

SITE FILE COPY

Form 10-300
(Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Missouri
COUNTY:	Buchanan
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE:	

1. NAME

COMMON:
Missouri Valley Trust Company Historic District

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Boundaries as shown on Map

CITY OR TOWN:
St. Joseph

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
6th
The Hon. Jerry Litton

STATE: Missouri CODE: 29 COUNTY: Buchanan CODE: 021

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both	<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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
T. Mrs. Mary L. Boder (owner of 105, 107, and 109 South Fourth Street)

STREET AND NUMBER:
2649 Frederick Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:
St. Joseph

STATE: Missouri CODE: 29

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Office of Recorder of Deeds, Buchanan County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
St. Joseph

STATE: Missouri CODE: 29

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
1. Missouri Historic Sites Catalogue

DATE OF SURVEY:
 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
State Historical Society of Missouri

STREET AND NUMBER:
Corner, Hitt and Lowry streets

CITY OR TOWN:
Columbia

STATE: Missouri CODE: 29

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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DATE:

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8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian; 16th Century; 18th Century; 20th Century
 15th Century; 17th Century; 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1859-1860s

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 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 type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Missouri Valley Trust Company Historic District is a remnant of the early commercial area of St. Joseph, Missouri. It is on the periphery of the area that was set aside in the original plan of the town by the proprietor, Joseph Robidoux IV, on July 26, 1843, to be the center of commercial activity. The early center of commercial activity is the Market Square area which has now been totally demolished leaving only the early "fringe" development which is included within the adjusted National Register boundary.

The commercial area was the seat of business activity generated by the western migration in which St. Joseph had a significant role. St. Joseph was a major transition point for travelers coming from the east by steamboat who outfitted covered wagons at that point for the more hazardous trip across the plains. This traffic assumed great proportions after the discovery of gold in California, and it was estimated that in the year 1850, when the permanent population of St. Joseph was recorded as 3,460, some 50,000 emigrants went through St. Joseph--approximately half the number for the entire country.²

In this business district were already located some of the banks that were in operation in St. Joseph at this time, including the Bank of the State of Missouri at the southeast corner of Felix and Fourth streets, a building now occupied by the Missouri Valley Trust Company. This building has been continuously occupied by banking houses since its erection in 1859-1860. It is believed to be the oldest such building west of the Mississippi.³

The trust company now occupying the building is also the oldest trust company in St. Joseph, being chartered in March, 1889, with John. J. Tootle as president.⁴

The Bank of the State of Missouri in St. Joseph was organized in 1859. Robert W. Donnell, a prosperous wholesale merchant, was the president with A. M. Saxon as cashier. At this time the building located at Felix and Fourth Streets was constructed at the cost of about \$25,000.⁵ The Pfeiffer Stone Company of St. Joseph was commissioned to do the stone work.

In February, 1866, the bank was re-organized, and the firm joined the national banking system under the name of State National Bank. L. M. Lawson was president, A. M. Saxton, cashier, and C. B. France, assistant cashier.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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(Number all entries)

1. #1

MISSOURI VALLEY TRUST COMPANY HISTORIC DISTRICT

The name of this historic district, a National Register entry, is being changed from "Market Square Historic District" to "Missouri Valley Trust Company Historic District" because the Market Square which was the dominant feature of the former district was totally demolished by the Land Clearance for Redevelopment Authority of St. Joseph, Missouri, in December, 1973.

Of the one-quarter block of historically important structures surviving from the original Market Square Historic District, the Missouri Valley Trust Company is the dominant feature. Therefore the name of this building is appropriately taken to describe the revised district.

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4. #1

MISSOURI VALLEY TRUST COMPANY HISTORIC DISTRICT

2. Missouri Valley Trust Company
Corner Fourth and Felix streets
St. Joseph, Missouri 64501 Code: 29

3. Robert Lorenz
Hall Abstract Company
412 and 414 Felix Street
St. Joseph, Missouri 64501 Code: 29

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6. #1

MISSOURI VALLEY TRUST COMPANY HISTORIC DISTRICT

2. Missouri State Historical Survey (State)
1971-1974
Department of Natural Resources
P. O. Box 176
Jefferson City, Missouri 65101 Code: 29
3. The Architecture of Saint Joseph (Local)
1974 (published)
Albrecht Art Museum
St. Joseph, Missouri 64506 Code: 29

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7. #1

MISSOURI VALLEY TRUST COMPANY HISTORIC DISTRICT

The Missouri Valley Trust Company continues to function as a trust company under a permanent charter. In 1949 its checking and savings accounts were placed with the Tootle-Lacy Bank, now the American National Bank. The Musician's Association Local Number 50 has occupied the second floor of the trust company for forty years. Goldsberry's has occupied 410 Felix for twenty-eight years.²

FOOTNOTES

1. Chris L. Rutt, (ed.), History of Buchanan County and the City of St. Joseph and Representative Citizens (Chicago, Illinois: Biographical Publishing Company, 1904), pp. 357-358.
2. Based on personal correspondence between Mrs. Mary L. Boder (member of the St. Joseph Historical Society and owner of three buildings included in the historic district) and the State Historical Survey and Planning Office, September 3, 1974.

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8. #1

MISSOURI VALLEY TRUST COMPANY HISTORIC DISTRICT

The bank relinquished its national charter in 1871 becoming the State Savings Bank, A. M. Saxton was now president and C. B. France, cashier.

By May, 1881, Saxton had withdrawn from the corporation. C. B. France was elected president, R. L. McDonald was chosen vice-president, and E. Lindsay cashier. The bank had a capital of \$100,000 and surplus of \$75,000. The bank retained its state charter until 1890 when it was again made a national bank.

In 1899, the Missouri Valley Trust Company took over the building. The trust company is still in operation today.

Joseph Pfeiffer

Joseph Pfeiffer was a stone cutter and ornamental carver born in Bingen, in Hohenzollern, Sigmaringen, Germany, in 1817. In his education at the Royal Polytechnicum in Munich he studied the science of architecture and construction passing the government examination with honors and becoming a master builder. In 1849 he came to the United States and worked in New York, Philadelphia, and Chicago.⁶ Later, in 1860 he and his family were traveling to Grand Island, Nebraska, with a stop-over at St. Joseph, when design problems confronted in the construction of the Bank of the State of Missouri building were brought to his attention. He solved the problems and was given the cut-stone contract for the building.⁷ Thus precipitated the family's settlement in St. Joseph for many years afterward and the establishment of a successful stone cutting business, the Pfeiffer Stone Company, in which his son and grandson succeeded him.

Pfeiffer's name is associated with numerous buildings in St. Joseph and the midwest including the 1904 Arkansas State Capitol Building, Little Rock, Arkansas.⁸

The survey of Missouri's sites of historical and architectural significance is based on the selection of sites as they relate to the theme studies outlined in Missouri's State Historic Preservation Plan. Accordingly the Missouri Valley Trust Company Historic District is being nominated to the National Register because of its relatedness to the following themes of Missouri: History, Architecture, Economics and Exploration and Settlement.

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8. #2

MISSOURI VALLEY TRUST COMPANY HISTORIC DISTRICT

FOOTNOTES

1. Atlas of the City of St. Joseph (St. Joseph, Missouri: William H. Floyd & Co., 1884), p. 5. For a more detailed exposition of the history of St. Joseph cf. the National Register Inventory-Nomination form for Market Square Historic District which should now be considered a part of the file for this revised entry.
2. Charles van Ravenswaay (ed.), Missouri: A Guide to the "Show Me" State (New York: Duell, Sloan, and Pearce, 1941), p. 286.
3. Dorothy J. Caldwell (ed.), Missouri Historic Sites Catalogue (Columbia, Missouri: State Historical Society of Missouri, 1963), p. 15.
4. Roy Coy (ed.), Museum Graphic (St. Joseph, Missouri: St. Joseph Museum, Winter, 1959), p. 5.
5. History of Buchanan County, Missouri (St. Joseph, Missouri: Union Historical Co., 1881), p. 621.
6. Ibid., pp. 855-856.
7. J. A. Pfeiffer, grandson, Miss Agatha Pfeiffer, granddaughter, and Mrs. Janet Peters, great-grand-niece, "Unwritten History of the Pfeiffer family", n.d., received by State Historical Survey and Planning Office from Mrs. Mary L. Boder, St. Joseph, Missouri, ca. 1971.
8. Chris L. Rutt (ed.), History of Buchanan County and the City of St. Joseph and Representative Citizens (Chicago, Illinois: Biographical Publishing Company, 1904), pp. 357-358.

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9. #1

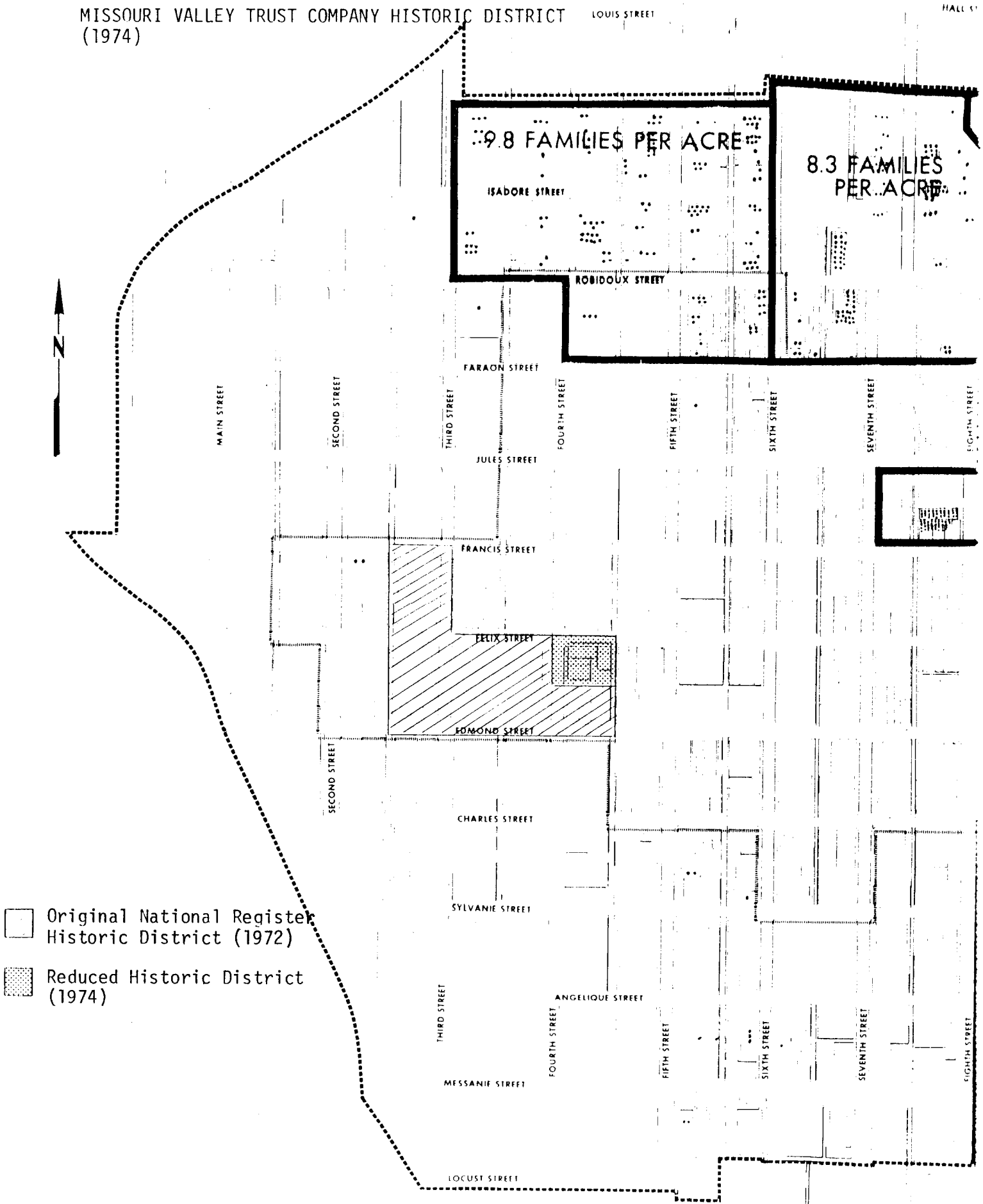
MISSOURI VALLEY TRUST COMPANY HISTORIC DISTRICT

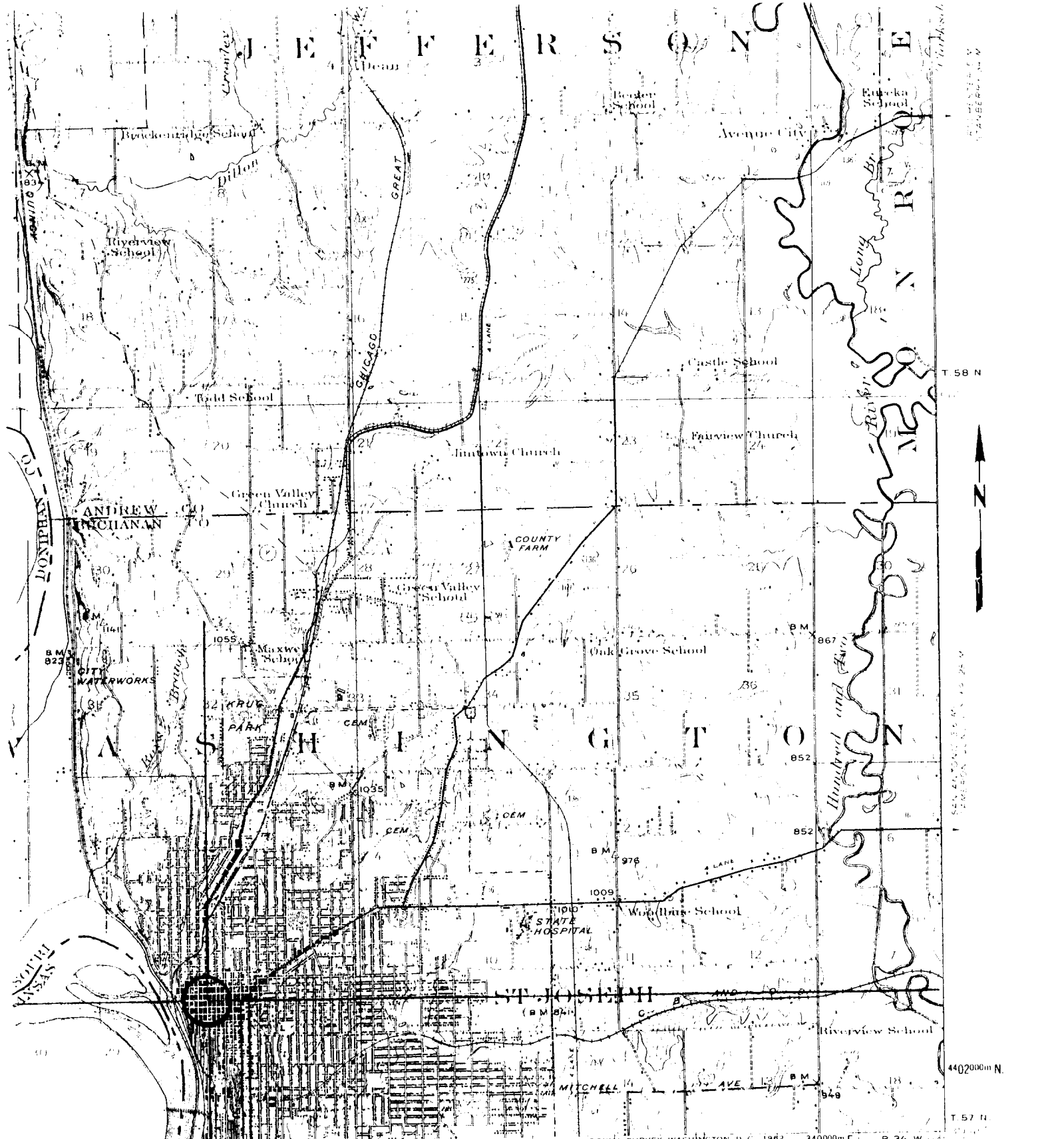
4. Coy, Roy (ed.). Museum Graphic. St. Joseph, Missouri: St. Joseph Museum, Winter, 1959.
5. History of Buchanan County, Missouri. St. Joseph, Missouri: Union Historical Co., 1881.
6. Pfeiffer, J. A., Miss Agatha Pfeiffer and Mrs. Janet Peters. "Unwritten History of the Pfeiffer family." Unpublished typescript submitted by Mary L. Boder, ca. 1971.
7. Rutt, Chris L. (ed.). History of Buchanan County and the City of St. Joseph and Representative Citizens. Chicago, Illinois: Biographical Publishing Company, 1904.
8. van Ravenswaay, Charles (ed.), Missouri: A Guide to the "Show Me" State. New York: Duell, Sloan, and Pearce, 1941.

MARKET SQUARE HISTORIC DISTRICT, ST. JOSEPH, MISSOURI (1972)

Renamed

MISSOURI VALLEY TRUST COMPANY HISTORIC DISTRICT (1974)





(Dearborn)
SCALE 1:62,500

NEW MARKET 1:25,000
KANSAS GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

INTERIOR GEOLOGICAL SURVEY WASHINGTON, D. C. 1942
MR 3867

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Missouri (West)
rectangular coordinate system
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 15, shown in blue

FOOT INTERVAL 20 FEET
DIM. F. MEAN SEA LEVEL

VELY, DENVER 25, COLORADO OR WASHINGTON 25, D. C.
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, ROLLA, MISSOURI
THIS MAP AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

ST. JOSEPH, MO.—KANS.
N3945—W9445:15

1924

Photo Log:

Name of Property: **Missouri Valley Trust Company Historic District**

City or Vicinity: **St. Joseph**

County: **Buchanan County** State: **MO**

Photographer: **Albrecht Art Museum**

Date

Photographed: **1973**

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

1 of 1. View from NW to SE.

