

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 St. Charles Odd Fellows Hall

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 117 S. Main not for publication

city, town St. Charles vicinity of

state Missouri code 029 county St. Charles code 183

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input 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 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:

4. Owner of Property

name Penny Pitman

street & number 117 S. Main Street

city, town St. Charles vicinity of state Missouri 63301

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Recorder of Deeds, St. Charles County Courthouse

street & number 118 N. Second Street

city, town St. Charles state Missouri

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Historical St. Charles, Mo. has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1967 federal state county local

depository for survey records St. Charles County Historical Society

city, town St. Charles state Missouri 63301

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input 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

Designed in Second Empire style, the St. Charles Odd Fellows Hall rises 3 1/2 stories from its prominent location at 117 South Main Street, one block west of the Missouri River in downtown St. Charles, Missouri. The red brick commercial/institutional building was constructed in 1878 as a fraternal meeting hall and for rental commercial use. The building survives in well-preserved condition, having been little altered since its construction, and carefully restored in 1986.

Rectangular in plan, the 1878 building measures approximately 35 feet in width with a depth of 111 feet; a small, two-story brick addition (ca. 1900) measuring approximately 20 feet deep by 50 feet wide joins the rear (west) elevation of the original structure (Fig. 1). The mansarded main block of the structure is 3 1/2 stories high and extends five bays on the primary (east) elevation (Photo # 1) and seven bays on the north and south elevations where the height drops to a two-story, four-bay section with flat roof and corbeled brick cornice (Photos # 3, 4); both sections are part of the 1878 building and rest on a coursed limestone rubble foundation capped with a sandstone stringcourse. Fenestration on the side (north and south) elevations is regular, featuring segmentally arched windows with one-over-one, double-hung sash.

The primary (east) elevation displays a half-exposed basement story, entrance to which is gained through a doorway under the front steps. The cornerstone, reading "I.O.O.F. 1878 - W. R. Parsons" is located at the northeast corner of the building. A cast iron storefront, manufactured by McMurray, Smith & Judge, St. Louis, is fashioned into free-standing slender columns and engaged end-piers detailed with fluted banding and acanthus leaf capitals which carry a cast iron entablature (Photo # 2). The center (entrance) bay of the storefront projects forward to create a vestibule which carries a two-story brick projecting bay surmounted by a mansarded wood belvedere. Fenestration of second and third stories is differentiated by detailing of stone window hoods which are linteled and segmentally arched, respectively; hoods on both stories are enriched with incised ornament. Stone sillcourses mark each story. At the second story, the projecting bay features a small, balustraded wood balcony opening from paired round-arched windows of slender proportions. The bracketed wood cornice and filigree iron roof cresting which wrap around the building are both original. Black fiberglass, however, has replaced original slate shingles on the mansard. A comparison of historic Photo # 6, showing the building shortly after completion, with Photo # 1 reveals a remarkable degree of integrity. Recently completed rehabilitation has restored the facade to near-original condition by replacement of two key design elements, the mansarded belvedere and second story balcony, both of which, as shown in Photo # 5, had been removed by a previous owner.

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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input 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 1878 **Builder/Architect** William D. Parsons

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The St. Charles Odd Fellows Hall is eligible for listing in the National Register according to Criterion C and is significant in the following area: ARCHITECTURE: Constructed in 1878, the building is an exceptionally fine commercial/institutional example of Second Empire style and the most monumental 19th century structure in St. Charles. Unusually well-preserved, the building is distinguished by the quality of design, craftsmanship and materials. Particularly noteworthy is the ornamental cast iron displayed in the storefront and the roof cresting.

Background: The Independent Order of Odd Fellows (I.O.O.F.), a social and benevolent fraternal order, was introduced into Missouri in 1835 when the first lodge west of the Mississippi was established in St. Louis. The organization rapidly attracted members and by 1860, 148 lodges had been founded in the state.(1) Typical of the early development pattern which instituted lodges in small towns throughout Missouri, St. Charles Lodge #126 was chartered October 2, 1858 in the city of St. Charles. Located on the Missouri River a few miles northwest of St. Louis, St. Charles was founded as a French settlement in 1769 and figured prominently in the history of westward expansion and fur trade. In 1819, the town became the county seat of St. Charles county and subsequently grew as a riverport and transportation center. By the 1870s, St. Charles was the fifth largest municipality in the state, having a population of over 5500. At the end of that decade, more than 350 Odd Fellow lodges had been founded in Missouri, and a second lodge, Blucher Lodge # 351 had been organized in St. Charles in 1876.(2)

Architecture: On February 19, 1878 the Odd Fellows Hall Association of St. Charles was incorporated for the purpose of rebuilding on the same site the city's Concert Hall, which had been leveled when a "hurricane" struck in 1876. Composed of fourteen shareholders, all residents of St. Charles County, the corporation included Odd Fellow fraternal members as well as non-members.(3) Soon after the group was organized it entered into twenty-year renewable lease agreements with the City and the County of St. Charles for acquisition of two parcels of land fronting on South Main Street. Both deeds included conditions under which the new Association agreed to erect "a handsome and well-constructed three story building" within the first year of the lease.(4) Situated between the County Court House and the City Market, the parcels represented premium real estate in downtown St. Charles. Directly across the street stood the Masonic Lodge and one half block south, the first State Capitol of Missouri.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See attached.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Less than one acre

Quadrangle name "ST. CHARLES, MO."

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

1	15	7	1	18	7	17	10	4	12	9	15	2	14	10
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

D

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E

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

See attached.

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 Mary M. Stiritz

organization date February 2, 1986

street & number 12 Wydown Terrace telephone 314/721-6289

city or town St. Louis state Missouri 63105

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 Wayne E. Brunner
to Frederick A. Brunner, Ph.D., P.E., Director, Department of Natural Resources and
title State Historic Preservation Officer date 2/17/87

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

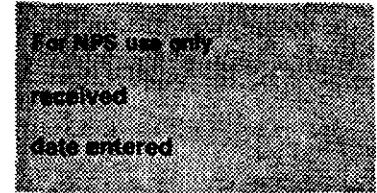
Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
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Continuation sheet St. Charles Odd Fellows Hall Item number 6

Page 1

2. Historic Sites in St. Charles County, Missouri (local)
1976
St. Charles County Historical Society
St. Charles, Missouri 63301

3. Missouri State Historical Survey
1984
Department of Natural Resources
P. O. Box 176
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102

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Continuation sheet St. Charles Odd Fellows Hall Item number 7 Page 1

On the interior, the second story Concert Hall space (Fig.3; Photo # 7) displays an elaborate pressed-tin cove molding detailed with acanthus and anthemion motifs, as well as a pressed-tin ceiling composed of square panels finished with a simple tooled effect. Unusual wainscoting formed of alternating oak and walnut broad reeding; tall, architraved windows and paneled double doors are found in both the Concert Hall and the Odd Fellows meeting room on the third floor (Photo # 8) which is handled with more restrained plaster coving. Both second and third floors are clear-span spaces. An ornamental pressed-tin cove molding and ceiling appears in the first story Banking Room as well (Fig. 2).

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Continuation sheet St. Charles Odd Fellows Hall Item number 8

Page 1

Plans for the Odd Fellows Hall were drawn up by William R. Parsons, an architect with offices in downtown St. Louis. The building was conceived from the first as a mixed-use structure, designed to specification for various tenants: the first floor storefront space was reserved for use of the St. Charles Savings Bank;(5) rooms behind the banking space were set aside for offices and other "private purposes";(6) the second story was planned as a municipal Concert Hall; and the third floor was leased to the St. Charles Lodge #126 I.O.O.F. (7) (Figs.# 1-4). Accordingly, each story/function was differentiated on the primary facade by a distinct architectural treatment: the basement was faced with dressed ashlar stone; the first story exhibited an ornamental cast iron front; second-story fenestration was articulated with linteled window hoods while third-story windows were designed with segmentally arched hoods. Hoods on both stories were formed of finely crafted stone, detailed with Neo-Grec incised ornament (Photo # 1). Interestingly, the building's combination of commercial/ cultural/institutional functions closely followed that established in the first Odd Fellows Lodge in St. Louis (1846; rebuilt 1864) which also housed commercial businesses on the first story, a concert hall on the second floor and the Odd Fellows on the third floor.(8)

Parsons articulated the exterior of the building in Second Empire style, the most popular and fashionable style in Missouri at that time. The institutional import of the structure was effectively expressed by means of a commanding tower-effect achieved through a projecting center bay which culminated above the roof line in a mansarded belvedere, creating an impressive silhouette in the skyline (Photos # 1, # 6). The second story of the center bay featured a small balustraded balcony, symbolically suggestive of a speaker's platform for public announcements. A stone panel inscribed with "I.O.O.F. Hall" was prominently placed above the balcony.

The first story banking space was handled with very open fenestration made possible by a cast iron front which supported the superstructure. The iron front also provided a dignified and rich display of ornament which served to monumentalize the space. The fine craftsmanship and design exhibited in the slender Neo-Grec columns and piers (Photo # 2) place the front among the most distinguished examples of 1870s ironwork surviving in Missouri. Manufactured by McMurray, Smith & Judge, St.Louis' earliest architectural iron firm, the storefront is one of only a few examples of the company's work known to exist, and is representative of a flourishing period of the architectural iron industry in St. Louis, a time when the city was a leading center of manufacturing with large exports to the South and West. In 1875, the architectural iron produced by McMurray, Smith & Judge was assessed as "not only equal to any in the country but in some respects in advance of any other shop". The firm's work was reported installed in "some of the finest and best buildings" in St. Louis,(9) although relatively few iron fronts of any firm

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Continuation sheet St. Charles Odd Fellows Hall Item number 8 Page 2

survive from this period in the city. The original filigree iron roof cresting on the Odd Fellow's Hall, a feature seldom found intact on Second Empire buildings, significantly enhances the profile of the mansard roof.

Each of the principal interior spaces retains original architectural features of distinction. The first story banking room has survived with ornamental pressed-tin cove molding and ceiling panels, and a more elaborate pressed-tin ceiling is displayed in the Concert Hall room (Photo # 7). Unusual wainscoting, alternating oak and walnut broad reeding, along with architraved windows and paneled double doors are installed in both the Concert Hall and the Odd Fellows lodge on the third story (Photo # 8). The lodge room is finished with plaster cove molding.

After the turn of the century the building continued to serve as fraternal lodge headquarters and banking offices, although new institutions replaced the original organizations. By 1904, the Odd Fellows had vacated their meeting hall on the third floor, which was then under lease to Palestine Lodge # 241 of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons.(10) In 1907, the newly organized Central Bank of St. Charles (Central Trust Co. after 1919) opened in the first floor banking space leased in 1878 to the St. Charles Savings Bank.(11) Ownership of the building passed to St. Charles Lodge #1513 Loyal Order of Moose, Inc. in 1934, after the State of Missouri took possession and liquidated holdings of Central Trust.(12) In more recent years the building has housed City offices and court rooms, and has been in private ownership since 1981. In 1984, Penny Pitman acquired the neglected and endangered building and began a major rehabilitation project which culminated with replacement of the missing belvedere and balcony in October, 1986. This rehabilitation has ensured the future preservation of one of St. Charles most architecturally significant buildings.

FOOTNOTES

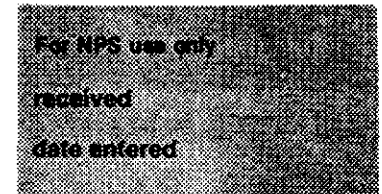
1) William Hyde and Howard L. Conard, eds., Encyclopedia of the History of St. Louis, (St. Louis: The Southern History Co., 1899), pp.1658-60; J. Thomas Scharf, History of St. Louis City and County, 2 vols. (Philadelphia: Louis H. Everts & Co., 1883), pp.1796-97.

2) History of St. Charles, Montgomery and Warren Counties, Missouri, 1885; reprint ed., St. Louis: Paul V. Cochrane, 1969, p.339.

3) St. Charles County Recorder of Deeds, Deed Book 24, p.240. The original five Directors were: Theodore Bruere, Linneus C. Jennings, Henry Bloebaum, Charles F. Hafer and George H. Senden. At least five of the

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Continuation sheet St. Charles Odd Fellows Hall Item number 8 Page 3

shareholders were members of Blucher Lodge #351 I.O.O.F. : Henry Bloebaum, Charles F. Hafer, George H. Senden, Julius Quade and Henry Broecker.

4) St. Charles County Recorder of Deeds, Deed Book 24, p.254 : Lease between St. Charles County and the Odd Fellows Hall Association for ten feet on the north side of the Court House lot for an annual sum of \$24.00. The lease stipulated that the front (east) wall of the new building could be placed 12 feet further east than the east wall of the old Concert Hall but no further. Deed Book 24, p.256: Lease between the City of St. Charles and the Odd Fellows Hall Association for 25 feet (part of the Market lot) for an annual sum of \$60.00.

5) St. Charles County Recorder of Deeds, Book 26, p.14 : The bank was to have a front extending the whole width of the building by a depth of 25 feet; a substantial burglary proofed vault was to be built for the bank by the Association. The lease also stipulated that the basement of the building was never to be used for a saloon, dramshop or business where intoxicating liquors were vended. The monthly rent was set at \$30.00.

6) St. Charles County Recorder of Deeds, Deed Book 26, p.13: Three year lease at a monthly rent of \$10.00 between the Odd Fellows Hall Association and Theodore Bruere for an attorney's office located in rear and next adjoining the front room leased to St. Charles Savings Bank. This space also was to be furnished with a "substantial fire-proofed vault". Attorney Bruere was President of both the St. Charles Savings Bank and the Odd Fellows Hall Association.

7) St. Charles County Recorder of Deeds, Deed Book 26, p.17. Ten year lease, at a monthly rent of \$15.00, between the Odd Fellows Hall Association and trustees August Diehr, Sigmund Grable and George Jacobs of St. Charles Lodge #126 I.O.O.F..

8) Scharf, History of St. Louis, p.1796.

9) Camille N. Dry and Richard J. Compton, Pictorial St. Louis - 1875, (St. Louis: n.p., 1875), reprint ed. St. Louis: Harry M. Hagen, 1971), p.103.

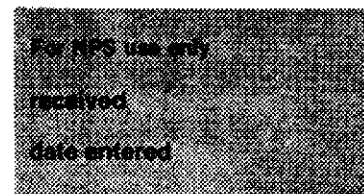
10) St. Charles County Recorder of Deeds, Deed Book 98, p. 17.

11) St. Charles County Recorder of Deeds, Deed Book 97, p.558. Central Bank purchased the building and parcels for \$15,000 from Ernst Robyn, founder of the bank.

12) St. Charles County Recorder of Deeds, Deed Book 181, p.371.

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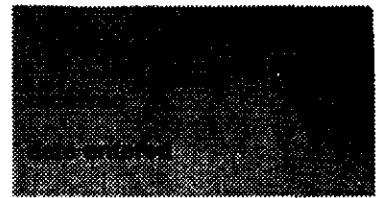
**National Register of Historic Places
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Continuation sheet St. Charles Odd Fellows Hall Item number 10 Page 1

County of St. Charles. Part of City Block # 31 of the City of St. Charles:
Beginning at a point on the Western line of Main Street distant 78.8 feet from
the point of intersection of the Southern line of Jefferson Street and Western
line of Main Street; thence with an angle of 90 degrees 19' Southwest with the
Western line of Main Street Westwardly and along the Northern edge of a line
of a driveway 170 feet to an alley; then Southwardly parallel to Main Street
52.94 feet to the Northwest corner of a lot sold by the County of St. Charles
to the United States of America, recorded in Book 99, page 227; thence
Eastwardly along the Northern line of said lot 170 feet to the Western line of
Main Street; thence Northwardly along the last mentioned line 49.65 feet to
the place of beginning.

**United States Department of the Interior
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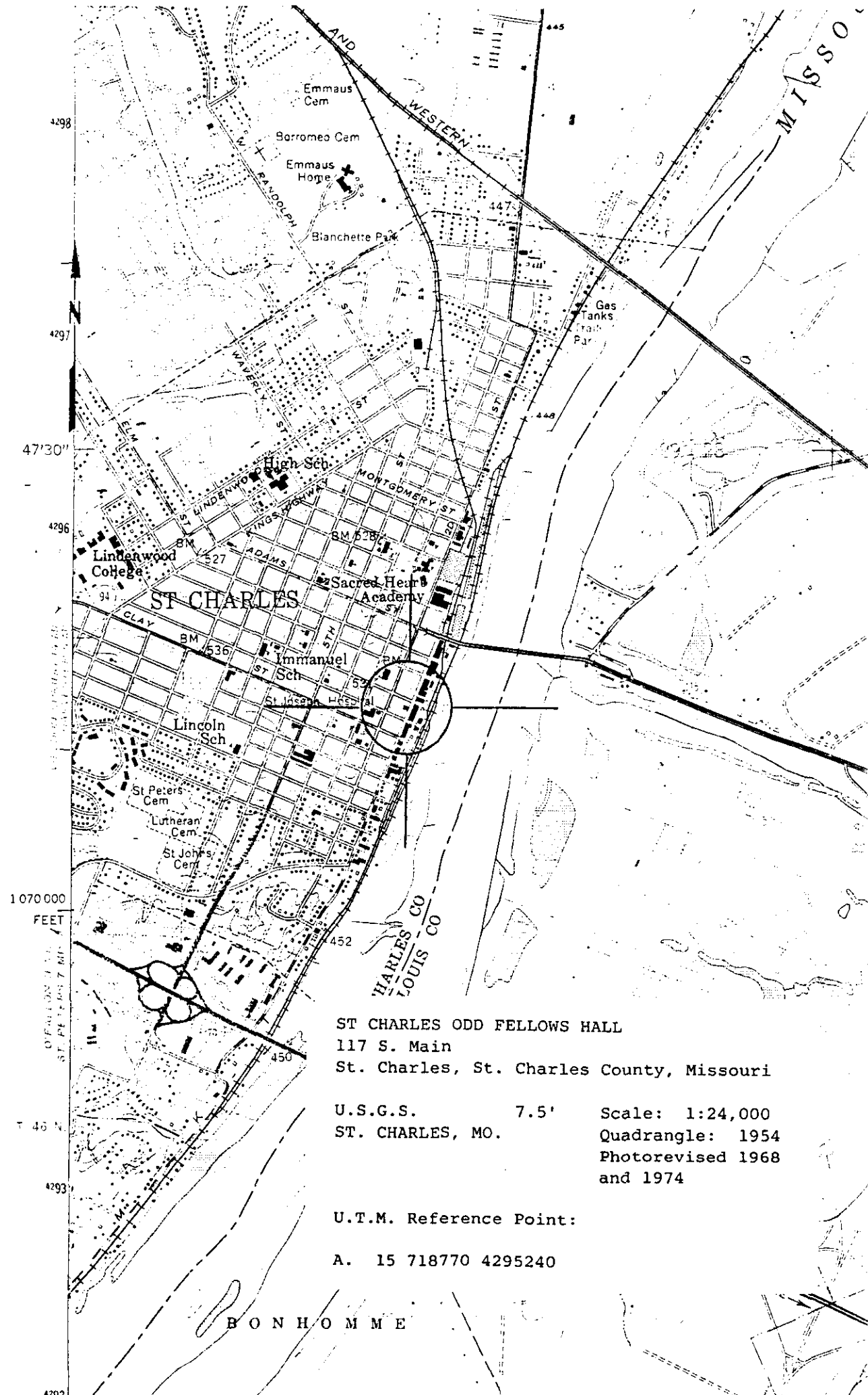


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Continuation sheet St. Charles Odd Fellows Hall Item number 11

Page 1

2. Claire F. Blackwell
Director
Department of Natural Resources
Division of Parks, Recreation,
and Historic Preservation
Historic Preservation Program
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102
Date: February 24, 1987
Telephone: 314/751-5376



ST CHARLES ODD FELLOWS HALL
 117 S. Main
 St. Charles, St. Charles County, Missouri

U.S.G.S. 7.5' Scale: 1:24,000
 ST. CHARLES, MO. Quadrangle: 1954
 Photorevised 1968
 and 1974

U.T.M. Reference Point:
 A. 15 718770 4295240

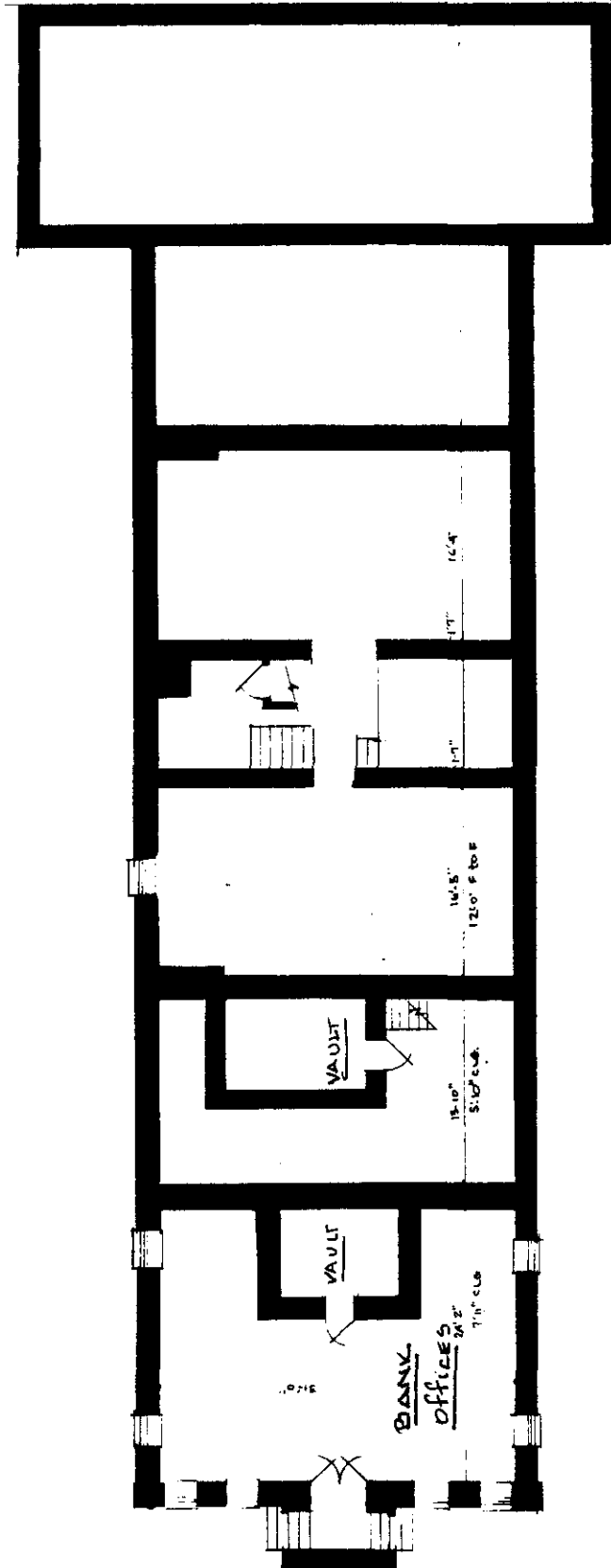
BONHOMME

1070 000
 FEET
 OF EQUATION 3.14159
 ST. FEET PER MIC

4298
 4297
 47'30"
 4296
 4295
 4294
 4293
 4292

FIGURE 1

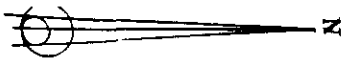
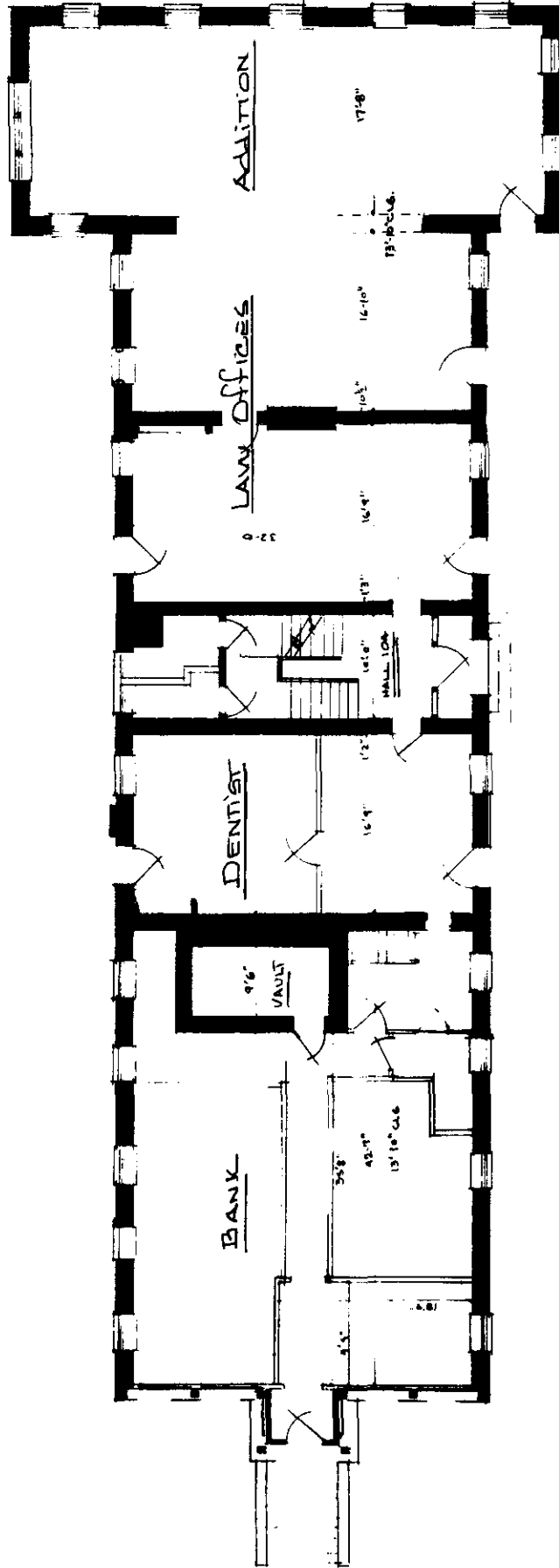
ST. CHARLES ODD FELLOWS HALL
St. Charles, Missouri



BASEMENT FLOOR PLAN
SCALE 1/4" = 1'-0"

117 S. MAIN ST.
ST. CHARLES, MO.
12/10/84

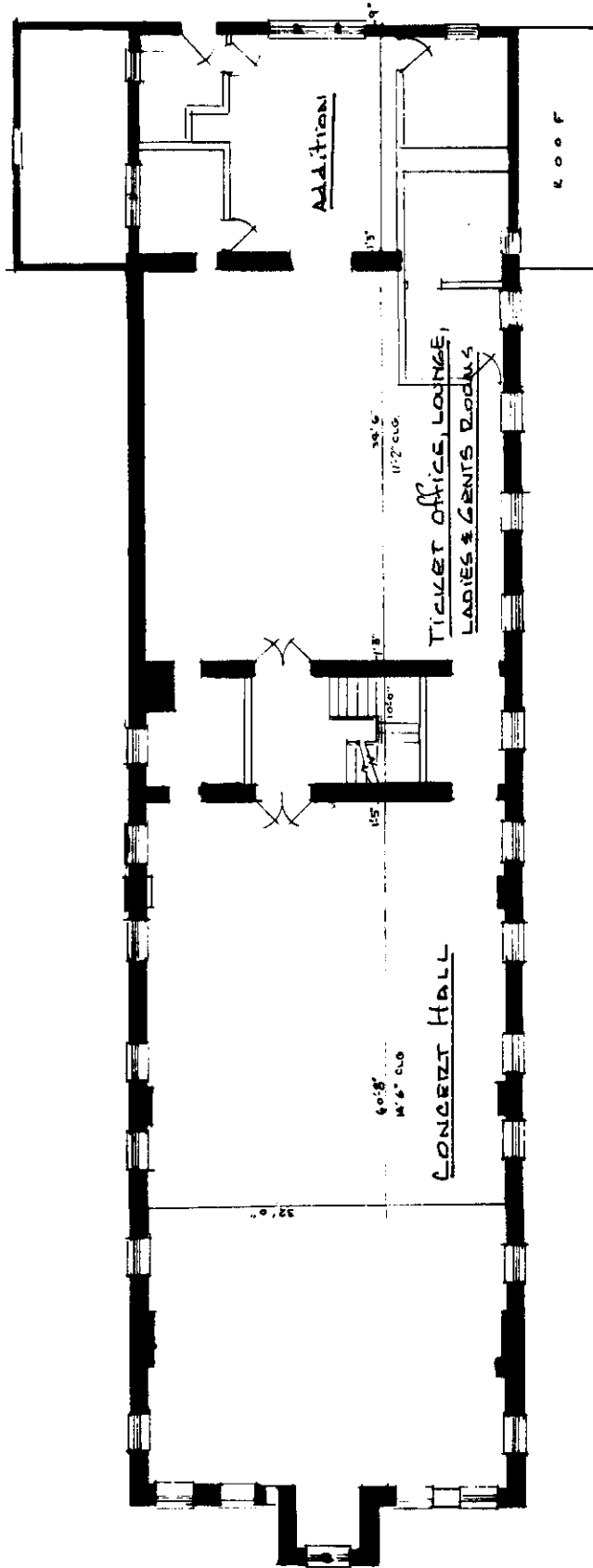
FIGURE 2
 ST. CHARLES ODD FELLOWS HALL
 St. Charles, Missouri



FIRST FLOOR PLAN
 SCALE 1/8" = 1'-0"

117 5 MAIN
 ST. CHARLES, MO
 12/10/16

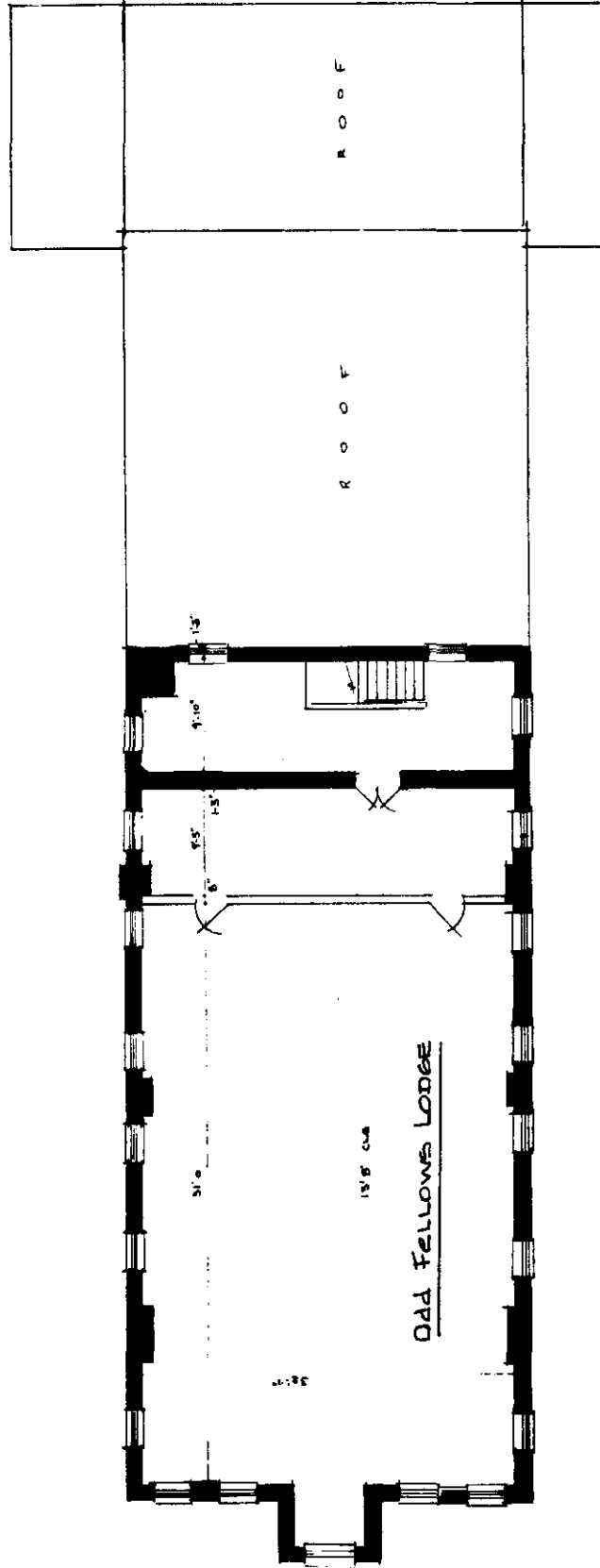
FIGURE 3
 ST. CHARLES ODD FELLOWS HALL
 St. Charles, Missouri



SECOND FLOOR PLAN
 Scale 1/8" = 1'-0"

117 S. MAIN
 ST. CHARLES, MO.
 12/11/1944

FIGURE 4
ST. CHARLES ODD FELLOWS HALL
St. Charles, Missouri



THIRD FLOOR PLAN
SCALE 1/8" = 1'-0"

H. S. MARR
Architect
12/10/14

Odd Fellows Hall # 1 of 8
117 S. Main Street
St. Charles, MO

Photographer: Mary M. Stiritz
Date: January 1987
Neg. Loc.: 12 Wydown Terr.
St. Louis, MO 63105

Primary (east) and north elevations
Camera angle: Southwest



Odd Fellows Hall # 2 of 8
117 S. Main Street
St. Charles, MO

Photographer: Mary M. Stiritz
Date: January 1987
Neg. Loc.: 12 Wydown Terr.
St. Louis, MO 63105

Detail of cast iron front
Camera angle: West



Odd Fellows Hall #3 of 8
117 S. Main Street
St. Charles, MO

Photographer: Mary M. Stiritz
Date: January 1987
Neg. Loc. : 12 Wydown Terr.
St. Louis, MO 63105

North elevation
Camera angle: south



Odd Fellows Hall #4 of 8
117 S. Main Street
St. Charles, MO

Photographer: Mary M. Stiritz
Date: January 1987
Neg. Loc.: 12 Wydown Terr.
St. Louis, MO 63105

South and West elevations
Camera angle: northeast



Odd Fellows Hall #5 of 8
117 S. Main Street
St. Charles, MO

Photographer: Penny Pitman
Date: November 1984
Neg. Loc.: 117 S. Main
St. Charles, MO 63301

Primary (east) and north elevations
Camera angle: southwest



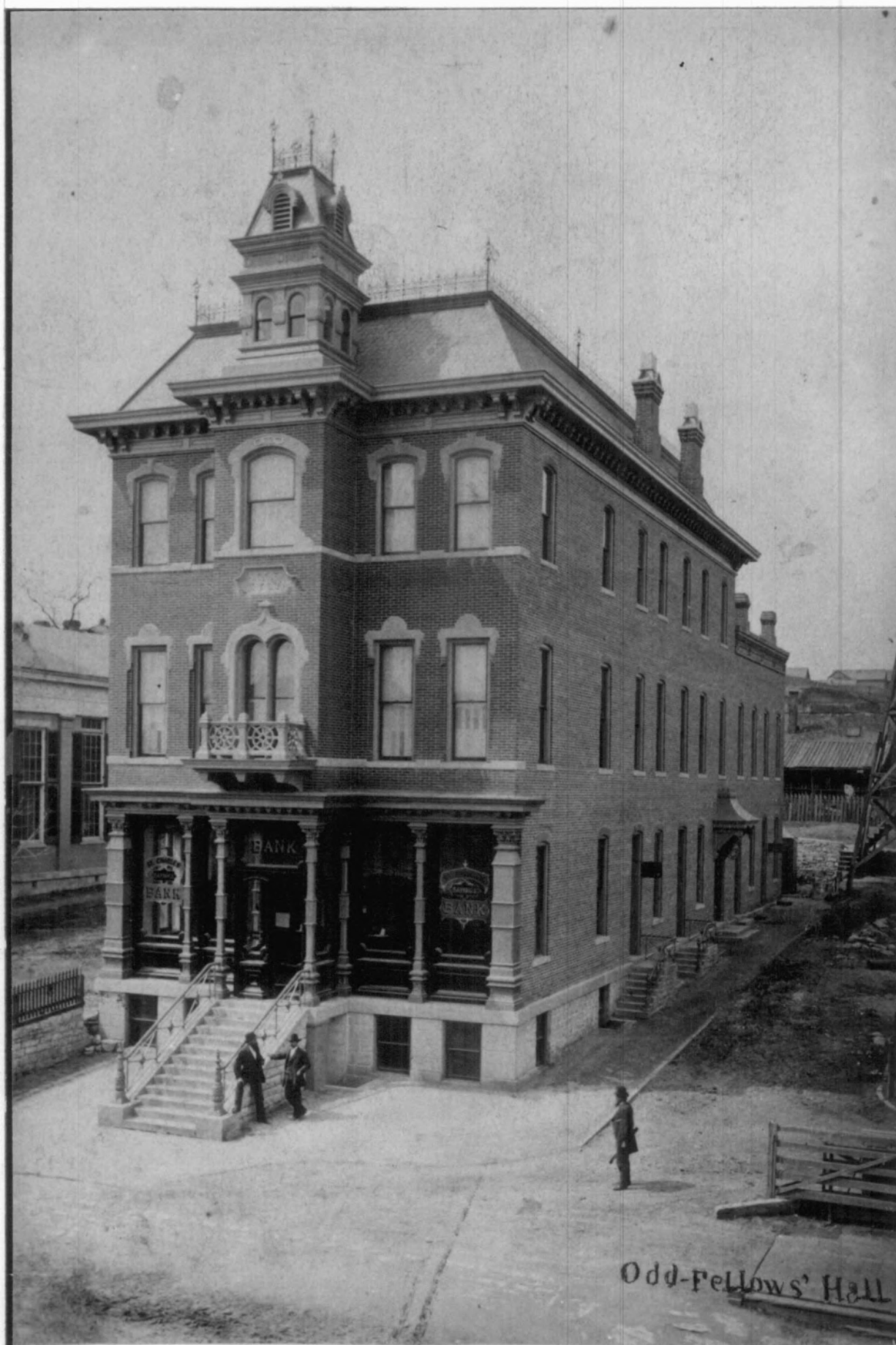
Odd Fellows Hall #6 of 8
117 S. Main Street
St. Charles, MO

Photographer: R. Goebel

Date: ca. 1878

Neg. Loc.: 117 S. Main
St. Charles, MO 63301

Primary (east) and north elevations
Camera angle: southwest



Odd-Fellows' Hall

Odd Fellows Hall #7 of 8
117 S. Main Street
St. Charles, MO

Photographer: Mary M. Stiritz
Date: January 1987
Neg. Loc.: 12 Wydown Terr.
St. Louis, MO 63105

Interior detail, 2nd floor Concert
Hall
Camera angle: southwest



Odd Fellows Hall #8 of 8
117 S. Main Street
St. Charles, MO

Photographer: Mary M. Stiritz
Date: January 1987
Neg. Loc.: 12 Wydown Terr.
St. Louis, MO 63105

Interior detail, 3rd floor Odd
Fellows Lodge
Camera angle: northwest

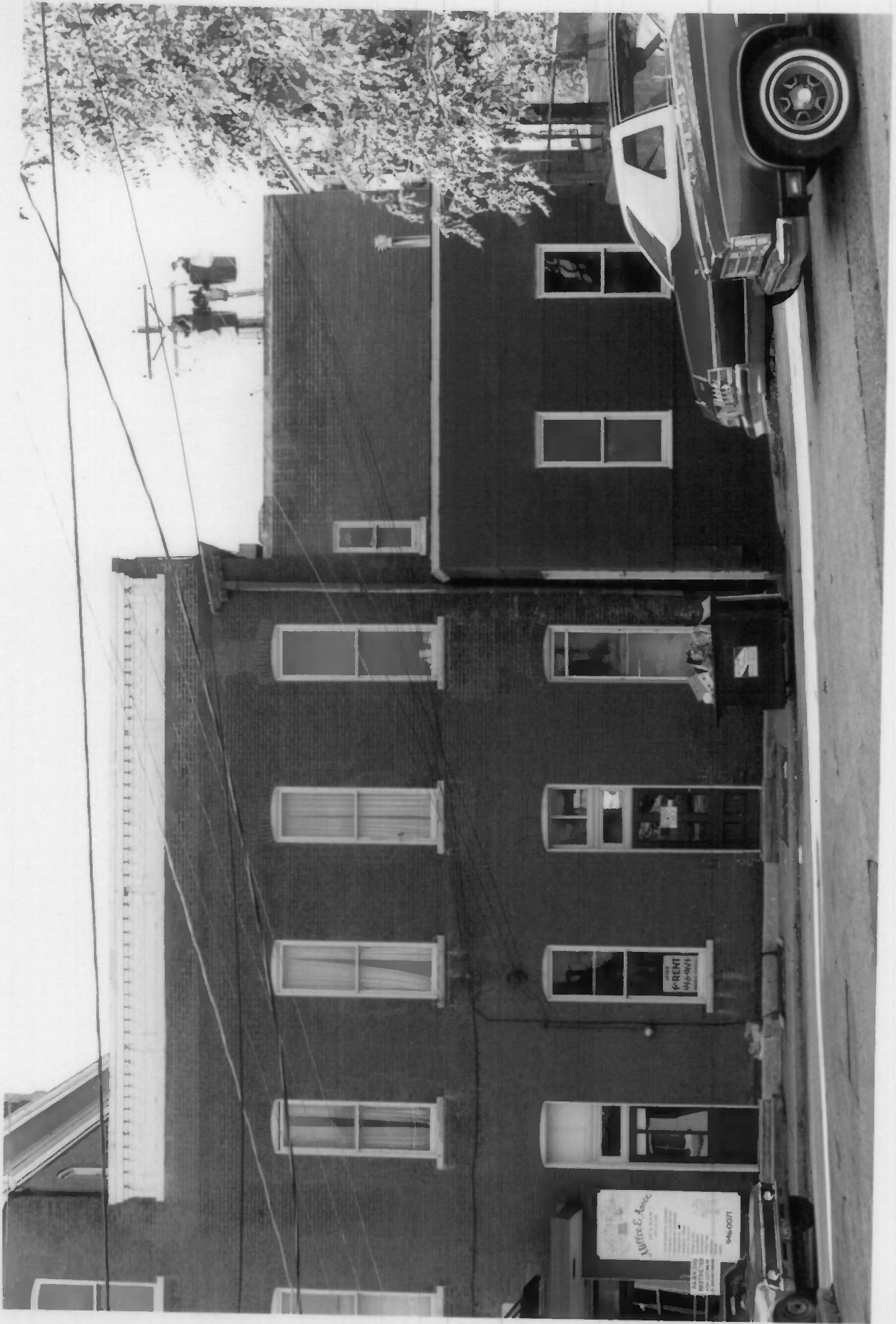


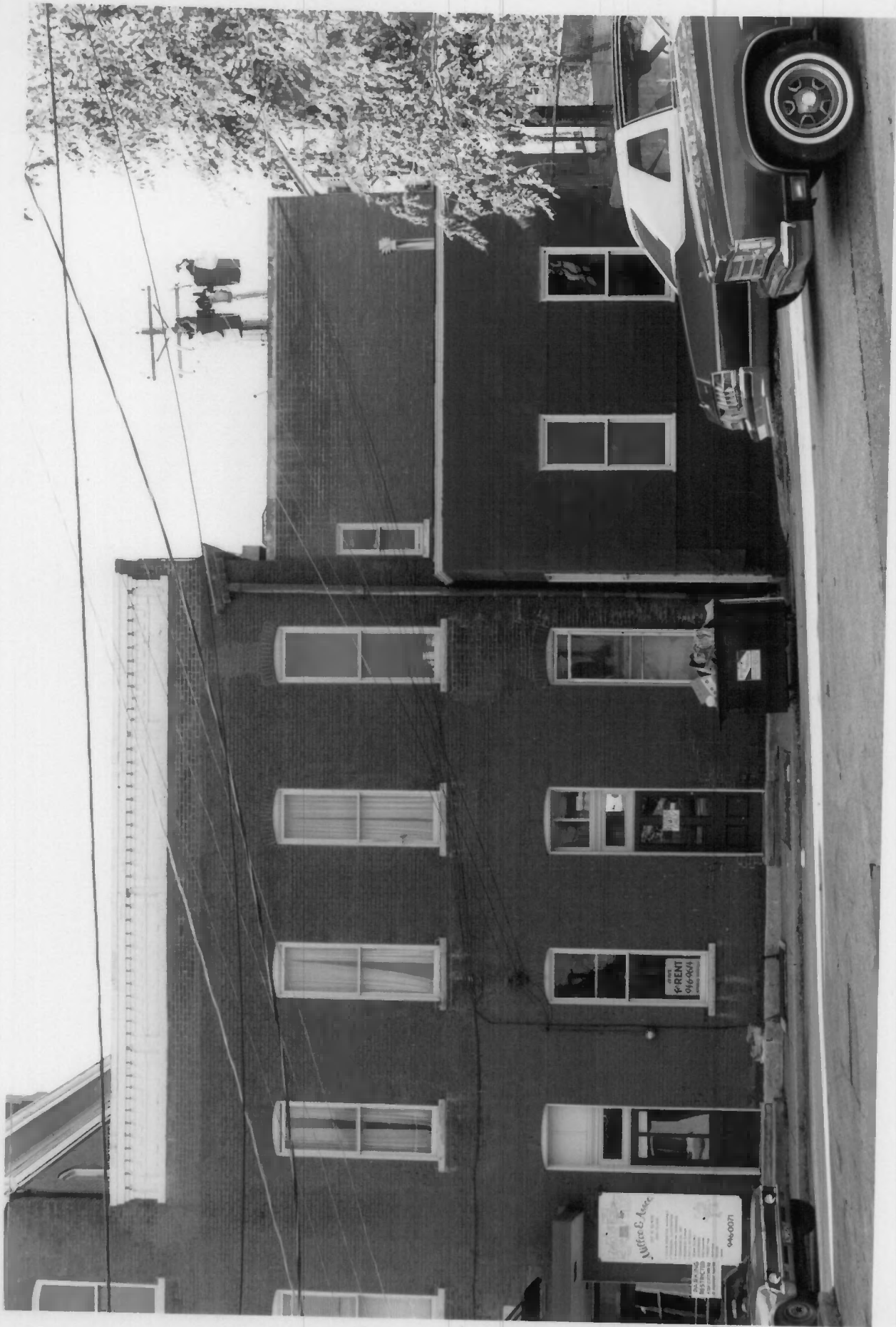
EXTRA
PHOTOS







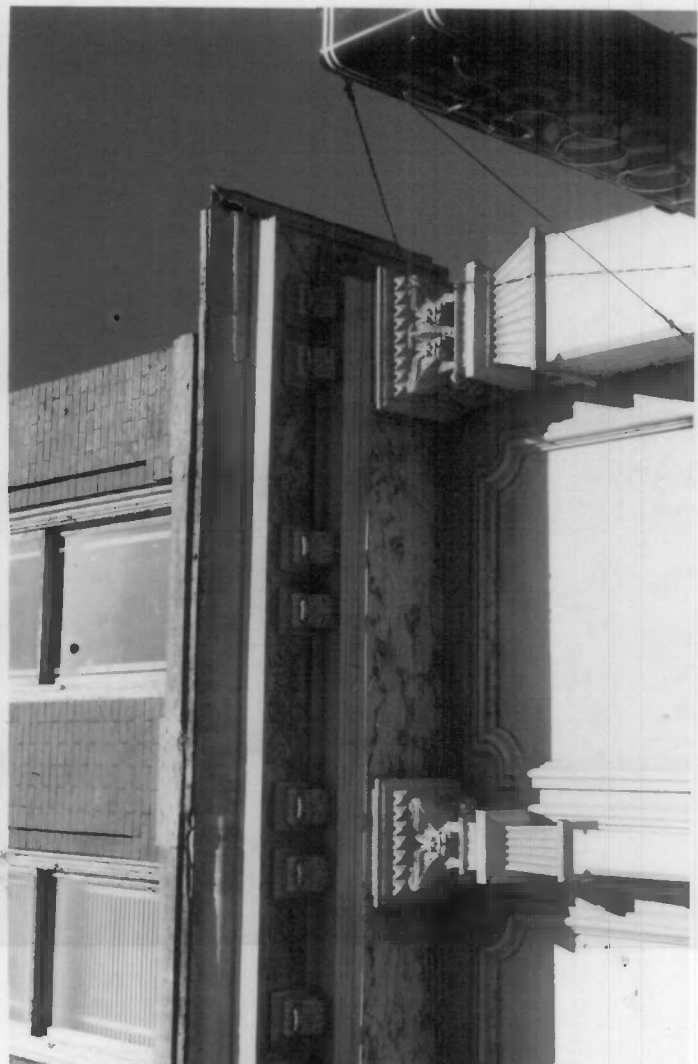




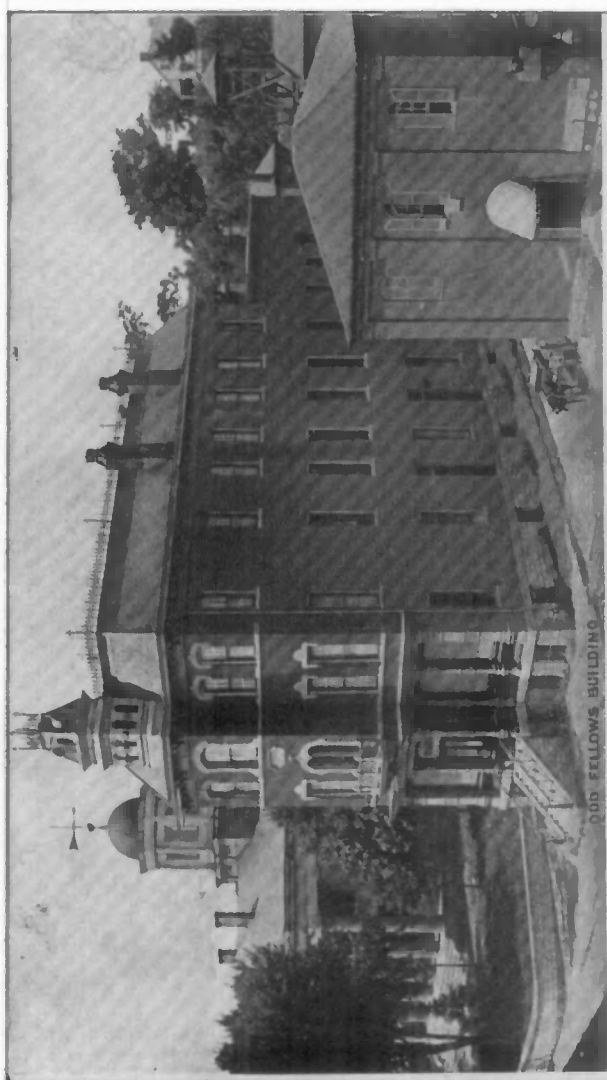












ODD FELLOWS BUILDING

60 Souvenir Postal Cards of St. Charles and Vicinity
THE LAST CITY MARKET HOUSE, 1885
CENTRAL BANK

A. GOESSEL, PHOTO.
THE OLD COURT HOUSE
Erected 1840, Wrecked 1904