

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



285

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

1. Name of Property

historic name Unemployment Compensation Commission Building

other names/site number Department of Labor & Industry, Walt Sullivan Building/24 LC 2193

2. Location

street & number 1315 Lockey Avenue

| | |
|-----|---------------------|
| N/A | not for publication |
| N/A | vicinity |

city or town Helena

state Montana code MT county Lewis & Clark code 049 zip code 59624-1728

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,
I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

national statewide local

Mark F. Zaunler / SHPO April 2, 2012
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

MONTANA STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE
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] 5/18/2012
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

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5. Classification

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

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

Category of Property
(Check only one box.)

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

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

| Contributing | Noncontributing | |
|--------------|-----------------|--------------|
| 1 | 0 | buildings |
| 0 | 0 | sites |
| 0 | 0 | structures |
| 0 | 0 | objects |
| 1 | 0 | Total |

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

GOVERNMENT: government office

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

GOVERNMENT: government office

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Modern Movement: Modern

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: CONCRETE

walls: CONCRETE (panels)/METAL: Aluminum

roof: ASPHALT

other: METAL

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Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

Summary Paragraph

Completed in 1961, the Unemployment Compensation Commission Building is a modern curtain wall building within the State of Montana Capitol campus in Helena. Now known as the Walt Sullivan Department of Labor & Industry Building, it was constructed originally to house the Unemployment Compensation Commission. The L-shaped building stands five stories tall facing the Capitol Building on the block immediately to the south, at the southeast corner of Lockey Avenue (to the north) and Roberts Street (to the east). It is also bound by Broadway Avenue on the south side and Montana Avenue on the west side.

With its main façade (north) fronting Lockey Avenue, the Unemployment Compensation Commission Building, renamed for Walt Sullivan, a former field representative for the Department of Labor & Industry's Audit Bureau who was killed in the line of duty in 1989, remains emblematic of curtain wall construction – "the quintessential symbol of post-World War II modern architecture in general and the United States in particular."¹ The original building displayed the latest architectural and engineering advances of the day, boasting energy-saving innovations and the largest clear-span structural floor in the nation. The building also made full use of Montana materials wherever possible, including aluminum, copper, wood products, stramit partitions, and the Montana travertine that adorns the east lobby.² The addition of the westerly wing in 1974 altered the building's design but its original qualities remain intact, making the addition at once distinguishable and compatible. The building's location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, and association with mid-twentieth-century modernism ensure its sound integrity as an historic property.

Architect Lewy Evans, Jr., a founding partner in the firm of Evans, LaMont and Cole of Billings, Montana, designed the Unemployment Compensation Commission Building in the modern style in 1959. Its two primary elevations face north and east, with secondary exterior walls on the south and west sides of the building. The building sits adjacent to the Cogswell Building to the immediate east and the Old Board of Health Building to the immediate west. Parking is to the rear of the building (south), between the structure and Broadway Avenue as it curves westward. Standing prominently within the core of the State Capitol campus, the Unemployment Compensation Commission Building helps define this historic area while providing a rich opportunity to preserve our recent past.

Narrative Description³

The five-story L-shaped Unemployment Compensation Commission Building, originally a rectangular structure before the 1974 addition, occupies the corner of Lockey Avenue and Roberts Street. The building site rises significantly on the west side, revealing only the upper four floors of the building at this end. The building has ground-level entries on the north façade along Lockey Street, where it faces the main Capitol campus. The site also rises to the south, with the result that the parking lot and Broadway Avenue sit at approximately the second floor level of the building. A concrete retaining wall fronts the parking lot on its north end; a driveway runs between the retaining wall and the south elevation of the building. A small staircase accesses the rear, south side of the building from the southeast corner, and another staircase on the southwest corner of the building accesses the 1974 addition to the west. The parking area, which extends south and west

¹ According to news reports at the time, Mr. Sullivan was on a business trip conducting financial reviews of employers' insurance and workers' compensation accounts. He was reported missing after he failed to appear at a meeting in Shelby, MT in November 1989 and did not return home. Hunters found Mr. Sullivan's body with a gunshot wound several days later in a ravine off a remote road a few miles southwest of Shelby. His murder remains unsolved. See Mark Daniels, "Missing Man Found Dead," Great Falls Tribune, November 23, 1989; David Fenner, "Homicide Possible in Sullivan Death," Great Falls Tribune, November 24, 1989; Melody Perkins, "Sullivan Died of a Gun Wound," Great Falls Tribune, November 25, 1989; quote from Theodore H.M. Prudon, *Preservation of Modern Architecture* (Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 2008): 107.

² "Unemployment Compensation Building to Have Opening," *The Independent Record*, July 16, 1961, Section 2, page 1.

³ Much of the physical description of the Unemployment Compensation Commission Building is from Diana Painter's "Montana Historic Property Record, Walt Sullivan Building." Prepared for the Montana National Register of Historic Places Program and State Antiquities Database, Montana State Historic Preservation Office, 2010.

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of the building, is large and appears to serve this entire end of the Capitol campus. Landscaping complements the building, primarily on the sides facing the Capitol where mature street trees line the building's frontage. A cluster of trees near the northwest entry provide an attractive counterpoint to the aggregate panels on the building at this location.

The building is steel frame with exterior cladding of precast concrete panels and curtain walls with aluminum frames. Exterior materials include smooth concrete, concrete aggregate, slightly blue-tinted glass in flat aluminum frames, corrugated aluminum panels, and corrugated aluminum vertical louvers. It has a concrete foundation and a flat, built-up asphalt roof finished with a narrow metal coping. The building was renovated in 1974 when the westerly wing was added. Previously, the overall form of the building was simpler; the main original curtain wall portion of the building was accented by the east tower. The projecting frame appears to have been re-clad, probably in conjunction with the 1974 remodeling, as an early building brochure described it as having a tile finish; a description corroborated by an opening-day photograph and a news report approximately a week before, which addressed a flaw in the building's design. Evidently, natural fluctuations in temperatures led the insulating concrete on top of the building to expand and contract, causing the finish tile to break loose just below the roof line. At the time, aluminum flashing was used to cover this particular tile area and seal it against the weather.⁴

The largely L-shaped footprint that distinguishes the building today has some setbacks or jogs. A taller circulation tower anchors the east end and a mechanical penthouse is located toward the west end. The major mass on the front façade (north), which is clad in glass and concrete panels, projects beyond the face of the mechanical tower and the westerly wing. The projecting aggregate-clad frame begins one story above the ground plane and continues around the sides and top of this wing. On the rear of the building (south), an L-shaped plane wraps around the circulation tower on the southwest corner of the building, rising above the building parapets of both the projecting wing on this end and the south façade of the main body of the building. The four upper floors of the main mass of the building on the south side, which display curtain wall cladding like the north façade, are covered in vertical, motorized aluminum louvers. These enameled metal louvers were designed to shade the interior and minimize costs in cooling and heating the building. Although today they operate manually by switches located on certain floors inside the building, the louvers were conceived originally to move automatically with the seasons and sunlight, shading the interior to minimize heat gain during the summer months and allowing more exposure to maximize heat gain during the winter.⁵

North elevation

The north façade of the building displays three sections; the eastern tower, the main block, and the west addition. The principal, central portion of the façade is the curtain wall of the main east-west block of the building, which extends beyond the eastern tower and west addition and is finished with a narrow metal coping. The north elevation of the west addition repeats the lines of the original curtain wall section, but with smaller ribbon window opening and is recessed behind the plane of the main body. A heavy cornice projects above the original curtain wall building. A vertical tower, which rises above the central curtain wall section, anchors the east end of the building. The building name is called out with large letters on the north wall of the tower.

The ground floor of the north façade's central component sits slightly recessed underneath the overhanging curtain wall. It features bands of short ribbon windows placed a few feet above grade, indicating a lower finished floor in this portion of the building. The windows are centered below and vertically aligned with the major bays above. Vertical full-height one-light fixed windows flank the full-height one-light double entry doors at the east end of the building. The north façade's central portion features five bays of windows extending four floors, separated by wide continuous aggregate-clad panels. This horizontal planar portion of the curtain wall engages with the smooth vertical tower, accentuating the horizontal-vertical dynamism typical of this style. Vertical panels of corrugated aluminum representing the columnar structure separate the bays spanning each floor. The bays are uniform in size, except for a smaller bay at the east end. The window bays typically consist of ten lights, including eight fixed lights and two small awning sashes at the lower levels. Window frames are aluminum.

The west end of the north façade is the north elevation of the 1974 addition, where the general public finds the building's main entrance today. The addition steps back from the central portion and is four floors in height, with the lower floor beginning about one-half level above grade. The entry consists of double doors with full-height glass flanked by full-height

⁴ "Architect Pays for 'Mistake' on State Project," *Montana Standard*, July 7, 1961, page 5.

⁵ Lewy Evans, Jr., phone conversation, March 13, 2012; Paul Blumenthal, architect, Department of Administration, Division of Architecture and Engineering, phone conversation, March 15, 2012. Mr. Blumenthal served as the project manager for the building's 2007 window replacement.

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side lights. Four tall transom lights above the entry meet the ribbon windows to the west that extend across the second floor of the addition. Again, vertical corrugated aluminum panels separate the three bays of ribbon windows on each floor. A wide, solid aggregate band with a slight reveal framing the windows below separates each floor. The window bays feature a central fixed light flanked by two casement lights. An aluminum panel terminates the corner of the building on the far west side. The heavy cornice, which projects from the façade of the building, lends weight and substance to this secondary wing.

West Elevation

The west elevation of the Unemployment Compensation Building continues the fenestration pattern of the 1974 wing described above. Each floor on this side of the building consists of three long bays toward the north and a short bay to the south, terminating with a wide, solid pilaster, capped by the large cornice feature. Also visible on this façade is a projection on the south side of the building represented by four floors of one window bay each, behind the solid south-facing wall of aggregate that projects beyond the face of this bay. The walls of this projection are distinctive with their lack of heavy cornice projection. Each ribbon window consists of three-over-three lights, with the upper lights larger and vertically-oriented. Below, at ground level, is a covered entryway of solid and transparent panels, covered by a corrugated metal roof. The original overhang entry, a projecting flat roof with aluminum fascia, remains above the present entry

South Elevation

The building's south elevation faces a parking area and has three distinct portions including the solid aggregate end wall of the far west end of the 1974 addition, the solid end wall of the southern projecting bay of the 1974 addition, and the curtain wall face of the original building that repeats the same fenestration pattern seen on the north façade. Also like the north elevation, the curtain wall is enframed in concrete, a hallmark of the style remaining from the 1950s. However, in contrast to the curtain wall of the north elevation, vertical aluminum louvers cover each floor of the south elevation curtain wall. The louvers reveal a zigzag shape in profile and, as noted above, were designed to move with the sun to protect the south face from overexposure to heat in the summer and allow increased sunlight in the winter. The upper four floors of the original building rise above a full ground level floor, which displays a mostly solid concrete face and is recessed approximately two feet from the overhanging curtain wall. It contains a few hopper-style windows and louvered openings.

The east side of the 1974 addition's projecting wing on this façade features a ribbon window of four lights (two fixed lights and two operable lights) at each floor. The solid wall that wraps around this wing rises above the roofline, and an extension of the solid cornice, terminated with a narrow metal coping, finishes the projecting wing.

An east-west running concrete retaining wall set back about 15 feet from the building marks the north end of the parking lot. A driveway runs between the retaining wall and the building allowing for automobile and pedestrian access to the 1974 addition's projecting west wing and to the original main building at ground level.

East Elevation

The east façade of the building is composed of the east wall of the original central block and its continuation through to the north façade. The east façade is dominated by a projecting circulation tower, which rises approximately one full story above the rest of the building. This elevation is solid but for a continuous vertical ribbon of fixed lights separated by aluminum muntins that rise the full height near the northern edge of the tower.

Interior

On the interior, the building's floor plan follows clearly defined spaces typical of a modern-day office building, with all parts accessible from inside the building. The building's most notable interior features are found in the original east lobby at the ground level. While most of the building continues its original function as government office space, with its interior finishes updated over time, the east lobby remains ensconced in the original, magnificent Montana travertine. The commanding mosaic tile mural created by Billings, Montana artist Robert C. Morrison also remains prominently displayed here. The "6 ½ foot high multi-colored mosaic tile... depicts a miner, carpenter, and a farmer with tools of their trades, fronting a background of industrial symbols of the state."⁶ Abraham Lincoln's famous words "As I would not be a slave, so I would not be a master" accompany the mural, "giving it title and meaning."⁷ This impressive feature originally greeted visitors as they entered the building through the east lobby, previously the main public access to the building. Today, however, this

⁶ "Unemployment Compensation Building to Have Opening," *The Independent Record*, July 16, 1961, Section 2, page 1.

⁷ *Ibid.*

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entrance provides restricted access and the general public enters through the new lobby through the aforementioned double glass doors at the west end of the building.

Integrity

The Unemployment Compensation Commission Building exemplifies curtain wall construction, a type unique to the twentieth century and at the center of contemporary efforts to preserve our recent past.⁸ Despite the addition of a western wing in 1974, the building still retains a high degree of integrity, as the addition is sensitive to the original design. Architectural and engineering features on the building's exterior represent important innovations in building techniques at mid-century and remain intact, allowing it to retain a high degree of historic integrity in this regard as well. The building's stature contributes significantly to the State Capitol campus core and helps define campus district. The site, setting, design, materials, workmanship, and association with mid-twentieth century modernism validate the Unemployment Compensation Commission Building's significance as an historic property and render it worthy of listing on the National Register of Historic Places under criteria A and C.

⁸ Rebecca A. Shiffer, "The Recent Past," *CRM Journal*, Vol. 18, No. 8 (1995): 3.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE
ENGINEERING
POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

Period of Significance

1961

Significant Dates

1961 – Original construction
1974 – Addition

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Lewy Evans, Jr.—architect
Tressler-Lowe—General Contractor
Morrison-Maierle and Associates—architect for addition
Watters Construction—General Contractor for Addition

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance for the Unemployment Compensation Commission Building is 1961. The significance of this date corresponds to the year of the building's completion, marking the height of the expansion of the Montana State Capitol campus during the post-World War II era.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

N/A

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

The Unemployment Compensation Commission Building is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under criteria A and C at the statewide level of significance. The Unemployment Compensation Commission Building is eligible under Criterion A for its association with the growth of state government and Montana's response to provide state-of-the-art employee accommodations using the latest in desirable mass-produced, low-cost, durable building elements. The building is an excellent example of mid-twentieth century curtain wall construction and retains a high degree of architectural integrity, as the building easily conveys its original design. Its construction represents a new generation of building forms in the Modern style, using innovative materials and technology while reflecting the architectural themes common to commercial buildings of the time. The 1974 addition, which provides the distinctive L-shape to the building, nicely melds nuances associated with the original mass while clearly displaying architecture that distinguishes itself.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance.)

Statement of Significance

Summary

The Unemployment Compensation Commission Building is significant under Criterion A for its direct association with Montana's ongoing state government expansion in the post-World War II era and its effort to provide a permanent headquarters for the growing government agency. Circumstances in the 1950s helped generate support for "an effective labor exchange to help bring men and jobs together quickly" through the Unemployment Compensation Commission, necessitating the construction of a building for its own use. By the time of the building's construction in 1961, the Commission's responsibilities largely centered on employment service and unemployment insurance. A name change in 1969 to the Employment Security Commission occurred to reflect more accurately the evolving role and responsibility of the agency. The 1970s witnessed a reorganization of state agencies, including the Employment Security Commission, which moved under the Department of Labor and Industry, although the two were housed in different locations. In 1974, a west wing was added to the building to bring the entire department under one roof. In the early 1990s, the name of the Unemployment Compensation Commission Building changed again to the Walt Sullivan Building to honor a field representative for the Department's Audit Bureau found shot to death in the line of duty in November 1989. The Department continues to oversee the state's unemployment insurance and job training programs. It also provides numerous other services for Montana's community at large, including oversight and regulation of the Montana workers' compensation system; enforcement of state and federal labor standards, safety and occupational health laws; adjudication in labor-management disputes; establishment and enforcement of building industry codes; licensing and regulating professions and occupations; regulation of all weighing or measuring devices used in commercial transactions; and research and collection of employment statistics that enable strategic planning.⁹

The Unemployment Compensation Commission Building gains additional significance under Criterion C for its architecture and engineering, as it reveals the latest in mid-twentieth century building and design. The Unemployment Compensation Commission Building was among the numerous government edifices constructed during the middle decades of the twentieth century, representing a new generation of building forms and types as well as the Modern style typical of the day. The Unemployment Compensation Commission Building achieved its significance upon its completion more than fifty years ago as a representative example of curtain wall construction, a widespread building phenomenon throughout post-World War II America. As such, the building retains a high degree of integrity as an architecturally significant property. The Unemployment Compensation Commission Building conveys its original design, including elements that date to its initial construction as well as those associated with the 1974 addition. The addition preserves the building's original design qualities as it rises seamlessly at the west end and extends southward to give the overall building a distinctive L-shape. It is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C for its employment of innovative materials and technology in the Modern architectural style that was common to commercial buildings during the mid-twentieth century.

⁹ <http://dli.mt.gov/aobut/guiding.asp> (accessed 9-29-11)

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Historic Context

America's industrialization in the late nineteenth century brought about unparalleled social, political, and economic challenges as well as extraordinary prosperity that flowed into the early decades of the twentieth century. In this context, many began to call for an overhaul of America's cities, perceived as both inadequate to accommodate the needs of an increasingly urbanized society and substandard for an increasingly wealthy and powerful nation like the United States. In the 1930s, government planners took several steps to establish the legal and administrative machinery toward implementing the necessary changes. Depression and war, however, delayed construction throughout communities nationwide. After the war, enormous prosperity and the baby boom of the postwar decades gave American architects unprecedented opportunities to build and the "Federal Bulldozer" rolled in.¹⁰ As architect David P. Handlin observes, "Corporate headquarters, government centers, and buildings for learning and the arts sprang up in downtown areas while the suburbs were quickly filled with tracts of houses, shopping centers, schools, industrial parks, and even airports."¹¹ Evidence for this postwar boom is readily visible in places like Helena, Montana, where the Unemployment Compensation Commission Building stands as an important manifestation of the massive growth and development occurring at this time. Indeed, it was one of 31 new commercial buildings completed throughout Helena in 1961.¹²

In Helena, the state government complex in particular benefitted from the steady investment in urban development. Planning for the State Capitol began soon after Montana achieved statehood in 1889, although the original construction and additions were not finished until 1912. The State's nascent governing system, modest population size, and scarcity of development around the Capitol's site limited further planning or interest in acquiring surrounding properties at the time. Nonetheless, the State government campus continued to expand, although in piecemeal fashion according to available space, with four more buildings on the Capitol block and one across the street by 1930. With the onset of World War II, the federal government mobilized to invest heavily in new industries and technologies, the effects of which were felt in resource-rich states like Montana. Here, new jobs helped feed population growth and consequently state government growth, which in turn "generated bursts of construction of approximately six buildings nearly every twenty years," including the Unemployment Compensation Commission Building.¹³

The State Capitol campus grew in relation to the increased demand for government services to meet the needs of the expanding population and economy through the middle decades of the twentieth century. Building adequate facilities to house the different agencies that provided these services was prioritized in accordance with their contribution to the government's importance and the role they played in serving Montana's citizens. Since the initial planning for its new building began in January 1958, the Unemployment Compensation Commission can be counted among the several agencies that caught the State government's attention during the 1950s when most of the Capitol district's larger buildings were built. By the time the building opened in the summer of 1961, the Commission's unemployment insurance division was receiving approximately 37,000 claims for benefits annually while its employment service division was making more than 70,000 job placements throughout the state. The Commission clearly needed a place to house the substantial personnel administering these programs.¹⁴

While demographic and economic expansion explain the heightened demand for the dramatic increase in both residential and commercial construction, important changes in the use and development of new materials made the swift and effective response to this demand possible. As Michael A. Tomlan, Director of Cornell University's Historic Preservation Planning Program, argues, "Historians often overlook the fact, but a country's use and development of building materials is a historic and cultural characteristic as distinctive as any other."¹⁵ Although most buildings in industrialized nations like the

¹⁰David P. Handlin, *American Architecture* (New York, NY: Thames and Hudson, Ltd, London, 2004, second edition): 232.

¹¹Ibid.

¹²"Helena Boasts 31 New Buildings Constructed in 1961," *The Independent Record*, December 31, 1961, 4.

¹³"Montana Capitol Complex Master Plan" [Draft 4], May 12, 2012, 20-21; "Unemployment Compensation Building to Have Opening," *The Independent Record* [Helena], July 16, 1961, Section 2, 1.

¹⁴Michael P. Malone, Richard B. Roeder, William L. Lang, *Montana: A History of Two Centuries* (Seattle, WA: University of Washington, 1991, revised edition): 388; "Montana Capitol Complex Master Plan," 38; "Unemployment Compensation Building to Have Opening," *The Independent Record* [Helena], July 16, 1961, Section 2, 1.

¹⁵Michael Tomlan, "Building Modern America," in *Twentieth-Century Building Materials, History and Conservation*, edited by Thomas C. Jester (New York, NY: The McGraw-Hill Companies, 1995): 34.

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United States are wood frame or reinforced brick buildings, America's distinctive character becomes clear when one considers a third type – the metal structure. Metal structures were introduced in the last half of the nineteenth century, but did not become commonplace until the mid-twentieth century when technological advances, inspired by the war effort, made the production of materials more cost effective and assembly easier through the standardization of parts. Improvements in aluminum, glass, sealants, and insulation materials in particular profoundly impacted building design and practices during the era following World War II. The industrialization of the building trades, however, was not a sudden and revolutionary development, but rather a gradual process of experimentation dating back to the dawn of the twentieth century. By mid-century, desirable mass-produced, low-cost, durable building elements, many of which are seen on the Unemployment Compensation Commission Building, were widely available and became a defining quality of the ever-evolving Modern architectural style.¹⁶

The Unemployment Compensation Commission Building is historically significant as a strong example of new developments in curtain wall construction, the symbol of modernity and a distinguishing feature in postwar American architecture. Curtain wall is a term “applied, somewhat indiscriminately, to both pre-World War II masonry wall constructions and to glass and metal designs of the postwar period.”¹⁷ Generally speaking a curtain wall is:

...the result of separating the load-bearing function from the weather protective skin, a development that began to evolve at the end of the nineteenth century. This separation allowed for a reduction in thickness, and thus in weight, of the exterior wall, while permitting more floor space within the same envelope. The idea of the separation of the two functions – structure and skin – was not new and, conceptually, is what had already taken place in some of the earlier wood-frame constructions.¹⁸

Curtain wall construction was fundamentally affected by the development of new technologies that brought the aforementioned improvements in aluminum, glass, sealants, and insulation materials during the war. Aluminum production in particular soared in the early 1940s as it was a principal war material used at unprecedented levels, predominantly in the manufacturing of aircraft as well as in the construction of new structures where these planes and other wartime supplies like ships, tanks, guns, and munitions were produced. After the war, as manufacturing converted to civilian purposes, the increased productive capacity of aluminum created a demand for new applications of the material and at the same time prices plummeted. As a corrosion resistant, lightweight material that was relatively easy to install, especially in cold weather, aluminum soon found a welcome niche in cladding curtain walls. Aluminum curtain walls were also thinner than brick or mortar, which ultimately maximized rentable floor space.¹⁹ These advantages no doubt factored into the decision to use aluminum framed curtain walls in the construction of the Unemployment Compensation Commission Building, which began notably during Montana's cold winter months and needed maximum efficiency in floor area to accommodate the Commission's sizable personnel. Aluminum also enframes the building's slightly blue-tinted glass and comprises the exterior wall panels and movable vertical louvers on the south façade.

Separating the structural system of a building from its exterior wall was attractive to building designers and owners because it created more light on building interiors and allowed for more flexibility in the use of interior spaces. The new methods in manufacturing glass and widespread use of air conditioning after World War II made the larger glazed areas in curtain wall construction, which allowed for natural light in interior work spaces, both possible and practical. The improvements in sealants and insulation materials also made this form of design and construction practical. Likewise, the use of metal exterior curtain walls led to improved efficiency in construction processes. Whether the curtain wall was fabricated primarily on site or prefabricated in large panels, the metal components were produced at the factory, which generated savings in on-site labor costs. As it was lighter than traditional masonry, the aluminum especially allowed for easier handling and reduced shipping costs.²⁰

Although historians close the postwar era at 1960, the large scale construction and the technological advances typically associated with this period extended well into the 1970s. The State Capitol campus demonstrates this point, with eight

¹⁶ Ibid.; Bruce S. Kaskel, “Metal and Glass Curtain Wall,” *CRM Journal*, Vol. 18, No. 8 (1995): 23-24.

¹⁷ Prudon, 107.

¹⁸ Ibid., 107.

¹⁹ Kaskel, 23-24; Tomlan, 41-42.

²⁰ Kaskel, 24.

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new buildings or additions appearing on the campus from the time the Unemployment Compensation Commission Building opened its doors in 1961 through 1979. And, as noted previously, the Unemployment Compensation Commission, as part of the Department of Labor and Industry, saw the expansion and renovation of its own building in 1974.

Early twentieth-century industrialization not only improved materials, manufacturing capabilities, and installation technologies for the next generation but also ushered in an emerging awareness and concern for energy efficiency in building. The Unemployment Compensation Commission Building exemplifies this concern, which, by the time plans for its construction were initiated in the late 1950s, helped shape both residential and commercial planning and design. Again, World War II marked a turning point in this regard. Wartime fuel shortages and rationing inspired architects to design structures that would save money and resources. In September 1943, for example, *Newsweek* touted Solar houses designed "to receive a maximum amount of the sun's heat in winter and a minimum amount in summer." Although such technology ultimately fell flat in the residential sector, with the average American household's energy consumption rising sharply from 1945 to 1970, energy conservation techniques in commercial construction became more prevalent.²¹ The incorporation of the vertical aluminum louvers to deflect heat from the interior of the building on the south façade of the Unemployment Compensation Commission Building served precisely this purpose. News reports highlighted the estimated savings of 30% in air conditioning costs for the building during the summer months.²²

The Unemployment Compensation Commission Building

The Unemployment Compensation Commission Building was originally constructed in 1961 to provide a permanent headquarters for the growing government agency, which was established by Montana's twenty-fifth legislative assembly in 1937. Initially, the Commission's staff remained small and many of aspects of its work remained undetermined. Early on, personnel crowded into limited quarters in downtown Helena, spending the first years in the old Montana National Bank Building on the corner of Main and Edwards Streets. After a fire destroyed the bank and many of the Commission's records in 1944, the Unemployment Compensation Commission moved to a temporary location at the corner of Lawrence and Fuller. The Commission moved again in 1946, into the first floor of the Elk's building. The Commission's base of operations remained there until 1950 when it found a place in the newly opened Sam W. Mitchell Building.²³

Through the 1950s, Montana continued to experience the general exodus from farms and rural communities that dates back to post-World War I agricultural depression and the emergence of an increasingly diversified and complicated industrial complex accelerated by World War II. These circumstances helped generate support for "an effective labor exchange to help bring men and jobs together quickly" through the Unemployment Compensation Commission. Under these conditions, the Commission expanded its responsibilities and services, fueling the need for its own building. Preliminary planning for the Unemployment Compensation Commission Building began in January 1958. The legislature selected a building site in 1959 across from the Capitol block slightly to the southeast and construction began in November of that year. Twenty months later, the Unemployment Compensation Commission's held its open house on July 19 and 20, 1961.²⁴ A brochure (n.d.) for the Capitol campus celebrated the new building:

The newest and most modernly styled building on the capitol campus is this four-story structure completed in 1961 at a cost of \$676,805. Built of reinforced concrete and tile, this houses the full staff of the Unemployment Compensation Commission, formerly quartered in the Sam Mitchell Building. A feature of the building, which is located on the southern edge of the campus, is a series of louvered aluminum panels which move with the sun for ventilation and light.

By the time its building was completed, the Commission's responsibilities largely centered on employment service and unemployment insurance. With 22 local offices throughout the state, the employment service division offered "a modern job placement service, [involving] careful matching of job and worker through up to date techniques of vocational testing and job analysis performed by a staff trained to do a competent job and dedicated to the single ideal of service." Similarly,

²¹ Adam Rome, *Bulldozer in the Countryside: Suburban Sprawl and the Rise of American Environmentalism* (Cambridge and New York: Cambridge University Press, 2001): 45.

²² "Unemployment Compensation Building to Have Opening," *The Independent Record* [Helena], July 16, 1961, Section 2, 1.

²³ *Ibid.*

²⁴ *Ibid.*; Malone, 280-285.

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the unemployment insurance division received and processed thousands of claims for benefits each year. During the winter months, this division sent out as many as 4,000 checks daily. Situated within the core of the State Capitol campus in Helena, the Unemployment Compensation Building provided the base of operations for these extensive and much-needed services. Noting that Montana would surely continue to grow and bring both progress and challenges to the state, then-Chairman of the Unemployment Compensation Building Edgar H. Reeder proclaimed that "the faith of all the people in the future of Montana is built into the new UCC building. It will stand as a symbol of Montana's interest in its working people, their employers, and their problems."²⁵

By the late 1960s, the Unemployment Compensation Commission was set to experience another change – its name. When the Commission was created in March 1937, the Great Depression's high unemployment rates persisted in Montana as well as the rest of the country and consequently dictated what the new agency would be called. By 1968, twenty years of nearly consistent economic growth and prosperity led to calls for a new name for the Commission that would more appropriately encompass its services, which served workers and employers alike in times of both hardship and affluence. The Commission thus proposed that it assume the name Employment Security Commission to "reflect and accentuate the positive aspects of its many employment security programs which benefit all the people of Montana."²⁶ In 1969, the Commission officially became the Employment Security Commission, with the building changing its name accordingly.

More changes came for the agency when the state's massive executive reorganization began in the early 1970s under the Forrest Anderson administration. From 1971 to 1972, Governor Anderson implemented a program to reorganize several hundred agencies, boards, commissions, and councils into nineteen departments. Among these was the new Department of Labor and Industry, which had previously been part of the Department of Agriculture. The Department of Labor and Industry would oversee the Employment Security Commission but remain on Helena Avenue while the Commission would maintain its own building. The new Department was charged with supervising the functions of the Employment Security Commission as well as the industrial accident board and apprenticeship council. Before long, plans were in the works to bring the Department and its agency under one roof. Morrison-Maierle and Associates issued drawings for the addition of a new wing at the west end of the original Unemployment Compensation Building in 1972.²⁷

In 1974, the building finally saw the completion of the new westerly wing, giving it the somewhat L-shaped footprint that distinguishes the building today. This wing is subservient to the main building as it is smaller and the front is recessed from the main façade of the original building, allowing the original central mass of the building to read visually as it did historically. The addition is compatible yet employs a slightly different architectural vocabulary, and one more representative of the later construction date. It has a heavier, horizontal aspect in contrast to the lighter, more vertical emphasis on the original building. Yet, it employs many of the same features and also relies on a sculptural expression and fine details to convey its design qualities. The new addition meets the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation.

The last significant change to the Unemployment Compensation Commission Building came in the early 1990s, when the building assumed its current name. The building was renamed the Walt Sullivan Building after the field representative for the Department's Audit Bureau was found shot to death in November 1989. Hunters discovered his car in a ravine off a country road southwest of Shelby, Montana, one week after he failed to attend a business meeting there. Authorities quickly concluded that foul play was involved, but unfortunately the case remains unresolved. Nonetheless, Department of Labor and Industry honored his service and memory by renaming the building after him a few years later. A Bronze plaque hangs on the east wall of the original east lobby recognizing Sullivan as "a dedicated employee of the Department of Labor and Industry for seventeen years" who "diligently worked to protect the rights of workers, employers, and business owners."

Drawings issued by Bjerke Architects of Helena in 2007 indicate that the Unemployment Compensation Commission Building underwent further renovations within the last few years. However, the work done appears to have related to

²⁵ "Unemployment Compensation Building to Have Opening," *The Independent Record*, July 16, 1961, Section 2, 1.

²⁶ "Thirty-Second Annual Report on Employment Security in Montana for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 1968," Unemployment Compensation Commission [Helena], 10.

²⁷ Guide to Montana Governor (1969-1972: Forrest H. Anderson) Records, 1968-1972), Montana Historical Society State Archives, RS 106.

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maintenance and preservation of the building's original features. Demolition notes from these drawings, for example, include instructions to update the wiring for the solar louvers and to replace the windows and doors while leaving the aluminum framing intact.

Today, the Department of Labor and Industry continues to reside in the Walt Sullivan Building within the core of the historic State Capitol campus. The Department continues to oversee the state's unemployment insurance and job training programs. It also provides numerous other services for Montana's community at large.²⁸

Architectural Context

The Unemployment Compensation Commission Building gains significance under Criterion C as an important example of mid-twentieth century modern commercial design, particularly as it represents the predominant stylistic and building trends of the day. As America began the transition from a wartime to a peacetime economy in the mid-1940s, the technological advances in the manufacturing, installation and transport of low-cost, mass-produced, durable building materials during the war years became widely available and sought after for use in civilian construction. By decade's end, previously unseen demographic expansion and economic prosperity created an increased demand in residential and commercial building in general and in construction targeted toward urban renewal specifically. Metal curtain wall construction combined with masonry and steel frame construction during this time to define post-World War II modern architecture in commercial and institutional building types.

Modern architecture, a term used loosely since the late nineteenth century, refers to buildings in a number of styles in which the design emphasizes functionalism, rationalism, and up-to-date methods of construction, as opposed to architectural styles based on historical precedents and traditional methods of building. Modern architecture often includes Art Deco, Art Moderne, Bauhaus, Contemporary style, International style, Organic architecture, and Streamline Moderne.²⁹ Although architects and city planners generally agreed on the need to remake the American city in the postwar era, no clear consensus emerged on what architectural values should guide new building. Many easily concluded that everything should be "modern." During and after the war, professional and public attitudes regarding modern architecture shifted dramatically in its favor. The Nazis' closure of the Bauhaus and branding of the new architecture as decadent along with the Soviets' efforts to stifle their most ambitious practitioners of modern architecture led Americans to equate modernism with the ideology of democracy and freedom. Although many traditionalists held out, modern architecture "became, in effect, the official style of a democratic country that largely championed the free market."³⁰ The style's basic premises, however, remained somewhat undefined as it continued to carry several different meanings. New adaptations in curtain wall construction, if any, however, became the symbol of mid-century modernism in commercial building.

Internal steel spans, concrete paneling, aluminum cladding and the application of imported tiles on the exterior and mosaic artwork inside the building, all present on the Unemployment Compensation Commission building when constructed, were features typically represented in mid-twentieth century modern architecture. The overall form of the Commission's original building was also typical of postwar architecture. It was simple and sculptural, relying on materials and detailing to add to visual complexity. However, the movable, vertical aluminum louvers that cover the rear curtain wall on the southern face of the building, designed to reduce heat gain on this façade, was an innovation not seen on other structures at the time.

Lewy Evans, Jr.

The Unemployment Compensation Commission Building was originally designed by Montana Architect Lewy Evans, Jr. Evans was born in Houston, Texas in 1924 and received his education at the University of Colorado, where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in architectural engineering in 1950. Joining the American Institute of Architects in 1955, Evans worked for a number of firms before founding Evans and LaMont Architects in Billings in 1954, which specialized in residential, commercial, and educational structures. In 1959, Ralph Cole joined the firm. In these early years, the Unemployment Compensation Commission Building was the firm's major commission, likely Evans' first with the state of

²⁸ <http://dli.mt.gov/aobut/guiding.asp> (accessed 9-29-11).

²⁹ Cyril M. Harris, *American Architecture: An Illustrated Encyclopedia* (New York, NY: W.W. Norton & Company, 1998): 217.

³⁰ Handlin, 233-234.

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Montana.³¹ The partnership of Evans, LaMont, & Cole lasted until 1963, when Evans went into solo practice. After 1967, his business was known as Evans & Associates. He continued to specialize in educational buildings and residential complexes, such as designing the remodel of Lincoln Junior High School in Billings and several apartment complexes in both Billings and Helena. Other works of his can be found in Waterton Lakes and Glacier National Parks.³²

Conclusion

In addition to Criterion A, the Unemployment Compensation Commission Building is significant under National Register Criterion C in the areas of Architecture and Engineering. Completed in 1961, the handsome, five-story, mid-twentieth Modern building stands prominently at the intersection of Lockey Avenue and Roberts Street, within the core of Montana's historic State Capitol campus in Helena. With many of its original architectural features intact, the building classically represents mid-twentieth century curtain wall construction common throughout the United States during the post-World War II era. It likewise reflects the latest in building technologies and practices that developed as a result of the high wartime demand for durable, corrosion resistant, and cost beneficial materials.

The overall design of the building was altered with the addition of a new wing in 1974, but the design qualities of the original building remain intact. Some changes of material took place with the removal of the original tile finish during the 1974 renovation. The tiles appear to have been replaced, at least in part with an aggregate finish, which would, nonetheless, have a similar fine-grained texture and is also appropriate to the age of the building. The site, setting, design, materials, and overall architectural character of the Unemployment Compensation Commission Building validate its significance as an historic property and render it worthy of listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C.

Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)

9. Major Bibliographical References

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³¹ "Architect Pays for 'Mistake' on State Project," *Montana Standard* [Helena], July 7, 1961, 5.

³² John F. Gane, ed., *American Architects Directory* (New York, NY: R.R. Bowker Company, 1970, third edition): 262.

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Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other
- Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

NAD83

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| | Zone | Easting | Northing | | Zone | Easting | Northing |

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Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The Unemployment Compensation Commission building is located at 1315 Lockey Avenue within the State of Montana Capitol complex in Helena, SE ¼, NW ¼, NW ¼, Section 32, Township 10N, Range 3 W. It lies in the Corbin Subdivision, Block 20, Lots 1-32, 35' of Closed Cook & Roberts Streets.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

This is the legal boundary description of the property. The boundaries of the property are the dimensions that have retained their original property lines since the building was built in 1961.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Doris S. Avery, historical consultant

organization _____

date November 15, 2011

street & number 2118 Gerald Avenue

telephone 406-370-6890

city or town Missoula

state MT

zip code 59801

e-mail havery@bresnan.net

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 acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
 - **Continuation Sheets**
 - **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Please see Continuation Sheets

Property Owner:

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name State of Montana

street & number Department of Administration, 132 Lockey Avenue

telephone 406-444-2511

city or town Helena

state MT

zip code 59624-1728

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.

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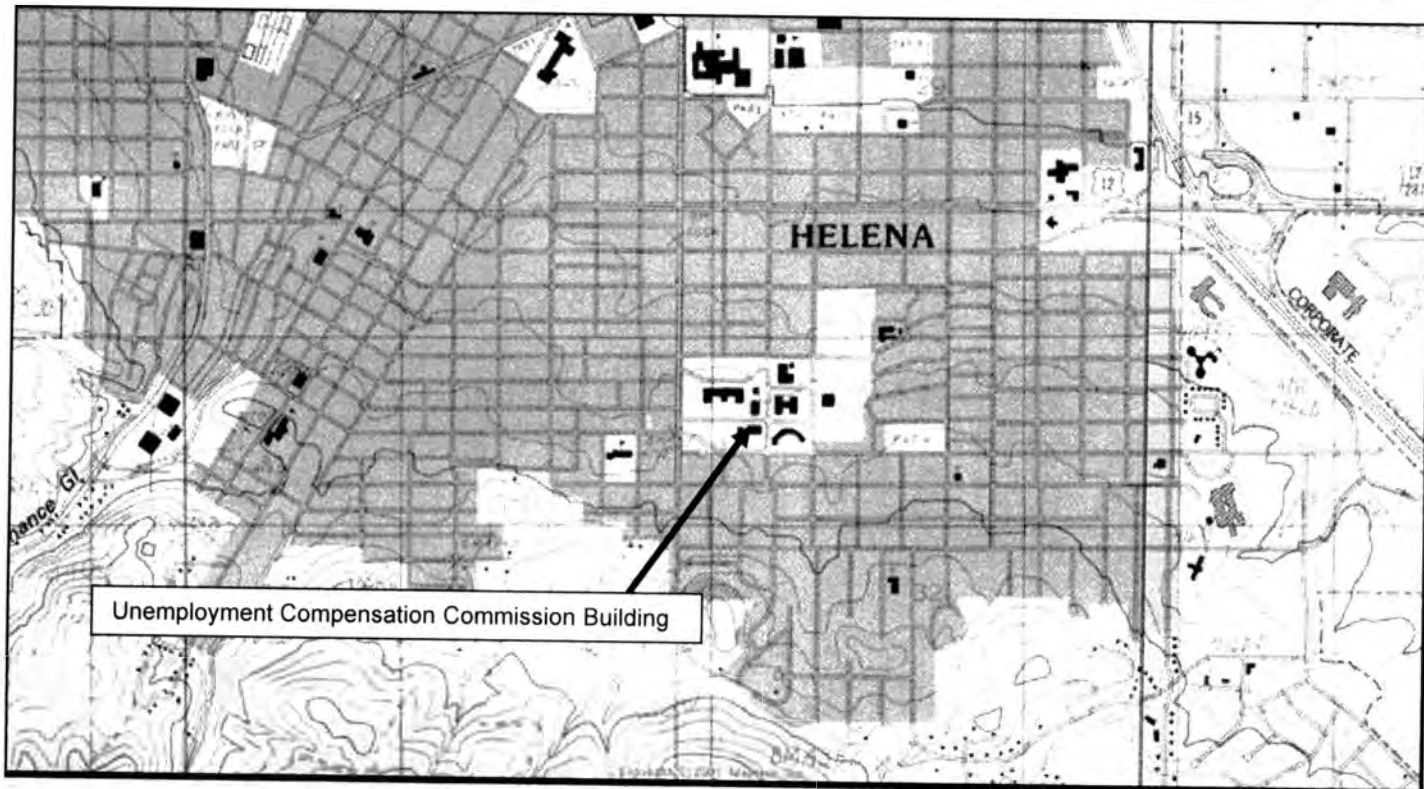
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Location of the Unemployment Compensation Commission Building. Found on the Helena, MT 7.5' topographic map (2001).

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Aerial view of the Unemployment Compensation Commission Building.

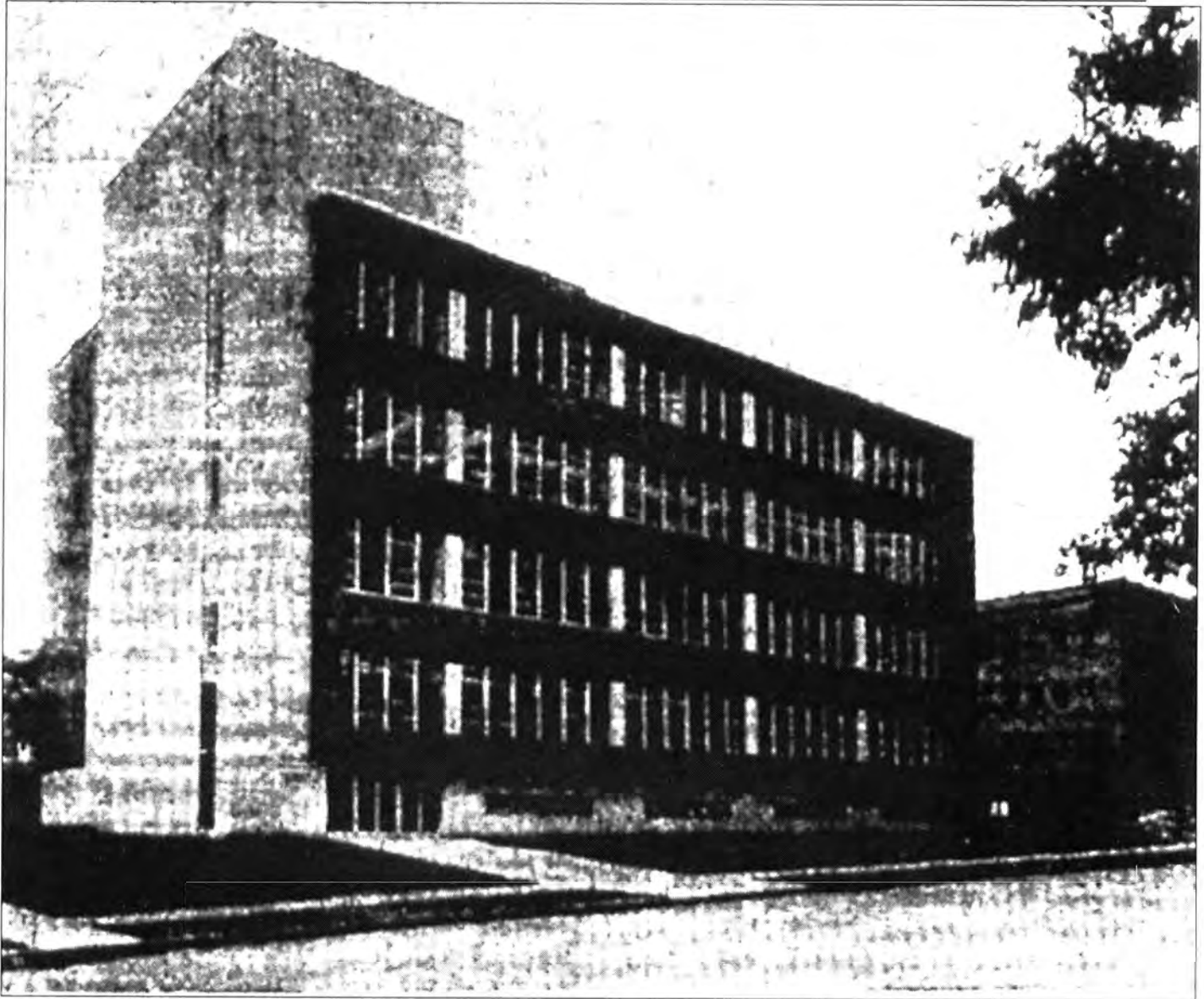
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Original Building as published in *The Independent Record*, 1961.

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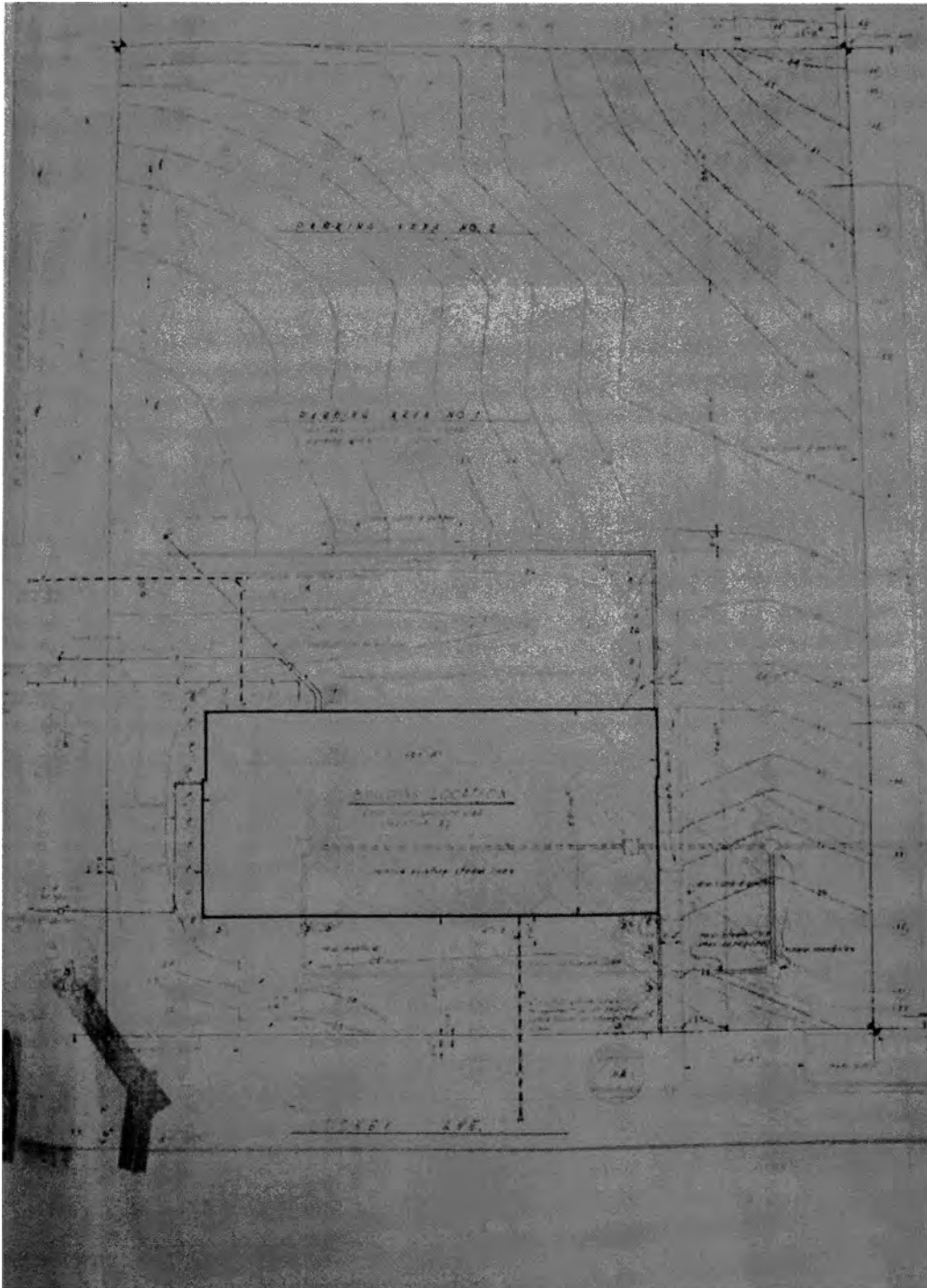
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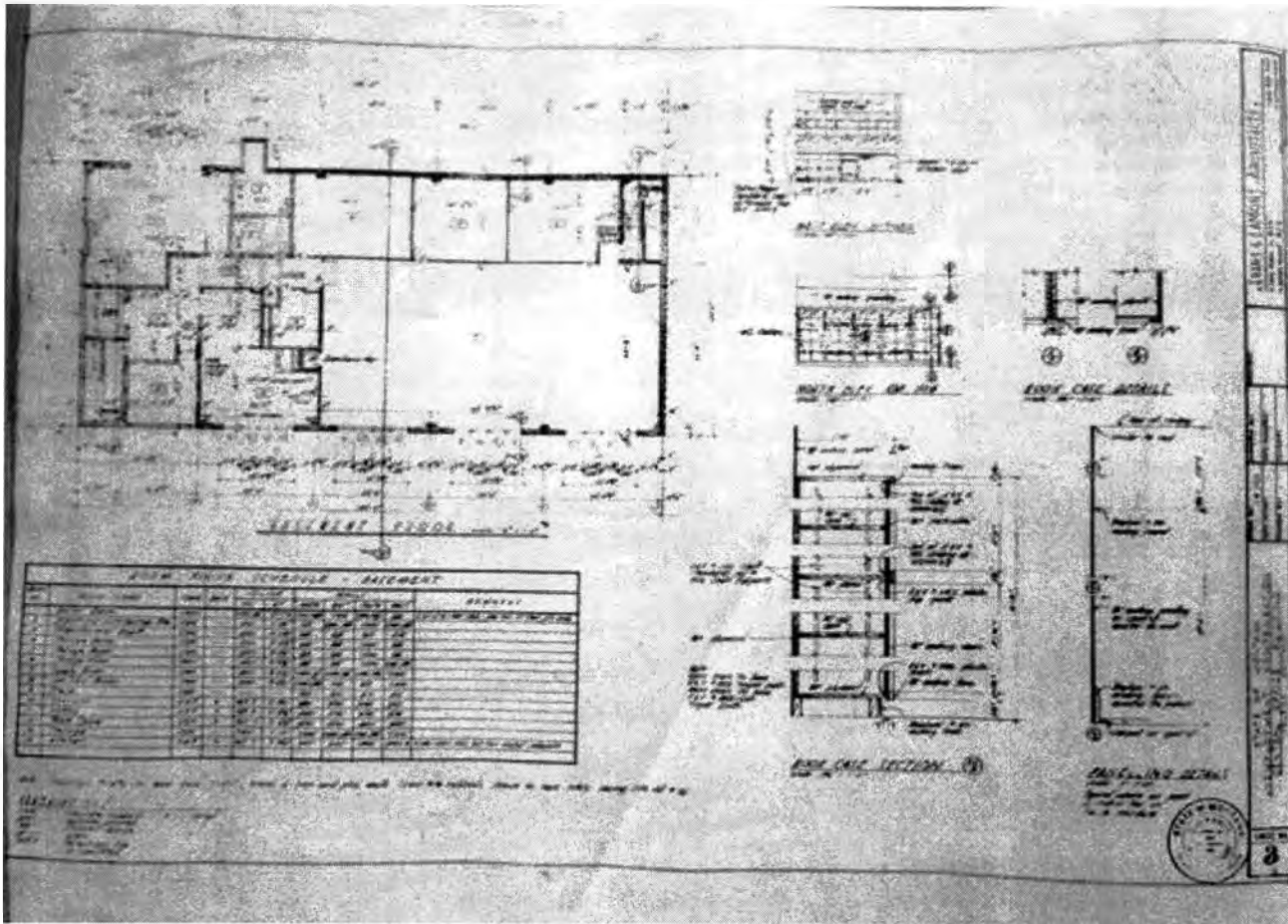
Construction plans of Unemployment Compensation Commission Building, 1959 (south top of the page). Photograph by Randall Williams, historical consultant, 2011. Plans provided by Department of Administration, General Services Division.

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Construction plans of Unemployment Compensation Commission Building, 1959 (south top of the page). Photograph by Randall Williams, historical consultant, 2011. Plans provided by Department of Administration, General Services Division.

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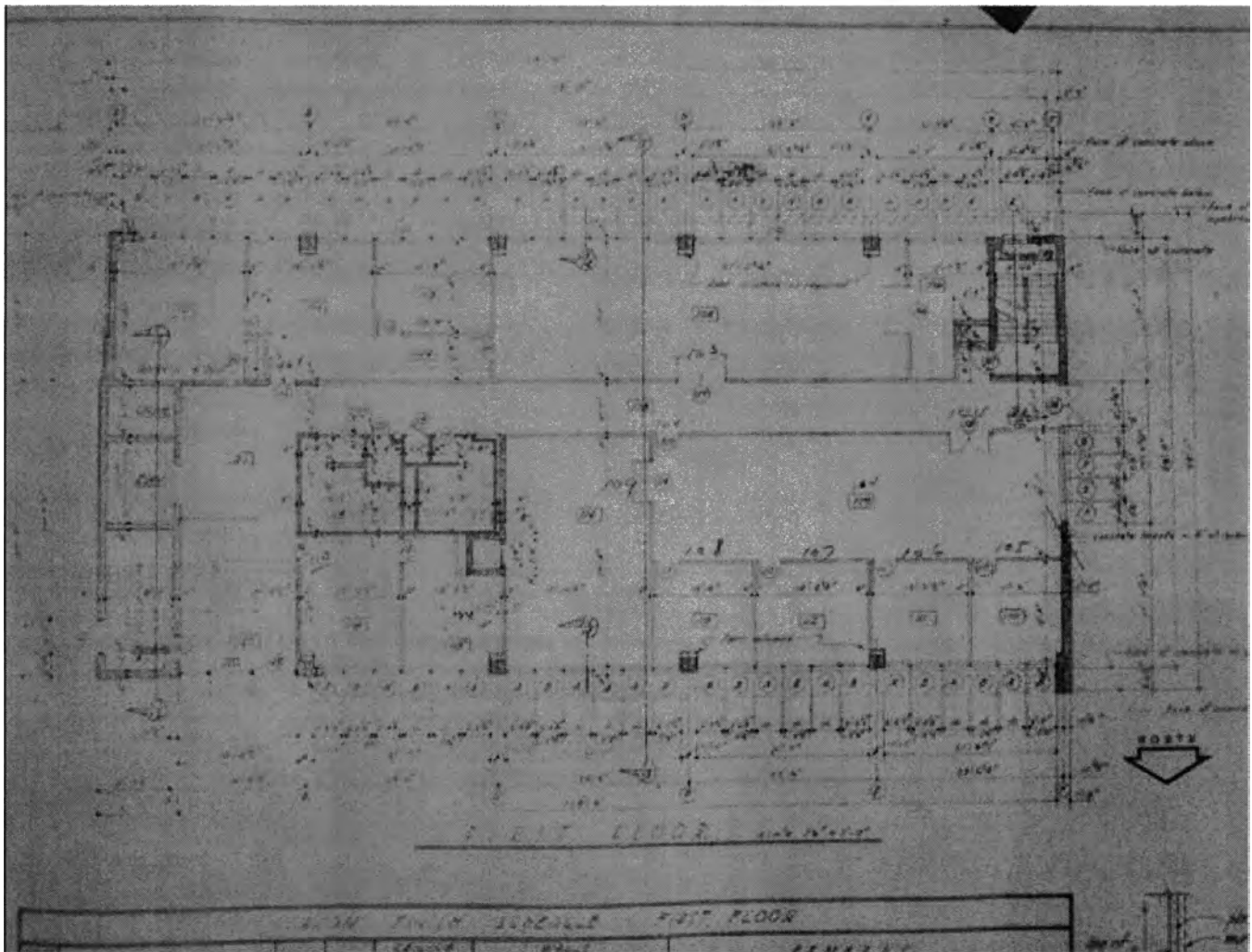
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Construction plans of Unemployment Compensation Commission Building, 1959 (south top of the page). Photograph by Randall Williams, historical consultant, 2011. Plans provided by Department of Administration, General Services Division.

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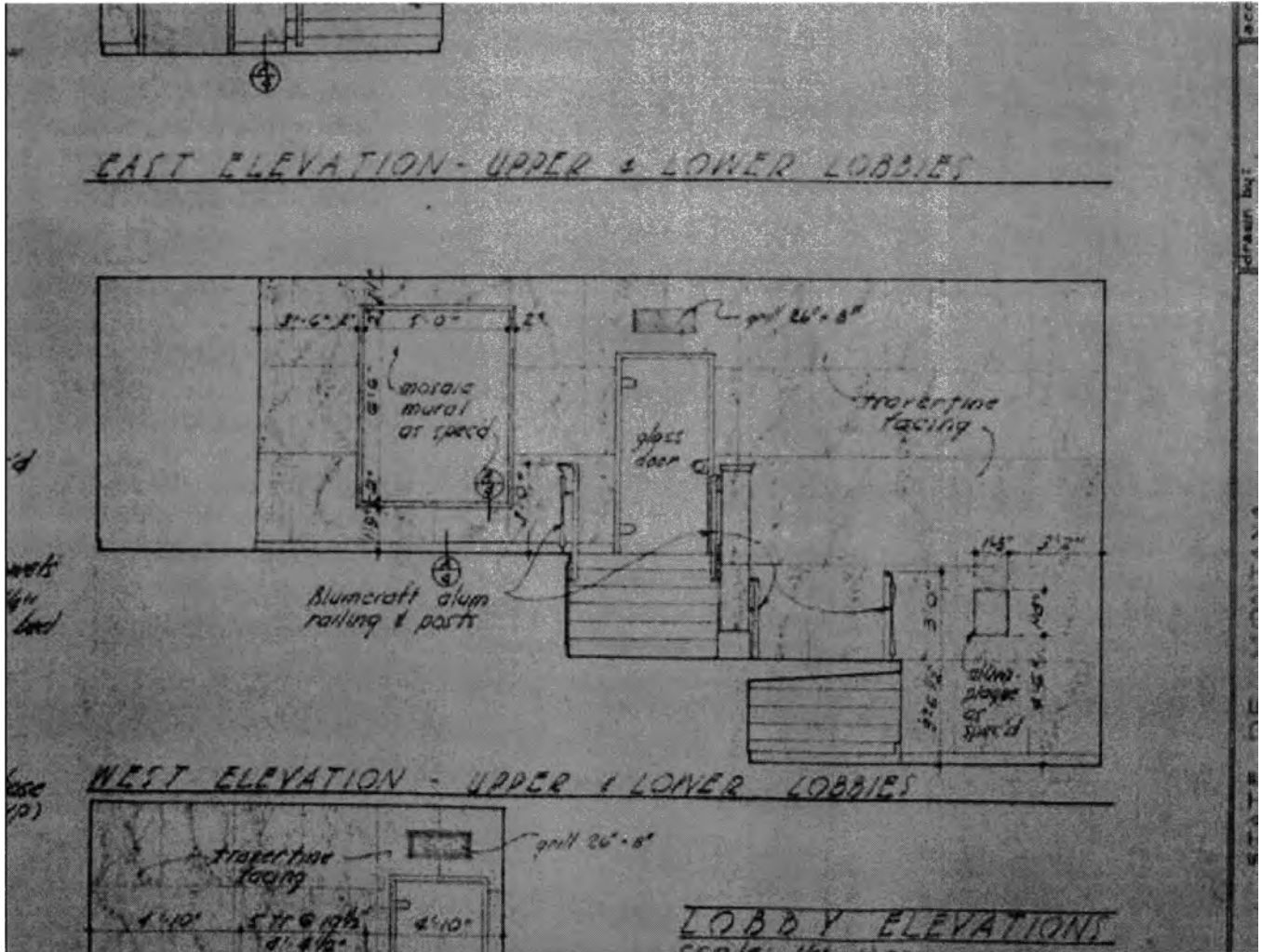
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Construction plans of Unemployment Compensation Commission Building, 1959 (east top of the page). Photograph by Randall Williams, historical consultant, 2011. Plans provided by Department of Administration, General Services Division.

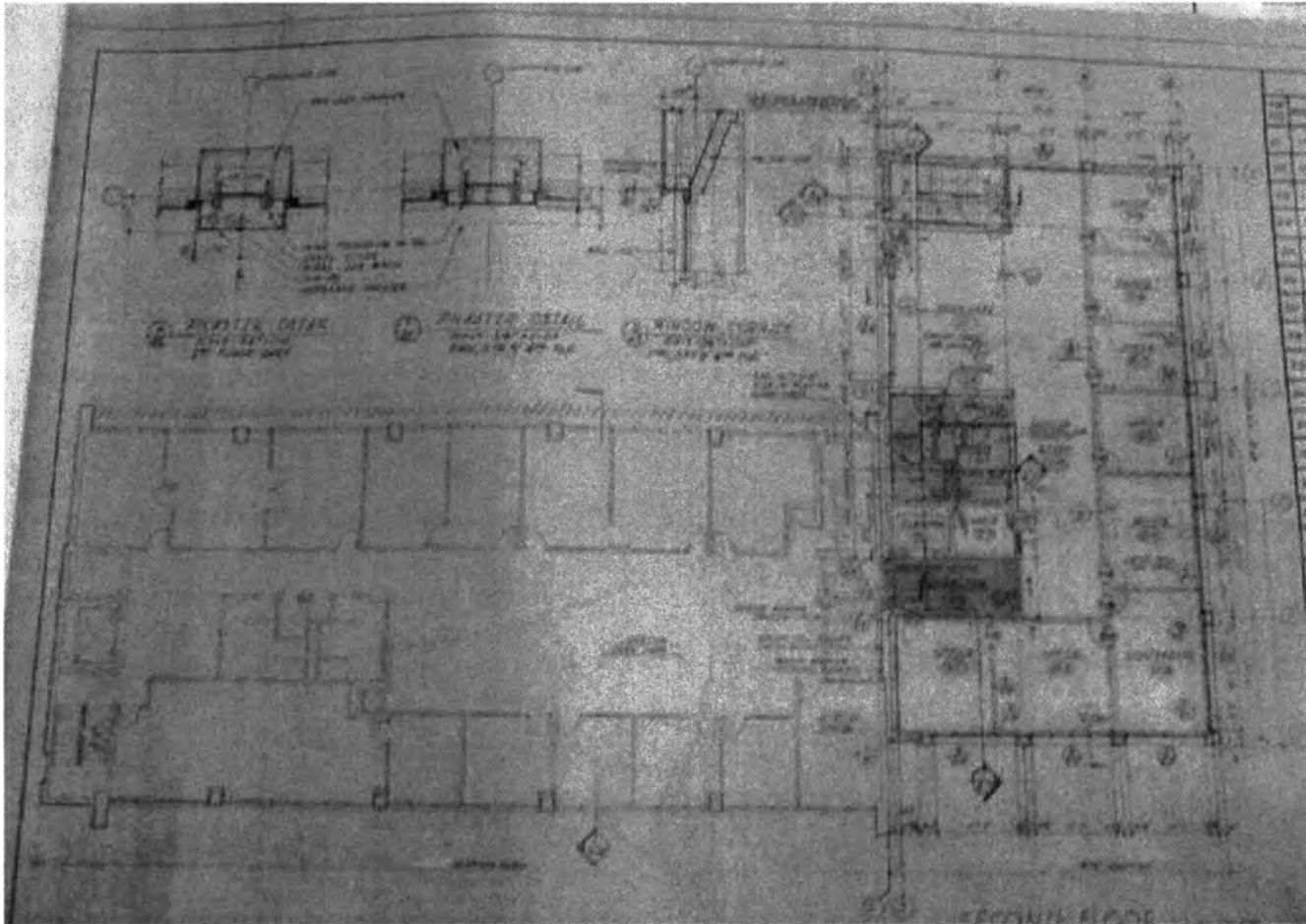
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Construction plans of Unemployment Compensation Commission Building Addition, 1972 (south top of the page). Photograph by Randall Williams, historical consultant, 2011. Plans provided by Department of Administration, General Services Division.

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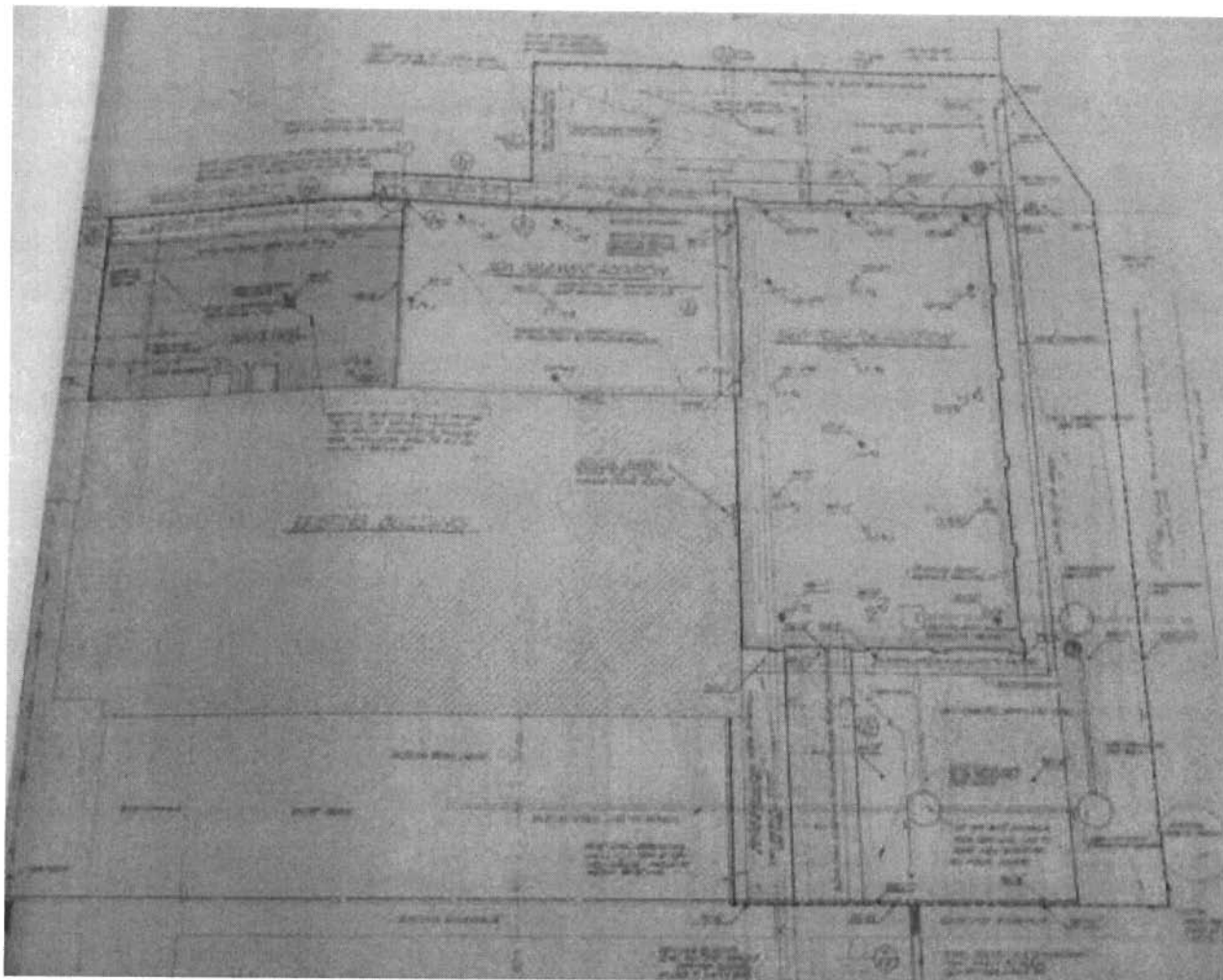
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Construction plans of Unemployment Compensation Commission Building Addition, 1972 (south top of the page). Photograph by Randall Williams, historical consultant, 2011. Plans provided by Department of Administration, General Services Division.

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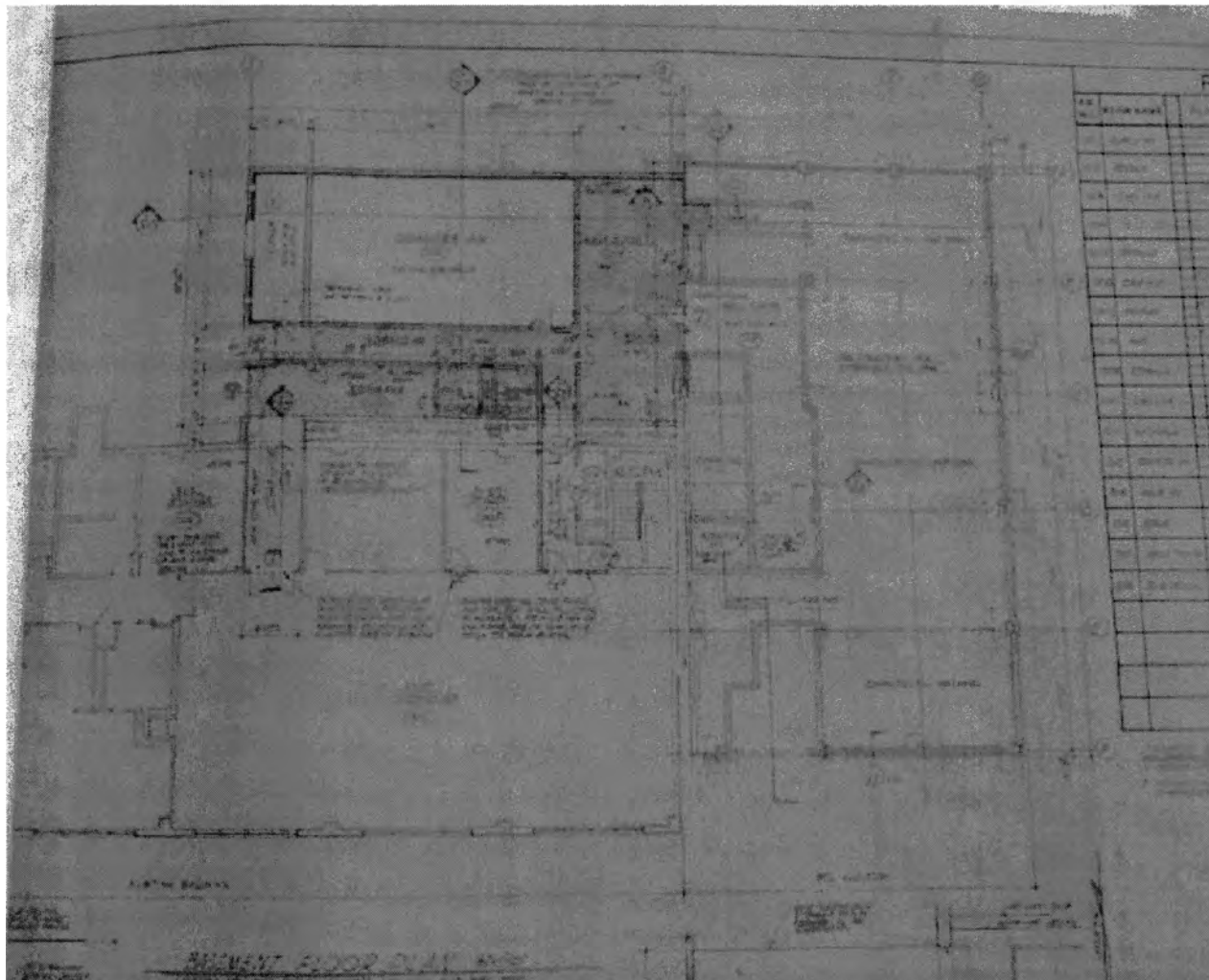
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Construction plans of Unemployment Compensation Commission Building Addition, 1972 (south top of the page). Photograph by Randall Williams, historical consultant, 2011. Plans provided by Department of Administration, General Services Division.

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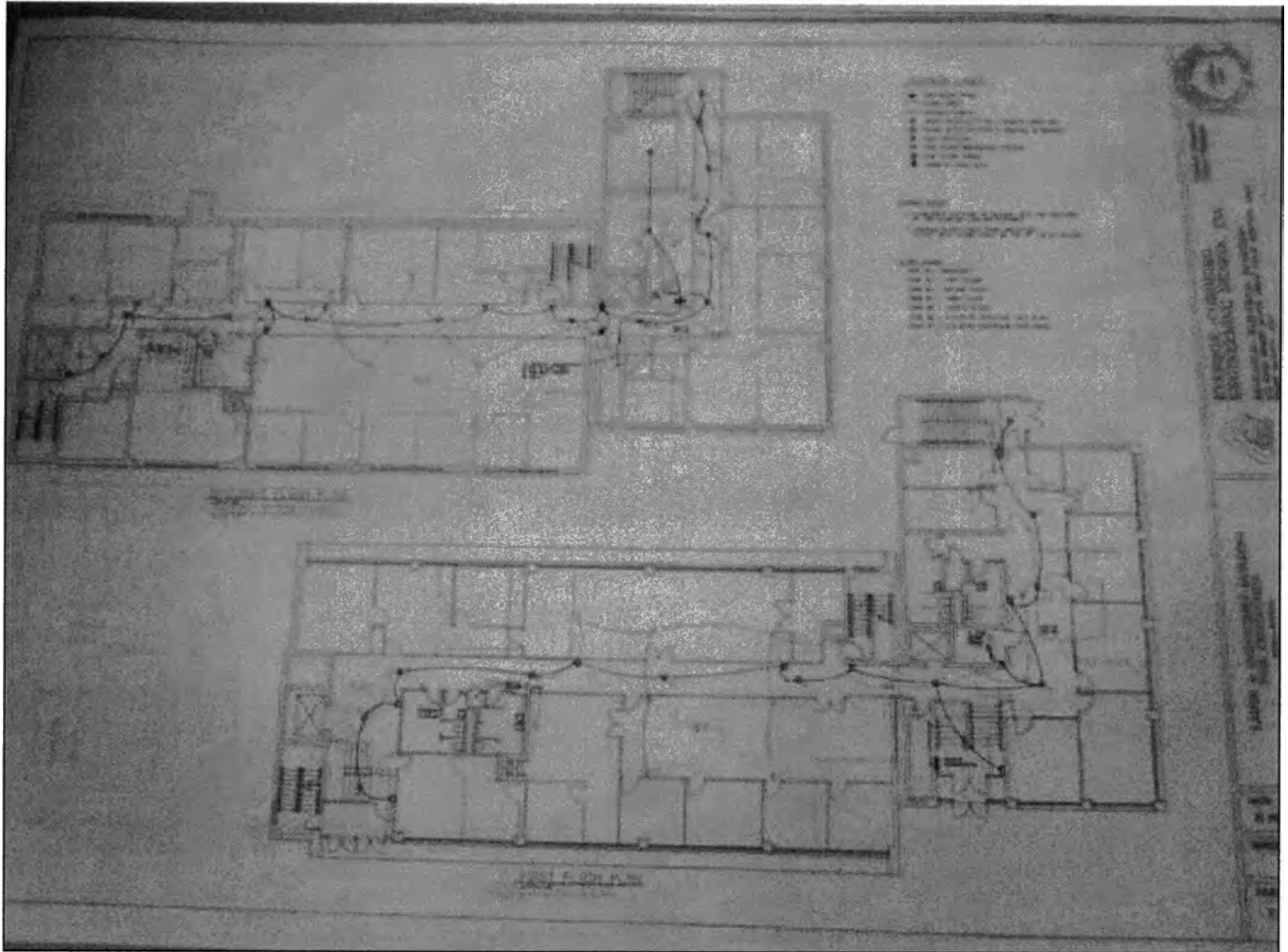
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Wiring prints of Unemployment Compensation Commission Building, 1991 (south top of the page). Photograph by Randall Williams, historical consultant, 2011. Plans provided by Department of Administration, General Services Division.

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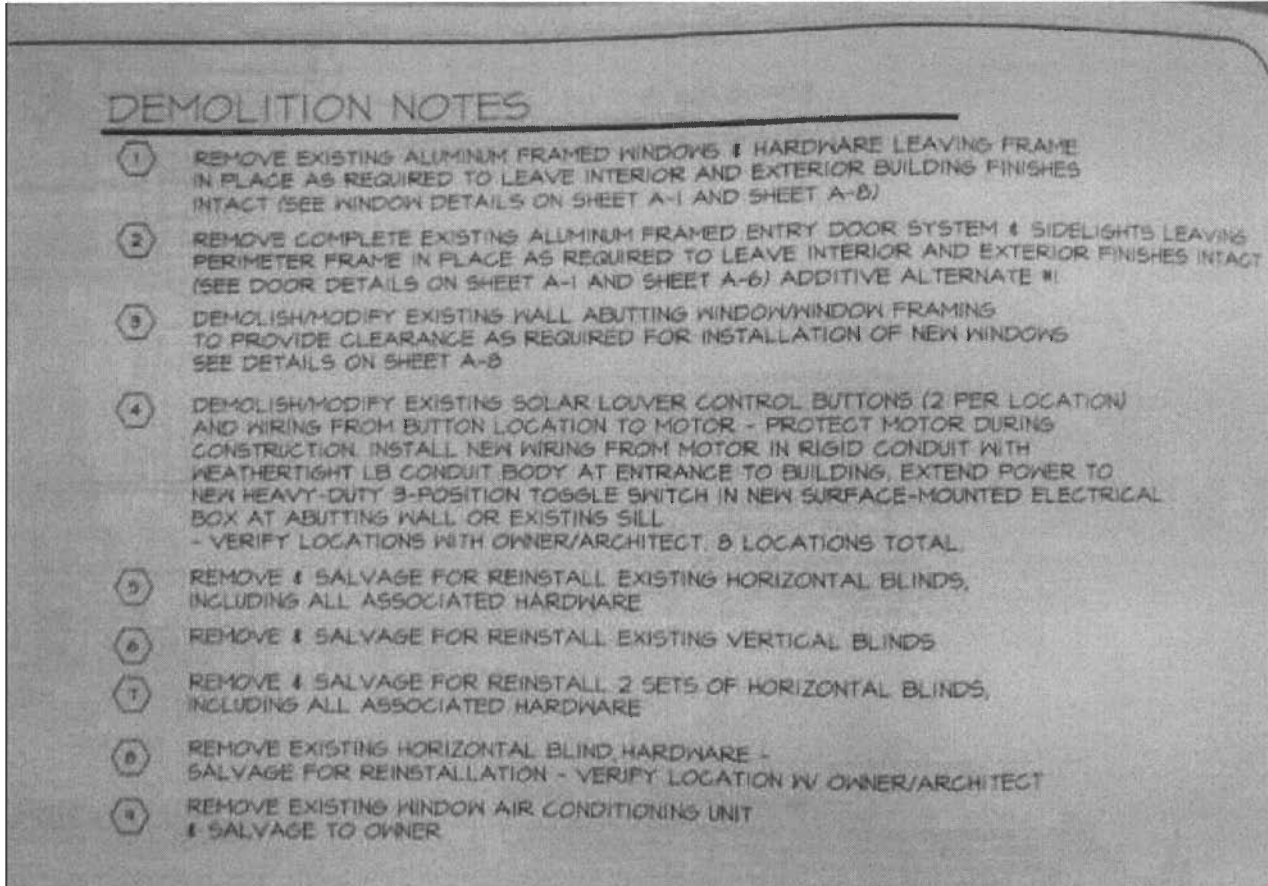
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Construction/Demolition notes for 2007 maintenance of the Unemployment Compensation Commission Building. Photograph by Randall Williams, historical consultant, 2011. Plans provided by Department of Administration, General Services Division.

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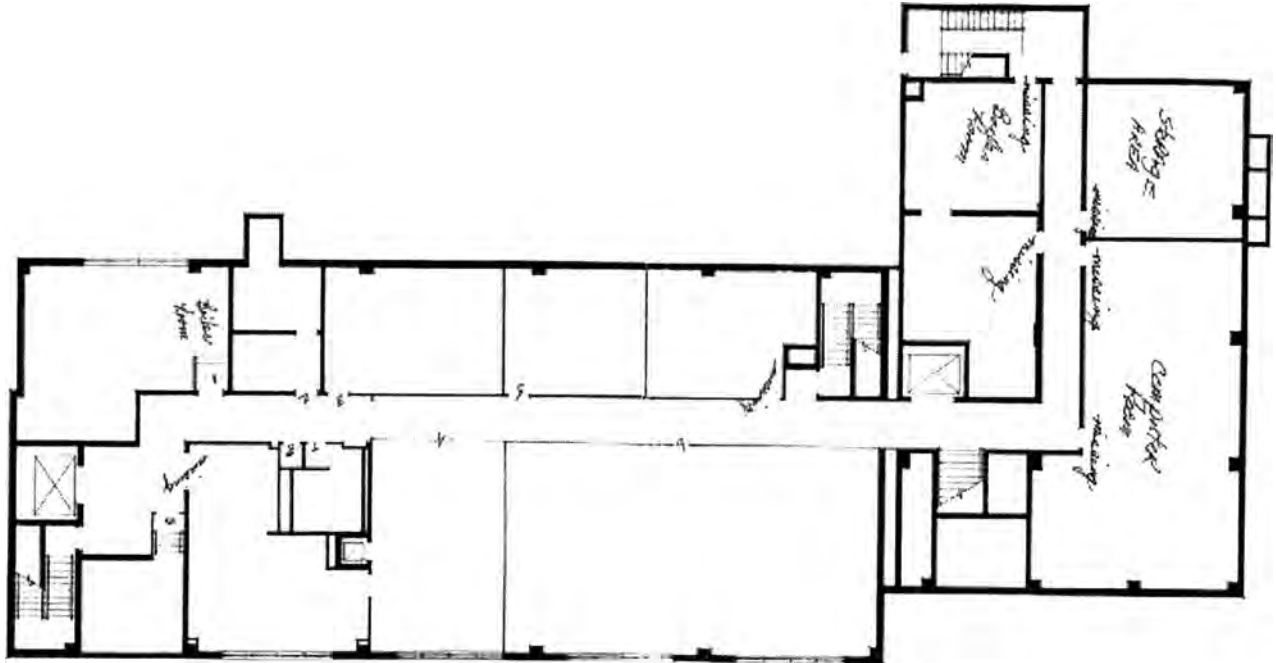
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E. S. D. / LABOR & INDUSTRY BUILDING

basement floor plan
1315 B. Locke Avenue

scale 16'

3

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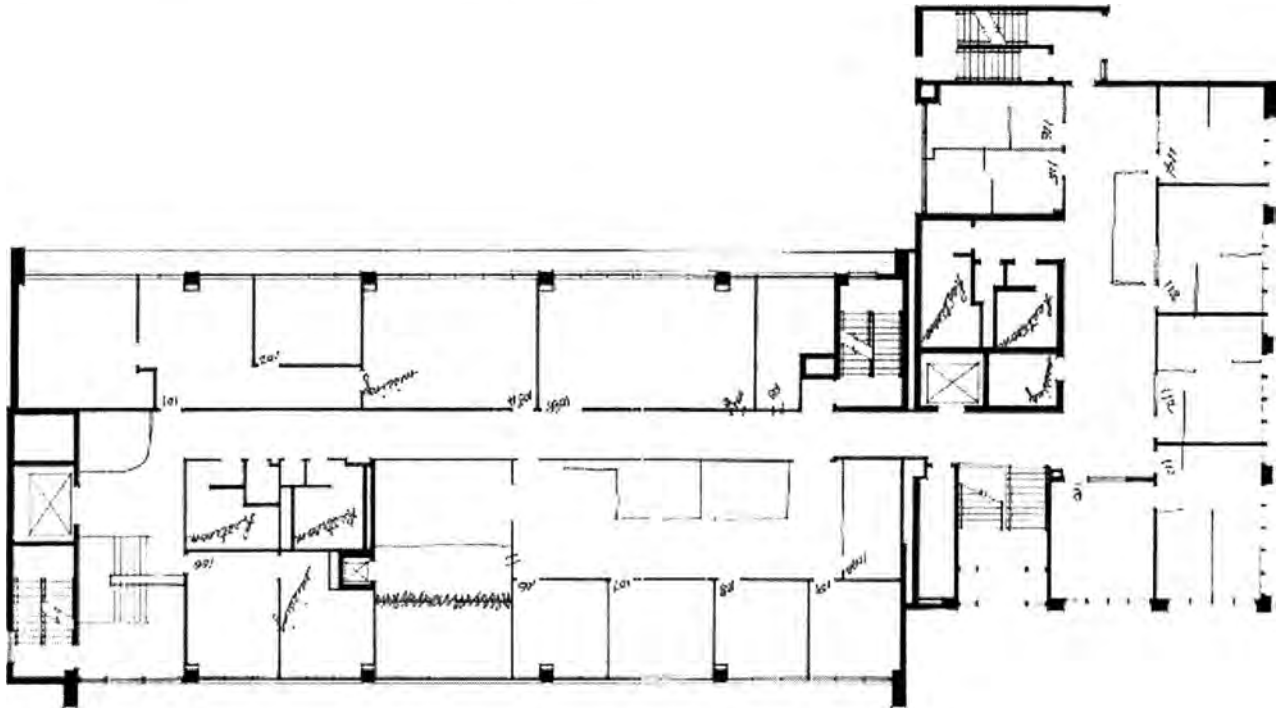
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E. S. D. / LABOR & INDUSTRY BUILDING

1st floor plan

1315 E. Lockey Avenue

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3

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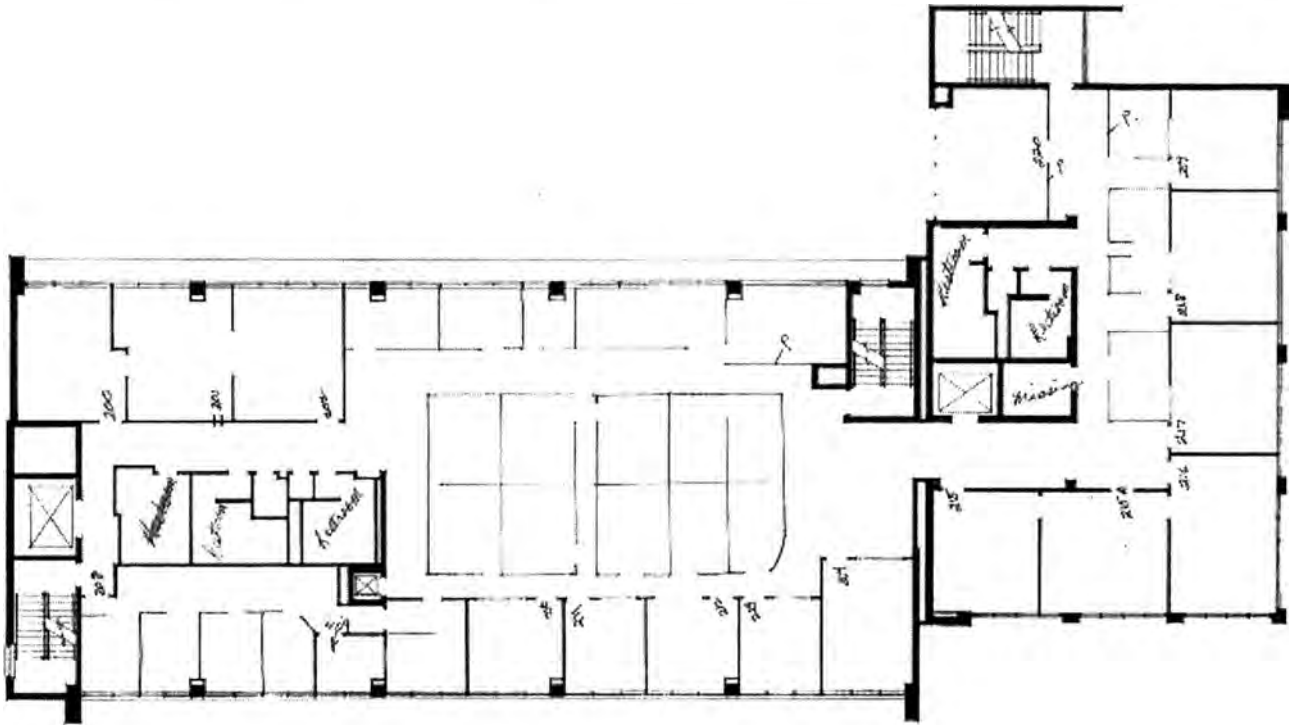
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E. S. D. / LABOR & INDUSTRY BUILDING

2nd floor plan

1315 e lockey avenue

scale 0 5 10 15 20 25

3

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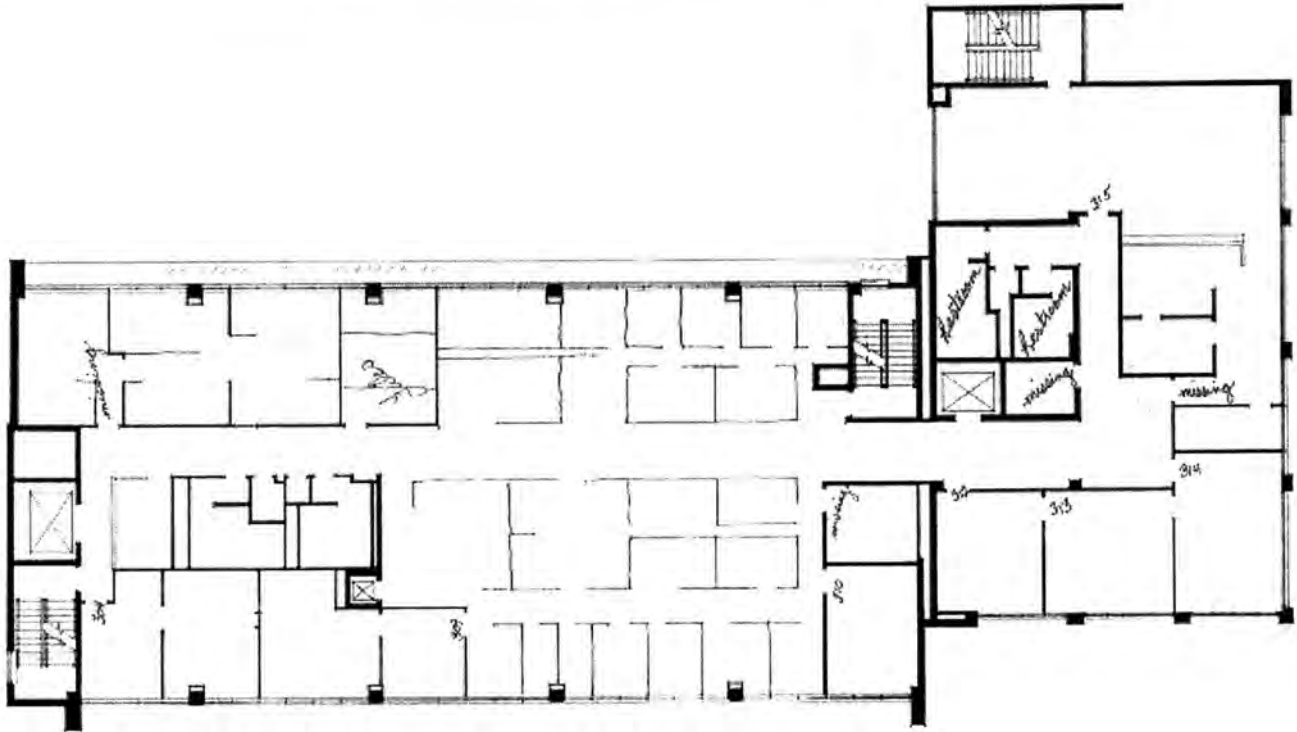
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E. S. D. / LABOR & INDUSTRY BUILDING

3rd floor plan

1315 e. lackey avenue

scale 4 8 12 20

3

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Unemployment Compensation Commission
Building

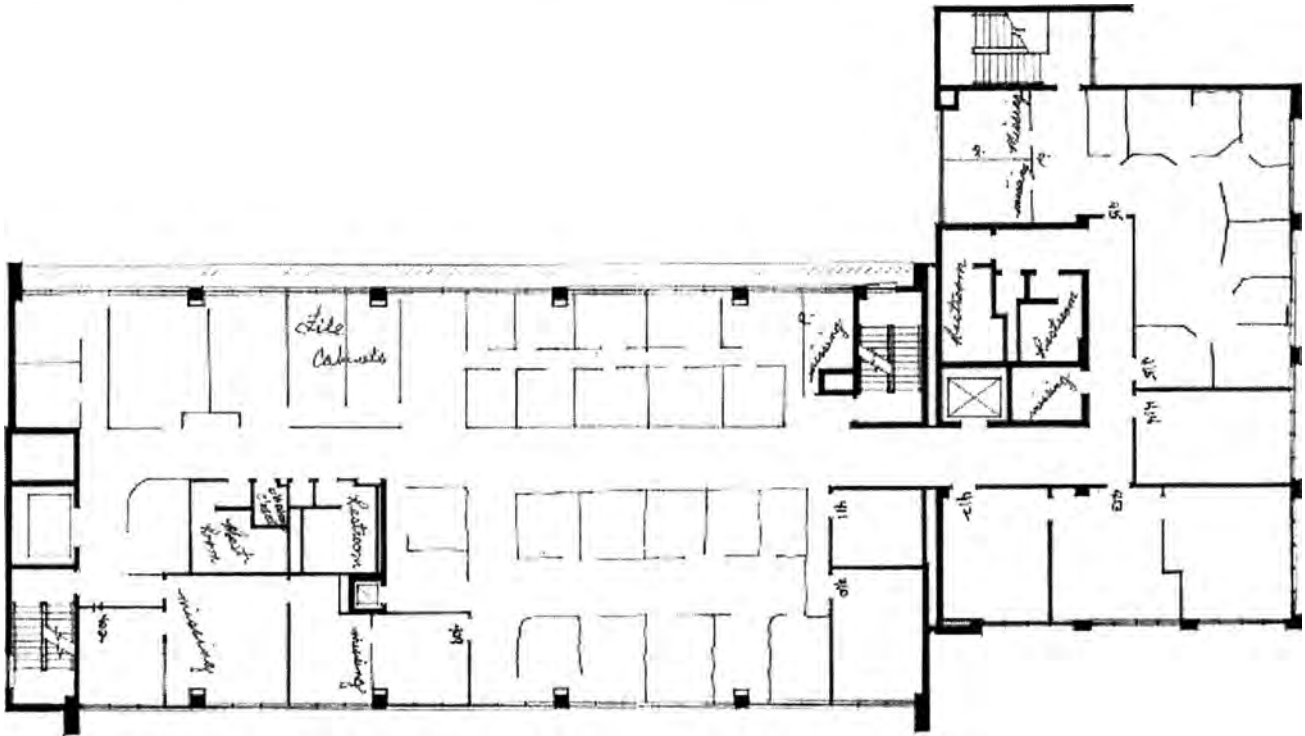
Name of Property
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E. S. D. / LABOR & INDUSTRY BUILDING

4th floor plan
1315 E. LOCKY AVENUE



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National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
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Unemployment Compensation Commission
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Interior of the Unemployment Compensation Commission Building. West lobby, view from north (addition), 2011.

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Unemployment Compensation Commission
Building

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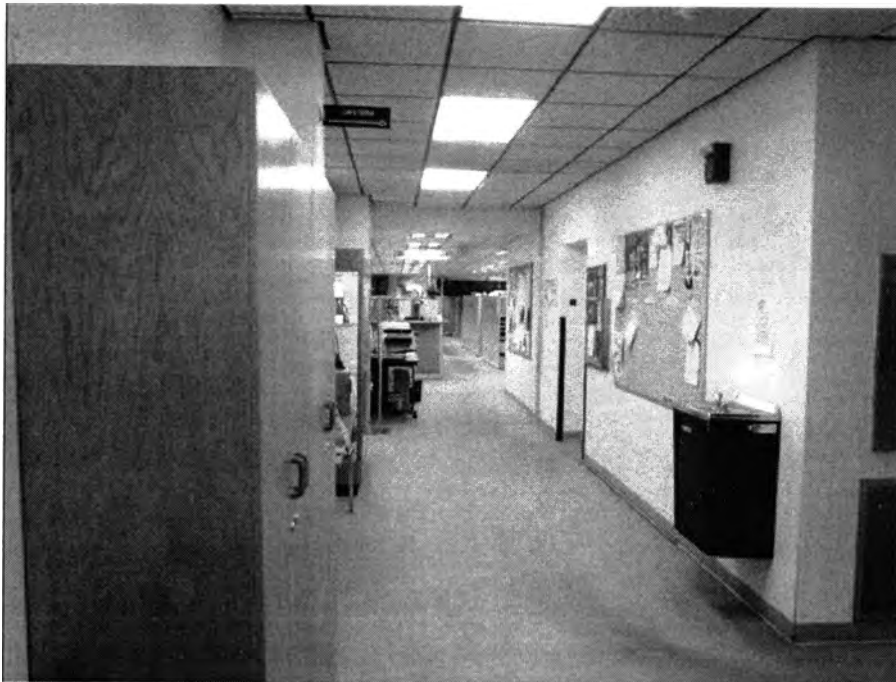
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

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Interior of the Unemployment Compensation Commission Building. First floor hall, view from east (main mass), 2011.



Interior of the Unemployment Compensation Commission Building. Third Floor hall, view from east (main mass), 2011.

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Interior of the Unemployment Compensation Commission Building. West lobby, view from south (addition), 2011.

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Detail of mosaic tile mural, west wall of east lobby (original)

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Unemployment Compensation Commission
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East wall of east lobby (original), from southwest

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Detail of bronze plaque honoring Walt Sullivan, east wall of east lobby

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Detail of Montana travertine, stairwell in east lobby (original)

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Unemployment Compensation Commission
Building

Name of Property
Lewis and Clark County, MT
County and State

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Section number Photographs

Page 1

National Register Photographs

Name of Property: Unemployment Compensation Commission Building
City or Vicinity: Helena
County: Lewis and Clark State: Montana
Photographer: Diana J. Painter, historical consultant
Date Photographed: 2010
Location of Original Negative: N/A, Digital Photograph, Disk on file @ MT SHPO
Description of Photograph and View: North (front) façade, viewed from the east
Photograph No. 0001

Name of Property: Unemployment Compensation Commission Building
City or Vicinity: Helena
County: Lewis and Clark State: Montana
Photographer: Diana J. Painter, historical consultant
Date Photographed: 2010
Location of Original Negative: N/A, Digital Photograph, Disk on file @ MT SHPO
Description of Photograph and View: North (front) façade, viewed from the northwest
Photograph No. 0002

Name of Property: Unemployment Compensation Commission Building
City or Vicinity: Helena
County: Lewis and Clark State: Montana
Photographer: Diana J. Painter, historical consultant
Date Photographed: 2010
Location of Original Negative: N/A, Digital Photograph, Disk on file @ MT SHPO
Description of Photograph and View: South (rear) façade
Photograph No. 0003

Name of Property: Unemployment Compensation Commission Building
City or Vicinity: Helena
County: Lewis and Clark State: Montana
Photographer: Diana J. Painter, historical consultant
Date Photographed: 2010
Location of Original Negative: N/A, Digital Photograph, Disk on file @ MT SHPO
Description of Photograph and View: South (rear) façade, viewed from the southeast
Photograph No. 0004

Name of Property: Unemployment Compensation Commission Building
City or Vicinity: Helena
County: Lewis and Clark State: Montana
Photographer: Diana J. Painter, historical consultant
Date Photographed: 2010
Location of Original Negative: N/A, Digital Photograph, Disk on file @ MT SHPO
Description of Photograph and View: East façade
Photograph No. 0005

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Page 2

Name of Property: Unemployment Compensation Commission Building
 City or Vicinity: Helena
 County: Lewis and Clark State: Montana
 Photographer: Diana J. Painter, historical consultant
 Date Photographed: 2010
 Location of Original Negative: N/A, Digital Photograph, Disk on file @ MT SHPO
 Description of Photograph and View: West façade, viewed from the northwest
 Photograph No. 0006

Name of Property: Unemployment Compensation Commission Building
 City or Vicinity: Helena
 County: Lewis and Clark State: Montana
 Photographer: Diana J. Painter, historical consultant
 Date Photographed: 2010
 Location of Original Negative: N/A, Digital Photograph, Disk on file @ MT SHPO
 Description of Photograph and View: West façade, viewed from southwest
 Photograph No. 0007

Name of Property: Unemployment Compensation Commission Building
 City or Vicinity: Helena
 County: Lewis and Clark State: Montana
 Photographer: Diana J. Painter, historical consultant
 Date Photographed: 2010
 Location of Original Negative: N/A, Digital Photograph, Disk on file @ MT SHPO
 Description of Photograph and View: Detail of movable louvers with curtain wall behind
 Photograph No. 0008

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Unemployment Compensation Commission
Building

Name of Property
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Name of the Property: Unemployment Compensation Commission Building

City or Vicinity: Helena

County: Lewis and Clark State: Montana

Photographer: Diana J. Painter, historical Consultant

Date Photographed: 2010

Location of Original Negative: N/A, Digital Photograph, Disk on file@ MT SHPO

Description of Photograph and View: North (front) façade, viewed from the east

Photographs No. 0001

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Name of the Property: Unemployment Compensation Commission Building
 City or Vicinity: Helena
 County: Lewis and Clark State: Montana
 Photographer: Diana J. Painter, historical Consultant
 Date Photographed: 2010
 Location of Original Negative: N/A, Digital Photograph, Disk on file@ MT SHPO
 Description of Photograph and View: North (front) façade, viewed from the west
 Photographs No. 0002

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Unemployment Compensation Commission
Building

Name of Property
Lewis and Clark County, MT
County and State

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Name of the Property: Unemployment Compensation Commission Building

City or Vicinity: Helena

County: Lewis and Clark State: Montana

Photographer: Diana J. Painter, historical Consultant

Date Photographed: 2010

Location of Original Negative: N/A, Digital Photograph, Disk on file@ MT SHPO

Description of Photograph and View: South (rear) façade

Photographs No. 0003

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Unemployment Compensation Commission
Building

Name of Property
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County and State

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Name of the Property: Unemployment Compensation Commission Building

City or Vicinity: Helena

County: Lewis and Clark State: Montana

Photographer: Diana J. Painter, historical Consultant

Date Photographed: 2010

Location of Original Negative: N/A, Digital Photograph, Disk on file@ MT SHPO

Description of Photograph and View: South (rear) façade, viewed from southeast

Photographs No. 0004

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Unemployment Compensation Commission
Building

Name of Property
Lewis and Clark County, MT
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Name of the Property: Unemployment Compensation Commission Building

City or Vicinity: Helena

County: Lewis and Clark State: Montana

Photographer: Diana J. Painter, historical Consultant

Date Photographed: 2010

Location of Original Negative: N/A, Digital Photograph, Disk on file@ MT SHPO

Description of Photograph and View: East façade

Photographs No. 0005

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Building

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Name of the Property: Unemployment Compensation Commission Building

City or Vicinity: Helena

County: Lewis and Clark State: Montana

Photographer: Diana J. Painter, historical Consultant

Date Photographed: 2010

Location of Original Negative: N/A, Digital Photograph, Disk on file@ MT SHPO

Description of Photograph and View: West façade, viewed from northwest

Photographs No. 0006

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Unemployment Compensation Commission
Building

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Name of the Property: Unemployment Compensation Commission Building

City or Vicinity: Helena

County: Lewis and Clark State: Montana

Photographer: Diana J. Painter, historical Consultant

Date Photographed: 2010

Location of Original Negative: N/A, Digital Photograph, Disk on file@ MT SHPO

Description of Photograph and View: West façade, viewed from southwest

Photographs No. 0007

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Name of the Property: Unemployment Compensation Commission Building
 City or Vicinity: Helena
 County: Lewis and Clark State: Montana
 Photographer: Diana J. Painter, historical Consultant
 Date Photographed: 2010
 Location of Original Negative: N/A, Digital Photograph, Disk on file@ MT SHPO
 Description of Photograph and View: Detail of movable louvers with curtain wall behind
 Photographs No. 0008

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

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SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 12000285 Date Listed: 5/18/2012

Unemployment Compensation

Commission Building
Property Name

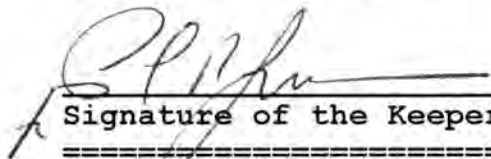
Lewis and Clark
County

MT
State

N/A

Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.



Signature of the Keeper

5/18/2012

Date of Action

Amended Items in Nomination:

Significance:

The *Significant Dates* are amended to remove 1974.
[The significant dates must all be within the period of significance identified for the property.]

Bibliographic References/Previous Documentation:

The block for *preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67)* was incorrectly checked and should be deleted.

These clarifications were confirmed with the MT SHPO office.

DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Unemployment Compensation Commission Building
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MONTANA, Lewis and Clark

DATE RECEIVED: 4/06/12 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 4/27/12
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 5/14/12 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 5/23/12
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 12000285

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

___ACCEPT ___RETURN ___REJECT _____DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

The Unemployment Compensation Commission Building is significant at the state and local levels under National Register Criteria A and C in the areas of Architecture, Engineering, and Politics/Government. The 1961 building is an excellent example of mid-twentieth century curtain wall construction utilizing innovative materials and building technologies (aluminum, energy efficient louvers). Built for the State's Unemployment Compensation Commission, the office building reflects the significant post-WWII expansion of important government services in the state and the general economic growth of Helena as a modern governmental center.

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept Criteria A+C

REVIEWER PAUL B. LUSIGNAS DISCIPLINE HISTORIAN

TELEPHONE _____ DATE 5/18/12

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



Unemployment Compensation Commission Building

Lewis And Clark Co., MT

photo # 0001



Unemployment Compensation Commission Building

Lewis And Clark Co., MT

Photo # 0002



unemployment compensation Commission Building

Lewis and Clark Co., MT

photo # 0003





Unemployment Compensation Commission Building
Lewis and Clark Co., MT
Phone # 0004





Unemployment Compensation Commission
Building

Lewis and Clark Co., MT
photo # 0005



Unemployment Compensation Commission
Building

Lewis and Clark Co., MT
Photo # 0006



Unemployment Compensation Commission Building

Lewis and Clark Co., MT

Photo # 0007



Unemployment Compensation Commission Building

Lewis and Clark Co., MT

photo # 0008



March 3, 2012

Carol Shull, Keeper
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
1201 Eye St. NW
8th Floor (MS 2280)
Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Ms. Shull,

Enclosed please find the following nomination for your consideration for listing in the National Register of Historic Places:

**Unemployment Compensation Commission Building Lewis and Clark County,
Montana.**

Please be advised that I submit the enclosed nomination under your revised procedures. I notified the owners and public officials in excess of 30 days prior to the Preservation Review Board meeting and received no notarized objections to the nomination from the property owners of record. The Review Board unanimously recommended that this property be nominated and I concur with its recommendation.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Mark Baumbler, PhD
State Historic Preservation Officer

Enclosure