

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Missouri	
COUNTY: Jasper	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

<b>1. NAME</b>	
COMMON: Joplin Union Depot	
AND/OR HISTORIC:	

<b>2. LOCATION</b>			
STREET AND NUMBER: Main Street and Broadway			
CITY OR TOWN: Joplin			
STATE Missouri	CODE 64801	COUNTY: Jasper	CODE 097

<b>3. CLASSIFICATION</b>			
CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____

<b>4. OWNER OF PROPERTY</b>			
OWNER'S NAME: Joplin Union Depot Company			
STREET AND NUMBER: Main Street and Broadway			
CITY OR TOWN: Joplin	STATE: Missouri	CODE 64801	CODE 29

<b>5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION</b>			
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Office of Recorder of Deeds, Jasper County Courthouse			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
CITY OR TOWN: Carthage	STATE: Missouri	CODE 64836	CODE 29

<b>6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS</b>			
TITLE OF SURVEY: Missouri State Historical Survey			
DATE OF SURVEY: 1972 <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local			
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Missouri State Historical Survey and Planning Office			
STREET AND NUMBER: 1204 Jefferson Building, Box 176			
CITY OR TOWN: Jefferson City	STATE: Missouri	CODE 65101	CODE 29

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Missouri  
COUNTY: Jasper  
ENTRY NUMBER  
DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	Excellent <input type="checkbox"/>	Good <input type="checkbox"/>	Fair <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/>	Ruins <input type="checkbox"/>	Unexposed <input type="checkbox"/>
INTEGRITY	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	Altered <input type="checkbox"/>	Unaltered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Moved <input type="checkbox"/>	Original Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

(see attached)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

#7 (physical description)

JOPLIN UNION DEPOT

Joplin Union Depot is located approximately 400 feet north-east of the intersection of Main Street and Broadway, in Joplin, Missouri. The station is situated at the foot of a slope that terminates at Joplin Creek. The long-axis of the depot parallels a series of yard tracks used by the Kansas City Southern, the Missouri-Kansas-Texas, ~~and~~ <sup>AND</sup> the Santa Fe railroads. The building is approached at ~~a~~ grade level from Main Street on the northwest and also by a steep curved driveway from the south. The depot is the only structure on the site other than the covered walkway that extends some 100 feet from the east facade to the passenger tracks. Other covered walkway structures paralleling the main passenger track have been removed.

The Joplin Union Depot is a fireproof structure built of white-painted reinforced concrete with wooden doors and window frames. The design of the station features a central two-story core approximately 90 feet square with two 62-foot wide single-story wings, one extending to the north 96 feet and the other to the south 99 feet. The central section contains eight rooms on the ground level and four rooms on the second story. The main waiting rooms, situated in the central core, ~~has~~ <sup>HAVE</sup> a two-story ceiling. A large ticket office, telegraph office, and newsstand are located between the waiting room and the exterior walkway. The second-floor rooms, on three sides of the central core, are accessible only from the exterior. Most of these rooms provide a view down into the waiting room through pivoted windows<sup>w</sup>, but most of these upper rooms are not improved. At one time these small rooms provided office space for various railroad agents.

The single-story north wing, containing seven rooms, was designed for baggage and freight handling facilities. A raised floor in the northern 34 feet of the wing was constructed to accommodate freight carts and truck docking. A restaurant, dining rooms, and kitchen originally occupied the south wing, and the heating plant is located in a basement below this appendage. The main entrance to the Joplin Union Depot is approached by a drive-through covered way, or "Port Cochere", as it was termed in 1910. The walkway is a flat concrete slab resting on four columns with simple ornamental caps that extend through the roof. The slab is cantilevered beyond the columns. The exterior of the depot is decorated with geometrical ornamentation including a heavy base course of concrete, and several extended patterns in concrete applied at the corners and around the windows. The exterior walls are capped at the roof line with a heavy concrete band. The towers at the corners of the two-story core are embellished with applied rectilinear designs of concrete. These patterns occur framing the windows and also provide a roof balustrade. The facade of both entrances to the central core is pierced with a series of five graceful curtain-wall arches, enclosed by steel windows and wooden doors which provide access to the interior spaces. Wrought iron brackets occur frequently at the corners of the depot, at the rear portico facing the passenger tracks, and over the freight doors on the north wing. At one time these brackets supported frosted electric light globes. Another wrought iron bracket was formerly suspended from the ceiling in the dining room and restaurant area. The main rooms of the interior of the building have plaster ornamentation which expresses a pattern similar to the exterior concrete work.

The depot has endured little remodeling. In recent years, however, doors have been cut into the south wall at various window locations to accommodate a Railway Express Agency office that had been housed in the large former dining

#7 3

room. An elevated platform has been constructed in one corner of this office to expedite the storage and handling of freight. The north wing is no longer occupied. The second floor has been closed and the offices that were there have been moved to the south wing where all railroad operations are now handled.

Though the Joplin Union Depot has had little maintenance in recent years, fortunately, all major structural and settlement cracks have been repaired by pointing and caulking. There are relatively few cracks in the foundation and walls, considering the extreme weight of the concrete building and the fact that it was erected on the site of an early mine. The building is basically sound. The interior and exterior walls are all straight and plumb. The large fenestration areas are still operable <sup>where</sup> ~~are~~ hinged, and stable where fixed. Today, however, the exterior is in need of repainting. But for a building that represents a pioneer <sup>EXAMPLE OF</sup> ~~in~~ a particularly innovative construction technique, the Joplin Union Depot has shown an ability to withstand the elements.

**6. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Pre-Columbian <input type="checkbox"/>	16th Century <input type="checkbox"/>	18th Century <input type="checkbox"/>	20th Century <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
15th Century <input type="checkbox"/>	17th Century <input type="checkbox"/>	19th Century <input type="checkbox"/>	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1910-1911

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Aboriginal <input type="checkbox"/>	Education <input type="checkbox"/>	Political <input type="checkbox"/>	Urban Planning <input type="checkbox"/>
Prehistoric <input type="checkbox"/>	Engineering <input type="checkbox"/>	Religion/Philosophy <input type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Historic <input type="checkbox"/>	Industry <input type="checkbox"/>	Science <input type="checkbox"/>	<u>architecture</u>
Agriculture <input type="checkbox"/>	Invention <input type="checkbox"/>	Sculpture <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Art <input type="checkbox"/>	Landscape <input type="checkbox"/>	Social/Humanitarian <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Commerce <input type="checkbox"/>	Architecture <input type="checkbox"/>	Theater <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Communications <input type="checkbox"/>	Literature <input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____
Conservation <input type="checkbox"/>	Military <input type="checkbox"/>		_____
	Music <input type="checkbox"/>		_____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

(see attached)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

#8 (statement of significance)

Joplin Union Depot

The Joplin Union Depot in Joplin, Missouri, was designed by Louis Curtiss in 1910 and completed in 1911. The depot is one of the Kansas City Architect's better known buildings constructed of reinforced concrete. This particular building, along with other concrete structures both in Kansas City and on America's western railroads, helped establish Curtiss' reputation as an innovative architect of the early modern period. Although Louis Curtiss is recognized principally for his designs in Kansas City, the Joplin Union Depot is also a primary example of "modern" or contemporary railroad architecture.<sup>1</sup> The station bears little resemblance to other depots of the early twentieth century, most of which were patterned along more traditional classic styles.

"Louis Curtiss (1865-1924) is vaguely remembered as a strange and eccentric man of exceptional talent, one who combined unusual originality with a strong feeling for traditional styles." An early proponent of simplicity in design and "straightforward" expression of structure, Curtiss was opposed to the prevalent Neo-Classicism of the late nineteenth century. The Architect's designs ranged from cottage homes to railroad stations, theaters, hotels and a building for the St. Louis World's Fair in 1904. Curtiss is especially significant as a pioneer in the development of reinforced concrete construction and was an early advocate of the concept of functional architecture. Many of his buildings are progenitors of some of today's structural and aesthetic concepts. Yet, according to a biographer, most of Louis Curtiss' designs are unrecognized, and relatively little is known of the architect himself.<sup>2</sup>

The theme of recurrent geometric shapes expressed in the facades of the Joplin Union Depot was possible because of the property of concrete to flow and

solidify into various forms established by the mold. This quality of plasticity was recognized by Architect Curtiss who put it to great use in ornamenting his reinforced-concrete buildings. These designs occur both outside and inside the Joplin Union Depot, and are repeated in finer detail on the plaster-finished ceilings and walls. The angular theme of the building facades is interrupted only in the main two-story central portion of the structure, where five, large, arched windows embellish the front and rear walls. These windows extend from the lower floor line to the second floor and represent an early application of Curtiss' curtain-wall technique.

The Joplin Union Depot is stylistically similar to two of Curtiss' early-modern buildings in Kansas City: the Boley(Katz)Building, and the so-called Louis Curtiss Studio Building at 1116-1120 McGee Street. Like the Joplin Union Depot, the two Curtiss designs in Kansas City are also constructed on reinforced concrete and utilize the curtain-wall design.

#### Biographical- Architect

Louis Curtiss was born in Canada in 1865 and came to Kansas City during the late 1880's. He died in Kansas City in 1924. The following biographical summary of Curtiss was included in the Missouri State Historical Survey and Planning Office's National Register Inventory form on the Boley Building and Louis Curtiss Studio.

Curtiss' major contributions to the development of modern architecture took place in the earliest years of the twentieth century. As the assistant superintendent of buildings in Kansas City in 1890, Curtiss had the opportunity to work on the plans for the City Hall. In response to these problems, he devised a system of building the structure entirely on caissons. The foundations were



completed in 1890, three years before Adler and Sullivan's 1893 Chicago Stock Exchange, which is usually considered the first building partially to use caissons for additional structural support, and nine years before Chicago's 1899 Methodist Book Concern which is considered to be the first building supported entirely on caissons.<sup>3</sup>

Curtiss also experimented with suspended building structures. In 1906 he built a two story structure at 1105 McGee Street, Kansas City. Here, not only the facade of plate glass, sheet copper, and terra cotta, but also the entire floor structure for the bays directly behind the facade were suspended by one-and-one-half foot square steel hangers from a forty-two foot plate girder at the roof line.

Curtiss' innovations in architectural engineering metir him an important position in the development of modern building, and his influence may be stronger than previously supposed. Dankmar Adler was present at the reading of the paper on the foundations of Kansas City's City Hall, and Willis Polk knew Curtiss personally when both were members of the old Kansas City Architectural Sketch Club.<sup>4</sup> It is highly probable that Curtiss served as a source of inspiration for the Chicago Stock Exchange.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

(see attached)

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN ONE ACRE		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		37 05 30	94 30 42	
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

average: less than ten

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:  
Stephen J. Raiche, Chief Research Historian

ORGANIZATION: Missouri State Park Board  
State Historical Survey and Planning Office

DATE: May 8, 1972

STREET AND NUMBER:  
1204 Jefferson Building, Box 176

CITY OR TOWN: Jefferson City 65101

STATE: Missouri

CODE: 29

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Keeper of The National Register

Date \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

#9 Bibliography

Chamberlain, S.E., "City Hall Foundations, Kansas City", Proceedings of the 24th Annual Convention of the American Institute of Architects, October 22, 23, 24, 1890. Chicago: 1891.

Commee, Fred T., "Louis Curtiss of Kansas City", Progressive Architecture, Vol. 44, (August, 1963), 128-134.

Cornwall, William A., Architect. Architectural consultant field report: Joplin Union Depot. Received February 8, 1972 by Missouri State Historical Survey and Planning Office, Missouri State Park Board, Jefferson City, Missouri.

Hoffman, Donald, "Pioneer Caisson Building Foundations: 1890", Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians, March, 1966.

Inland Architect and News Record, IX, 1887, 63.

Randall, Frank A., History of the Development of Building Construction in Chicago. Urbana: 1949, 19.

JOPLIN UNION DEPOT

COUNTY:

Jasper

LOCATION:

Main and Broadway, Joplin, Missouri 64801

OWNER:

Joplin Union Depot Company

ADDRESS:

Main and Broadway, Joplin, Mo. 64801

DATE APPROVED BY A.C.:

06-10-72

DATE SENT TO JEFF. CITY:

06-12-72

DATE SENT TO D.C.:

07-26-72

DATE OF REC. IN D.C.:

DATE PLACED ON NATIONAL REGISTER:

03-14-73

DATE CERTIFICATE AWARDED  
(AND PRESENTOR):

DATE FILE REVIEWED:

**SAMPLE COPY**  
 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
 NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
 NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
 PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

	STATE	Missouri	COUNTY	Jasper	ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
FOR NPS USE ONLY						
<b>1. NAME</b>						
COMMON: Joplin Union Depot						
AND/OR HISTORIC: <del>Joplin Union Depot</del>						
<b>2. LOCATION</b>						
STREET AND NUMBER: Main Street and Broadway						
CITY OR TOWN: Joplin						
STATE:		Missouri	CODE	39	COUNTY:	Jasper
						CODE
						097
<b>3. PHOTO REFERENCE</b>						
PHOTO CREDIT: Charles Snow						
DATE OF PHOTO: September 1971						
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Joplin Globe Publishing Company 117 East 4th Street, Joplin, Missouri						
<b>4. IDENTIFICATION</b>						
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. Photograph No. 1 - View of the Northwest looking Southeast. View shows the baggage room doors on the left and main entrance <del>at the right</del> on the right.						

S E F I N S T R U C T I O N S



From NW

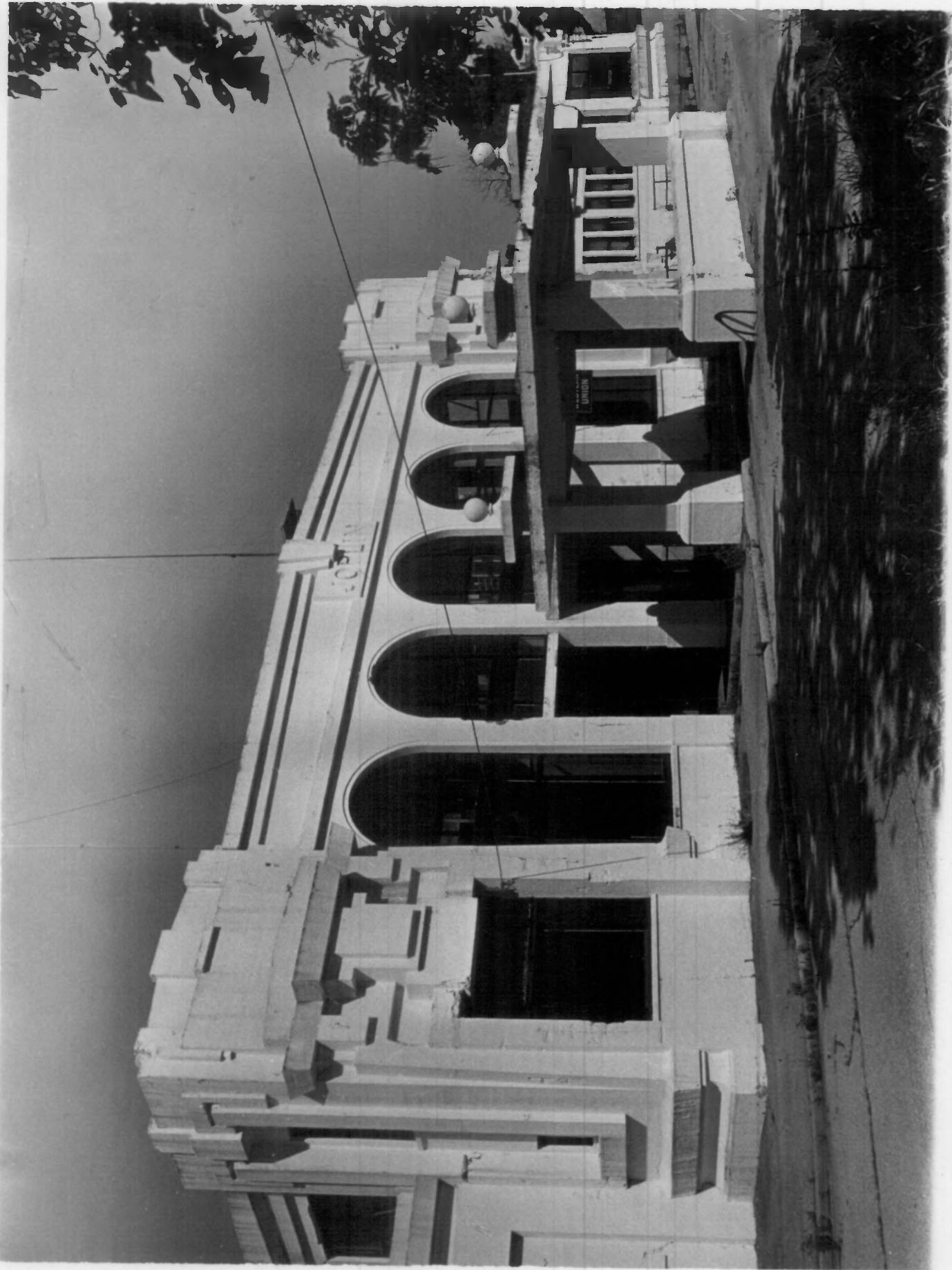
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
**SAMPLE COPY**  
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

STATE	Missouri
COUNTY	Jasper
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	
DATE	

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

1. NAME	
COMMON:	Joplin Union Depot
AND/OR HISTORIC:	<del>Joplin Union Depot</del>
2. LOCATION	
STREET AND NUMBER:	Main Street and Broadway
CITY OR TOWN:	Joplin
STATE:	Missouri
CODE	27
COUNTY:	Jasper
CODE	097
3. PHOTO REFERENCE	
PHOTO CREDIT:	Charles Snow
DATE OF PHOTO:	September 1971
NEGATIVE FILED AT:	Joplin Globe Publishing Company 117 East 4th Street, Joplin, Missouri
4. IDENTIFICATION	
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.	
<p><del>Photograph No. 2</del> - The main entrance at the <del>Porte Cochere</del> from the north-west looking southeast. The main loop driveway passes in the foreground. Note the large two story windowalls along the entry facade.</p>	

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MAIN ENTRANCE



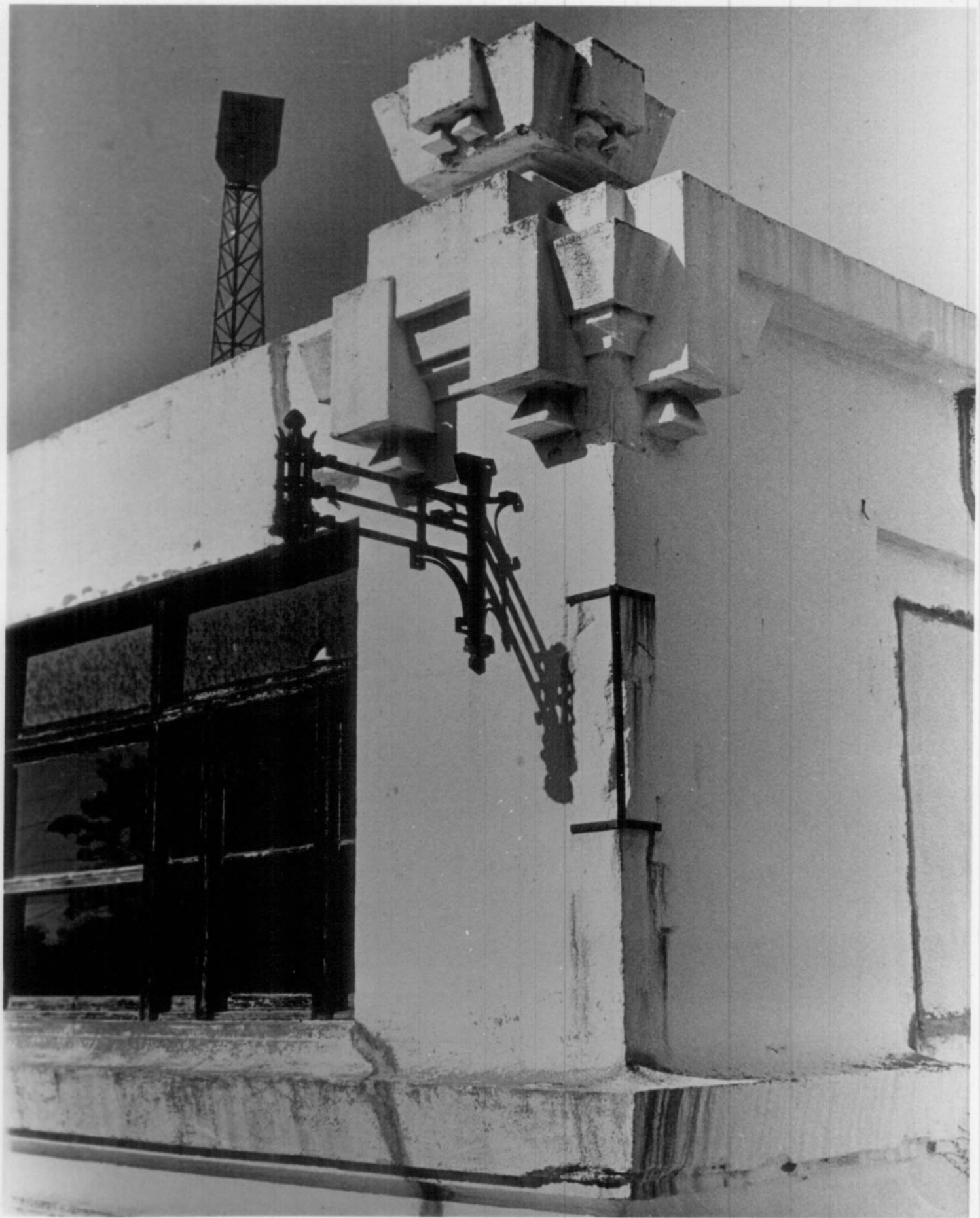
EXTRA  
PHOTOS



NE → SW



NE ← MS



SW - NE

