

Coral Court Motel, 7755 Watson Rd., Marlborough, 1941, Adolph Struebig, NR (demolished)



An exceptional example of the commercial Streamline Moderne architecture popular in the 1930s and 1940s, the Coral Court Motel was before its demolition in 1995 the premier surviving motor court in the country, a type of roadside architecture that was a result of the automobile. The Coral Court was located on the Missouri portion of the historic Route 66, a name which has itself become a national legend since the opening of the highway in 1926. The Coral Court Motel was popular not only with motorists traveling to California, but also with St. Louisans.

Architect Adolph Struebig combined the Streamline rounded shapes with such modern construction materials as structural glazed ceramic tiles and glass blocks for the windows. Each room had its own garage. Struebig later recalled that the owner and builder of the Coral Court, John Carr wanted him to design something outstanding, and was ready to pay for it.

Although listed on the National Register, this modern landmark was not protected by a local historic preservation ordinance. The Museum of Transport salvaged enough materials to rebuild one of the buildings on its grounds at 3015 Barrett Station Road.