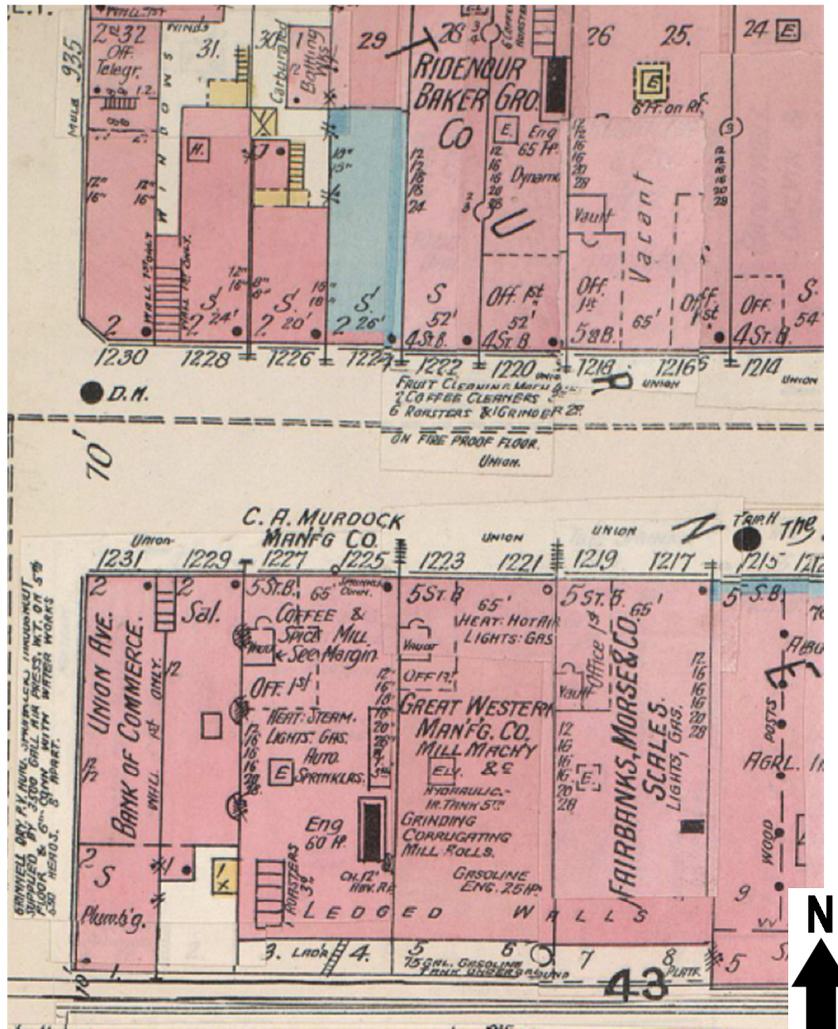


Figure 5:  
1895-1907 Color Sanborn Map of the C.A. Murdock Manufacturing Company  
Source: Sanborn Map Company, 1895-1907, Volume 1, Plate 20. Special  
Collections, Missouri Valley Room, Kansas City Public Library, Kansas  
City, Missouri.

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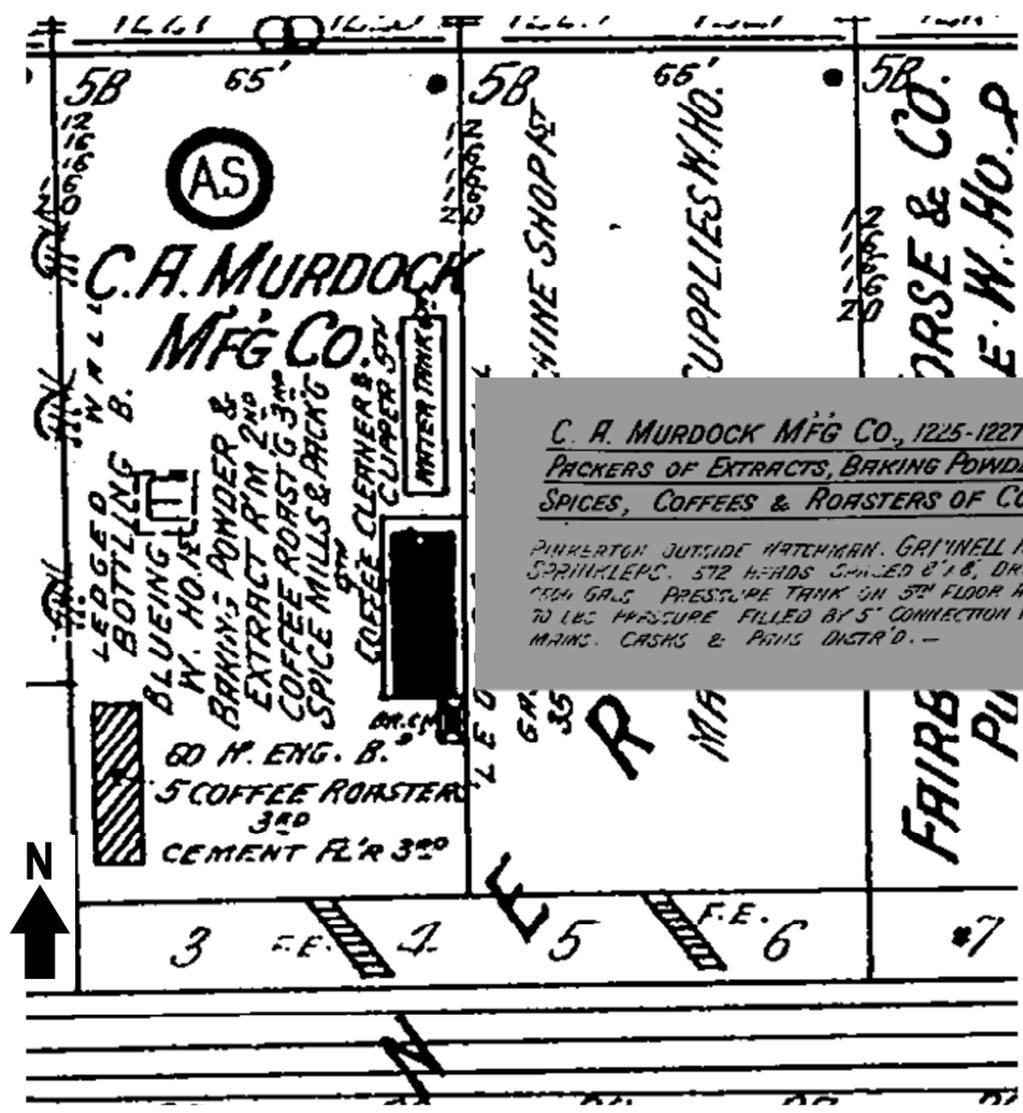


Figure 6:  
1895: Black and White Sanborn Map with Inset for C. A. Murdock Manufacturing Company. Inset describes the automatic sprinkler system installed in the building.

Source: Sanborn Map Company, 1895, Volume 1, Sheet 20. Kansas City Public Library: ProQuest's Digital Sanborn Maps

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Figure 7:  
Front façade of the Campbell Paint and Glass Company c. 1896

Source: Hughes Publishing Co., Kansas City, Mo. 1896. Hughes' Kansas City views. Kansas City, Mo: W.L. Bett & Co

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Figure 8:  
Seavey and Farsheim  
1317-19 St. Louis Avenue  
West Bottoms  
Architect: F. B. Hamilton, 1891

Photo: Cydney Millstein, November 11, 2015

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Figure 9:  
The 1200 Block of Union Avenue, Kansas City, MO. View looking east  
toward Union Depot. The Murdock Building, illustrated on the right, c.  
1902.

Source: The State Historical Society of Missouri. Accessed 20 August  
2015.

<http://statehistoricalsocietyofmissouri.org/cdm/singleitem/collection/imc/id/15908/rec/1>

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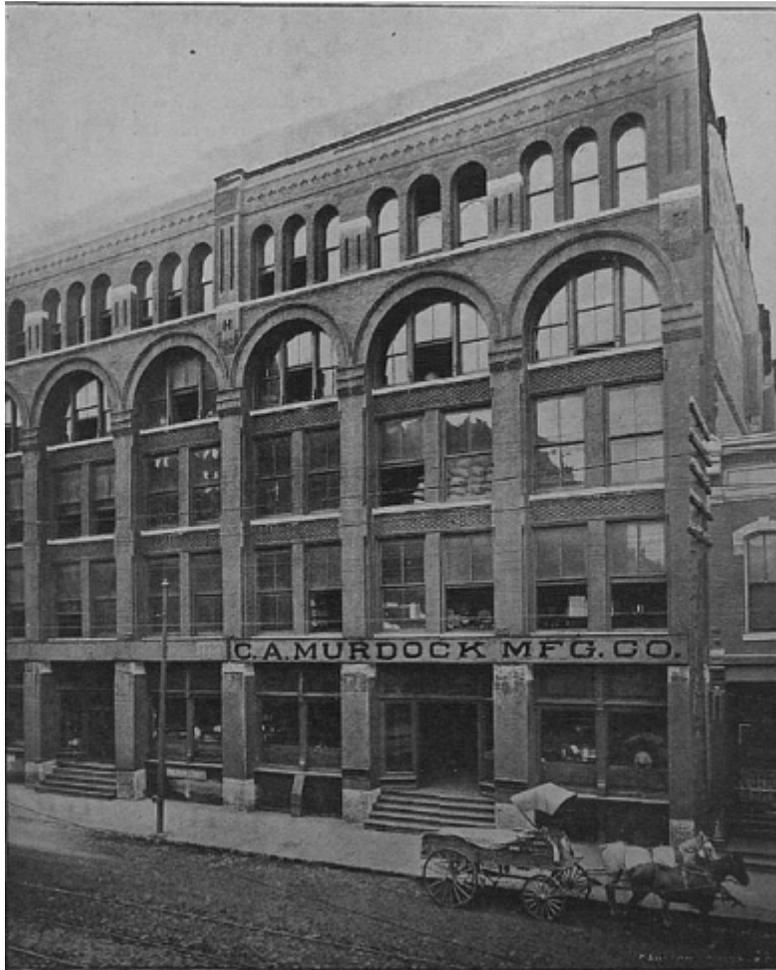


Figure 10:  
The Murdock Building, 1900. View facing southeast.  
Source: *Kansas City: The Convention City on the Eve of the 20th  
Century, 1900.*

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Figure 11 and 12:  
Main or north facade of 1225-27 Union Avenue, view facing southeast.

Left: 1940's Tax Assessment Photograph  
Source: 1940 Assessment Photographs, Kansas City, MO. Kansas City  
Public Library

Right: 2015 View  
Source: Photo by Richard Welnowski (2015).

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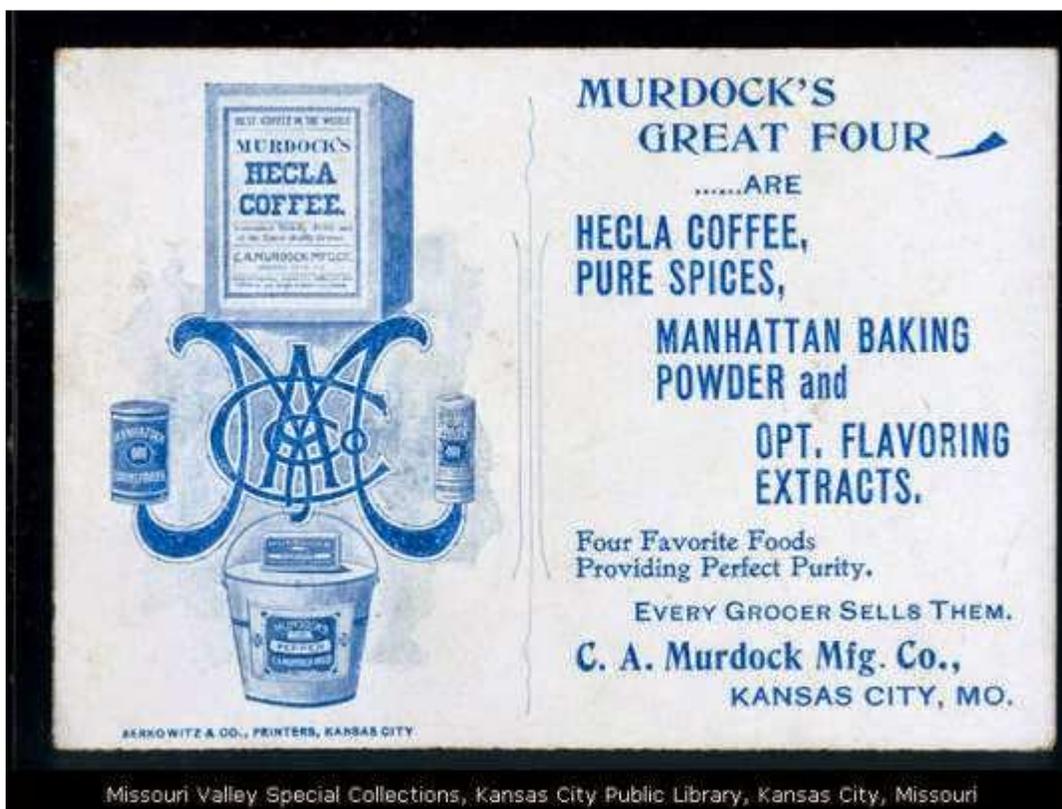


Figure 13:  
Advertisement for C. A. Murdock Manufacturing Company, c. 1880-1900.

Source: Missouri Valley Special Collections, Kansas City Public Library, Kansas City, Missouri. Accessed 11 November 2015.  
<http://www.kchistory.org/cdm4/document.php?CISOROOT=/Advert&CISOPTR=1111&REC=2>

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**BAXTER SPRINGS NEWS.**

VOLUME XXIII. BAXTER SPRINGS, CHEROKEE COUNTY, KANSAS, DECEMBER 29, 1904. NUMBER 49.

**We Wish You**  
a prosperous new year. You can help yourself toward prosperity by buying your groceries of us. We set the prices.

London layer raisins, per pound	15c
3-Crown raisins, per pound	08½c
Seedless raisins, 2 packages for	15c
Cleaned currants, 2 packages for	15c
Murdock's Nectar coffee, per lb.	20c
Ridenour-Baker's Morning Glory coffee.	20c
Riley-Wilson's Shining Light coffee, lb.	20c
K. C. Grocery Co's American Beauty lb.	20c

Either of the above coffees will give perfect satisfaction. The best coffee in town for 15c a pound. Murdock's Hecla Coffee, best in the world. Best Gunpowder tea, per pound 45c. Best Imperial tea, per pound 45c. Basket Fired Japan tea, per pound 45c. 2 pounds of good tea dust for 25c. Good Gunpowder tea lb 25c.

**Happy New Year.**  
Dr. English. Phone 190.  
Nice home for sale by Daniels & Plumb for \$500.  
Witholt's Parlor Light Oil 20c per gallon at Cooper's.  
Jim Chew was on the sick list the fore part of the week.  
Mrs. J. S. Price is very ill at her home on East Rive street.  
Chas. Adams and Myrtle Turner were married last Saturday.  
Daniels & Plumb have several cheap pieces of land for sale.  
E. W. Dow is spending the holidays with his family at Salina.  
Eugene Carney is home from Wichita to spend the holidays.  
The Christmas exercises at the churches were largely attended.  
A barn and some second hand lumber for sale by Daniels & Plumb. The train were all late Tuesday

**Mapes, Photographer.**  
Witholt's Parlor Light Oil 20c per gallon at Cooper's.  
If you want to sell your property, list it at this office.  
Mrs. G. R. Gould of Lawrence is visiting her daughter, Mrs. Fred Easter, in this city.  
Three elegant lots covered with large forest trees in best residence part of city. Daniels & Plumb.  
We were robbed, but we have received more goods. Anything in jewelry or silverware. A. R. Kane.  
Miss Anna Stewart of Webb City is spending the holidays in this city with her sister, Mrs. E. C. Gaines.  
Mr. and Mrs. T. C. Weaver and daughter, Nell, visited in Fort Scott this week with their daughter, Mrs. Will Anderson.  
Mr. and Mrs. Emanuel Meads of near Topeka, visited relatives here this week. Mrs. Meads is a sister of

**BAXTER TRANSFER AND BAGGAGE LINE.**  
Hemstreet's old stand, near Springs hotel.  
**GENERAL FEED AND BOARDING BARN.**  
Special attention given to the boarding of horses. Cabs make all trade day and night. Balls, funerals, parties, weddings or gatherings attended. Calls promptly answered. Phone 33.  
**W. A. GOUTHIT, Proprietor.**

**GOING TO QUIT!**  
State Historical Society  
We have decided to go out of the implement and vehicle business, and in order to close out quick, will make some very low prices. Read the following prices, but they are

Figure 14:  
Advertisement for C. A. Murdock Manufacturing Company's Hecla Coffee.  
December 29, 1904.

Source: *Baxter Springs News* 29 December 1904, 1. Accessed online 10 November 2015. <http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn83040592/1904-12-29/ed-1/seq-1/>

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**C. A. MURDOCK MFG. CO.**

---

**KANSAS CITY, U. S. A.**

**Proprietors of the Justly  
Celebrated Brands of . . .**

**Murdock's Opt Flavoring Extracts  
Manhattan Baking Powder  
Hecla Coffee and  
Pure Spices**

---

**BELONG TO NO TRUST OR COMBINE**

**All Goods bearing their name are of the Highest  
Standard and Absolutely Pure**

Figure 15:  
Advertisement for C. A. Murdock Manufacturing Company, 1907.

Source: *Journal U.S. Cavalry Association* Volume 17 July 1906-June 1907, Fort Leavenworth: United States Cavalry Assoc., 1907, p. 390.

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Figure 16:  
Examples of tins for nutmeg and turmeric packaged by the C. A. Murdock  
Manufacturing Company, c.1900-1920s.

Source: Ebay Advertisement "Vintage Murdock Spice Tin," Online,  
accessed October 9, 2015.  
[http://www.ebay.com/itm/Vintage-MURDOCKS-TROPICAL-BRAND-TURMERIC-Cardboard-Metal-spiceTin2oz111732779357?hash=item1a03cae95d&nma=true&si=qF0i019yG2c4bYnArHNmt4LgqfE%253D&orig\\_cvip=true&rt=nc&\\_trksid=p2047675.12557](http://www.ebay.com/itm/Vintage-MURDOCKS-TROPICAL-BRAND-TURMERIC-Cardboard-Metal-spiceTin2oz111732779357?hash=item1a03cae95d&nma=true&si=qF0i019yG2c4bYnArHNmt4LgqfE%253D&orig_cvip=true&rt=nc&_trksid=p2047675.12557)



Sit On It...

a chair gallery

THE CHAIRS

1117

CHAIRS

CHAIRS





37

S On It...

a chair gallery

ARTS CENTER

ARTS CENTER

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