

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

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

1. Name

historic The Elks Club Lodge #501

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 318-320 West 4th Street

not for publication

city, town Joplin

vicinity of

state Missouri

code 29

county Jasper

code 097

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Vacant

4. Owner of Property

name Stewart M. Stanley

street & number 413 Virginia

city, town Joplin

vicinity of

state Missouri 64801

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. City of Joplin, Building Office

street & number 303 East 3rd Street

city, town Joplin

state Missouri 64801

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Missouri State Historical Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1984 federal state county local

depository for survey records Missouri Department of Natural Resources
P. O. Box 176

city, town Jefferson City

state Missouri 65102

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The old Elks Lodge #501, a Georgian Revival style public building, was designed in 1904-1905¹ by Austin Allen (1880-1917)², architect for several of the largest buildings in Joplin, Missouri. Located at Fourth and Pearl Streets in Joplin, the two-story brick and stone building measures 102 feet by 62 feet. The Fourth Street (north) facade features a columned portico flanked by two slightly projecting bays accentuated by limestone quoins. A recessed wing projecting from the east side of the building disturbs the otherwise perfect symmetry of the facade. This wing is, however, original and not a later addition to the building. On the north (primary) and west facades, the first-story windows rise from limestone sills and are framed in recessed arches. Fenestration of the second story (originally double-hung windows) consists of fixed, rectangular units without muntins. Brickwork articulating all the window openings is noteworthy. An important feature of the south side (rear) of the building is the Palladian window located above the first landing of the central stairway (Photo #3). The roof type is truncated hip with slightly flared eaves, detailed as classical cornices. The building's basement level, with small rectangular windows, forms a pedestal of limestone.

The building has been somewhat altered over the years. In the portico framing the main entrance, the six free standing Doric columns have been replaced with simpler wooden supports. However, the six engaged columns articulating the central first-story windows remain in place. The portico's railing has been altered, and the balustrade has been removed. The original flaired limestone stairs at the entrance have been replaced with concrete steps. The basement portico on the west elevation is not original (Photo #5).

Interior

Over the years, the interior has been altered, but some original elements from the 1904-1905 design remain. The first floor fireplaces, constructed of brick and smooth dressed limestone ornament, are embellished with egg and dart patterned limestone molding. Flanked by these twin fireplaces is the first floor stairway framed by fluted Ionic columns. The stairway leads to a single Palladian window located at the landing level. Original muntins have been removed on the lower unit.

The floors are tongue and groove hardwood in good condition. On the first floor, a small portion of an ornamental tin ceiling remains, along with a decorative inlaid edge banding constructed of approximately four different hardwoods. Most areas of this decorative banding have been damaged.

Much of the remainder of the interior has been "modernized" with paneling, dropped ceiling and other treatments.

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Site

The Elks Lodge is located on a corner lot several blocks west of Joplin's Central Business District. The surrounding neighborhood is composed of a mixture of commercial buildings and residences. Directly south of the Lodge is an asphalt parking lot. To the east is an alley.

¹According to the Joplin Globe, March 1, 1917, page one, Austin Allen opened an office in Joplin in 1905 and shortly thereafter, designed the Elks building. According to Western Contractor, January 13, 1904, a building permit was issued to erect a structure at Fourth and Pearl Streets.

²Joplin Globe, March 1, 1917, p. 1.

8. Significance

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

Specific dates 1904-1905 **Builder/Architect** Austin Allen

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The old Elks Lodge #501, located in Joplin, Missouri, is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places according to criteria A and C and is significant in the following areas: ARCHITECTURE: Designed in 1904-1905 by Joplin architect Austin Allen, AIA, (1880-1917), the two-story structure represents the best surviving example of a Georgian Revival building in Joplin, Missouri. Allen, who maintained offices in Joplin and Kansas City, Missouri, designed some of the most prominent structures in Joplin, including the Newman-Mercantile Building (6th and Main), the Olivia Apartments (4th and Moffit) and St. Peter's Catholic Church (8th and Byers Avenue). Before his untimely death at thirty-six, he was commissioned to design the Joplin High School building with Smith, Rea and Lovett of Kansas City, Missouri.¹ SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN: The Elks #501 of Joplin, Missouri, chartered on June 22, 1899², have been an important factor in the fraternal, social, charitable and civic life of this community.

Seeing the need for a recreational club that could also become a social and service center, a group of businessmen, including many of Joplin's founders, leaders and prominent citizens³, started a movement to organize an Elks lodge and club. After several meetings, the Joplin Lodge #501 Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks was granted a charter by the National B.P.O.E. on June 22, 1899 and has been active in community services ever since.

The Elks originally met in a house at Seventh and Main Streets. Meetings soon were moved to the former Miller building, Fourth Street and Wall Avenue. In 1904, the Elks moved to Fourth and Pearl Streets, to a building designed specifically for the B.P.O.E. #501, at a cost of \$22,800.⁴

The old Elks Club building, with its clean-cut, sharp-edged purity, allowed a large gathering of individuals or intimate groupings because of its utilitarian design. Game rooms, a large kitchen, ballrooms, music rooms and sitting rooms were incorporated, making the lodge suitable for public and private use. Generally spare in ornamentation, the exterior exhibits a modest but elegant simplicity. Typical of Georgian Revival style structures, the finest expression here is in detail, especially the interior decoration. The moldings, door frames and fireplaces are covered with ornamentation consisting of elements in proportion to the larger forms.

In the late gay nineties and at the turn of the century, before the motor car age, development of good roads and motion picture theatres, the importance and popularity of the Elks in the life of Joplin was premier. The organization filled Joplin's need for a recreational club and also served as a charitable civic and service center.

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A number of public affairs were given, including three successful street fairs from 1900-1902. These were quite popular among the public who could not afford the pricy entertainment only affordable to the wealthy. One of the outstanding social events of the early part of the twentieth century in Joplin was the indoor fair that marked the formal opening of the new lodge, an event that lasted for over a week. It was composed of vaudeville comedy, minstrel shows, contests, musical performances and dancing. Prizes of land, cash and property were awarded during that famous opening, including a forty-acre farm donated by John D. Cameron, a city lot donated by Charles Schiffendecker, and an automobile donated by John Wise. Even car loads of coal and sacks of iron were raffled.

In addition to the social role, the Elks have provided an asset to Joplin in the form of a service organization and have sponsored many worthy charities. In the beginning of the 1940s through the late 1950s, children contracting polio were taken to Children's Mercy Hospital in Kansas City for treatment. The Elks also raised several thousand dollars to equip a special children's ward in the old hospital basement in 1953. Sister Mary Consolata, who headed the hospital at that time, named the ward "Elkland". The Elks continue to maintain the ward, which moved to St. John's Medical Center, by raising funds through sponsoring various public events.

Today, the organization sponsors Boys State, Girls State, and National leadership contests. The Order has also initiated the "Little Bigger League" which became the Joplin Babe Ruth League Baseball Program, a project which began in the early 1970s.

In 1976, after deciding that the present building was totally "outdated" and "inadequate" by today's standards, the Lodge voted to proceed with construction of a new lodge at 26th Street and Tyler. The new structure was finished in January, 1978, and remains the home of the Elks #501.

Still in good condition, the old Elks building at 4th and Pearl Streets stands as a reminder of an important historic and social asset to Joplin. Its classical, Georgian Revival facade not only gave the Elks an identification, but gave Joplin a notable landmark of the early Twentieth Century. Now undergoing restoration, the structure will become office space.

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¹ Joplin Globe, March 1, 1917, p. 1.

² Joplin Globe, October 3, 1947, p. 1

³ Patrick Murphy, one of the founders of Joplin; Charles Schiffendecker, one of the city's most noted early day builders and benefactors; John Wise, banker and powerful figure in Joplin's business and civic life; O. H. Picher, one of the founders of the Eagle-Picher Lead Company, and many others.

⁴ Western Contractor, January 13, 1904, p. 4.

⁵ Joplin Globe, October 3, 1947, p. 1.

⁶ Joplin Globe, January 13, 1978, p. 3.

⁷ Joplin Globe, September 25, 1976, np.

⁸ Joplin Globe, January 13, 1978, p. 3.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See attached sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name JOPLIN WEST, MO. -KANS.

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

1	5	3	6	5	2	4	0	4	1	0	5	4	6	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C

Zone			Easting				Northing							

D

Zone			Easting				Northing							

E

Zone			Easting				Northing							

F

Zone			Easting				Northing							

G

Zone			Easting				Northing							

H

Zone			Easting				Northing							

Verbal boundary description and justification

All lots Nineteen, Twenty, Twenty-one and Twenty-two, inclusive, in Patton's Addition to the City of Joplin, Jasper County, Missouri.

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

state code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title J. Cydney Millstein architectural historian

organization Architectural and Art Historical Research date 26 December 1984

street & number Box 22551 telephone 816/363-0567

city or town Kansas City state Missouri 64113

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

John Karel
John Karel, Director & Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

title Division of Parks and Historic Preservation

date April 15, 1985

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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National Park Service

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Bibliography

Jones, Evelyn Milligan. Tales of Joplin, Short and Tall. Joplin:
Harragan House, 1962.

_____. Joplin's First 100 Years. As recorded in the pages of
the Joplin Mining News, Joplin News Herald, Joplin American, Joplin
Globe. Joplin: The Joplin Globe Publishing Company, 1973.

Joplin Globe, March 1, 1917, p. 1.

Joplin Globe, October 3, 1947, p. 4.

Joplin Globe, September 25, 1976, n.p.

Joplin Globe, January 13, 1978, p. 3.

Western Contractor, January 13, 1904, p. 4.

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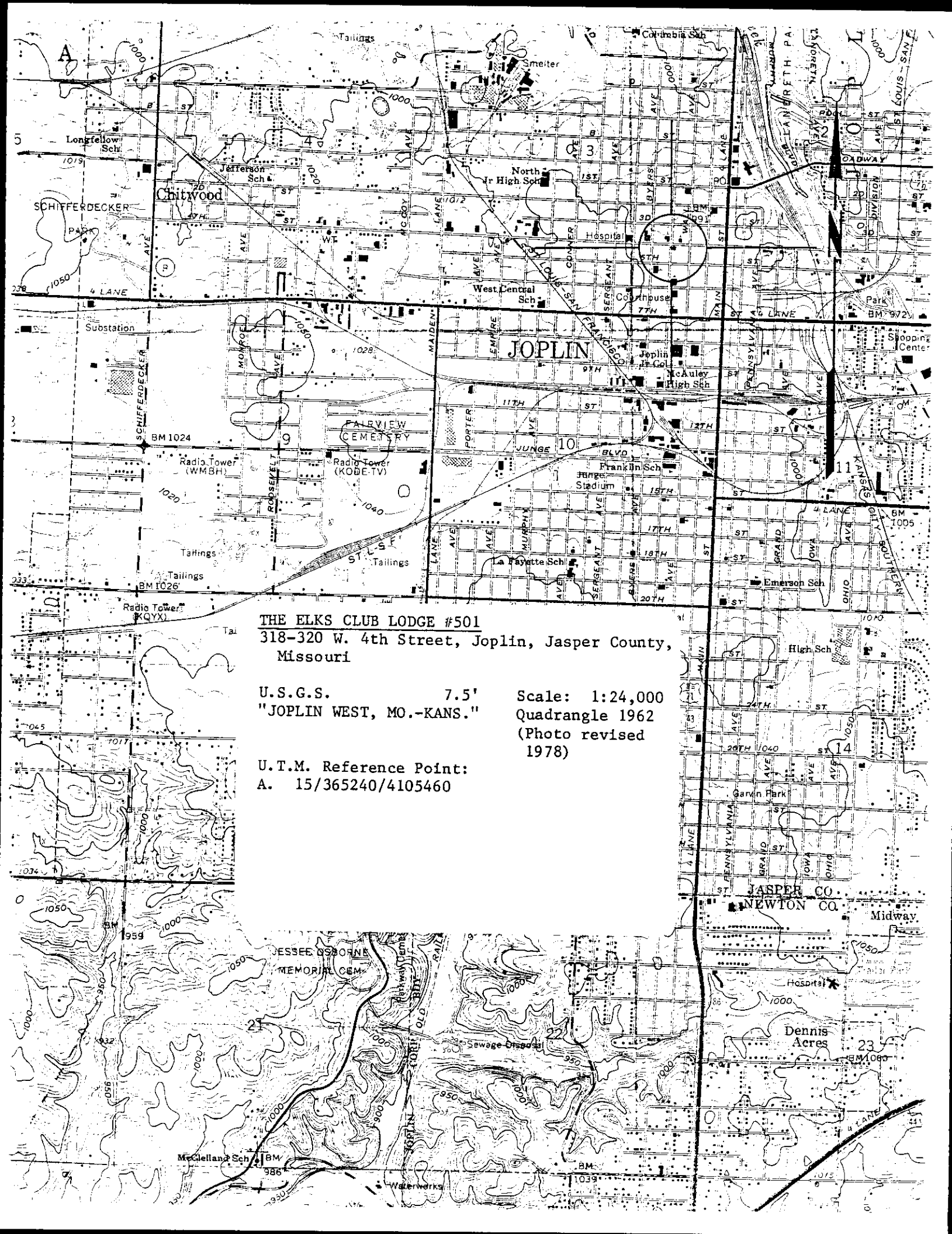
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2. Bonnie Wright
Cultural Resource Preservationist I
Missouri Department of Natural Resources
Division of Parks & Historic Preservation
P. O. Box 176
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102

Date: March 21, 1985

Telephone: 314/751-4096



THE ELKS CLUB LODGE #501

318-320 W. 4th Street, Joplin, Jasper County,
Missouri

U.S.G.S. 7.5'
"JOPLIN WEST, MO.-KANS."

Scale: 1:24,000
Quadrangle 1962
(Photo revised
1978)

U.T.M. Reference Point:
A. 15/365240/4105460

ESSEX OSBORNE
MEMORIAL CEM.

Dennis
Acres

JASPER CO.
NEWTON CO.

Midway

McClelland Sch

Waterworks

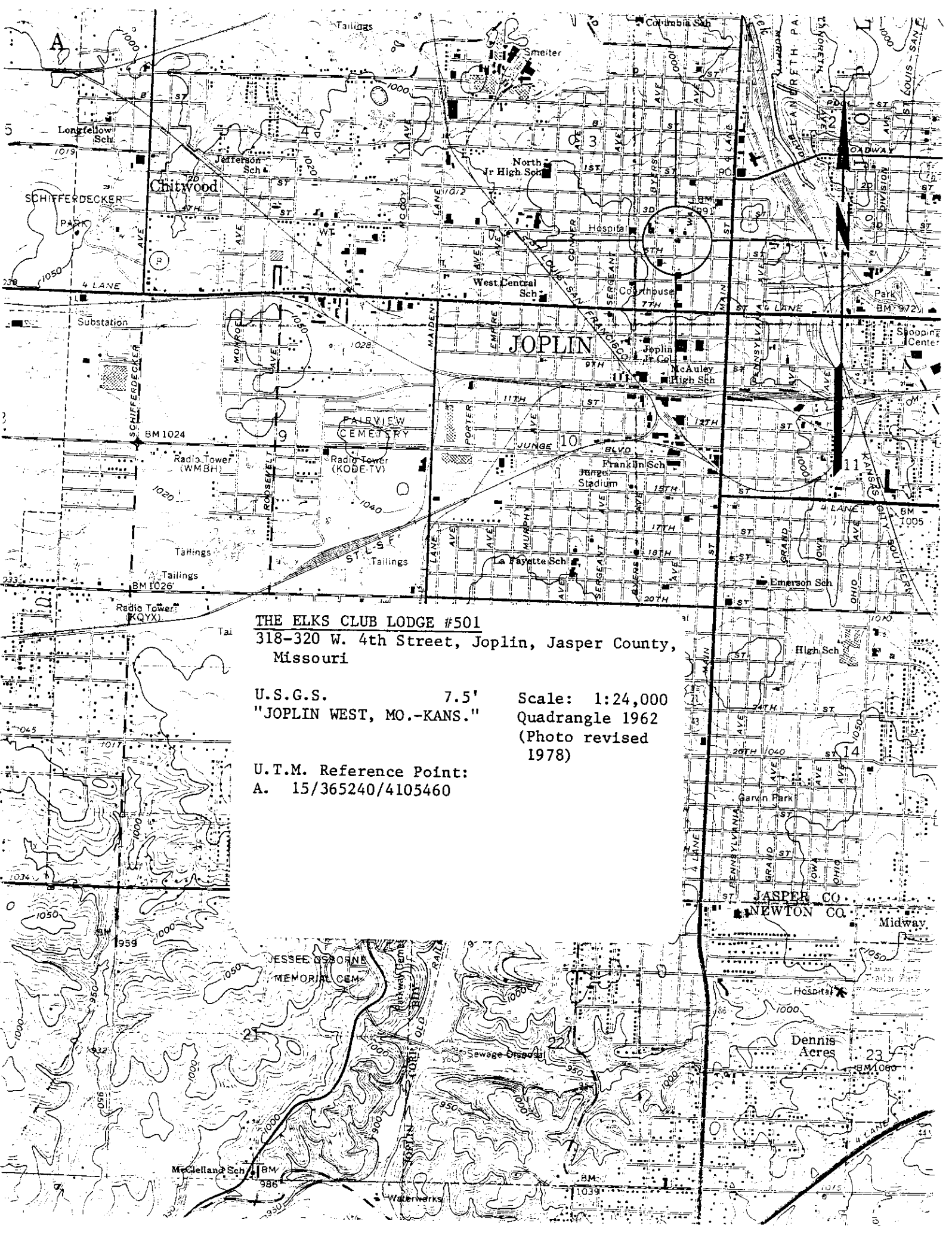
Hospital

Hospital

Hospital

Hospital

Hospital



The Elks Club Lodge #501
318-320 West 4th Street
Joplin, Missouri 64801

photographer: taken from a postcard
negative: Mickey Stanley
413 Virginia
Joplin, Missouri 64801

north facade, c. 1913



The Elk's Club, Joplin, Mo.

The Elks Club Lodge #501
318-320 West 4th Street
Joplin, Missouri 64801

photographer: Mickey Stanley
negative: Mickey Stanley
413 Virginia
Joplin, Missouri 64801

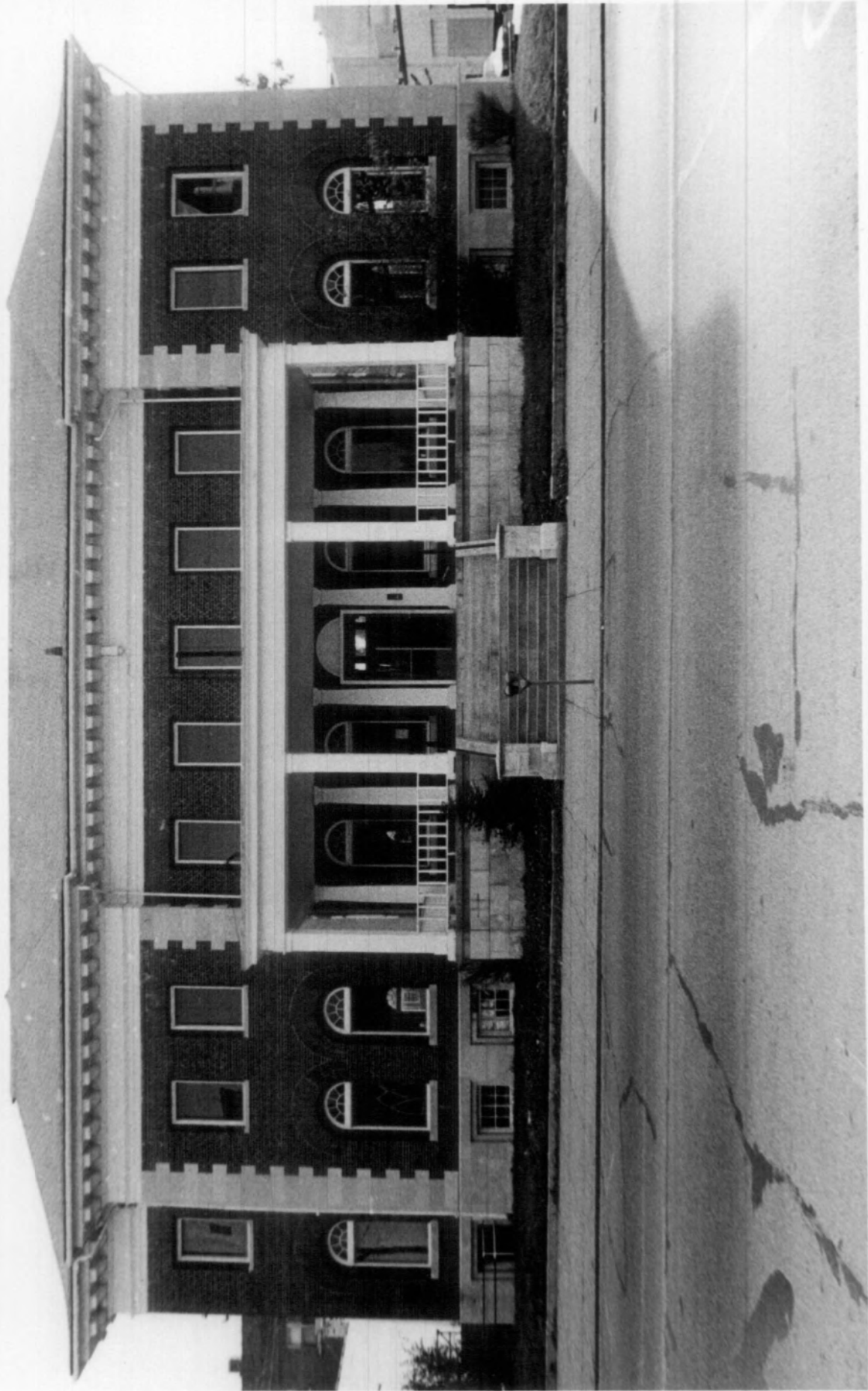
north and west facades, camera facing south
east.



The Elks Club Lodge #501
318-320 West 4th Street
Joplin, Missouri 64801

photographer: John Gutowski
negative: Mickey Stanley
413 Virginia
Joplin, Missouri 64801

north facade, camera facing south



The Elks Club Lodge #501
318-320 West 4th Street
Joplin, Missouri 64801

photographer: John Gutowski
negative: Mickey Stanley
413 Virginia
Joplin, Missouri 64801

north facade portico, camera facing south



The Elks Club Lodge #501
318-320 West 4th Street
Joplin, Missouri 64801

photographer: Mickey Stanley
negative: Mickey Stanley
413 Virginia
Joplin, Missouri 64801

first floor stairway, Palladian window
camera facing south

