# 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Historic name</th>
<th>Remington Rand Building</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Other names/site number</td>
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<tr>
<td>Name of related Multiple Property Listing</td>
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## 2. Location

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Street &amp; number</th>
<th>4100 Lindell Boulevard</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>City or town</td>
<td>St. Louis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State</td>
<td>Missouri</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>County</td>
<td>Independent City</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zip code</td>
<td>63108</td>
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## 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
- [X] local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

- [ ] A
- [ ] B
- [X] C
- [ ] D

Signature of certifying official/Title
Mark A. Miles, 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
### Remington Rand Building

#### Name of Property: Remington Rand Building

#### County and State: St. Louis, Independent City, MO.

### 5. Classification

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ownership of Property</th>
<th>Category of Property</th>
<th>Number of Resources within Property</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Building(s)</td>
<td>Contributing 1 Noncontributing 0 buildings</td>
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<tr>
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<td>District</td>
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<tr>
<td>Public - State</td>
<td>Site</td>
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<tr>
<td>Public - Federal</td>
<td>Structure</td>
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<td>Object</td>
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#### Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

### 6. Function or Use

#### Historic Functions

COMMERCE/TRADE/Business/Office Building

#### Current Functions

Vacant

### 7. Description

#### Architectural Classification

MODERN MOVEMENT

#### Materials

- **foundation:** Concrete
- **walls:** Brick, Steel
- **roof:** Asphalt
- **other:** Glass

X NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION ON CONTINUATION PAGES
### 8. Statement of Significance

#### Applicable National Register Criteria

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>A</strong></td>
<td>Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>B</strong></td>
<td>Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>C</strong></td>
<td>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.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>D</strong></td>
<td>Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.</td>
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#### Areas of Significance

**ARCHITECTURE**

#### Period of Significance

1957

#### Significant Dates

1957

#### Significant Person

(Check only if Criterion B is marked above.)

- N/A

#### Cultural Affiliation

- N/A

#### Architect/Builder

- Hellmuth, Obata, & Kassabaum/Aarchitects
- Gyo Obata /Designer

### 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:**

- X State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- X Local government
- University
- X Other

**Name of repository:** HOK Archives

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):**
10. Geographical Data

**Acreage of Property**  Under 1 acre

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates**  
Datum if other than WGS84:  
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

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**UTM References**  
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

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<th>Easting</th>
<th>Northing</th>
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</table>

**Verbal Boundary Description**  (On continuation sheet)

**Boundary Justification**  (On continuation sheet)

11. Form Prepared By

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>name/title</th>
<th>Matt Bivens/Historic Preservation Director</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>organization</td>
<td>Lafser &amp; Associates, Inc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>street &amp; number</td>
<td>1215 Fern Ridge Pkwy., Suite 110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>city or town</td>
<td>St. Louis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e-mail</td>
<td><a href="mailto:msbivens@lafser.com">msbivens@lafser.com</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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.
**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: Remington Rand Building

City or Vicinity: St. Louis

County: Independent City

State: MO

Photographer: Matt Bivens

Date Photographed: 1-27-2014

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

1 of 12: Primary elevation facing north; camera facing south.
2 of 12: Primary elevation entrance detail facing north; camera facing south.
3 of 12: Primary elevation detail; camera facing east.
4 of 12: East side elevation (left) and Primary (right); camera facing southwest.
5 of 12: East side elevation; camera facing west
6 of 12: East elevation (right) and rear (left); camera facing northwest.
7 of 12: Detail of corner; camera facing northwest.
8 of 12: Rear elevation at south; camera facing north.
9 of 12: Interior main hall, 1st floor; camera facing south.
10 of 12: Interior 1st floor storefronts; camera facing northwest.
11 of 12: Interior 2nd floor offices; camera facing east.
12 of 12: Interior 3rd floor offices; camera facing northeast.
Figure Log:
Include figures on continuation pages at the end of the nomination.

Figure 1: Building site in red square. Source: 1965 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, v 5s, p 72
Figure 2: Current basement floor plan. Source: The Lawrence Group Architects
Figure 3: Current 1st floor plan. Source: The Lawrence Group Architects
Figure 4: Current 2nd floor plan. Source: The Lawrence Group Architects
Figure 5: Current 3rd floor plan. Source: The Lawrence Group Architects
Figure 7: St. Sylvester Church completed in 1954 of local stone and clear span wood truss roof (left side); Bristol Primary School completed in 1956 of glass and steel. Source: Architecture and Urbanism. Special supplemental issue devoted to Gyo Obata/HOK 1954-1990. December 1990, extra edition, page 226.
Figure 8: Proposed design of the new St. Louis office for Remington-Rand. Source: St. Louis Globe-Democrat. “Commercial & Industrial” section, Sunday March 11, 1956, 6F.
Figure 9: Gyo Obata at age 32 in 1956. Source: St. Louis Construction Record. January 7, 1956
Figure 10: 4100 to 4300 Lindell Boulevard Local Historic District (building in red) as proposed and approved. Source: St. Louis Cultural Resource Office.
Figure 11: Remington Rand (4100 Lindell)
Figure 12: Missouri State Building (601 Broadway)
Figure 13: 1960 IBM Building (3800-18 Lindell)
Figure 14: 1961 Blue Cross (1430-32 Olive)
Figure 15: 1960-63 Planetarium (Forest Park)
Figure 16: 1966-67 American Zinc (20 S. 4th)
ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

Summary
The Remington Rand Building located at 4100 Lindell Boulevard in St. Louis (Independent City), Missouri, is a three-story, steel and concrete, rectangular shaped building set on a concrete foundation and clad with brick and concrete knee walls supporting glass curtain walls. Essentially original in design, this building was completed by builder S. P. Shakofsky in 1957 from 1956 designs by the architectural firm of HOK; Gyo Obato was the primary designer. The building retains exterior design elements. At the exterior, both street-facing elevations contain low brick knee walls supporting wide spans of glass set between vertical columns; a cantilevered ceiling extends from each story and is accented by narrow, vertical steel I-beams. The building has a flat roof. On the interior the building is comprised of large open areas as well as individual offices. The building has integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association.

Site
The city block containing the subject building is bound by Lindell Boulevard to the north, South Sarah Street to the east, an alley and West Pine Boulevard to the south and at the far west side is North Boyle Avenue. This stretch of the Lindell-facing block contains a variety of commercial buildings and an apartment high-rise nearest Boyle. The building faces north at Lindell and has a short, landscaped front yard with a portion of concrete pavement leading to the main entrance bay. Behind the building is a parking lot bound by a metal fence.

Figure 1: Building site in red square. Source: 1965 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, v 5s, p 72
Exterior

The first primary façade facing north at Lindell Boulevard contains five bays framed by vertical metal clad concrete columns (photo 1). At the far right side is a single panel, metal egress door that leads to an internal stair; a single light transom is above. Adjacent the door is a flush wall comprised of buff brick (photo 2). An aluminum-framed doubled entrance with sidelights and floor to ceiling height glass walls in the adjoining bay have a wide transom above that contains signage. The next three bays contain glass walls set above low concrete walls and framed by aluminum. Although the original sash appears to have included three individual sections divided by aluminum stock framing, some portions—likely broken over time—were replaced with smaller size glass additionally framed by thinner aluminum metal framing. This modification of the original rhythm does not interfere with the expanse of glass and the original design intent is apparent. A cantilevered concrete ceiling projects outward from the elevation and provides an awning (photo 3). At both the second and third floors the far right side (above the stair entry door at the first floor) is a section of fixed, vertical glass with lower operator; again adjacent is a flush wall comprised of buff brick (photo 2). The structural columns from the first floor are continued upward and frame four equally-sized bays composed of low brick knee walls with sections of glass framed by aluminum to create six rectangular panes. The cantilever is continued at the second floor and finally at the flat roof; the outermost edge is interconnected by thin steel I-beams which mimic the main structural elements as well as divide those sections in half (photo 3). Within each half, every middle window has a lower operator section. Above the far right side is an elevator penthouse which projects from the roofline and contains a vertical vent. Two additional projections above the roofline containing stairs and an elevator are immediately behind (photos 1-2).

The east-facing, Sarah Street elevation is divided into three bays from the first through the third floors; a low knee wall of concrete with concrete lip supports the near full-height glass on the first floor (photos 4-6). The first two bays of the first floor closest to the north are comprised of six sections of glass divided in half with aluminum framing to create twelve individual sash. The bay closest to the building rear has a wall of concrete parging penetrated by three fixed sash windows with lower operators similar to the front façade stair egress hall; these windows are boarded (photo 5). Above at the second and third floors there are three bays containing seven sections of sash with every-other one containing a lower operator per section. The same cantilevers and outermost vertical poles continue on this elevation (photo 7).
At the rear, south-facing elevation are seven similar boarded windows identical to those found on the adjacent elevation (photos 6 and 8). Two bays to the left, western-most side contain an entrance with sidelight and transom and a loading dock. The bay configuration on the second and third floors mimics that of the north-facing Lindell elevation. Repeating sections of six-part vertical sash divisions with lower operators at the middle of the halves again contain the external metal poles dividing the main bays in half again. Corresponding to the rear of the stair egress is a tripartite sash bay with penthouse above penetrating the roofline. The western-most elevation is comprised of a solid wall plain only accented by the penthouse projections above the roof.

**Interior**

The interior of the building is simple and comprised of concrete floors with vinyl tile and carpet on the first through the third stories. Through the main entrance is an office desk from a newer use and a long corridor which leads down a hall flanked by two stair halls, a passenger and a freight elevator, and restrooms and out through the back door (photo 9); the freight elevator has a connection to the hall as well as the rear loading dock (photo 8). The floors contain both wide open spaces (photo 10) on the first floor and second floor (photo 11) with some individual offices and smaller offices on the upper floors (photo 12). Original configuration of the space is unknown until original plans are located. The experience of the interior is enhanced by the high glass walls and the original design intent of the building with its distinct uses is apparent. (Figure 2 below shows basement floor; figures 3 through 5 include the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd floors).

*Figure 2: Current basement floor plan. Source: The Lawrence Group Architects*
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Property</th>
<th>Remington Rand Building</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>County and State</td>
<td>St. Louis, Independent City, MO.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name of multiple listing</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Figure 3:** Current 1st floor plan. Source: The Lawrence Group Architects
Figure 4: Current 2nd floor plan. Source: The Lawrence Group Architects
**Figure 5:** Current 3rd floor plan. *Source: The Lawrence Group Architects*

**Integrity**

The Remington Rand Building located at 4100 Lindell Boulevard retains all of its original exterior structure, materials, and design as well as essential characteristics on the interior including stair, restroom, and elevator facilities along the western wall. Although some of the interior space has been modified with temporary walls, most of the original design intent is preserved and visible. Obata’s concept of designing building that could evolve with future needs is a characteristic of this structure. Despite minor changes in floor coverings and newer drop ceilings the building retains sufficient integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association and it is clearly recognizable from its period of significance 1957.
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Summary
The Remington Rand Building located at 4100 Lindell Boulevard in St. Louis (Independent City), Missouri, is eligible for local listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) under Criterion C in ARCHITECTURE. An early example of the prominent international architectural firm of Hellmuth, Obata, And Kassabaum (HOK), as well as being the first identified commercial structure by the firm, this building is significant within the HOK's individualistic repertoire. The building, as an intact model of the firm's unique approach to design, is an important component in the development of the Midcentury Modern Movement in St. Louis. Designed by Gyo Obata in 1956—one of his earliest commissions with HOK—and completed in 1957 by builder S. P. Shakofsky, the building is a representative model of Obata's distinctive design philosophy. Commissioned by the Sperry-Rand Corporation as the location of its Midwest Remington-Rand Company Office, the building remains intact today. The period of significance is the construction completion date of 1957. The building retains sufficient integrity and is demonstrative of the work of the HOK architectural firm.

Background - Changing Climate Along Lindell Boulevard
At the turn of the 20th Century Lindell Boulevard was a stretch of city blocks that included some of the most impressive commercial, residential, and religious properties built in the city. Stone front and brick, three-story mansions belonging to some of the more influential St. Louis businessmen and professionals were constructed as early as 1886 but the streets lacked paving and the investments were risky. Made possible due to the efforts of these wealthy and prominent men, the St. Louis Board of Public Improvements agreed to improve a large section of Lindell's streets between Grand and Forest Park—said effort resulted in Lindell's conversion from undeveloped land into a "stately boulevard." ¹ In the proposal the men petitioned to have the street paved with Telford paving with a foundation of stone blocks overlaid with gravel and curbed; along the sidewalk at either side a double row of trees were to be planted.²

Despite the attractive improvements to the street, a complete lack of zoning and city planning resulted in an increase in commercial and light industrial uses that slowly encroached upon the residential sections throughout the city and in particular at Lindell. Continuing into the early 1900s this unchecked development directly impacted streets such as Lindell and quickly resulted in abandonment and subsequent

¹ St. Louis Post-Dispatch. “Settled at Last.” March 2, 1886, page 7. These same men voluntarily graded this section of road at a cost to themselves of over $21,000.
² Ibid. This program was carried out for the full stretch of Lindell from Grand to the park.
demolition. St. Louis University was aggressive in the vicinity and its buildings sprouted up on undeveloped land as well as former residential enclaves. Buildings such as the 1931 Davis-Shaughnessy Hall at 3668 Lindell and the Law School Building at 3642 Lindell were strategically placed to preserve the 1890s Romanesque Samuel Cupples House (one of the few residential buildings left extant). High rise hotels such as Preston Bradshaw’s 1926 Coronado Hotel a block to the west (NR listed in Midtown Historic District 7-7-1978), and other cultural, religious, and office buildings appeared on the street through the 1920s and 1930s. Multiple-family apartments became the norm in the 1920s and these building types thrived in the decades through the 1950s and 1960s.

New and established businesses began to relocate to Lindell on blocks which were former single-family residential streets. One such company to seek a new home on Lindell was the Sperry Rand/Remington Rand Company of New York.

**Background: The Sperry-Rand Corporation**

What later became Sperry-Rand was first founded as E. Remington & Sons in 1873. Known for their introduction of the first commercially viable typewriter, the company pursued perfection of the device through a reformed Remington Typewriter Company in 1909 when it introduced the first “Noiseless” typewriter. By 1927 Remington merged with Rand Kardex to form Remington Rand. Multiple inventions in typewriter and business machine technology led to the construction of the world’s first business computer. Designed in 1949 this “409” machine was a control panel programmed punched card calculator. The “40” came from the 40 programmable steps that the machine could carry out while the “9” came from the number of variables it could read in from a punched card. The size of such a machine at the time was similar to almost four large refrigerators and it generated enough heat to warm a mid-sized house. The Internal Revenue Service was one of the first customers; receiving their machine in July of 1951, it was immediately used to process foreign and local income taxes. The system was sold early on in two additional models as the UNIVAC 60 (1952) and UNIVAC 120 (1953); the model number corresponded to the number of decimal digits of vacuum tube memory storage.

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5 Ibid, page 68.
6 Ibid, page 69.
Remington Rand perfected and enhanced the UNIVAC (UNIVersal Automatic Computer) through several models and modifications and subsequently built the UNIVAC 1 in 1951—noted as the commercial computer that changed how the United States Census was implemented.

By 1953, Remington Rand introduced the UNIVAC 1103, the first commercial use of random access memory (RAM); this machine competed with IBM’s “701” but soon was favored due to its ability for faster input-output data. By 1955 the Sperry Company (formed earlier in 1933) merged with Remington Rand to form Sperry Rand. The company set out to improve their machines and in particular delivered the UNIVAC II which included magnetic (non-mercury) core memory and by 1962 had created the last of the original UNIVAC machines—model III which was a binary machine that could support both the UNIVAC I and II models for backward compatibility.

Also between 1960 and 1976 Sperry Rand introduced the first multiprocessor computer and the first cache memory disk subsystem. Competing with the likes of IBM, Burroughs, GE, RCA, and Honeywell, Remington Rand and later Sperry Rand established themselves as a contender in the field. Sperry Rand improved their machines and advanced system technology with new types of memory, smaller machines, and expanded uses in the decades to follow—ultimately culminating in the technology that would create today’s personal computers.

**Elaboration: Sperry-Rand Corporation Commissions HOK**

Recently merged and reformed as the Sperry Rand Company in 1955, plans to locate several new offices throughout the nation were on the drawing board. Nationwide company headquarters were already established in Texas, Pennsylvania, Los Angeles, and Washington DC but the company lacked a major presence in the Midwest. According to the St. Louis building’s architect Gyo Obata, Rand was a pioneer (both scientifically and architecturally) in that the company desired to create an image of what was most “Modern” at the time rather than build in respect to the earlier styles still

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9 Ibid.
Remington Rand Building

Name of Property
St. Louis, Independent City, MO.

County and State
N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Remington’s office buildings were the most contemporary at the time (Figure 6 below illustrates a sample of said offices).


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Remington Rand Building
Name of Property
St. Louis, Independent City, MO.
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

In investigating the St. Louis real estate market, Remington Rand purchased a vacant lot at the southwest corner of Lindell Boulevard and Sarah Street for the site of its Midwest office location. Looking back on the company’s earlier buildings as well as those recently completed in Texas, Philadelphia, and Los Angeles—the St. Louis building would have to be just as contemporary, if not more so, than the other offices. A recent merger of Hellmuth, Obata, and Kassabaum (HOK) in 1954 provided this possibility. The firm had just completed designs for the St. Sylvester Church (built 1964) in Eminence, Missouri and began planning for the Bristol Primary School in Webster Groves (built 1956) but was not going to turn down an important commercial commission in the city of St. Louis. (Figure 7 below illustrates these early commissions).

Figure 7: St. Sylvester Church completed in 1954 of local stone and clear span wood truss roof (left side); Bristol Primary School completed in 1956 of glass and steel. Source: Architecture and Urbanism. Special supplemental issue devoted to Gyo Obata/HOK 1954-1990. December 1990, extra edition, page 226.
HOK’s solution to Remington Rand’s desires, albeit unusual on Lindell at the time, was a clear, clean expression devoid of unnecessary ornamentation (Figure 8 shows the building site—please see finished building photos as well). The challenge to design a structure to house the company’s varied necessities on multiple floors while creating something fully immersed with the Obata philosophy was met successfully.

Figure 8: Proposed design of the new St. Louis office for Remington-Rand. Source: St. Louis Globe-Democrat. “Commercial & Industrial” section, Sunday March 11, 1956, 6F.

Now the task of building the structure was at hand—the March 11, 1956 edition of the St. Louis Globe-Democrat announced “Bids will be asked this week on Remington Rand’s Lindell-Sarah Building.” Elaboration of the source stated that “contemporary plans by Hellmuth, Obata, and Kassabaum, Inc., architects were released for publication yesterday.” (Figure 8 above shows the drawing of the proposed building). The estimated $500,000, three-story and basement building would provide a new structure to house the St. Louis branch of the Remington Rand division of the Sperry Rand Corporation of New York City. Mechanical engineers included Ferris and Hamig with Leslie J. Bergmeier as the structural engineer. Moving from a smaller local office at 4107 Olive Street (since demolished), the new structure on Lindell represented what
Remington Rand branch manager W. A. Reed exclaimed “our faith in the future of St. Louis, and in the anticipated expansion of our activities in the area.”

The design of the building included reinforced concrete and brick veneer; vertical concrete columns were sheathed in metal and originally intended to be painted black “for a strong vertical effect to contrast with horizontal lines created by ‘canopies’ on each story.” The building canopies were constructed by cantilevering its concrete floor slabs at least 4.5 feet beyond the wall—also an effort to control direct sunlight. The canopies would “reduce the cost of window maintenance by providing a platform at each floor level.”

According to company plans, Remington Rand was to originally occupy the first two stories and utilize the basement for storage as well as contracted microfilm reproduction. Also in the basement were a processing station and business services department. At the street level was Remington’s business equipment center as well as a showroom for the company’s products including business machines and systems; a tabulating demonstration room was situated in the Lindell and Sarah corner with full height glass walls allowing high visibility. The “UNIVAC” machine was one of these company inventions to be showcased in the space. Also on the first floor was a repair center for Remington Rand equipment.

The second floor housed the sales and executive offices as well as a meeting room. Sources indicate that the meeting room could “accommodate 55 people and the remainder of the second floor housed an employee lounge, file library, and drafting room.” A circulation and mechanical wing was situated along the western wall and included the stairs, elevators, restrooms, and mechanical and utility closets—leaving the majority of the building envelope open, flexible space. Enhancing the “elastic” nature of the interior—electrical and telephone cables were installed within an underfloor conduit system. The third floor was originally intended for expansion of the company but in the interim would serve as rental space.

The site of the new building was complimented by an entrance plaza originally intended to be partly paved in brick with plantings of grass and flowers in order to

11 St. Louis Globe-Democrat. March 11, 1956, section 6F.
12 Ibid.
13 Ibid.
14 Ibid.
"provide a variety of contrasting textures and to afford a pleasant view both from the street and from inside the building."15

Two days later on March 13, 1956, the St. Louis Daily Record listed in its construction news section that the new offices of the Sperry-Rand Corporation would be ready for bids soon. Designed by HOK with Gyo Obata in charge, the anticipated three-story plus basement structure was designed to be of brick and reinforced concrete with 7,000 square feet per floor and including elevators and air conditioning—to be installed by mechanical engineers Ferris & Hamig (1706 Olive). Structural engineer Leslie J. Bergmeier (6630 Clayton) was charged with assuring that the building cantilevers were sound.

In under three months by June 5, 1956 a contractor was selected and the St. Louis Daily Record listed building permit number 7041 issued to the Sperry-Rand Corporation (1107 Olive) by the St. Louis Building Division for the new office building at 4100 Lindell; builder S. P. Shakofsky Construction Company (University City) and structural engineer Leslie J. Bergmeier were in charge of completing this $500,000 structure. At about the same time, HOK was designing a new school addition for the Holy Ghost Parish in Berkely, North St. Louis—this design incorporated a rectangular box with spans of windows (potentially inspired by the Remington project) providing the maximum amount of natural light and reduction of construction materials and thus controlling costs.

Hellmuth, Obata, and Kassabaum Architects (HOK)
According to HOK company archives, when the company was founded by George Hellmuth, Gyo Obata, and George Kassabaum in 1954, the firm specialized first in educational buildings; Hellmuth was responsible for marketing, Obata for design, and Kassabaum for management.16 The Bristol Primary (Figure 7) and Warson Woods Elementary Schools were the earliest; challenged with the new philosophy of school design in the Modern era, HOK exceeded the client’s expectations by resolving distinct design and use requirements to arrive at highly-efficient and successful buildings. This effort was led by Gyo Obata from the beginning.

15 Ibid.
16 St. Louis Post-Dispatch. November 5-10, 1999. Metro section. "George F. Hellmuth, 92: founder of international architectural firm dies." This newspaper also explains the roles of each man. Prior to creation of the present firm, Hellmuth opened the office of George Hellmuth Associates in St. Louis in 1949; Yamasaki and Leinweber joined briefly until that firm dissolved in 1954. Obata and Kassabaum were associated with the earlier firm and became partners in the new organization. Kassabaum died in 1982; only Obata remains of the original founders.
Gyo Obata

Gyo Obata (figure 9) was born in 1923 in San Francisco, California. Obata began his architectural studies at the University of California, Berkeley and then graduated from Washington University in 1945 with a Bachelor of Science degree in architecture. After studying with Finnish architect Eliel Saarinen (the father of the Gateway Arch designer Eero Saarinen) Obata received a Master's Degree in architecture from Washington University. As a young architect, Obata was influenced by “the idols of Modernism” including Frank Lloyd Wright, Mies van der Rohe, Corbusier, and Walter Gropius; he admitted that a functional view of the architect's work was the foundation of his approach to design and that useful design evolves from the inside out. Beginning his architectural career in the Chicago office of Skidmore, Owings, and Merrill, his exposure to the works of Sullivan, Wright, and van der Rohe left imprints on his sense of design and its relatedness to function. He soon joined the St. Louis firm of Hellmuth, Yamasaki, and Leinweber in 1951 and worked on the designs for the Lambert-St. Louis Airport and would later oversee the construction of the fourth vault of the airport in 1965. Obata worked within the firm until dissolving in 1954-55 and subsequently restructured in its present state when George Hellmuth founded HOK with Obata and George Kassabaum where he became an essential component.

Obata was not influenced by fashionable styles or current trends and viewed from the standpoint of architectural style, the works of HOK do not depart from modernism. In fact, whether structures in wood, clad in bricks or tiles, or covered with glass or metal skins, their forms are not dressed up in styles and rather HOK uses contemporary materials in contemporary engineering techniques to design the most appropriate structure for the given program. Obata's design philosophy has always been comprised of the following aspects: first, he must get into the head of the client and understand their needs and expectations; then a comprehensive research effort is implemented to determine a program for a structure; then a site visit illustrates the naturally available aspects, then Obata must imagine how people will use and traverse the building and site as proposed, and finally the importance of natural light must be

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20 Architecture and Urbanism. Introduction.
21 Ibid.
harnessed by the structure where possible. At the heart of his philosophy he listens to his clients first and foremost.

**Figure 9**: Gyo Obata at age 32 in 1956. Source: St. Louis Construction Record. January 7, 1956.

The *St. Louis Construction Record* interviewed Obata in 1956 during the period of the design of the Remington Rand Building. Gyo explained the importance of space, both inside and outside stating that “a building is consciously used as an essential part of the design.” Gyo claimed that the influence of Eliel Saarinen resulted in “a deep concern for what may be called the social aspects of architecture.” Through its pedestrian scale and vast expanses of glass (allowing a play with natural light), the Remington Rand building is a clear effort to engage the exterior world and to connect the interior and exterior. The building epitomizes Gyo’s design philosophy and his understanding of what a building should be based on how the owner will use and enjoy the structure. Obata was elected a Fellow in the AIA in 1969 and received the AIA St. Louis Gold Award in 2002.

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22 HOK Company Archives  
23 *St. Louis Construction Record*. February 7, 1956. “Know your architects.”
Preservation and Identification

Local District Efforts

Seeing the value of the variety of architecturally unique buildings along Lindell Boulevard, the City of St. Louis Cultural Resource Office proposed to create a local historic district comprised of the buildings located at the south side of the 4100 to 4300 blocks of Lindell Boulevard (figure 10). The district is adjacent the Central West End Historic District (NR Certified 11/15/79; expanded 1989, 2002, and 2011) and it shares the same district standards for rehabilitation and preservation. Proposed to the St. Louis Preservation Board, the district was ultimately approved. It contains both residential and commercial structures representing some of the city’s diverse architecture dating from the turn of the 20th Century through the 1950s; most importantly, it contains the Remington Rand building which in analysis is the most recent historic building listed in the district. Significance of the Remington Rand building was considered under Criterion C in Architecture with additional significance under Criterion A in Commerce. The blocks within the district contain essentially original, intact representative examples of St. Louis architecture during the transition from traditional, classically-inspired design to the Modern era.

Midcentury Modern Survey

The St. Louis Cultural Resources Office recently completed an extensive inventory of the City’s Midcentury Modern non-residential architecture built between 1945 and 1975.24 Over 2,300 resources including commercial, institutional, educational, governmental, and industrial buildings were surveyed. This survey entitled “Thematic Survey of Midcentury Modern Movement Nonresidential Architecture in St. Louis” identified a total of nine buildings designed by the HOK firm in the city limits between 1956 and 1974. Of this body of work, the Remington Rand building is the first known. Designed in 1956 and submitted for construction on June 4, 1956, permit number A7041 was issued for Sperry-Rand’s new office building to occupy a lot at 4100 Lindell Boulevard.

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Figure 10: 4100 to 4300 Lindell Boulevard Local Historic District (building in red) as proposed and approved. Source: St. Louis Cultural Resource Office.

The survey discusses, due in large part to the School of Architecture at Washington University, that the Modern movement was alive and well in St. Louis. Gyo Obata, having sought refuge in St. Louis during World War II, joined the student body at Washington University the night before his family was sent to a prison camp back in California. Obata recalled that the curriculum at Washington University was predominantly modernist, led by a coterie of young professionals that shunned traditional architecture. A change in materials which resulted from new design challenges culminated in buildings evolving from mathematically-based forms and expressions. HOK in fact mastered this arena as witnessed in their James S. McDonnell Planetarium completed in 1963.

According to Christine Madrid French, Obata’s interest in the elements of structure fueled his pursuit of new forms. “Crediting lower labor costs of the mid-nineteenth century, Obata claimed that as a designer he was then able to utilize the best of

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26 Telephone interview with Gyo Obata, 24 May 2013, with Christine Madrid French, Orlando, Florida.
modern technology and materials to achieve his vision.”

French concludes that “Obata often credited Walter Gropius (although he studied with Saarinen at Cranbrook) as a “big impact” on his ground-breaking work in form and structure.”

**Comparison of identified HOK buildings in the city**

Evaluating the nominated building and HOK’s identified work between 1959 and 1969 has some interesting conclusions (figures 11-) and the underlying philosophy of Obata’s design can clearly be seen as an individual approach to each project employing each of Obata’s foci: listen to the client, research and develop a program, determine natural surprises to incorporate, understand the building’s purpose, and bring in the light but in a controlled manner. The Remington Rand building is the earliest known commercial/business building designed; an eye might notice that many of the primary elements were carried over into the later buildings designed specifically from 1959 to 1966. However, each of these buildings are quite different from one another as well as the later high-rise buildings designed in the late 1960s and in the 1970s by the firm.

The design of the Remington Rand building was a result of a client desiring a clearly contemporary building with open interior space that could be adapted as needs changed. The only major requirements were that the building would have expanses of glass that could display the activities and technology within as well as provide a flexible plan within. The Remington Rand Building at 4100 Lindell was a three-story, rectangular shaped building with a concrete and steel structure and cantilevered floors; while the building is of horizontal composition steel I-beams attached to the cantilevers produce a sense of verticality. The wide expanses of glass result in a sense of airiness. (Figure 11). Obata was able to achieve this plan by locating all of the mechanical, plumbing, stair, elevator, and utilitarian elements along the west wall; this west wall also sat close to a neighboring building.

**Figure 11**: Remington Rand (4100 Lindell) (Nominated building)

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On January 15, 1959 a building permit was issued for a three-story office building at 601 North Broadway in downtown St. Louis. This building was constructed as the State of Missouri Office Building (later Employment Security Building- Figure 12). Likely composed of a steel and concrete structural system similar to the Remington Rand building, this rectangular shaped structure has heavy limestone veneer (to create a sense of strength and “security”) with smaller sections of glass. The cantilevers used at the Remington Rand building are used here but rather than applying any additional external I-beam, above each pilaster is a pyramidal capital under the ceiling overhang (suggesting upward growth).

Figure 12: Missouri State Building (601 Broadway)

In June of 1959 another building permit was issued for a three story office building to house International Business Machines at 3800-18 Lindell Boulevard. Using a similar structural system utilized at the Remington Rand Building, concrete and steel-clad columns rise from the first through the third floors separating the building into seven bays. The cantilevered roofs are again used but this time these elements are contained within a frame that projects from the building sides; the middle cantilever is slightly recessed back from the frame to create a sense of depth. International Business Machines (AKA IBM) was a direct competitor of Remington Rand and it is interesting that they would choose a closer adaptation of the International Style for their new office headquarters. The building emanates a sense of weight and strength while maintaining an open view to the world outside.

29 City of St. Louis Building Permits, #CC7555 issued to owner.
30 Ibid, #CC10224 issued to owner.
A dramatic expression of the an experimental form was tested in 1961 in a multi-story steel and concrete office building constructed for owner Blue Cross at 1430-32 Olive Street. Again, the rectangular form is used but the style is more Brutalist and is a complete departure from the buildings preceding it and especially of the Remington Rand Building.

**Figure 13**: 1960 IBM Building (3800-18 Lindell)

**Figure 14**: 1961 Blue Cross (1430-32 Olive)
Perhaps the greatest departure in style and design and adaptation of a unique building program was the creation of the James S. McDonnell Planetarium in Forest Park (Figure 15). Constructed of reinforced concrete, this hyperboloid structure began as a design in 1960 and was completed in 1963. Then in 1966, HOK created a design comprised of the Vierendeel Truss in order to carry 50-foot spans on three floors of a new building constructed for the American Zinc, Lead and Smelting Company at 20 South 4th Street (NR Listed 5-4-1998). This structure was entirely clad in stainless steel—a fitting symbol of the corporate headquarters of a metal producer.

**Figure 15:** 1960-63 Planetarium (Forest Park)

**Figure 16:** 1966-67 American Zinc (20 S. 4th)
Conclusion
The Remington Rand building has its distinct place within the body of work executed in St. Louis by HOK; it may have been overshadowed by the design of the Planetarium and the American Zinc buildings in 1963 and 1967 respectively but it stands as an important aspect of the varied philosophy of Gyo Obata. The Priory Chapel completed in 1962 in Creve Coeur Missouri challenged structural boundaries and created a space that is still discussed by architects and historians today. As a comparable work of architecture in its time, the Remington Rand building stands out as a distinctive solution that married the client’s programmatic necessities while creating an expression of pure structural form and epitomized Obata’s concern for space, light, and architectural simplicity.
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St. Louis Construction Record. Various dates and 2-7-1956.


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Verbal Boundary Description

The Remington Rand Building located at 4100 Lindell Boulevard in St. Louis (Independent City), Missouri, is located on city block 3914, including 100 feet by 213 feet and 2 ¼ inches in lot E1 of the Peter Lindell Addition to the City of St. Louis. The nominated property is legally known by the St. Louis City Assessor’s Office as parcel ID 39140001100. The property is currently switching hands between the St. Louis Housing Authority, 4100 Lindell Boulevard, St. Louis, Missouri, 63108 and a private party to be named in the next week. A rectangle on the accompanying map entitled “Remington Rand Building Boundary Map” indicates the boundary of the nominated property.

Boundary Justification

The nominated property includes the full building footprint.

“Remington Rand Building Boundary Map”
Floor plan and Photo Key - First Floor

Photos 11 and 12 are the 2nd and 3rd floors