

FC USE ONLY  
RECEIVED  
**SITE FILE COPY**  
DATE ENTERED

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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

## 1 NAME

HISTORIC "Mineral Hall" - Residence of R. E. Bruner  
AND/OR COMMON Ownby House

## 2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 4340 Oak Street  
CITY, TOWN Kansas City VICINITY OF #5 - Hon. Richard Bolling  
STATE Missouri 64111 CODE 29 COUNTY Jackson CODE 095  
NOT FOR PUBLICATION  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

## 3 CLASSIFICATION

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

## 4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Kansas City Art Institute  
STREET & NUMBER 4415 Warwick Boulevard  
CITY, TOWN Kansas City VICINITY OF STATE Missouri 64111

## 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Office of Recorder of Deeds, Jackson County Courthouse  
STREET & NUMBER 415 East 12th Street  
CITY, TOWN Kansas City STATE Missouri 64106

## 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE 1. Preliminary Inventory of Architecture and Historic Sites of Kansas City, Missouri  
DATE 1974 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL  
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS The Landmarks Commission - City Hall  
CITY, TOWN Kansas City STATE Missouri 64106

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

---

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

"Mineral Hall " is situated within a predominately residential/cultural area which forms a part of the Westport District of Kansas City, known as South Hyde Park. Located near the northwest corner of the intersection of Forty-Fourth and Oak Streets, the structure is directly north of the Kansas City Art Institute.

"Mineral Hall," designed by Louis S. Curtiss, is an eclectic Prairie Style amalgam of Second Empire, Art Nouveau and Neoclassic elements.

Assymetrical in shape, the near-rectangular mass has four projecting extensions placed to the north, south, west and northwest elevations. The maximum dimensions measure approximately 75 feet wide by 55 feet deep. The structure, placed above grade, contains a basement and three stories. The main facade looks east onto Oak Street.

Uncoursed limestone blocks form the foundations. The principal material of the exterior walls is Jackson County oolitic limestone with heavy rock face of random pattern.<sup>1</sup> Limestone blocks are also used to form the quoining and voussoirs.

The first story of the east facade contains four bays. The first bay (near the extreme south edge of the facade) contains a stone veranda; the second, a center double-sash window flanked by shorter double-sash windows. The facade is dominated by the central main entrance, approached by seven wide, cut-limestone steps bound on either side by stone wall abutments, topped by wrought iron orb lamp standards and stone planters. The entrance arch is composed of voussoirs of alternating length, the larger all the same size as the keystone. Within are contained four receding semi-circular compound, mosaic-decorated arches, with imported yellow, green and copper colored tesserae, inlaid in a banded design. The glazed single-leaf door is flanked by side windows; the door and the window openings are shaped in the Art Nouveau manner.<sup>2</sup> The door and side windows consist of bevelled leaded crystal in rectilinear and curved floriate patterns. The remaining bay contains a bow window flanked by windows. It is composed of three double-sash and two art glass windows. They are crowned by a red clay tiled pediment.

The second story has a set of three short windows located in the central bay above the main entrance. Other windows are placed in the remaining bays. A majority of the windows contained on all facades are rectangular double-sash with segmental flat arches, white stone sills and radiating stone voussoirs.

Wrought iron angular scroll brackets support the wide overhanging eaves which form a horizontal division between second and attic story.

On the attic level, a band of three clerestory windows extends horizontally along the facade above the eaves. Each window employs elongated leaded art glass center windows flanked on either side by small double-sash windows. Between these are a pair of Second Empire style<sup>3</sup> dormers consisting of oval, single-paned windows placed in scrolled cartouche metal frames.

(Continued)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

"MINERAL HALL"

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 2

On the second story is a central double-sash window flanked by leaded art glass side windows which are angled slightly into the wall face. A solitary double-sash window is placed near the eastern edge of the facade.

A wide boxed cornice supported by wrought iron angular scroll brackets is interrupted at four corners by stone piers which extend above the roof line. Wooden brackets support a boxed cornice around the roof of the south enclosed porch.

The hip roof is covered with red Spanish clay tiles. Asphalt composition shingles surface the roofs of the northwest porch and south porch. Three massive stone chimneys project above the walls near the southeast, northeast and southwest corners.

Interior:

The full basement has a concrete floor. Later lath and plaster walls partition the basement into four rooms. Brick posts support the wall partitions of the upper floors.

On the upper floors, interior partitions are of wood stud construction with lath and plaster walls. The floors are of oak and the woodwork is hardwood.

A central hall located on an east-west axis divides the first floor. Enclosed at the rear of the hall is a secondary U-shaped staircase extending from the basement to the attic floors. It ascends with three runs to a floor. The newels and balusters are square; the bannisters are shaped.

At the west end of the hall, on the north side, the enclosed main staircase rises in a single run terminating at the second floor. The lower steps are curved on the east side. Vertically ribbed wainscoting on either side is surmounted by foliated volute-shaped newels carved in high relief. The volutes and wainscoting are of quarter-sawn oak. The terminate one-third of the way up the staircase. A bannister voluted at both ends is located on the west wall.

On either side of the main entrance the walls curve inward to form a narrower space. Midway along the south wall is a door to an unusual triangular-shaped closet. To the north of the main hall are located the library, mineral exhibition room and the kitchen and service areas. To the south are located the parlor and dining room.

(Continued)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

"MINERAL HALL"

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 4

volute at both ends. A bathroom is located at the northwest corner. It has hexagonal white tile floors and glazed rectangular white tile wainscoting. A corridor along the interior west wall connects two of the bedrooms. A fireplace is placed in the bedroom directly above the library. Rectangular glass transoms surmount the bedroom and attic doors.

The undivided attic consists of a large polygonal space with sloping walls and a flat ceiling. Along the east wall windows extend in a band horizontally along the floor. Two oval dormer windows are placed in pointed-arch alcoves. An alcove at the west wall contains the balustrade-enclosed stair well.

PRESENT STATUS

Since the building's donation by the Kemper-Sosland estate, to the Kansas City Art Institute in 1968,<sup>5</sup> "Mineral Hall" has been renovated from its former residential use into faculty studio space for use by the Art Institute. The building also contains offices and serves as headquarters for the Union of Independent Colleges of Art. There is presently no threat of demolition of the residence or redevelopment of the area.

The condition and maintenance of the structure is good.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

1. Kansas City Star, Sunday, September 11, 1904, p. 13, "New House Built by Mr. Rule."
2. Donald L. Hoffman, "The House with the Art Nouveau," Kansas City Times, July 15, 1965, p. 12A.
3. Ibid.
4. C. W. Whitney, Kansas City, Missouri, Its History and Its People, 1800-1908, S. J. Clarke Publishing Co., Kansas City, Missouri, Vol. II, p. 619.
5. Recorder of Deeds Office, Jackson County Courthouse (Kansas City Annex), 415<sup>th</sup> E. 12th Street, Kansas City, Missouri, 64106.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

"MINERAL HALL"

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1

In 1899, the Baltimore Hotel was completed from Curtiss' designs. The Baltimore was later enlarged with two upper stories and a ten-story addition adjoining the original structure. It was demolished in 1939. The Willis Wood Theater was one of Curtiss' most sumptuous buildings. Designed after the modern French school its inspiration was said to have derived from L'Opera in Paris.<sup>7</sup> It was destroyed by fire in 1917.

Curtiss' Boley Clothing Store Building, built in 1909, employs a major innovation in American architectural design. This structure anticipated by some forty years the popular usage of metal and glass curtain-wall construction surpassing by nine years W. J. Polk's more famous glass curtain-wall Hallidie Building in San Francisco. In 1908-1909, Louis Curtiss employed the curtain-wall technique in his own office/apartment building in downtown Kansas City.<sup>8</sup> (Both curtain-wall structures, as well as Curtiss' Standard Theatre (1900) in Kansas City and Union Depot (1910-1911) in Joplin, Missouri, are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.)

Commissions during his later period became abundant and included designs for stores, offices, residences, churches and other regional and non-regional buildings. Examples include the El Bisante Hotel built in 1906 in Hutchinson, Kansas, and the Harvey Houses built in 1907 in Emporia, Syracuse, and Wellington, Kansas. In 1912 the Union Terminal in Wichita was completed. Residences include the Bernard Corrigan House (1913); the A. W. Riegelman House (1914); the Wookey House (1915) in Toronto, Canada; and the Jesse Hoel House (1916) in Kansas City, Kansas. Louis S. Curtiss died in 1924.<sup>9</sup>

Two distinguished Kansas City citizens enlisted the talents of Louis Curtiss for the plans of this residence, William A. Rule and Roland E. Bruner.

William A. Rule (1858-c.1918) was born and educated in St. Louis, Missouri. In 1887, he came to Kansas City, accepting the position of Chief Clerk in the National Bank of Commerce, later serving as Cashier.

Rule commissioned the architectural firm of Gunn and Curtiss to design a large residence for himself on the north section of his block-long estate. The residence was completed in 1899.<sup>10</sup> After the Convention Hall was destroyed by fire in April 1900, he was one of several gentlemen instrumental in raising funds to construct a new Convention Hall. It was completed in time to house the 1900 Democratic Convention. Rule served as Treasurer of the Convention. By 1903, construction began on a second residence, south of his home. His purpose in erecting the structure was "to maintain the quality of the neighborhood."<sup>11</sup> Rule never resided there.

(Continued)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

"MINERAL HALL"

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 3

2. Louis Curtiss, Research Files of Fred T. Comee, including Curtiss' List of Projects.
3. Conversation between Mrs. Katherine Thompson (daughter of W. A. Rule) and James A. Ryan, Curator of Collections, Kansas City Museum, January 30, 1975.
4. H. Allen Brooks, The Prairie School, University of Toronto Press, Toronto, Canada, 1972.
5. Kansas City Star, August 24, 1902, p. 15, "America's Newest Theater, the Willis Wood to be Opened Tomorrow Night."
6. F. T. Comee, "Louis Curtiss of Kansas City," Progressive Architecture, 44: 128-34, August 1963.
7. Ibid.
8. Ibid.
9. Ibid.
10. Kansas City Star, November 26, 1899, p. 13, "New Kansas City Homes."
11. Conversation between Mrs. Katherine Thompson (daughter of W. A. Rule) and James A. Ryan, January 30, 1975.
12. C. W. Whitney, Kansas City, Missouri, Its History and Its People, 1800-1908, S. J. Clarke Publishing Co., Kansas City, Missouri, 1908, Vol. II, pp. 262-5.
13. Ibid., pp. 644-50.
14. Kansas City Star, December 6, 1903, p. 5, "Rare Minerals and Gems."
15. J. Donahue, Greater Kansas City Yearbook, Tiernan-Dart Printing Co., 1905, pp. 9, 102, 161-4.
16. Ibid., p. 102
17. Kansas City Star, March 11, 1941, p. 6, "Death of Roland E. Bruner."

(Continued)

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1. Baxter, K., Notable Kansas Citians of 1915-1916-1917-1918, Kellog-Baxter Printing Co., Kansas City, Missouri, 1918.
2. Brooks, H. Allen, The Prairie School, University of Toronto Press, Toronto, Canada, 1972.

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one (.474982 acres)

UTM REFERENCES

A 

1	5
---	---

3	6	3	1	0	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

4	3	2	3	0	2	5
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

B 

--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

C 

--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

D 

--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

1. Edward J. Mischczuk, Researcher

ORGANIZATION

Landmarks Commission - City Hall

DATE

February 1, 1975

STREET & NUMBER

414 East 12th Street

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Kansas City

STATE

Missouri 64106

## 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

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

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE

Director, Department of Natural Resources  
and State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

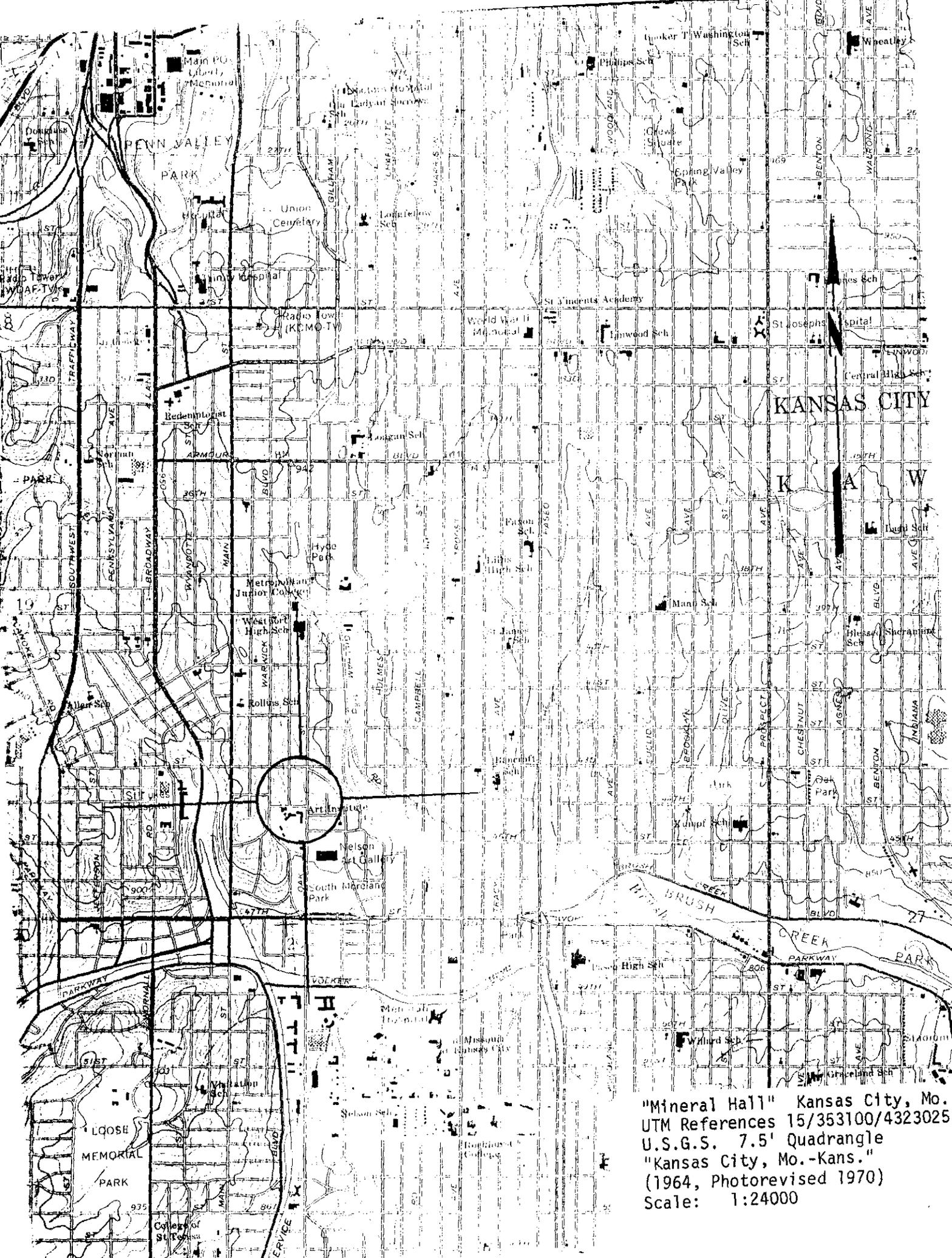
DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



"Mineral Hall" Kansas City, Mo.  
UTM References 15/353100/4323025  
U.S.G.S. 7.5' Quadrangle  
"Kansas City, Mo.-Kans."  
(1964, Photorevised 1970)  
Scale: 1:24000

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

"MINERAL HALL"

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9

PAGE 2

15. A Memorial and Biographical Record of Kansas City and Jackson County, Missouri  
Lewis Publishing Co., Chicago, 1896, pp. 623-4.
16. Recorder of Deeds Office, Jackson County Courthouse, 415 East 12th Street,  
Kansas City, Missouri.
17. Whitney, C. W., Kansas City, Missouri, Its History and Its People, 1800-1908.  
S. J. Clarke Publishing Co., Kansas City, 1908, Vol. II, pp. 262-5, 644-50.

**Photo Log:**

Name of Property: **Mineral Hall**

City or Vicinity: **Kansas City**

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

Photographer: **Paul Kivett**

Date

Photographed: **Mar. 1975**

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

1 of 6. Looking NW. View of main staircase, showing single N-S run located at the W end of the central hallway.

2 of 6. Looking E. View of the rear (W) façade.

3 of 6. Looking W. Detail view of the front (E) entrance.

4 of 6. Looking NW. View of main staircase, showing single N-S run located at the W end of the central hallway.

5 of 6. Looking NW. View of the front (E) façade and S façade.

6 of 6. Looking W. View of mineral display room, showing display cabinets with leaded glass doors placed along outer walls.





