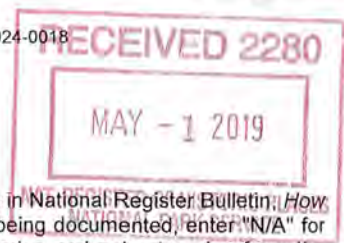


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



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 International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Building  
Other names/site number IBEW Building (preferred)  
Name of related Multiple Property Listing N/A

2. Location

Street & number 5850 Elizabeth Avenue N/A not for publication  
City or town Saint Louis [Independent City] N/A vicinity  
State Missouri Code MO County Saint Louis [Independent City] Code 510 Zip code 63110

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,  
I hereby certify that this x 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 x meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:  
\_\_\_ national \_\_\_ statewide x local  
Applicable National Register Criteria: \_\_\_ A \_\_\_ B x C \_\_\_ D  
[Signature] Deputy Director Date 4/25/19  
Signature of certifying official/Title  
Missouri Department of Natural Resources  
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property \_\_\_ meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria.  
Signature of commenting official \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Title \_\_\_\_\_ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government \_\_\_\_\_

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:  
X 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] Date of Action 6-17-19  
Signature of the Keeper

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers  
(IBEW) Building

St. Louis [Independent City] Missouri

Name of Property

County and State

**5. Classification**

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

**Category of Property**  
(Check only **one** box.)

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

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	private
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Local
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - State
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Federal

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	building(s)
<input type="checkbox"/>	district
<input type="checkbox"/>	site
<input type="checkbox"/>	structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
		sites
1	0	structures
		objects
2	0	<b>Total</b>

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

N/A

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

COMMERCE/TRADE/organizational

COMMERCE/TRADE/organizational

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

MODERN MOVEMENT

foundation: Concrete

walls: Concrete, Brick,

Steel

roof: Not Visible

other: Aluminum,

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION ON CONTINUATION PAGES

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers  
(IBEW) Building

St. Louis [Independent City] Missouri

Name of Property

County and State

**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.

**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.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE ON CONTINUATION PAGES

**Areas of Significance**

Architecture

**Period of Significance**

1959-1960

**Significant Dates**

1959

1960

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Bank Building and Equipment Company

Sarmiento, Wenceslao/Architect

Langston, Perry/Architect

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography** (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

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

**Primary location of additional data:**

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

Name of repository: **IBEW Office St. Louis**

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): \_\_\_\_\_

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers  
(IBEW) Building

Saint Louis [Independent City] Missouri

Name of Property

County and State

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** 4.5 acres

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates**

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_  
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1 38.614929 -90.285606 3 \_\_\_\_\_  
Latitude: Longitude: Latitude: Longitude:

2 \_\_\_\_\_ 4 \_\_\_\_\_  
Latitude: Longitude: Latitude: Longitude:

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)  
\_\_\_\_\_ NAD 1927 or \_\_\_\_\_ NAD 1983

1 \_\_\_\_\_ 3 \_\_\_\_\_  
Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

2 \_\_\_\_\_ 4 \_\_\_\_\_  
Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

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

**Boundary Justification** (On continuation sheet)

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Andrew B. Weil, Executive Director  
organization Landmarks Association of St. Louis date 9/26/18  
street & number 911 Washington Ave. Suite 170 telephone 314-421-6474  
city or town Saint Louis state MO zip code 63101  
e-mail aweil@landmarks-stl.org

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:**
  - A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
  - A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Photographs**
- **Owner Name and Contact Information**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

**Photographs**

**International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers  
(IBEW) Building**

**Saint Louis [Independent City] Missouri**

Name of Property

County and State

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

**Photo Log:**

Name of Property: **International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Building**

City or Vicinity: **Saint Louis**

County: **Independent City** State: **Missouri**

Photographer: **Katie Graebe**

Date Photographed: **8/28/2018**

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

- 1 of 29 Setting facing north from west side of building
- 2 of 29 Parking lot facing southeast
- 3 of 29 Setting facing southeast from east side of building
- 4 of 29 Setting facing east, northeast from north side of building
- 5 of 29 Window configuration, north elevation, facing south
- 6 of 29 North (primary) elevation, facing east, southeast
- 7 of 29 Detail of Roman Brick, west elevation, facing east
- 8 of 29 North (primary) elevation, facing east, southeast
- 9 of 29 North (primary) elevation, and west elevation, facing east, southeast
- 10 of 29 Interior office facing northeast showing original window frames enclosed in wall
- 11 of 29 South elevation, facing north
- 12 of 29 Second floor interior hall facing south
- 13 of 29 Second floor interior hall facing north
- 14 of 29 Detail of hiring hall sign, southeast corner, second floor
- 15 of 29 East elevation facing west
- 16 of 29 First floor restroom facing southeast
- 17 of 29 First floor business manager's office, facing northeast
- 18 of 29 First floor board room, facing southeast
- 19 of 29 First floor conference room facing southwest
- 20 of 29 First floor, primary entrance, north elevation facing south, southeast
- 21 of 29 First floor lobby, entrance, and stair facing northeast
- 22 of 29 First floor entry and stair, facing north
- 23 of 29 Stair between first and second floor, facing east, southeast
- 24 of 29 First floor finance office, facing west, northwest
- 25 of 29 Second floor meeting hall, facing west, southwest
- 26 of 29 Second floor meeting hall, facing east, southeast
- 27 of 29 First floor lobby facing north
- 28 of 29 Detail, IBEW logo, lobby
- 29 of 29 Hiring hall facing south

**Figure Log:**

Include figures on continuation pages at the end of the nomination.

- Figure 1: Boundary of the nominated property
- Figure 2: Setting of the nominated property
- Figure 3: First floor and exterior photo map
- Figure 4: Second floor and exterior photo map
- Figure 5: IBEW Building c. 1960, Electrical Workers' Journal
- Figure 6: Rendering of IBEW 1959, Electrical Workers' Journal
- Figure 7: St. Pius Memorial Library, St. Louis
- Figure 8: New Federal Building, St. Louis
- Figure 9: Wohl Recreation Center, St. Louis
- Figure 10: Crown Hall, Wikipedia
- Figure 11: Cullinan Hall, MFAH.org
- Figure 12: Original Drawing signed by architect Perry Langston

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

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International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Building
Name of Property Saint Louis [Independent City] Missouri
County and State N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

### Summary

The IBEW Building is a two story steel frame and concrete building constructed between 1959 and 1960 by the Bank Building & Equipment Corporation (BBEC) for the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Union, Local 1. The building is among twenty five examples of mid-century, non-residential architecture in St. Louis identified as eligible for listing in the National Register conducted by Peter Meijer & Associates Kristen Minor in a 2013 survey of non-residential, mid-century architecture in St. Louis.<sup>1</sup> The building is a distinctive Modern design which combines International Style and “Miesian” influences with innovative post war materials and integral grid patterning to create an unmistakably Modern look (Photos 5-6). The two story building has a rectangular plan with a flat roof. The primary and rear elevations are clad with vinyl coated concrete and the side elevations are clad with Roman brick. The first floor of the primary elevation was originally enclosed by a glass curtain wall, that has now been partially enclosed. Unique among St. Louis’ Modern architecture, the design expresses the building’s structural system on the outside of its curtain wall envelope with projecting and somewhat exaggerated steel and concrete columns and beams. Curtain walls and roof are suspended from this structural system, which enables the upper floor of the building to be dominated by a large, single span meeting hall. Topography is also used as a design element to facilitate access to the second floor meeting hall directly from the large, original parking lot (contributing). The building has no basement and is constructed into a hillside with supporting columns resting on bedrock. The side walls (east and west) and the lower level of the rear (south wall) are faced with a dark red Roman brick. The use of brick as a planar surface material in mid-century design has been identified as an adaptation that is local to St. Louis.<sup>2</sup> The exterior of the building retains integrity of its original design. The only significant alterations are the enclosure of several window openings on the first floor of the primary elevation. The interior has been remodeled, but it retains many original features (terrazzo floors, faux marble wall cladding, aluminum frames around windows and doors etc.). Special use areas tailored to the functions of the Union are also intact (and being used for original purposes) including the hiring hall, leadership offices, finance office, and meeting hall.

### Setting

The building is located at 5850 Elizabeth Avenue in The Hill neighborhood of south central St. Louis’ 10<sup>th</sup> Ward. The building is situated on sloping ground that rises to the south and falls away to the north into the valley of Mill Creek (Photo 1). The primary elevation faces north and when constructed had an expansive view over the valley toward Forest Park. To the south of the building is a large surface parking lot (contributing) that is a component of the building’s original design (Photo 2). The building takes advantage of the rising land on its south side and was designed so that the second floor, which contains the hiring and meeting halls, is at grade with- and can be accessed from- the parking lot.

<sup>1</sup> Peter Meijer, Kristen Minor and Betsy Bradley, “Thematic Survey of Modern Movement Non-Residential Architecture, 1945 – 1975, in St. Louis City Mid Century,” (Full Report) Unpublished, 2013 (Available at: <https://www.stlouis-mo.gov/government/departments/planning/cultural-resources/upload/131024-STL-Modern-Report.pdf>) viewed on 9/10/18

<sup>2</sup> Ibid, p. 90

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

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International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Building
Name of Property Saint Louis [Independent City] Missouri
County and State N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Surrounding buildings are primarily one and two story light industrial and institutional (including other union halls) buildings dating to the early and middle 20<sup>th</sup> century (Photos 3-4). There is also a small parking lot on the east side of the building (Photo 15) and a small, steeply sloping green space on the west side with a number of mature trees and an aluminum flag pole (Photo 1). This area is not formally landscaped nor does it appear to have been a significant intentional design feature. The primary (north) elevation is built up to the side walk (Photos 6, 8, 9). A small concrete parking lot fronts the east elevation (Photo 15). On the left (south) side of the lot is an original concrete retaining wall capped with a steel balustrade. This retaining wall also supports the east side of the large upper level parking lot on the south side of the building.

The area in which the building is situated was a rare section of previously undeveloped land in mid 20<sup>th</sup> century St. Louis and was attractive for light industrial and commercial development in the post World War II era. As a result, many of the buildings in the area reflect mid-century design influences, which led the previously referenced survey of St. Louis' mid-century architecture to identify the vicinity as a distinct "Southwest St. Louis Cluster" of such buildings.<sup>3</sup>

#### Parking Lot

The building's parking lot, which retains its original dimensions (3.5 acres) and relationship to the building and its meeting hall in particular, is identified as a contributing structure. The parking lot was a priority for the IBEW when the organization commissioned its new building because members had been complaining that the previous facility could not accommodate the number of cars that showed up for meetings. As a result, the current generous lot was planned and the building itself designed to allow members to flow directly from it through multiple doors into the meeting hall. The lot is paved with asphalt and has a concrete retaining wall along its east side and a portion of its south side.

#### Architectural Description, Exterior

This two story building has a primary elevation that faces north. The primary and rear elevations are clad with vinyl coated concrete and the sidewalls are clad with Roman brick. Fenestration is essentially confined to a glass curtain wall across the first floor of the primary elevation (the windows of this curtain wall have been partially enclosed). Steel and concrete structural elements are expressed on the exterior of the primary elevation, roof, and rear wall.

The two available historic images of the primary elevation (north) appear to present conflicting versions of the fenestration of the lower level of the primary (north) elevation (Photos 8-9), but in consideration of original drawings (**Figure 11**) this seems to be a matter of perspective. **Figure 5**, a c. 1960 photograph of the building shows a projecting ribbon of windows on lower level of the building east of the entry but the western portion of this level of the elevation isn't clearly depicted. **Figure 6**, a 1959 rendering shows the west side of this level depicted as a continuation of floor to ceiling aluminum frame windows flush with the wall plane. The appearance of the fenestration in **Figure 6** appears to agree with the drawing (**Figure 11**).

<sup>3</sup> Meijer et. al., 2013 p. 88-89

National Register of Historic Places  
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International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Building
Name of Property Saint Louis [Independent City] Missouri
County and State N/A
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The original fenestration pattern of this level was impacted by a 1980s renovation (exact date unknown) (Photos 5-6, 8-9, **Figures 5-6**). At this time, the projecting windows on the east side of the elevation had lower level lights blinded with solid panels (the frames remain intact) (Photo 6). The west side of was enclosed with the aforementioned projecting frame addition resting on a non-original low brick bulkhead. This addition was added to create an interior file room (Photo 9). From the interior office space that connects to the addition, a plate glass transom in an aluminum frame is visible. This transom runs the length of the wall that corresponds to the former exterior fenestration (Photo 10). This seems to indicate that original windows (as depicted by the 1959 rendering—Figure 6) were abandoned in place within the interior wall.

The primary entry originally had a projecting flat roof resting on walls of Roman brick. When the 1980s addition enclosed the windows on the west side of the primary elevation, it appears that a low shed incline was added to the porch roof, probably to help with drainage. The entry is recessed from the plane of the exterior wall (Photos 6 and 20). It is flanked by walls of Roman brick and contains a pair of aluminum and plate glass doors offset left beneath a plate glass transom. To the right of the doors is a side-by-side vertical pair of plate glass sidelights beneath plate glass transoms. The lights and doors of the entry are all set in aluminum frames. On the left (east) brick wall of the entry the words “Electrical Workers” and “Local One” are executed in aluminum letters in a distinctive mid-century font.

The primary elevation has seven distinctive steel “fins” that project from the plane of the wall and continue through the parapet to rise above the roof line (Photos 8-9). These fins express the building’s structural system of concrete and steel columns and beams. The fins continue across the roof on a north to south orientation and then continue down the plane of the south elevation. This expressed structural system defines the north and south elevations into six rectilinear sections (Photos 8-9). Between the structural elements are regular, 7x7, grids of forty nine square concavities set into smooth, vinyl-coated concrete panels. This integral patterning catches light and shadow in changing ways throughout the day. This effect is amplified by the reflective and smooth surface of the plasticized concrete, which was a proprietary product developed by the Bank Building and Equipment Company’s subsidiary Design Inc.<sup>4</sup> At either end of the elevation beyond the last vertical fin is a section of vinyl coated concrete wall with a vertical ribbon of seven square concavities. The original color scheme of the building is intact with white, coated concrete forms separated by blue painted structural system.

The west elevation is (Photo 9) is divided into a lower pedestal level supporting an overhanging upper section. The walls of both sections are faced with red Roman brick (Photo 7). A single entry is centered on the pedestal level and contains a solid steel security door (Photo 9). The upper level has an original projecting metal sign with a reflective chrome finish that reads “Electrical Workers” in a distinctive, mid-century script. Below this are additional, non-original signs which respectively depict the IBEW’s trademark logo of a fist grasping ten lightning bolts, and the words “Local One” (Photo 9). With the exception of the lower level entry bay, the elevation is devoid of fenestration.

<sup>4</sup> The Electrical Workers’ Journal, May-June 1959, p. 34



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International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Building
Name of Property Saint Louis [Independent City] Missouri
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Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

The south elevation is only one story and is at grade with the large rear surface parking lot (Photo 11). Because of the sloping lot, the south elevation is situated at the same level as the second floor of the north elevation. The lower level of the elevation is faced with red, Roman brick and contains five pairs of solid steel security doors in addition to a recessed entry in the 5<sup>th</sup> bay from the left (west). The four doors on the left (west) side of the building are designed to provide easy access for large groups of people from the parking lot directly into the meeting hall (Photo 11). The recessed entry has plate glass and aluminum doors in an aluminum frame with plate glass side lights and transom (Photo 11). The entry provides access to a hallway that runs the width of the building and terminates in stairs to the first floor on the north side (Photos 12-13). The door on the right side of the elevation provides direct access to the "hiring hall" (Photos 14 and 29).

Above the brick level on the south elevation the wall material is vinyl coated concrete ornamented by a grid pattern of recessed square panels (Photo 11). There are six rectilinear vinyl coated concrete wall sections delineated by the projecting structural system. Each section has a 4x7 grid of square concavities. At either end of the elevation beyond the last structural element is a section of vinyl coated concrete wall with a vertical ribbon of four square concavities. Like the primary elevation, the original color scheme of the south elevation is intact with white coated concrete sections separated by exaggerated blue structural members.

The east elevation is divided into a slightly recessed lower pedestal level supporting a slightly overhanging upper section (Photo 15). The walls of both sections are faced with red Roman brick. The original configuration of the pedestal level appears to have contained seven vertical window bays. Six of these bays are still intact and contain five windows and a non-original steel security door today. The windows still have their aluminum frames but have been mostly blinded (except for a transom light) with a solid panel. The rear (south) quarter of the pedestal level was altered during the 1980s renovation at which point one original window bay was eliminated, a new solid steel security door added, and the entire section built out with standard brick to be flush with the plane of the upper wall level. The upper level of the elevation is an original blind Roman brick wall.

**Interior (Figures 3-4)**

The original floor plan of the building is not known exactly, but inspection of walls and discussions with current staff indicate that limited non-original partitions appear to be confined to administrative offices on the first floor. The overarching original organization of interior space into administrative offices and specialized union functions (lobby/reception, finance office, meeting hall, hiring hall) appears to be intact.

Upon entering the building through the primary public entrance (north elevation) one encounters the lobby and a reception window on the left (east) side. The east half of the first floor is dominated by private administrative offices (Photo 21). To the west is the Union's finance office (Photo 25) and a hallway off of which additional offices branch.

Many of the interior finishes were aesthetically impacted by a 1980s era renovation. This renovation updated bathrooms (Photo 16) blinded/reduced interior dimensions of windows and updated the drop

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International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Building
Name of Property Saint Louis [Independent City] Missouri
County and State N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

ceiling (Photo 17-18) boxed support columns and added some new partition walls and wall coverings (Photo 19). Despite these changes, defining public areas like the recessed entry (Photo 20), lobby (Photo 21), stairway (Photos 22-23), finance office (Photo 25), second floor hall (Photos 12-13) and meeting room (Photos 26-27) etc., retain original features.

For example, the lobby has its original design intact with its aluminum framed plate glass entry, Roman brick and faux marble wall cladding and a terrazzo floor featuring the logo of the IBEW (Photos 21-23, 27, 28). The finance office retains aluminum and plate glass partitions and exposed Roman brick walls (Photo 24). The stairway to the second floor is lit by large aluminum plate glass windows and the interior walls are faced with white faux marble (Photos 22-23). The second floor hallway retains its original dimensions and organization of space (Photos 12-13) with hiring hall (14) and restrooms on the east side and the large meeting hall on the west (Photos 25-26).

The second floor has a transverse hallway running north-south that is offset to the east of the center line of the building (Photos 12-13). The massive meeting hall is located on the west side of this hall (Photos-25-26) and restrooms and the hiring hall (Photo 29) are located on the east side.

The meeting hall accommodates 900 people and dominates the upper floor of the west two thirds of the building (Photos 25-26). The room has no interior columns and is dominated by open, universal space. Special function areas include a stage at the west end (Photo 25), a concession stand in the southwest corner (Photo 26), and concession booths that flank the room's central entrance (Photo 26). The meeting hall has a non-original drop ceiling, a terrazzo floor and five sets of double doors opening directly into the rear (south) parking lot at grade (Photo 11).

### Integrity

#### Exterior

The integrity of the IBEW Building's exterior Modern design is intact. The only notable alteration is of the ribbon of windows on the first floor of the north elevation. While some of these have been partially blinded (east end of the building) and others enclosed by a small addition (west end of the building), the original geometric aluminum frames remain intact. Interior inspection of the addition reveals that the original frames and possibly the original windows were abandoned in place and enclosed within a wall. The dimensions and use of the building's original parking lot, which was an important design consideration in 1959, remains intact as does its at-grade relationship to the multiple doors of the meeting hall. Overall, the building's exterior possesses integrity of form, plan, space, structure and style.

#### Interior

The integrity of the IBEW Building's interior was somewhat aesthetically altered by late 20<sup>th</sup> century renovation, but the original organization of the building into specialized union hall programming (i.e. offices, meeting hall, hiring hall, finance office, lobby, storefront etc.) is intact. Significant public areas such as the lobby, stair, second floor hallway and finance office display original design components such

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International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Building
Name of Property Saint Louis [Independent City] Missouri
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as aluminum frame windows, plate glass, terrazzo flooring, faux marble cladding, and exposed Roman brick wall treatments.

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International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Building
Name of Property St. Louis [Independent City] Missouri
County and State N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

**Statement of Significance**

The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Union (IBEW) building at 5850 Elizabeth Avenue in the independent city of St. Louis is eligible for listing in the **National Register under Criterion C in the area of Architecture**. The building is a locally significant example of Modernist design. Its internal spatial arrangement, overarching site plan, and lack of fenestration reflect the specialized programmatic requirements of the Union. Devoid of applied ornamentation, the building expresses its structural system and celebrates its component materials, which are largely industrial materials made available by the end of the War (concrete, vinyl laminated concrete, steel, plate glass, and aluminum).<sup>5</sup> It also employs Roman brick as planar cladding for its east and west walls, which is a material that has been identified as a local adaptation of Modernism in St. Louis.<sup>6</sup> The building exhibits International Style and “Miesian” influences through its rectilinear form, planar surfaces, absence of applied ornamentation, expression of structural elements, and the manner in which the structural system allows for large continuous span open spaces. A linear grouping of windows on the first floor of the primary elevation functions as a glass curtain wall which provides natural light to executive office spaces, the public lobby and finance office areas, and emphasizes a sense of weightlessness for the large volume above. The rest of the building is almost completely devoid of fenestration, which is an unusual feature interpreted as a response to solar exposure as well as, perhaps, the Union’s desire for privacy in its meeting space. The north and south elevations are divided into rectilinear sections by projecting structural columns of concrete and steel. Between the columns are regular grids of recessed squares set into smooth, vinyl-coated concrete panels. This integral patterning catches light and shadow in changing ways throughout the day. The structural system is clearly expressed by the projecting columns, which pass through the parapet and span the width of the roof appearing as exaggerated “fins” from which the building is suspended. This aspect of the design allows the massive second floor meeting hall to serve as a kind of Miesian “universal space” devoid of columnar supports. Built on bedrock on a sloping site, the building’s primary (north) elevation is two stories while its south elevation is just one. The one story elevation contains the Union’s hiring and meeting halls and communicates directly with a large parking lot. Designed to facilitate easy access to these components of the building for Union members, the parking lot retains its original dimensions and is considered a contributing structure. Constructed for the IBEW between 1959 and 1960, the building was designed by architect Perry Langston working under the direction of Wenceslao Sarmiento of the Bank Building & Equipment Corporation (BBEC). Built in the midst of the post World War II building boom, the IBEW headquarters embraced the shift to Modern design that was dominating new construction in previously undeveloped areas of St. Louis as well as portions of the City that were being cleared by urban renewal. The IBEW building possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

**Background IBEW**

Today’s International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Union (IBEW) grew out of an organization originally known as the National Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (NBEW), which was founded in St. Louis in 1891.<sup>7</sup> This organization in turn had roots in the short lived Electrical Workers and Wireman’s

<sup>5</sup><http://www.preservation.lacity.org/files/contemporary.pdf?phpMyAdmin=656bde215507388e6e1906d727c0969>  
<sup>1</sup> viewed on 11/1/18

<sup>6</sup> Meijer et. al., 2013 p. 92

<sup>7</sup> IBEW Journal Staff “They Dared to Dream” Washington DC, IBEW Journal 1991 p.4

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Union 5221 of the American Federation of Labor (AFL), which was also formed in St. Louis.<sup>8</sup> This union was created by a group of men who were working on the installation of a major electrical display at the St. Louis Exposition and Music Hall in 1890.<sup>9</sup>

In the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, there was much excitement about the seemingly infinite potential of electrical power. Technological expositions and fairs of the day exhibited the latest contraptions and ways electricity could be harnessed; the St. Louis fair of 1890 was no exception. Hoping to attract throngs of visitors, the fair's promoters advertised in the *Post Dispatch* that they had received 58 applications to display products from "dealers in electrical devices, appliances, and supplies."<sup>10</sup> Among the diverse exhibits to be installed by electrical workers who had come from around the country following the jobs were an electric railway and electrically powered water fountain.<sup>11</sup>

At the time, the United States was rapidly electrifying and there was great need for skilled workers who could build a network of transmission lines, design electrical machines, and install electrical equipment in both new and existing buildings. The situation was ripe for disaster with demand driving a flood of workers into a perilous field that lacked professional standards for equipment and training. As a result, electrical workers of the day had a very high mortality rate, and yet pay remained very low.<sup>12</sup> Training often consisted of trial and error, often with fatal results.<sup>13</sup> Unskilled workers were lumped together with experienced technicians resulting in unreliable work that undermined the public's confidence in the technology.<sup>14</sup>

Comparing notes on poor conditions faced by electrical tradesmen around the country the men working on electrifying the St. Louis Exposition Hall and its exhibits recognized the need for collective action. They initially formed a local union of electrical wiremen and linemen and elected Henry Miller, a native of Texas who had been based in St. Louis since 1883, as President.<sup>15</sup> While this was a positive step, there was broad recognition that an industry with nationwide importance, whose tradesmen had common interests and obstacles, required a national union.

At the time, it was common for electrical workers to travel the country following job opportunities where they could be found. As Miller and others moved from city to city, they attempted to organize tradesmen into their own local unions like the one that had formed in St. Louis. The ultimate goal of these efforts was to unite all the locals under a common charter.<sup>16</sup> On November 21, 1891, representatives from electrical unions in St. Louis, Chicago, Toledo, Indianapolis, and Evansville

<sup>8</sup> Ibid.

<sup>9</sup> Ibid.

<sup>10</sup> "St. Louis Exposition & Music Hall Electrical Display" *St. Louis Post Dispatch*, 24 August, 1890.

<sup>11</sup> Ibid.

<sup>12</sup> IBEW Journal Staff, 1991 p. 3

<sup>13</sup> Ibid.

<sup>14</sup> Ibid.

<sup>15</sup> Andrew B. Weil "IBEW Preserves its History and Saves the Former Henry Miller Boarding House" *Landmarks Letter*, Vol 51 # 2 Fall/Winter 2016. P.6

<sup>16</sup> IBEW Journal Staff, 1991 p. 4

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convened in St. Louis at what is remembered as the first convention of the National Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.<sup>17</sup> In December of the same year, the Brotherhood was granted a charter from the AFL.<sup>18</sup> After another year of organizing, the brotherhood consisted of 45 local unions and its second convention brought together 26 delegates representing an estimated 2,000 members.<sup>19</sup> By 1899, there were 40 locals and 3,200 members.<sup>20</sup> In that year, Canadian locals were brought into the fold and union changed its name from the National Brotherhood of Electrical Workers to the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.<sup>21</sup> Growth continued throughout the early 20<sup>th</sup> century and by the end of World War II the IBEW boasted 361,921 members.<sup>22</sup>

After several decades of using public meeting halls for union business, in 1928 the IBEW Local 1 purchased a former Pentecostal church at 4249 Gibson Avenue in what is today St. Louis' Forest Park Southeast neighborhood.<sup>23</sup> The church's old sanctuary served as a hall that could accommodate 300 people.<sup>24</sup> As membership continued to grow, a third floor was added to the building, but still more space was needed.<sup>25</sup> The Union remained at that location for 32 years, but by the 1940s and 1950s it was becoming apparent that the building was obsolete. One reason given for the need to relocate was that members were avoiding attending meetings because there was nowhere to park in the dense old neighborhood. Another reason was the rapid expansion of the IBEW that was being driven by the Post War building boom.<sup>26</sup> The Union needed a new, modern building that would express its prosperity and its optimism about the role it would play in an ever advancing technological age.

Ground for the new union hall was broken April 10, 1959.<sup>27</sup> The location selected was described in the *Electrical Workers' Journal* as being situated in "...the southwest part of St. Louis out in the wide open spaces which are fast becoming built up with modern buildings."<sup>28</sup> The *Journal* also noted that many other trade unions were locating to this area of the city. As construction progressed, the IBEW got a taste of what lay ahead in their new modern home when they held their fall meeting at the new building that architects Study, Farrar & Majers designed for the Carpenters District Council.<sup>29</sup> This building was located on high ground on the opposite side of the valley from where the IBEW building was rising and the two buildings are visible from each other to this day.

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<sup>17</sup> Ibid.

<sup>18</sup> Ibid., 5

<sup>19</sup> Ibid.

<sup>20</sup> Ibid.,10

<sup>21</sup> Ibid.

<sup>22</sup> Ibid., 60

<sup>23</sup> Frank Kauffman, "Reminiscences of Old St. Louis Headquarters" *Electrical Workers Journal* April, 1960. P. 31

<sup>24</sup> Ibid.

<sup>25</sup> Ibid.

<sup>26</sup> Meijer et. al., 2013 p. 99

<sup>27</sup> *Electrical Workers Journal* "New Headquarters for Active St. Louis Local" *Electrical Workers Journal*, March, 1960. P. 25.

<sup>28</sup> Ibid.

<sup>29</sup> *Electrical Workers Journal* "Fall Meeting of IBEW Held in New Carpenter's Hall" *Electrical Workers Journal*, January 1960 p. 30.

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Both buildings were located along the Hampton Avenue corridor in an area defined by a survey of St. Louis' modern architecture as one of five loci of "clustered" mid-century development.<sup>30</sup> These clusters were the result of the availability of open land for development or redevelopment within the city limits at mid-century. While some of these areas were the result of urban renewal clearance, the Southwest St. Louis cluster where the IBEW Building is located was one of the few areas of the city where previously undeveloped property still existed.<sup>31</sup>

The new building was planned to accommodate both the growth the Union and the high level of automobile ownership among its prosperous members. When completed, St. Louis was only six years away from the end of its storied streetcar system, which had served the previous headquarters with multiple nearby lines.<sup>32</sup> In addition to a bold Modern design, the new headquarters had a meeting hall three times the size of the old building (capable of holding 900 people) and a 3.5 acre parking lot.<sup>33</sup>

### Architecture

The IBEW Building is an excellent local example of Modernist design that is influenced by International Style as well as the work of Ludwig Mies van der Rohe. While it doesn't fit neatly into a particular recognized style, it draws on Modern trends in terms of materials and massing as well the manner in which it expresses both its structure and interior volumes. The building also derives design aspects from the Union's programmatic requirements.

International Style architecture was initially defined by architectural historian Henry-Russell Hitchcock and architect Philip Johnson in a book they authored to accompany the exhibit "Modern Architecture: International Exhibition" at the New York Museum of Modern Art in 1932.<sup>34</sup> According to the Getty Institute, this type of Modern architecture arose in Germany, France and the Holland during the interwar period and went on to have a major influence on architecture throughout the world during much of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.<sup>35</sup> According to architectural historian Virginia McAlester, identifying features of the style include: "[F]lat roof without ledge (coping) at roof line; windows set flush with outer walls; smooth, unornamented surfaces with no decorative detailing at doors or windows; façade composition commonly includes large window groupings, often linear, and expanses of windowless wall surface; unified wall cladding, generally white stucco..."<sup>36</sup> International Style buildings also relied upon a structural skeleton and curtain wall system that allowed for uninterrupted interior volumes.<sup>37</sup> Also, the reliance on a structural framework rather than on masonry bearing walls allowed for innovative

<sup>30</sup> Meijer et. al., 2013 p. 88-89

<sup>31</sup> Ibid., 89.

<sup>32</sup> Mark Goldfeder in Andrew D. Young "Streets & Streetcars of St. Louis" (Archway Publishing, St. Louis, MO 2002) p. 3.

<sup>33</sup> Frank Kauffman, "Local 1 with Politics, Building Plans" *Electrical Workers Journal* May-June, 1959. P. 35

<sup>34</sup> Henry-Russell Hitchcock and Philip Johnson "The International Style" archived at [https://www.moma.org/documents/moma\\_catalogue\\_2044\\_300061855.pdf](https://www.moma.org/documents/moma_catalogue_2044_300061855.pdf) viewed on 1/7/19

<sup>35</sup> Getty Institute, Art and Architectural Thesaurus [http://www.getty.edu/vow/AATFullDisplay?find=international&logic=AND&note=&english=N&prev\\_page=1&subjectid=300021472](http://www.getty.edu/vow/AATFullDisplay?find=international&logic=AND&note=&english=N&prev_page=1&subjectid=300021472) viewed on 1/7/19

<sup>36</sup> McAlester, 2013 p. 617

<sup>37</sup> Ibid., 0.618

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fenestration patterns that related to internal functional needs. Long ribbons of floor to ceiling windows, or “window walls” of plate glass, such as those found on the north elevation of the IBEW Building, became hallmarks of the style following World War II.<sup>38</sup>

The influence of the work of Mies van der Rohe in the IBEW building is seen in the exterior structural columns and beams that rise through the north and south elevations and carry across the width of the roof. The exposure and celebration of structural elements was a central tenet of van der Rohe’s philosophy.<sup>39</sup> In 1922, he wrote, “Only in the course of their construction do skyscrapers show their bold, structural character and then the impression made by their soaring skeletal frame is overwhelming. On the other hand, when the facades are later covered with masonry this impression is destroyed and the constructive character denied, along with the very principle fundamental to artistic conceptualization....The structural principle of these buildings becomes clear when one used glass to cover non-load bearing walls.”<sup>40</sup>

Van der Rohe put these ideas to use in masterworks such as Crown Hall (1956) on the campus of the Illinois Institute of Technology and Cullinan Hall (1958) at the Museum of Fine Arts Houston (**Figures 10-11**).<sup>41</sup> With these designs, the architect sought to create incredibly light and airy spaces through a balance of structural elements and transparent glass walls. While the programmatic needs of the IBEW dictated a solid masonry curtain wall rather than glass, the building still referenced “Miesian” ideas. Rather than hiding its structure behind its walls, the IBEW building brings its structural elements to the forefront in what appears to be a direct if unconventional reference to the work van der Rohe was doing at the time.

The building is largely constructed of industrial materials made available by the end of World War II including concrete, vinyl laminated concrete, steel, plate glass, and aluminum.<sup>42</sup> It also employs Roman brick as cladding for its east and west walls, which is a material that has been identified as a local expression of Modern design that is common in St. Louis.<sup>43</sup> Whereas older brick buildings in St. Louis typically employ ornate cornices, arches, and corbelling, Modern designs eschew such ornamentation. As illustrated by the IBEW Building, when brick is employed in Modern buildings in St. Louis, it is used to create unified planes or modular panels that contrast with other materials and textures.<sup>44</sup>

While the building exhibits International Style and “Miesian” influences, it is not easily compared to other buildings identified by St. Louis’ 2013 survey of mid-century architecture. This survey identified a number of clear cut International Style buildings as well as Modern buildings that strive to express their

<sup>38</sup> Ibid.

<sup>39</sup> NHL Nomination Crown Hall <https://home1.nps.gov/nhl/find/statelists/il/CrownHall.pdf> p. 14 viewed on 1/7/19

<sup>40</sup> Mies van der Rohe, quoted in NHL Nomination Crown Hall <https://home1.nps.gov/nhl/find/statelists/il/CrownHall.pdf> p. 14 viewed on 1/7/19

<sup>41</sup> Ibid., p. 5 viewed on 1/7/18

<sup>42</sup> <http://www.preservation.lacity.org/files/contemporary.pdf?phpMyAdmin=656bde215507386e6e1906d727c0969> viewed on 11/1/18

<sup>43</sup> Meijer et. al., 2013 p. 92

<sup>44</sup> Meijer et. al., 2013p. 94



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structural systems including examples that were shaped by the work of van der Rohe, but the IBEW Building is unique.

One aspect of the design that sets it apart from other mid-century designs that the survey identified as significant is its extremely limited fenestration. Indeed, in the original design, fenestration was confined to a linear grouping of variably configured windows that spanned the first floor of the north elevation (**Figure 6**). Now partially blinded on the east side of the entry and enclosed on the west, these windows originally served two purposes. From a functional perspective, the windows provided (and still provide) natural light for executive office spaces as well as the public lobby and finance office areas. From a design perspective, the transparency of the first floor revealed the nature of the curtain wall above and the manner in which it was suspended from the structural columns. In these aspects of structural expression, the building finds some parallels in St. Louis examples like Leo Daly's St. Pius Memorial Library (1958), Murphy & Mackey/William B. Ittner's Federal Building (1959), and Russell, Mullgardt, Schwarz & Van Hoefen's Wohl Community Center (1959) (**Figures 7-9**)

The building's structure is also clearly expressed by the projecting columns, which pass through the roofline and across the width of the building appearing as exaggerated "fins" from which the building is suspended. No other building in St. Louis is so clearly intended to demonstrate how a volume is suspended from a structural framework. This aspect of the design presumably was driven by the Union's need for a massive second floor meeting hall. Because the exterior structure obviated the need for internal columns in this space, the IBEW Building and its meeting hall in particular can be understood in comparison to a Miesian "universal space."<sup>45</sup>

While a Miesian masterpiece like Crown Hall (**Figure 10**) was designed to both express structure and create a universal space with the appearance of a "floating volume of air between two plates" the programmatic needs of the IBEW dictated a different approach.<sup>46</sup> Crown hall was designed for students on the campus of the Illinois Institute of Architecture who needed abundant light within their building. In contrast, the largely windowless IBEW building reflects a desire for privacy for internal Union functions as well as a need to control interior lighting and limit solar radiation. These needs would have been particularly important in the meeting hall where southern and western exposures are a factor.

As a result, aside from the first floor of the primary elevation, the rest of the building (with the exception of the entry vestibule on the building's south side) is devoid of windows. While fenestration is limited, the building is certainly not devoid of rhythm. The north and south elevations are defined into rectilinear sections by the projecting structural columns. Between the columns are regular grids of square concavities set into smooth, vinyl-coated concrete panels. This integral patterning catches light and shadow in changing ways throughout the day. This effect is amplified by the reflective and smooth surface of the plasticized concrete.

<sup>45</sup> NHL Nomination Crown Hall <https://home1.nps.gov/nhl/find/statelists/il/CrownHall.pdf> p. 5 viewed on 12/17/18

<sup>46</sup> Peter Gossell and Gabriel Leuthausser "Architecture in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century" (Taschen, Cologne Germany 2001) p.

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Another aspect of the building's design that clearly associates it with mid-century sensibilities is the manner in which it relates to a 3.5 acre parking lot. Built into a sloping site, the IBEW Building's meeting hall and hiring hall communicates at grade with its parking through six sets of double doors. This consideration allows large numbers of Union members to come and go by automobile and flow easily into and out of the building's most heavily used public spaces.

### Bank Building and Equipment Corporation

According to Kirk Huffaker's definitive work, "Defining Downtown at Mid-Century, the Bank Building & Equipment Corporation" (BBEC) grew out of a small company that began providing design and installation services of specialized finishes for banks, board rooms, and courthouses in St. Louis in 1913.<sup>47</sup> During World War I, the company expanded its operations and began offering planning, design, and construction services tailored specifically to the needs of the banking industry.<sup>48</sup> Prior to 1929, the company had received significant design commissions under the direction of lead architect W.G. Knoebel including the South Side National Bank (St. Louis), Home National and Trust & Savings Bank (Elgin, Illinois), First Wisconsin Bank (Portage, Wisconsin), First National Bank of Waukegan (Waukegan, Illinois), Citizens National Bank (Erie, New York), and the German Bank Building of Iowa (Walnut, Iowa).<sup>49</sup>

By the beginning of World War II the company had completed 1,000 buildings for financial institutions.<sup>50</sup> Following the War, the exponential growth of suburban American housing developments resulted in a boom in the savings and loan industry; this, in turn created an enormous need for the construction of new financial buildings.<sup>51</sup> Using a design-build approach, BBEC began to specialize in the types of smaller, decentralized, automobile-friendly banks demanded by the new suburban lifestyle. In the process, it pioneered many innovations in both modern bank functionality and architectural design (consumer-oriented lobby, drive up banking, transparent, modern teller stations, "artistic functionality").<sup>52</sup>

Growth continued through the 1950s and in 1951 a chance encounter in St. Louis resulted in the BBEC hiring Wenceslao Sarmiento, who would go on to become the company's most prolific and important architect.<sup>53</sup> By 1953, the company was working on projects in 32 states as well as five Latin American countries.<sup>54</sup> By 1956, its portfolio totaled over 3,200 projects and management was beginning to look

<sup>47</sup> Kirk Huffaker "Defining Downtown at Mid Century: The Architecture of the Bank Building & Equipment Corporation." 2007 History Section p. 3

<sup>48</sup> Ibid., 4

<sup>49</sup> Ibid.

<sup>50</sup> Ibid.

<sup>51</sup> Ibid., 5

<sup>52</sup> Ibid., 6-7

<sup>53</sup> Steve Chawkins, "W.A. Sarmiento Dies at 91: Architect Redesigned Banks for Modern Era" *Los Angeles Times*, 4 December, 2013.

<sup>54</sup> Kirk Huffaker, 2007, p.7

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outside of the banking industry for new opportunities.<sup>55</sup> Among the early, non-bank commissions the company secured was a new headquarters for the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers in St. Louis, which broke ground in 1959.<sup>56</sup>

#### W. A. Sarmiento

According to Meijer, Wenceslao Sarmiento "...was born in Trujillo, Peru, and attended the National School of Engineering in Lima (graduated 1946). He worked as a draftsman with Oscar Neimeyer in Brazil for eighteen months between 1949-50 prior to Niemeyer being appointed the National Architect de Brasilia.<sup>57</sup> In 1951, he was visiting his sister in law in St. Louis when he had a minor traffic accident with the President of the Bank Building & Equipment Corporation.<sup>58</sup> He was hired by the company as an architect shortly thereafter and became its chief designer.<sup>59</sup> Sarmiento started his own firm about 1964 and practiced in St. Louis until he moved to California in 1978..."<sup>60</sup> Having designed hundreds of buildings across the country from St. Louis to Salt Lake City and from Phoenix to Los Angeles, Sarmiento passed away at the age of 91 in 2013.<sup>61</sup>

#### Perry Langston

While Sarmiento was the head of architectural services for BBEC during the time the IBEW Building was designed, another one of the firm's chief architect's name is associated with original drawings (**Figure 11**). While it is likely that Sarmiento was involved in significant ways, especially when one considers that the building was one of the firm's first non-bank designs and it was being built less than two miles south of his office at 1130 Hampton Avenue, Perry Langston is credited as the designer.<sup>62</sup>

Langston was born in St. Louis in about 1913 and attended Washington University where he studied engineering and architecture and served in the ROTC.<sup>63</sup> Langston began working for the BBEC prior to 1954 and continued to serve as one of its chief St. Louis architects at least through 1964.<sup>64</sup> Some of Langston's better known work is in Mississippi where he designed multiple banks including the Delta National Bank (Yazoo City), the Pascagoula-Moss Point Bank (Pascagoula), and the A. G. Gaston Building in Birmingham (NR 2000).<sup>65</sup>

<sup>55</sup> Ibid.

<sup>56</sup> Ibid.

<sup>57</sup> Korral Broschinsky, *National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form: First Security Bank Building, Salt Lake City*. Washington D.C.: Department of the Interior/National Park Service, 2005. Section 8. p.6

<sup>58</sup> Ibid.

<sup>59</sup> Steve Chawkins, 2013

<sup>60</sup> Meijer et. al.,, 2013 p. 126

<sup>61</sup> Steve Chawkins, 2013.

<sup>62</sup> Original plans in the possession of IBEW, provided by Henderson & Associates

<sup>63</sup> Washington University "The Hatchet" (Washington University: St. Louis, MO 1934) p. 225

<sup>64</sup> Engineers Club of St. Louis "New Members Nominated for Election" *Journal of the Engineers Club of St. Louis*, September 1964 p. 129.

<sup>65</sup> Linda Nelson and Trina Binkley, *National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form: A.G. Gaston Building, Birmingham*. Washington D.C.: Department of the Interior/National Park Service, 2000. And <https://misspreservation.com/2012/03/21/yazoo-citys-delta-national-bank/> viewed on 10/29/18. And

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**Conclusion**

The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Union (IBEW) building at 5850 Elizabeth Avenue in the independent city of St. Louis is eligible for listing in the National Register under Criterion C: ARCHITECTURE. The building is a locally significant example of non-residential Modern design and was included among the 25 most significant such properties in St. Louis by a comprehensive survey of mid-century architecture in 2013. This survey was conducted in consultation Peter Meijer & Associates Architects, the City of St. Louis Cultural Resources Office and the MO SHPO. In the context of other Modern designs in St. Louis, the IBEW building is unusual for the manner in which it expresses its structural system on the outside of its curtain walls and roof. Such structural expression was likely influenced by Mies van der Rohe's Crown Hall and serves the Union's programmatic requirement for a large, universal space for its meeting hall. In addition, the use of vinyl laminated concrete with integral concave grid patterns and a limited first floor fenestration pattern that was designed to expose the manner in which the building's curtain wall hangs from its structure, make this an unmistakably Modern design. The building acknowledges local materials through the use of Roman brick as a planar wall cladding on east and west elevations. The use of brick in this manner was identified as a local St. Louis variant of mid-century design by the aforementioned Modern survey.<sup>66</sup> The aesthetics, materials, and design of the IBEW Building embody the distinctive characteristics of Modernist design in St. Louis and represent an important period in the City's architectural history.

<sup>66</sup> Ibid., 90

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Washington University "The Hatchet" (Washington University: St. Louis, MO 1934)

National Register of Historic Places  
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International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Building
----- Name of Property St. Louis [Independent City] Missouri
----- County and State N/A
----- Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

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Weil, Andrew B. "IBEW Preserves its History and Saves the Former Henry Miller Boarding House" St. Louis: *Landmarks Letter*, Vol 51 # 2 Fall/Winter 2016.

Wikimedia (photo of Crown Hall)

[www.mfah.org](http://www.mfah.org) (photograph Cullinan Hall)

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Section number 10 Page 19

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Building
Name of Property
St. Louis [Independent City] Missouri
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

**Verbal Boundary Description**

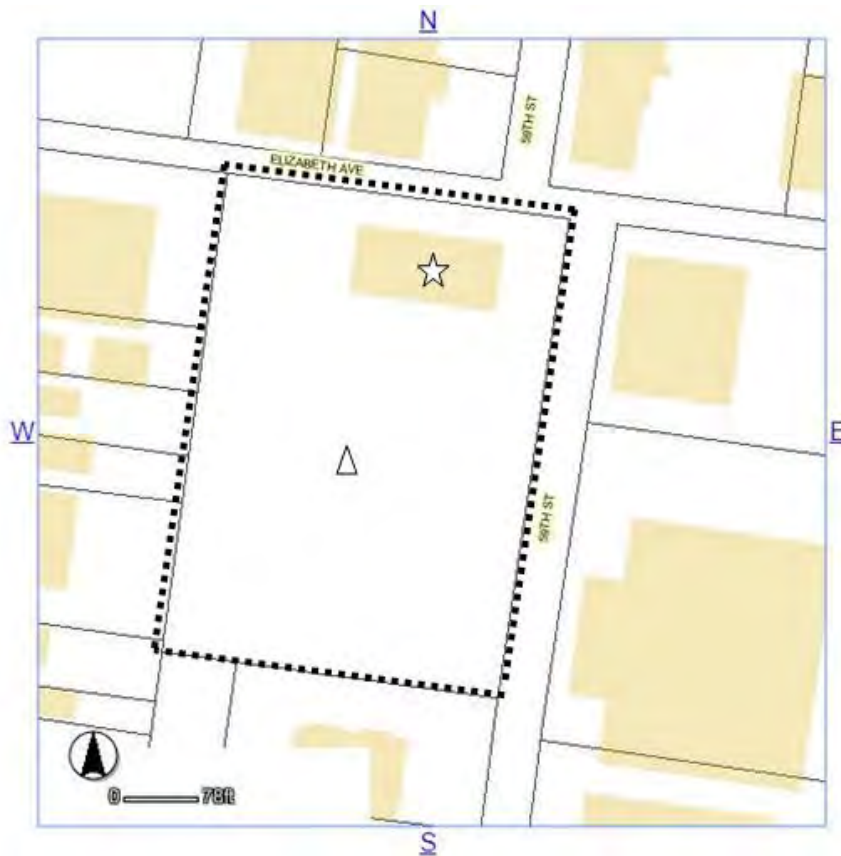
The boundary of the nominated resources is defined by the City of St. Louis as a single parcel described as City Block 4647, 5850 Elizabeth Avenue consisting of 4.508 acres in the Graham and Cheltenham Subdivisions

**Boundary Justification**

The boundary of the nominated resources is the original property line surrounding the IBEW Building and its associated parking lot.

Figure 1: IBEW Building (5850 Elizabeth Ave.) Boundary Map

38.614929                      -90.285606  
Latitude                      Longitude  
Nominated Parcel      **.....**  
Source: St. Louis City Assessor  
Contributing Building (IBEW Building) ☆  
Contributing Site (Parking Lot) △



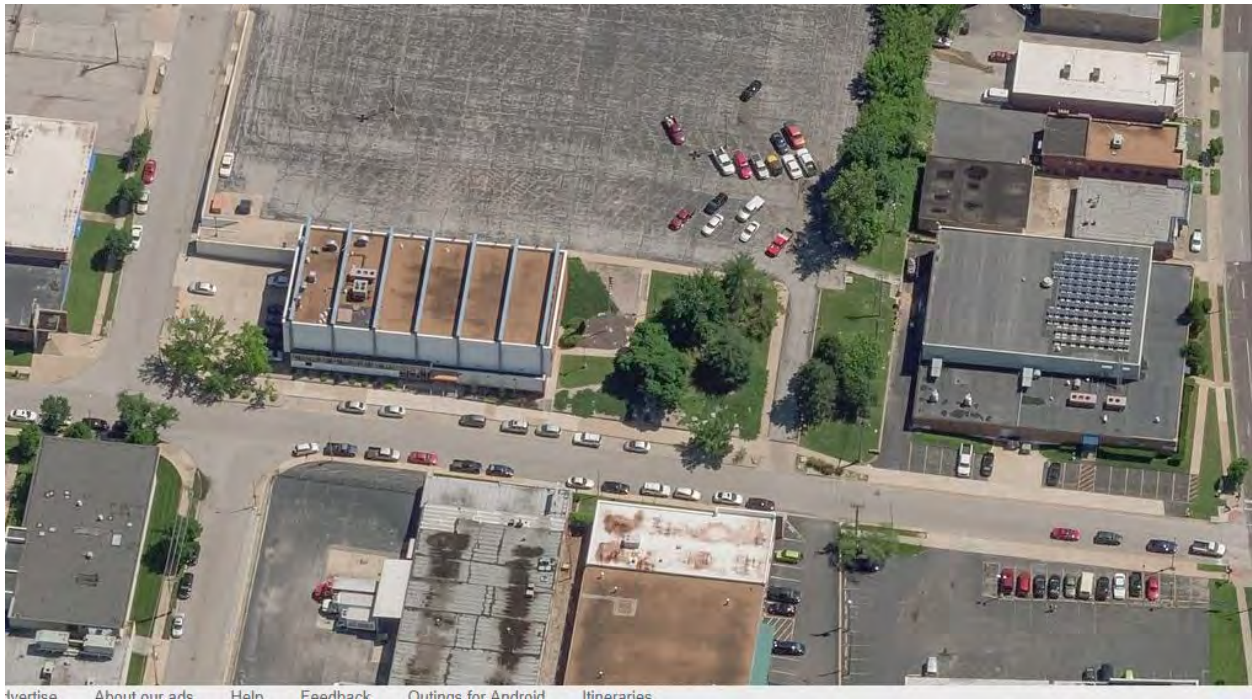


National Register of Historic Places  
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International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Building
Name of Property St. Louis [Independent City] Missouri
County and State N/A
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Figure 2: Setting of the IBEW Building, Google Earth



N.

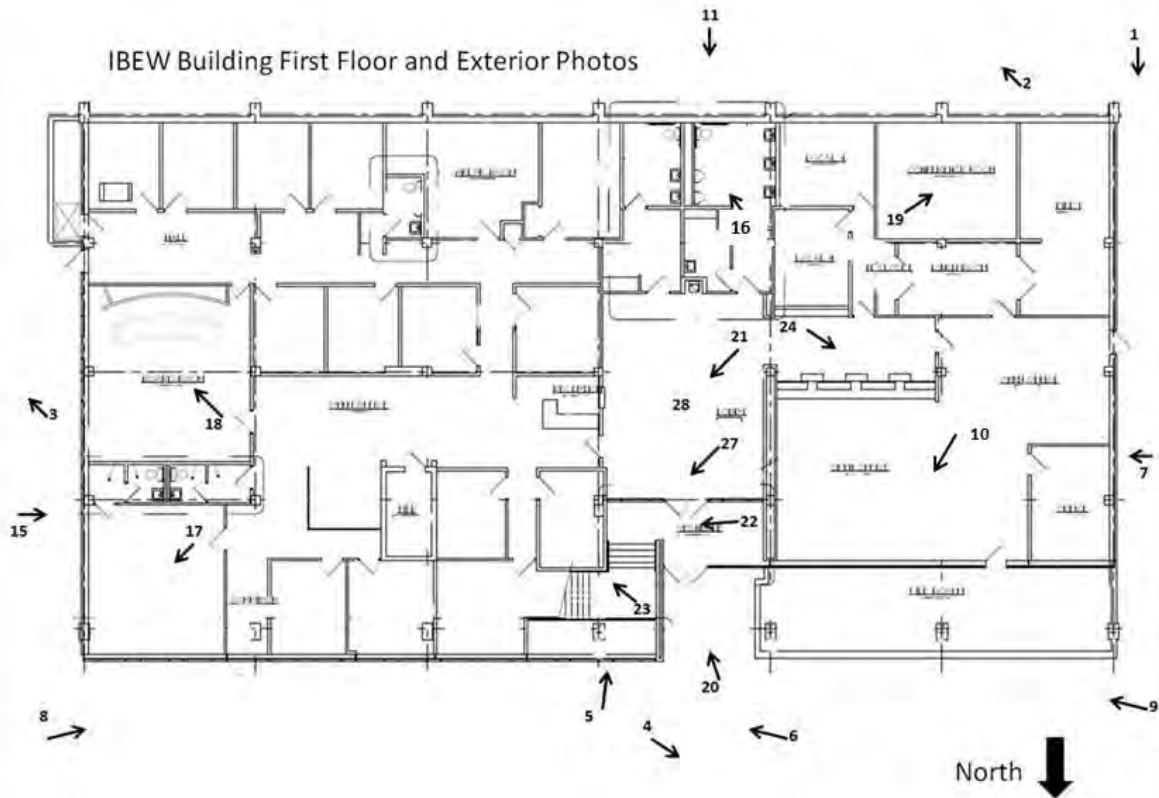


National Register of Historic Places  
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International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Building
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County and State
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Figure 3: Exterior and First Floor Photo Locations, Henderson & Associates Architects

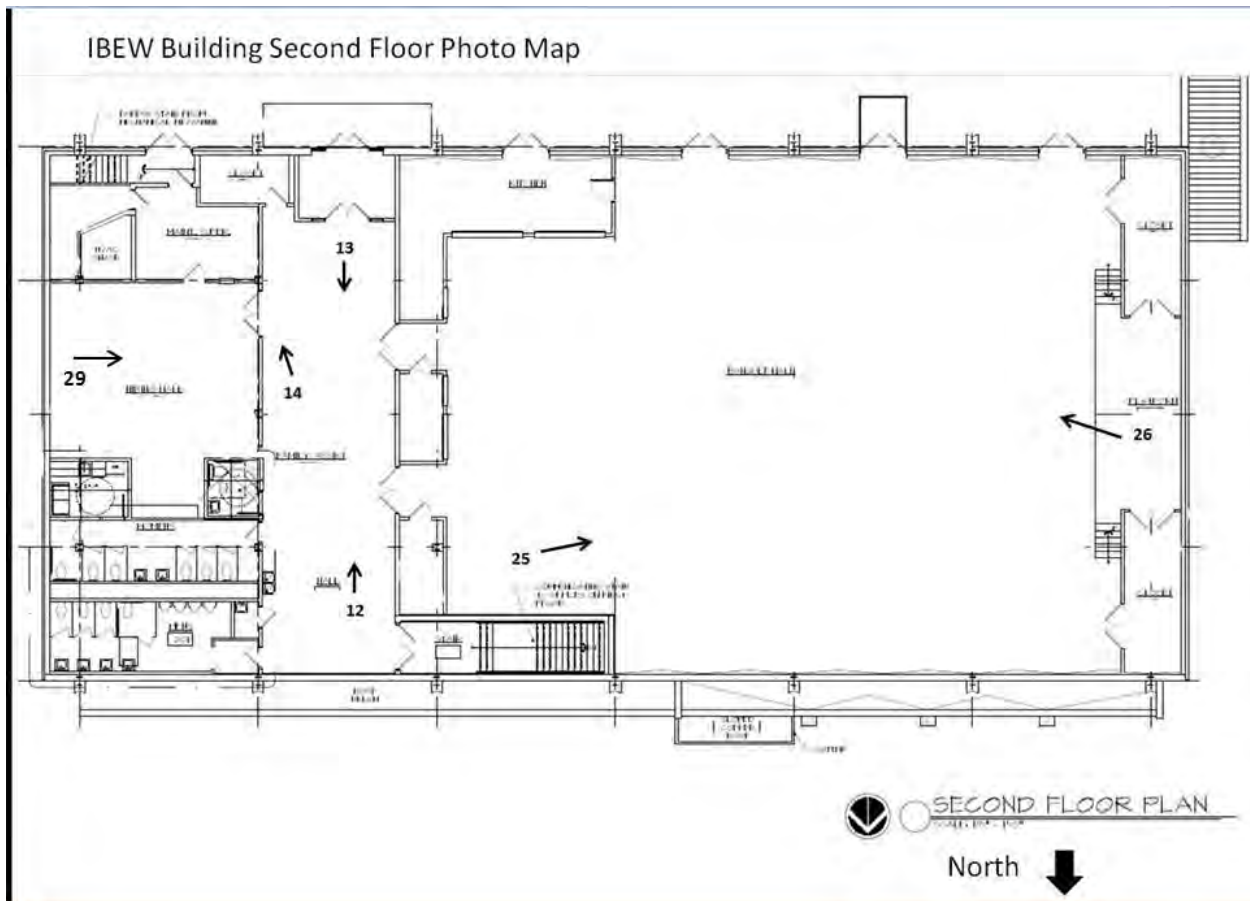


National Register of Historic Places  
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International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Building
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Figure 4: Second Floor Photo Locations, Henderson & Associates Architects



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International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Building
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Figure 5: IBEW Building c. 1960, Electrical Worker's Journal



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International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Building
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Figure 6: IBEW Building Rendering 1959, Electrical Workers' Journal

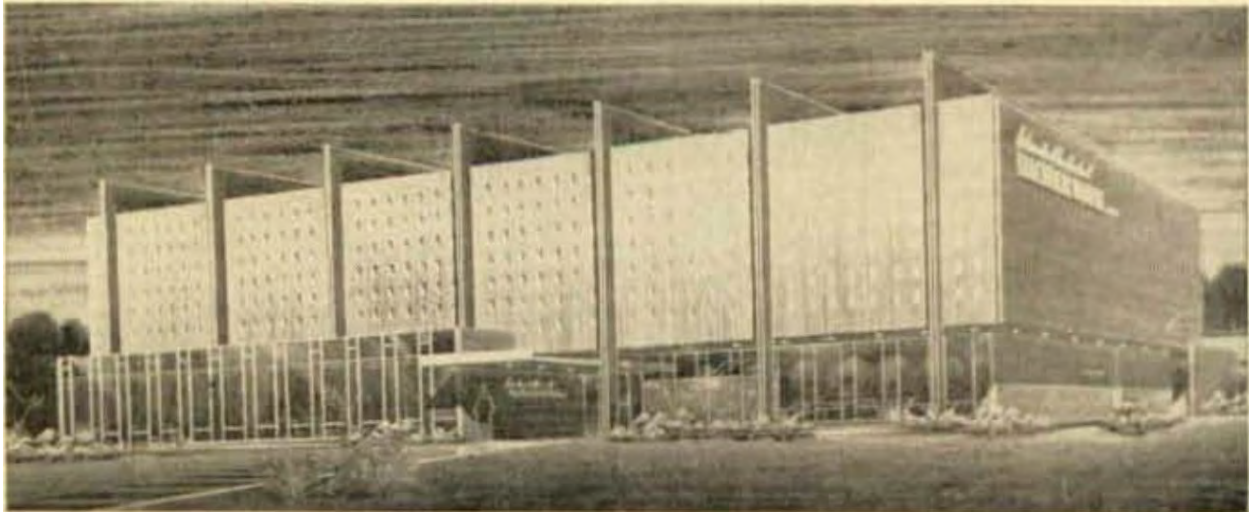


Figure 7: St. Pius Library, St. Louis University, Meijer et. al.



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Figure 8: New Federal Building, St. Louis, Meijer et. al.



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International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Building
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Figure 9: Wohl Recreation Center, St. Louis, Meijer et. al.



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Figure 10: Crown Hall, Chicago, Wikimedia





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International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Building
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Figure 11: Cullinan Hall, Museum of Fine Arts Houston, MFAH.org

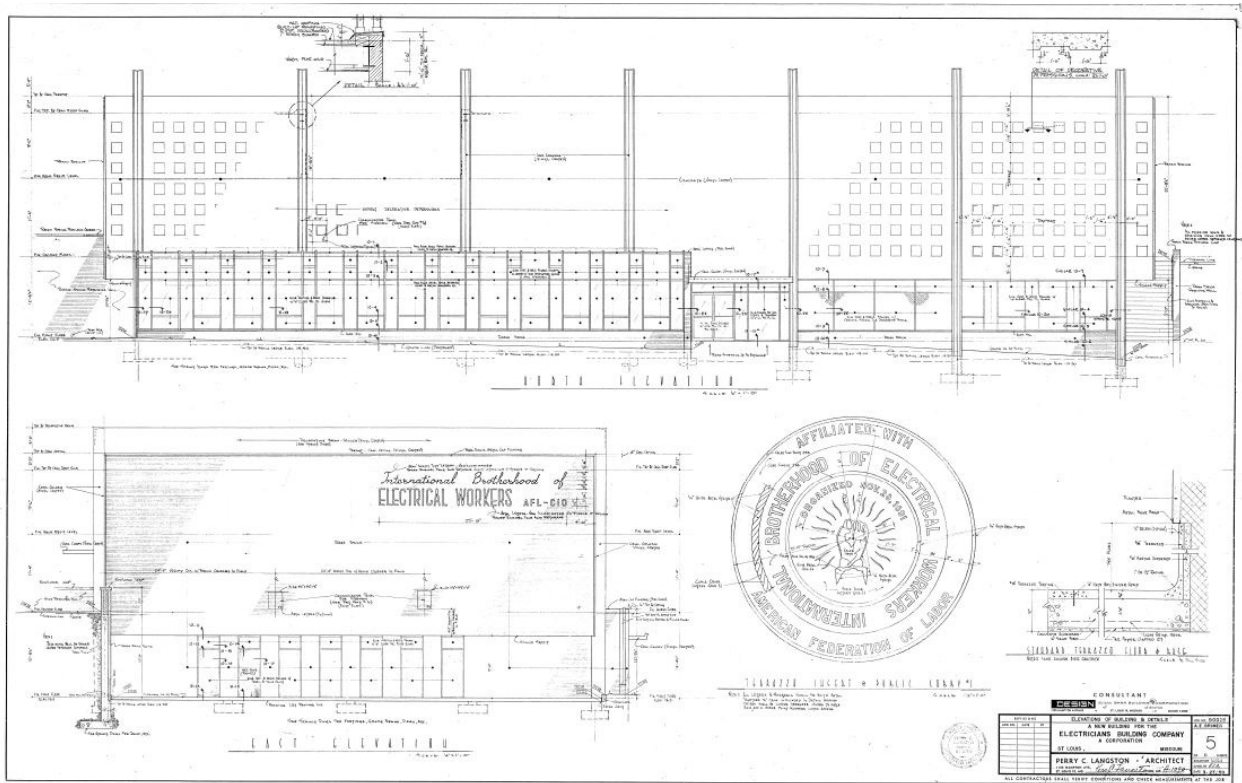


National Register of Historic Places  
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International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Building
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Figure 12: Original Drawing, IBEW









ROMA GROCERY SUPPLY  
DOMESTIC & IMPORTED FOOD PRODUCTS

The Hill

Ⓡ







Electrical  
1000

LET'S COME TO SUPPORT THE  
BROWN MECCA

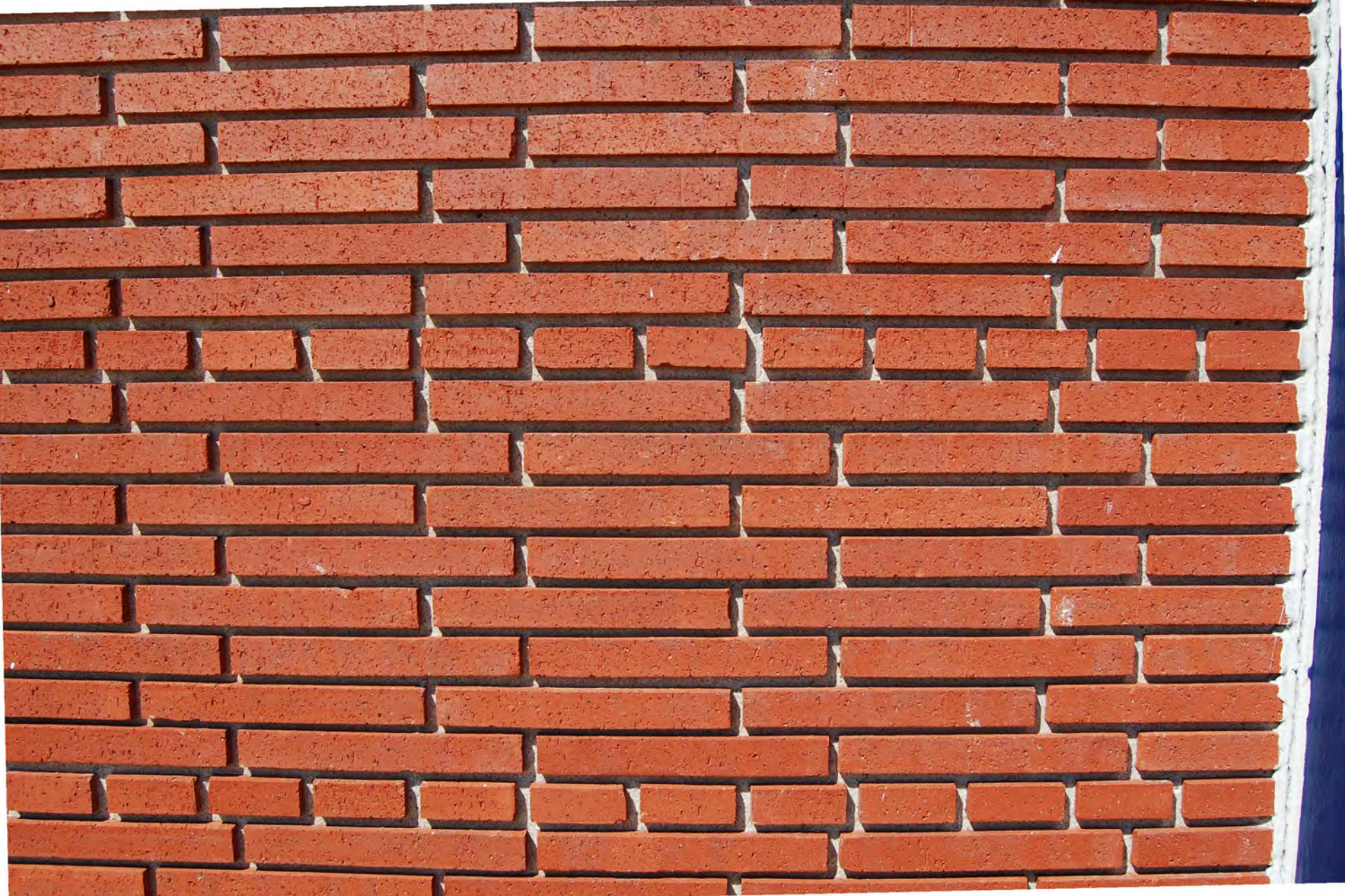
BROWN MECCA  
CENTER

BE SUPPORT

OUR POLICE

No Parking









Electrical Workers  
LOCAL ONE



DODGE 4x4

BAVLANCHE





PRIVATE PROPERTY  
NO TRESPASSING  
USE WITH PERMISSION OF  
SUBJECT TO  
CANTON SURVEY



LOCAL 15 BREW  
TAPING HALL

EXIT

SILENCE

LOCAL #1 IBEW  
HIRING HALL

SILENCE



**LOCAL #1 · IBEW  
HIRING HALL**





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WALGREENS





ELECTRICAL WORKERS

LOCAL



NO 1





5850

*Electrical Workers*  
LOCAL ONE

OFFICE HOURS

MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY  
7:00AM TO 4:30PM

NOTICE TO ALL MEMBERS,  
STAFF and THE PUBLIC

LOCAL 1, NEW PROHIBITS  
ALL PERSONS FROM BRINGING  
FIREARMS AND CONCEALED  
FIREARMS ONTO ITS  
PROPERTY, WHICH INCLUDES  
THE HALL AND ALL  
PARKING AREAS OWNED  
BY LOCAL 1.  
PERSONS WHO HOLD A  
CONCEALED CARRY LICENSE  
MAY NOT EXEMPT FROM THIS NOTICE.





CONSTRUCTION  
HIRING HALL

RESIDENTIAL  
HIRING HALL

COMMUNICATION  
HIRING HALL

PLEASE REMEMBER











EXIT

EXIT

UNITED WE STAND

DIVIDES WE FALL







AMERICAN LABOR FEDERATION OF

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS

LOCAL NO. 1 ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

ORGANIZED NOV. 28, 1891

AFFILIATED WITH



**STEVE STENGER**  
COUNCILOR - 20th Local Council - District 1

**STEVE STENGER**  
COUNCILOR - 20th Local Council - District 1

NOTICE  
CONSTRUCTION

NOTICE  
CONSTRUCTION

NOTICE  
CONSTRUCTION

NOTICE  
CONSTRUCTION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action:

Property Name:

Multiple Name:

State & County:

Date Received: 5/1/2019      Date of Pending List: 5/16/2019      Date of 16th Day: 5/31/2019      Date of 45th Day: 6/17/2019      Date of Weekly List: 6/24/2019

Reference number:

Nominator:

Reason For Review:

Accept       Return       Reject      6/17/2019 Date

Abstract/Summary  
Comments:

Recommendation/  
Criteria

Reviewer Barbara Wyatt      Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2252      Date \_\_\_\_\_

DOCUMENTATION:    see attached comments : No    see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.





Missouri Department of dnr.mo.gov

# NATURAL RESOURCES

Michael L. Parson, Governor

Carol S. Comer, Director



## Memorandum

APR 26 2019

**Date:**

**To:** Joy Beasley, Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places

**From:** Mike Sutherland, Deputy SHPO, Missouri SHPO

**Subject:** **IBEW Building, St. Louis [Independent City], Missouri, National Register of Historic Places Nomination**

Our state review board, the Missouri Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, approved the above nomination on **March 29, 2019**. All owners and appropriate elected public officials were notified and provided at least thirty (30) days to comment on the above proposed nomination in accordance with Section 36CFR60.6, interim regulations, using the exact notification format recommended by the National Register. **The enclosed disc contains the true and correct copy of the nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.**

Please find enclosed the following documentation:

  1   CD with original National Register of Historic Places registration form

       Multiple Property Documentation Form

       Photographs

  1   CD with electronic images

       Original USGS map(s)

  2   Piece(s) of correspondence (cover letter and signature page)

       Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**Comments:**

       Please ensure that this nomination is reviewed

       The enclosed owner objection(s) do    do not    constitute a majority of property owners.

       Other: \_\_\_\_\_