

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS 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 Bonfils Building

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 1200 Grand Avenue not for publication

city, town Kansas City vicinity of

state Missouri code 29 county Jackson code 095

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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Lehdorff/Traders II

street & number 2121 N. Akard St.

city, town Dallas vicinity of state Texas

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Jackson County Recorder of Deeds

street & number 415 E. 12th St.

city, town Kansas City state MO 64106

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Kansas City: A Place In Time has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date July, 1982 federal state county local

depository for survey records K.C. Landmarks Commission, City Hall, 26th Floor

city, town Kansas City state MO 64106

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

THE BONFILS BUILDING

The Bonfils Building, 1200 Grand Avenue, was constructed in 1925 as a speculative commercial venture for entrepreneur and newspaper owner Frederick G. Bonfils. The building was designed by Kansas City architect Frederick C. Gunn and built by the Swenson Construction Company.

The Bonfils Building is located at one of Kansas City's major downtown thoroughfares, the southwest corner of 12th Street and Grand Avenue. Its two primary facades face north on 12th Street and east on Grand Avenue. The north facade measures 116'-4 3/8"; the east approximately 107'. There is a full basement, first floor, and second floor.

Exterior

Done in a Venetian Renaissance Revival style,¹ the Bonfils Building is a monument to the eclecticism and exuberant design and detail found in commercial buildings of the period. The material is terra cotta cut in a manner meant to emulate finely cut ashlar.

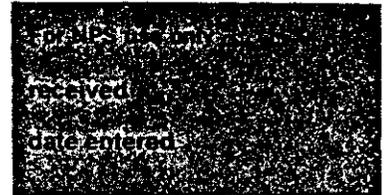
The first story of the building has been altered and consists of miscellaneous plate glass storefronts, none of which are original. A corrugated metal siding covers the glass transoms on both facades and extends down into the plate glass at the facade's southwest corner. A green marble veneer has been placed just above a diagonal corner entry with a large single post on the corner. The diagonal corner is not original, nor is the marble; these alterations were thought to have been made in 1929-30 when the storefronts were remodelled.² Storefronts on the north are of aluminum with green marble bases.

The first story is separated from the second by a pronounced corbel table. Between the corbels, inset pink marble panels have been placed. These panels are repeated at the cornice level. Large windows in the form of a depressed arch rise above the corbel table, separated by pilasters. The arch itself is framed by a rope molding which continues down each side to form a spiral colonette. At the base of each of the pilasters the corbel table is more pronounced.

The windows themselves have one large light with a horizontal member separating the light in the arch. A central square window is provided for ventilation. A diamond diaper pattern in a paper was applied to the upper glass as a decorative effect. Much of it still survives.

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At the top of each pier is situated a medallion with an inset of green marble. A denticulated stringcourse then introduces an unadorned frieze, except for the placement of a boxed cartouche at each corner of the building with an engraved "B".

Above this frieze is a corbel table featuring the inset marble panels present below. This corbel table supports a tripartite foliated arch, which in turn supports a terra cotta cornice with inset stylized quatrefoils. Pink marble is the backing for the quatrefoils.

The west and south elevations are of plain buff brick, with 2/2 and 3/3 light sash opening onto the alley on the building's west side. Entry can be obtained at the far south end of the west facade, where a service door leads to stairways that connect all three floors.

Interior

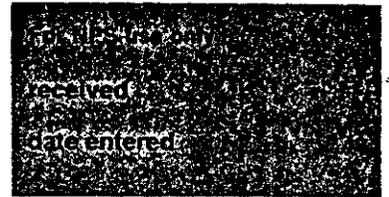
The basement was finished at one time for use as a pool parlor, and it still retains a few interesting green lights. However, a major city water line break completely destroyed this basement space; water damage was extensive, and has never been repaired. Entrance to the basement can be gained from the 12th Street entry or the alley entry.

The interior space on the first floor, according to plans, was designed as a large space with supporting columns. At a later date the space was partitioned and built to meet the square footage requirements of the tenants. The building today is vacant, and the space broken up for seven tenant areas.

The second floor of the building is reached from 12th Street by two flights of concrete stairs. The second floor is also one large space that has been partitioned in various arrangements. Some of the ceilings have been lowered. An interesting feature of the second floor is the columns, which are encased in wood wainscoting. The floors are of terrazzo, with inset black designs. Light fixtures in a conical shape hang from the ceiling in one relatively intact area, and could be original.

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Alterations

1. The storefront transoms have been covered with a corrugated metal sheeting and may not be intact. Date unknown.
2. Storefronts have been altered by the addition of aluminum doors and framed; lowered entry ceilings. Date unknown.
3. Primary entry on 12th Street has been replaced with aluminum entry. Original marquee has been removed. Unknown.
4. Corner post has been removed and a corner entry made at the diagonal. Addition of a green marble above the corner and over the transom windows on the 12th Street side was thought to have been done in a 1929-30 alteration.

Condition

The building is in good structural condition but needs roof repairs and general maintenance. The terra cotta appears to be in good condition with little spalling.

Present Status

The Bonfils Building was purchased by the Lehndorff/Traders II group in 1982. Plans are to renovate the building.

Footnotes

¹Landmarks Commission of Kansas City, Missouri, Kansas City: A Place In Time (Kansas City: 1977), p. 39.

²Landmarks Commission file.

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 checked="" 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 1925 **Builder/Architect** Frederick C. Gunn, Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Bonfils Building, 1200 Grand Avenue, contributes two facades of delightful style yet elegant stature to a major intersection in Kansas City's central business district. Its fanciful detail not only illustrates an eclectic period of terra cotta construction so prevalent in "boom town" Kansas City of the 20's, but also is the surviving legacy of one of the West's, and Kansas City's, more colorful and interesting entrepreneurs - Frederick G. Bonfils.

Mr. Bonfils' life is a testament to the businessman of the 20's, a breed of man long since disappeared on Kansas City's corner of 12th and Grand. The Bonfils Building, a purely speculative venture, was only one of Bonfils' money-making adventures in Kansas City. It is, however, the only one remaining to this day. Only at Bonfils' death was this man's colorful career ended; and at his death his story was told in a vivid style typical of the day in the Kansas City Star, February 2, 1933:

Frederick G. Bonfils, publisher of the Denver Post, whose picturesque career has been linked with many of the spectacular events of the Rocky Mountain region for the last quarter century, died today at his home here. Bonfils, with his late associate owner, H. H. Tammen, purchased the Post in 1892.

Death came unexpectedly, following a brief illness due to a complication of influenza and an ear infection. He underwent a minor operation Monday, but not until last night did his condition become serious.

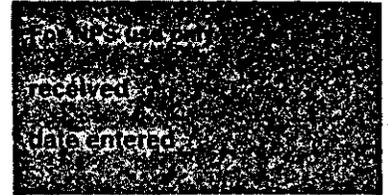
His physicians said today it was believed the germ which caused the trouble in his ear worked its way into the brain and he did not have sufficient resistance to throw off its toxic influence.

IN MANY ENTERPRISES

Besides his activity as a newspaper publisher, Bonfils was interested extensively for many years in various business enterprises in the Rocky Mountain region and built up a large fortune. He and Tammen operated the Sells-Floto circus from 1904 to 1921.

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He is survived by his widow and two daughters, Helen and May Bonfils Berryman; two brothers, Charles and Thomas of Denver, and two sisters, Mrs. Etta B. Walker of Fort Humphries, Va., and Mrs. Nell Barber of Los Angeles.

Bonfils and Tammen extended their newspaper enterprise to Kansas City in the acquisition, October 29, 1909, of the Kansas City Post, which they published until May 18, 1922, when it was sold by them.

SUED ANOTHER NEWSPAPER

Recently Bonfils sued the Rocky Mountain News of Denver for \$200,000 for libel, basing the suit upon quotations from an address by Walter Walker, Grand Junction, Col., newspaper published, in which Bonfils was attacked.

Attorneys for the News obtained court permission for examination of Bonfils by deposition and in the course of the examination Bonfils objected to certain questions about his checkered life. This resulted in a citation for contempt of court and a fine of \$25 was imposed upon him. He appealed to the state supreme court against the fine. The examination was to have proceeded in court this week, but Bonfils's illness caused a postponement.

Born in Troy, Mo., December 31, 1860, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Napoleon Bonfils, the publisher when he was 16 years old was appointed to West Point, entering the academy in 1878. There he met Miss Belle Barton of Peekskill, N. Y., resigned from the academy before graduation and married her.

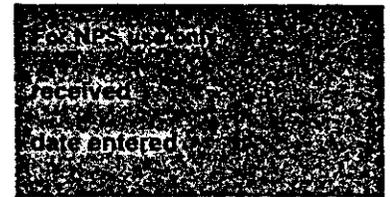
TO KANSAS CITY

Bonfils for a time was employed in the Chemical National Bank at New York City, and then traveled westward, settling in Kansas City. After speculating in real estate he became associated in the notorious Little Louisiana lottery. On March 21, 1895, he disposed of his lottery interests after the federal government had prosecuted the company.

In the summer of 1892 Bonfils came to Denver and met the late Harry H. Tammen, who had risen from the post of a bartender at the pioneer Windsor hotel to publisher of the Great Divide, a weekly newspaper, and proprietor of a curio business. Tammen and Bonfils purchased the Denver Post, a small daily, from the late Charles J. Hughes, afterward United States senator from Colorado, for \$12,500. They introduced in the West a new form of sensational journalism.

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SHOT IN 1899

In December, 1899, Tammen and Bonfils were shot and wounded seriously by W. W. Anderson, a lawyer, who was tried three times but never was convicted. Tammen and Bonfils accused Anderson of taking advantage of Alfred Packer, known then as the "Maneater," who had been arrested a year before when he battled his way through snowdrifts from the snowbound mining camp of Lake City, Col., and told of being forced to subsist on the flesh of his fellow prospectors.

A woman staff writer, Mrs. Lionel Ross O'Brien, who wrote under the name of Polly Pry, brought Bonfils word from the state prison that Anderson had influenced Packer into giving him his life savings as a retainer. Anderson was called to the gaudy red offices of Bonfils and Tammen and accused of taking advantage of the prisoner. In the quarrel that followed, Bonfils knocked Anderson down. The lawyer shot Bonfils twice and Tammen three times. At Anderson's third trial, evidence was produced to prove jury tampering and Bonfils and Tammen were fined and jailed for one day. Tammen died in 1924. Half of Tammen's fortune, or 6 million dollars, was bequeathed to charity.

FAILED TO GET A GRIP HERE

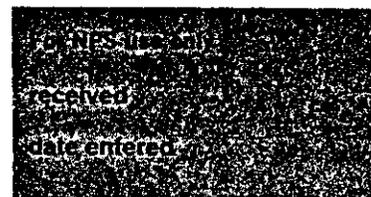
Newspaper Interests Were Sold and Bonfils
Concentrated on Denver

Fred G. Bonfils, picturesque and combative product of Denver and for thirty years a most extensive recipient and deliverer of vituperation, touched Kansas City at various angles. He owned downtown real estate here and from 1909 to 1922 he published the Kansas City Post, in conjunction with his partner, the late Harry Tammen.

At his death Bonfils owned the southwest corner of Twelfth street and Grand avenue and the southeast corner of Tenth and Walnut streets (The building at 10th and Main is no longer extant.) Max Skeer had been his real estate representative.

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Bonfils owned the Empress theater, variety and burlesque house, built on a leasehold, but a year or so ago surrendered the property to the groundholders. Ownership of this theater brought him into one of his numerous lawsuits, a long litigation with Albert Schoenberg over Bonfil's arbitrary action regarding the Empress lobby, which a score of years ago extended into Twelfth street through Schoenberg's corner building at McGee. Schoenberg bested Bonfils in a litigation that ran well over a decade.

In publishing the Kansas City Post, Bonfils and Tammen had the Armour interests as a silent partner and shared half the proceeds and losses when in 1922 a purchaser was found in W. B. Dickey, then a clay pipe millionaire, who a year earlier had bid in the old Kansas City Journal at a receiver's sale. J. Ogden Armour remarked in Kansas City once that he always had held his closest friend to have been Tammen, the Bonfils partner, a unique character, one-time bartender, audacious and cynical but loyal in friendship.

NOT AN OPEN ALLIANCE

The Armour and Bonfils alliance, however, was not an open one in Kansas City. J. Ogden Armour, controlling the street car and electric light systems, and seeking new franchises and privileges, had financed the Post in its earlier struggles. When Bonfils & Tammen, Denver publishers, were announced as the purchasers, Armour retained a silent half interest and kept a personal representative in the business office of the newspaper.

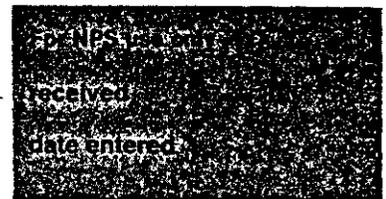
Tammen, who had no veneer or pretense, often made open sport of the operations of the two in Kansas City, but for Bonfils, who came to value his personal dignity, it was a matter of more serious consequences. He recalled an early and rather enforced exist from Kansas City and desired to wipe out that recollection with an impressive splash into the affairs of the town.

NOT A MILLIONAIRE THEN

Back in the 90's Bonfils was not the publisher, not the real estate millionaire, or even the circus owner and curio manufacturer. He was then the lottery man and his venture in Kansas City was the Little Louisiana lottery. It is an interesting sidelight on the period that the moral discussions on the "Little Louisiana" turned on whether it actually produced winning numbers. The lottery was attacked because it was not run on the square and it finally was abandoned.

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Those were real estate boom days and Bonfils, the venturesome, taking advantage of the magic upturn in Oklahoma, conceived, planned and platted an Oklahoma City. His, however, was not the fair city that became the impressive capital of Oklahoma, but an Oklahoma City, Tex.

Bonfil's advertising literature carried the words "Oklahoma City" in big type and "Texas" in very small type below. Buyers found they had lots out on a sand prairie.

Bonfils and Tammen could have starred in vaudeville. Theirs was a genuine flair for showmanship. In Colorado they exercised at times great power, and were a factor in city and state, but in Kansas City they operated without that background. Tammen was careless of appearance and frank of speech in a casual vein that sometimes was disarming and sometimes astounding. Bonfils, however, preferred a more serious pose and loved the grand and sensational gesture.

THEIR CAREER IN DENVER

While Kansas City saw much of the two partners and observed some of their methods at close range, it was almost impossible for Kansas Citians to grasp the full picture of their turbulent and sensational career in Denver, where they played with power, money, politics, business animosity and intrigue on a state-wide stage.

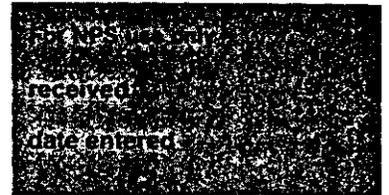
Bonfils neared the end of his life in typical combat. A competitive newspaper printed a violent characterization of Bonfils in which the term "public enemy" was rather the mildest used. Bonfils, often sued and sueing, answered with a \$200,000 suit for libel. Came deposition taking and Bonfils, finding the run of questioning not to his liking, refused to answer. Within days of his death, came a court ruling the questions were to be answered.

The arguments were sensational, as were most of the chapters in Bonfils's life.

"Why, it was just a few months ago that Mr. Bonfils was entertained in the White House by President Hoover," the Bonfils lawyer is quoted in argument. "Do you think that the President of the United States would entertain a rattlesnake, a vulture or a vile creature in the White House?"

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"Well, lo and behold, President after President has entertained rattlesnakes and vultures in the White House," rejoins the other lawyer. "Didn't President Harding entertain Fall and Forbes? What were they but men just like Bonfils?"

That is combative conversation in Denver, developed in decades of name-calling.

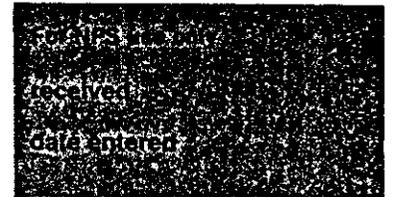
AN INTERESTING HOST

Bonfils had a picturesqueness of appearance and conduct that made him an interesting companion on hunting trips or as a host. He might have stepped out of some man-about-town characterization of the screen. More than one Kansas City business man and banker, T. T. Crittenden, former mayor, among others, confessed to a personal fondness for Bonfils. The late Col. Fred W. Fleming delighted in stories revealing the personal idiosyncrasies of the Denver publisher, whom he praised as a host.

Tammens at his death was liberal in remembrance of old employees and friends. Considerable interest exists in Colorado as to the disposition of the Bonfils fortune, for the chance exists that it may be largely diverted to public or semipublic purposes, a monument to a peculiar personage. In his later years intimates of Bonfils perceived a religious side of this character developing.

At Bonfils' death, his estate amounted to ten million dollars. After the annuities given to many families and friends, the remainder of his fortune was devoted to "charitable and educational purposes through the Frederick G. Bonfils Foundation."¹ Kansas City is still benefiting from Bonfils' profits; in 1974 the Helen G. Bonfils Charitable Trust for the Kansas City Art Institute Scholarship Fund was established with a gift of \$50,000.00. Helen Bonfils was the youngest daughter of Frederick G. Bonfils. At the time of her death, she was the Chairman of the Board of the Denver Post.²

Bonfils was already well known in Kansas City in 1925 when he began the building of the Bonfils Building. Some major events in the year it was begun included the first traffic lights installed, Goodwill Industries organized,³ and Kansas City factories totalling over 590 million dollars in production, moving ahead of Milwaukee and placing the city in a close second to Pittsburgh.⁴ The city was going through a period of extensive growth and rampant real estate speculation. 1925 and 1926 represented the peak of this commercial building boom which had begun in the post-war period. The years between 1927 and 1930 saw a 61% decline in the construction of business buildings.

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The last few years of the decade saw skyscrapers and tall business buildings being constructed by architects who "rejected the use of historic eclecticism."⁵ The Bonfils Building, therefore, represents one of the last small scale ventures of the "growth is progress"⁶ concept as well as one of the last great examples of architectural eclecticism.

Bonfils chose proven winners to assist him in his real estate speculations. Max Skeer, a well known Kansas City realtor, marketed Bonfils' two speculative buildings with the motto "Success is 90% Location." For his architect he chose a man well established in the profession in Kansas City, Frederick C. Gunn. At opposite ends of the spectrum, Gunn was as stable and well respected as Bonfils was not.

Gunn came from a long line of prominent Americans, a line which began when Dr. Jasper Gunn of Clan Gunn Scotland came to America in 1665 on the Defiance, and was enhanced by Minutemen Captain Asahel Gunn's commendation by the Massachusetts Supreme Council in 1776.⁷ Major O. B. Gunn, his father, was an early-day engineer and bridge builder⁸ and designed the railroad bridge across the Missouri River at Atchison, Kansas, which was completed in 1875.⁹

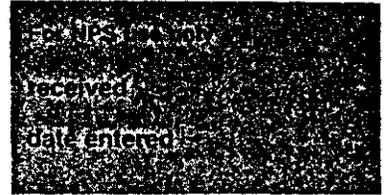
Gunn was born in Atchison, Kansas in 1865. The family moved to Kansas City in 1879 and he continued his schooling in the city through high school. He then proceeded to graduate from the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, New York, worked in New York for a few years, and then returned to Kansas City to organize the firm of Gunn and Curtiss. After ten years, Gunn went into business alone.¹⁰

Some of Gunn's early commissions include the courthouses at Lawrence, Emporia, and Salina, Kansas, producing a reputation for him as a "designer of pompous, Roman-arched courthouses, city halls and railroad stations." Gunn's use of eclectic design caused these buildings to be labelled as "pompous and showy great stone piles" which he found "interesting in their classic derivation, with a long tradition of architectural thought behind them."¹¹

One of his best known complexes is the General Hospital group, which he built in 1905. "There he exercised a combination of his tastes in designing to meet a need--the modern, efficient and upward, along with reminders of the spirit behind the Greeks, the Romans, Shakespeare and the Victorian age."¹² The National Fidelity Life Building was completed in 1912, and after the Bonfils Building, in 1927, he wrote the Building Code for Kansas City.¹³ He was also a member of the Board of Architects for Jackson County in the design of the courthouse under the direction of then presiding Judge Harry S. Truman.¹⁴

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Gunn's use of a Venetian Renaissance Revival style in the construction of the Bonfils Building seems somehow very appropriate for a building with such a colorful owner, built in such a progressive and pleasure-loving era.

The Clemons Company occupied the second floor of the building when it was designed. Gunn included in his drawings Clemon's motto of "21.50, all one price" as electric signage over the 12th Street marquee¹⁵ and in a huge round sign atop the building which dwarfed the surrounding streetscape.¹⁶ It is interesting to note that while in Gunn's drawings the price was 21.50, by the time the building was finished, the price had risen to 22.50--a cogent sign of the changing times.

In later years, the Bonfils Building became well known for its corner tenant, The Wonderland Arcade, a tradition for pinball and later video that began in the early 1940's¹⁷ and only ended in 1983 with the termination of their lease by the sale to the present owners.

The Bonfils Building remains today a significant and elegant anchor to one of downtown Kansas City's major corners and a testament to the life of a colorful and unforgettable Missourian, Frederick G. Bonfils.

Footnotes

¹"The F.G. Bonfils Will," Kansas City Times, 2 July 1933.

²Wednesday Magazine, 3 April 1974, Mo. Valley Room files.

³George Fuller Green, Kansas City Chronology 1800-1963 (Kansas City, 1963).

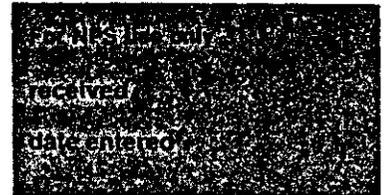
⁴Henry C. Haskell, Jr. and Richard B. Fowler, City of the Future (1950), p. 128.

⁵George Ehrlich, Kansas City Missouri: An Architectural History (Kansas City, Historic Kansas City Foundation, 1979) pp. 70-71.

⁶Ibid.

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⁷Who's Who in Kansas City, pp. 83-84, Landmarks Commission File.

⁸"Fred C. Gunn Dies," Kansas City Times, 4 September 1959, Landmarks Commission File.

⁹Kansas City Star, 12 Sept. 1949, Landmarks Commission File.

¹⁰George Kreel and John Slavens, Men Who Are Making Kansas City (Kansas City: Hudson-Kimberly Publishing Co., 1902) Landmarks Commission File.

¹¹Ibid., Kansas City Star, 12 Sept. 1949.

¹²Ibid.

¹³Ibid., Who's Who in Kansas City

¹⁴Kansas City Star, 13 Nov. 1955.

¹⁵Original Architectural Drawings, University of Missouri-Kansas City, Western Historical Manuscript Collection.

¹⁶Jack C. Cox, Kansas City the Way We Were (1981) pp. 24-25.

¹⁷Kansas City Star, 6 April 1983.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Landmarks Commission of Kansas City, Missouri: files on Frederick C. Gunn and the Bonfils Building.
Original building plans, present at UMKC's Western Historic Manuscript Collection, Architectural Library.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property .285 acres

Quadrangle name KANSAS CITY, MO - KANS.

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

115	361321810	41321881010
Zone	Easting	Northing

B

Zone	Easting	Northing

C

--	--	--

D

--	--	--

E

--	--	--

F

--	--	--

G

--	--	--

H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Beginning at the southwest corner of the junction of Grand Avenue and Twelfth Street, proceed west on Twelfth Street 115.5' to an alley;

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 1. Mary J. Matthews, President

organization Phoenix Architectural Renovation

date January 10, 1984

street & number 1805 Grand Avenue, Suite 200

telephone 816/471-4900

city or town Kansas City

state MO 64108

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

Fred A. Soper

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

date 2/8/84

For NPS use only

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

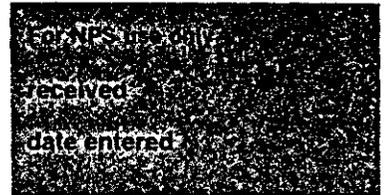
Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet The Bonfils Building

Item number 9

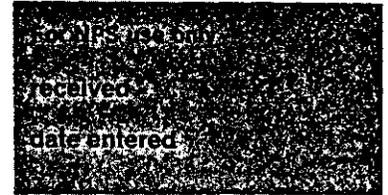
Page 1

"F.G. Bonfils Is Dead." Kansas City Star, 2 February 1933.

"F.G. Bonfils, Denver, Dies." Kansas City Journal Post, 2 February 1933.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet The Bonfils Building Item number 10 Page 1

then south down the alley 109.9' to the building corner; then proceed east 115.5' to the building's southeast corner; hence north 109.9' to the point of inception.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

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date entered

Continuation sheet The Bonfils Building Item number 11 Page 1

1. James M. Denny, Chief, Survey & Registration
and State Contact Person
Missouri Department of Natural Resources
Historic Preservation Program
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City,

January 10, 1984
314/751-4096
Missouri 65102

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

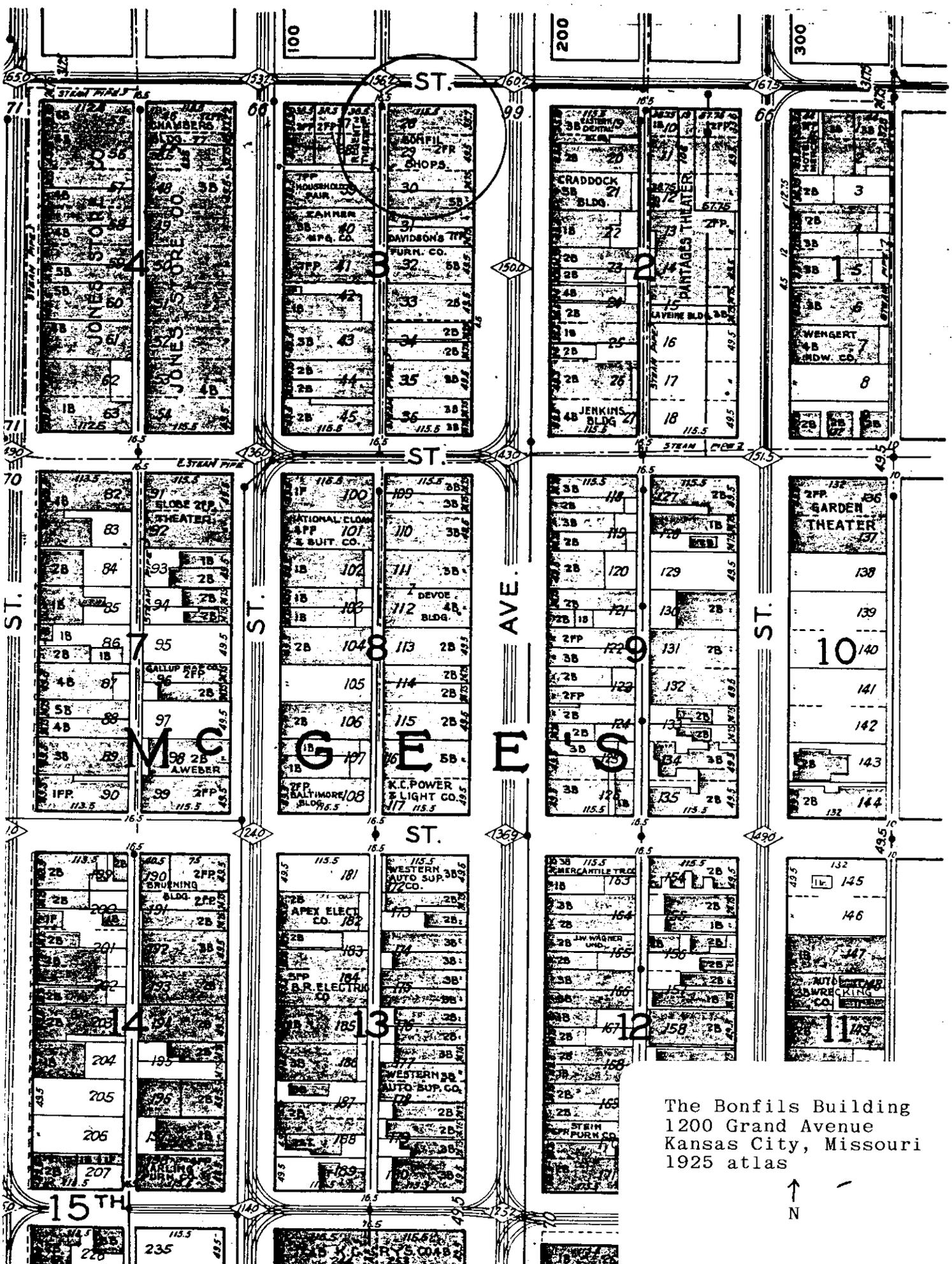
THE BONFILS BUILDING
1200 Grand Avenue
Kansas City, Jackson Co., Missouri

360000m E. 2 960 000 FEET (KANS.) R. 25 E. R. 33 W.

Quadrangle: 7.5' Scale: 1:24,000
KANSAS CITY, MO - KANS

UTM Reference:
15/363280/4328800





The Bonfils Building
 1200 Grand Avenue
 Kansas City, Missouri
 1925 atlas



Photo Log:

Name of Property: **Bonfils Building**

City or Vicinity: **Kansas City**

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

Photographer: **Mary J. Matthews**

Date

Photographed: **Sept. 1983**

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

1 of 7. View of NE corner, N and W facades. SW corner of Grand Ave. and 12th St.

2 of 7. E façade.

3 of 7. Detail of NE corner, E façade. Note marble veneer above entrance.

4 of 7. N façade. Note corner cartouches with cut "B".

5 of 7. Typical storefront detail, with jade green marble surrounds. The storefront has been altered by the addition of an aluminum framework.

6 of 7. Interior detail showing wainscoted columns.

7 of 7. View of the SW corner of 12th St. and Grand Ave. Note marquee over 12th St. entrance.



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