

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

For HCRS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Laclede Gas and Light Company Building, Old

and/or common Laclede Gas Company Building, Old

2. Location

street & number 1017 Olive Street _____ not for publication

city, town St. Louis _____ vicinity of _____ congressional district #3 Hon. Richard Gephardt

state Missouri _____ code 29 _____ county St. Louis City _____ code 510

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> educational <input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: not in use

4. Owner of Property

name Donn H. Lipton

Lipton Realty
street & number 800 Chestnut Street

city, town St. Louis _____ vicinity of _____ state Missouri 63101

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. St. Louis City Hall

street & number Market Street and Tucker Boulevard

city, town St. Louis _____ state Missouri 63101

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title 1. Architectural Survey of the Central Business District, St. Louis, Mo. has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date October 1975, revised April 1977 _____ federal _____ state _____ county local

depository for survey records Landmarks Association of St. Louis, Inc.

city, town St. Louis _____ state Missouri 63101

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LACLEDE GAS AND LIGHT COMPANY BUILDING, OLD

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Continuation sheet

Item number 6

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- | | |
|---|--------------------------------|
| <p>2. <u>Missouri's Contribution to American Architecture</u>
1928
St. Louis: St. Louis Architectural Club
St. Louis</p> | <p>state
Missouri 6310</p> |
| <p>3. <u>Missouri State Survey</u>
1980
Department of Natural Resources
Historic Preservation Program
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City</p> | <p>state
Missouri 6510</p> |

Item number 9

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Savage, Charles Chauncey. "Private Street Architecture of St. Louis." M.A. thesis, Columbia University, New York, 1977.

"This is Laclede." Laclede News (September 1964): n.p.

Withey, Henry F. and Withey, Elsie Rathburn. Biographical Dictionary of American Architects (Deceased). Los Angeles: New Age Publishing Co., 1956.

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input 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

The Old Laclede Gas and Light Company Building of 1911-13 is a little-altered ten story skyscraper situated at the northeast corner of North 11th and Olive Streets in downtown St. Louis. Of reinforced concrete construction clad in Bedford stone, brown brick and cream-colored terra cotta, the structure illustrates academic design tendencies prevalent in St. Louis and other conservative American cities from the turn-of-the-century until the twenties. In designs for the utility company, St. Louis architects Mauran, Russell and Crowell borrowed from Renaissance and classical precedent to enhance the street level and the skyline in equal measure.

Contrasting colors, materials and decorative treatments establish three clearly-defined horizontal divisions across the facades, while apertures establish vertical divisions numbering five bays on Olive Street and six bays on North 11th Street. The Second Renaissance Revival provides sources for the ground level arcading, defined by corbel-topped archivolt moldings springing from quarter-pilasters, that passes behind the tall ashlar pilasters. The inner street level openings at the southern elevation originally opened into a porch in antis that added the prescribed sense of weight and massiveness to the base of the structure.¹ These arcuated openings were glazed, however, at an early date, perhaps to gain additional street frontage for ground level offices. For inspiration in the design of the top rails of the later window sash, the architects looked to the geometric patterns of the cast iron glazing bars filling the tympana of the corner openings rather than to the original unadorned and molded limestone rails of the remaining openings. A projecting stone cornice which once carried gas company signage culminates the Renaissance Revival treatment at street level.

Used alternately, cream-colored terra cotta panels and pilasters which once anchored thirteen gas-lit bronze sconces accentuate the doubled rhythm of the second floor openings.² The surmounting terra cotta cornice reiterates the horizontal motion of the lower cornice while announcing the vertical movement of the seven tiers of evenly fenestrated offices above. Terra cotta window surrounds and green-patinaed copper window sash highlight the openings against the brown brick finish, mollifying its severe appearance.

Two stories of attic windows enframed by cast iron spandrels and sash, retire behind a giant Ionic colonnade in cream-colored terra cotta. Although missing the original roof line balustrade, the bold terra cotta entablature, richly detailed with a fasciated architrave, a paneled frieze and assorted moldings, holds the attic's visual ascent in check.³

FOOTNOTES

1. John Albury Bryan, Missouri's Contribution to American Architecture (St. Louis: St. Louis Architectural Club, 1928), p. 152.
2. Ibid.
3. Ibid.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1911-1913 Builder/Architect Mauran, Russell and Crowell, Architects

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Old Laclède Gas and Light Company Building, 1017 Olive Street, St. Louis, Missouri, is architecturally significant as a largely unaltered early 20th century skyscraper, particularly noteworthy for its commanding and graceful design achieved through subtle contrasts of colors and simply-stated classical and Renaissance forms. Inasmuch as the building presents thoroughgoing testimony concerning the architectural classicism of tradition-bound cities during the late 19th and early 20th centuries, the structure yields important information concerning academicism in American architecture. The powerful treatment of the building's base and attic with Renaissance-inspired and classicizing features concisely illustrates the academics' use of historically-derived features in an inventive, yet disciplined manner to achieve original designs that build upon, rather than replicate, historical precedent.

The building's local significance derives from its function as a crucial anchor at the western edge of the central business district and, on the strength of the colossal attic colonnade, its position as a landmark in the downtown skyline. Since the Old Laclède Gas and Light Company Building is confronted by sheathed historic structures at the other corners of North 11th and Olive Streets, it is one of the only reminders immediate vicinity of the time and place that was early 20th century St. Louis, a fact which greatly enhances its importance to the business district.

The Laclède Gas and Light Company, currently known as the Laclède Gas Company, received its charter as a public utility to engage in the retail distribution of natural gas and electric current from the State of Missouri on March 2, 1857. As was typical of inland utilities during the mid to late 1800's, the company was owned and controlled by eastern interests until its acquisition by local businessmen during the first decade of the 20th century. The publication before 1910 of W.C. Jenkins article, "Public Utility Methods That Win," includes plans by the new board of directors to construct a ten story office building, costing an estimated \$750,000, at the northeast corner of North 11th and Olive Streets.¹ The utility contracted architectural services for their headquarters to the St. Louis firm of Mauran, Russell and Crowell, a partnership of high repute.

The Laclède Gas and Light Company commission was among the earliest secured by the firm, which succeeded Mauran, Russell and Garden (1900-09) and Mauran and Russell (1909-11). John Lawrence Mauran, a graduate of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, a Fellow and president of the American Institute of Architects and a principal designer for the firms, and Englishman Ernest J. Russell, superintendent of the firms' drafting rooms and construction sites, combined talents with Edward G. Garden and later William D. Crowell to produce commercial, residential and industrial buildings, remarkable for high quality design and detailing in a variety of historical styles. The Old Laclède Gas and Light Company Building, Stix, Baer and Fuller department store, St. Louis, the Cabanne Branch of the St. Louis Public Library and the Carnegie Library, Sedalia, Missouri, evidence the firms' skillful rendering of plans and supervision of their execution.²

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Until 1957, office space in excess of Laclede Gas and Light Company's needs was tenanted to outside firms. The utility's continued growth resulted in the relocation of the Sales Department to a nearby office building in 1964 and the relocation of the entire company to a new, thirty story tower at North 8th and Olive Streets in 1969.³ Because of the long-standing association with the gas company and because the building has not taken on any new associations with recent occupants, the building retains strong ties to the St. Louis utility. Presently vacant, the structure awaits refurbishing and conversion into office condominiums.

FOOTNOTES

1. W.C. Jenkins, "Public Utility Methods That Win," n.d. State Historical Society, Columbia, Missouri.
2. Charles Chauncey Savage, "Private Street Architecture of St. Louis," (M.A. thesis, Columbia University, New York, 1977), p. 194, 196, 200, 216; and Henry F. Withey and Elsie Rathburn Withey, Biographical Dictionary of American Architects (Deceased) (Los Angeles: New Age Publishing Co., 1956), p. 229, 399.
3. "This is Laclede," Laclede News (September 1964): n.p.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bryan, John Albury, Missouri's Contribution to American Architecture, St. Louis; St. Louis Architectural Club, 1928.

Jenkins, W.C. "Public Utility Methods That Win," N.d. State Historical Society, Columbia, Missouri.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name "Granite City, ILL-MO

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A

1	5	7	4	4	1	6	0	4	2	7	9	1	7	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B.

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C

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Verbal boundary description and justification A lot in block 280 in the City of St. Louis, fronting 98'8" on the North line of Olive Street, by a depth Northwardly on the East line of Eleventh Street of 107'9" to an alley, on the South line of which said alley, said lot has a width of 101', more or less, bounded east by property formerly of Rebecca W. Sire.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Jill Johnson, Architectural Historian
Historic Preservation Program

organization Mo. Department of Natural Resources date August 16, 1980

street & number P.O. Box 176 telephone 314/751-4096

city or town Jefferson City state Missouri 65102

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Director, Department of Natural Resources and
title State Historic Preservation Officer

date

For HCRS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

Venice

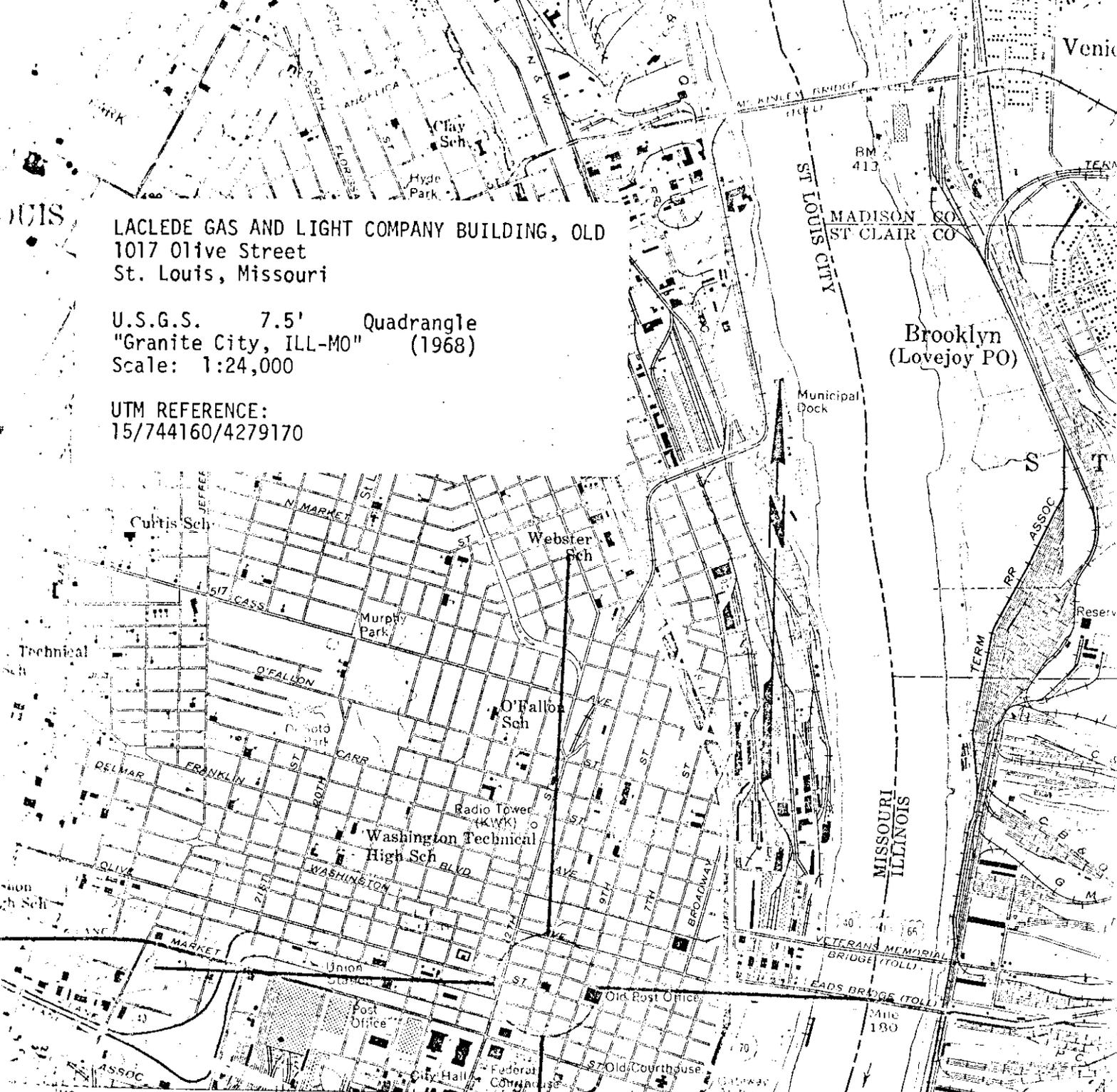
LACLEDE GAS AND LIGHT COMPANY BUILDING, OLD
1017 Olive Street
St. Louis, Missouri

U.S.G.S. 7.5' Quadrangle
"Granite City, ILL-MO" (1968)
Scale: 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCE:
15/744160/4279170

MADISON CO
ST CLAIR CO

Brooklyn
(Lovejoy PO)



Municipal Dock

MISSOURI
ILLINOIS

VETERANS MEMORIAL
BRIDGE (TOLL)

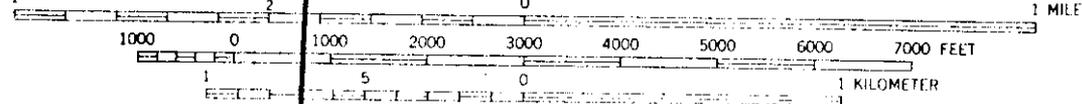
LEADS BRIDGE (TOLL)

130

12'30"

(CAHOKIA)
2961 II SW

SCALE 1:24 000



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
DASHED LINES REPRESENT 5-FOOT CONTOURS
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242.
STATE GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, URBANA, ILLINOIS 61801,
AND MISSOURI GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, ROLLA, MISSOURI 65401
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

1968 MAGNETIC NORTH
AT CENTER OF SHEET

Photo Log:

Name of Property: **Old Laclede Gas and light Company Building**

City or Vicinity: **St. Louis [Independent City]**

County: **St. Louis [Independent City]** State: **MO**

Photographer: **Vivian Paul**

Date

Photographed: **June 1978**

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

1 of 3. View looking NE.

2 of 3. View looking NW.

3 of 3. Historic view pictured in John Albury Bryan's Missouri's Contribution to American Architecture.
Photographer unknown, circa 1928.



DECORATORS ETC

park
⓪

STANSON

park



W. H. H.

L
I
P
I
C
S

PERI-FENCLES

F. PARKER
Suits
Shirts

LEW PEARLSTEIN
FURS
CONTACT THE OFFICE

FRANCO

LIPIC'S



