### **National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

date entered

See instructions in How to Complete National Register Forms

Type all entries	s—complete applica	ble sections						
1. Nam	16							
historic	St. Joe Lea	d Company Administ	tration Building					
and/or common	St. Joe Com	pany Offices; Cer	ntral Office Buil	ding				
2. Loca	ation							
street & number	Elm Street			not for publication				
city, town	Bonne Terre	vicinity of						
state	Missouri	code 29 county	St. Francois	code 187				
3. Clas	sification							
Category  district _X_ building(s) structure site object	Ownership public private both Public Acquisitio in process being consider x N/A	yes: restricted	entertainment government	museum park private residence religious scientific transportation vacant				
4. Own	er of Prop	oerty 💮 🔻						
name street & number	Independent Brokers Association Ltd. 215 East Main Street P.O. Box 128							
city, town	Flat River	vicinity of	state	Missouri 63601				
5. Loca	ation of L	egal Descript	ion					
courthouse, regi	stry of deeds, etc.	St. Francois Cour	nty Courthouse	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·				
street & number								
city, town	-	Farmington	state	Missouri				
6. Rep	resentatio	on in Existing	Surveys					
title Missouri	State Historica	1 Society has this p	roperty been determined e	ligible?yes X no				
date 1983				ite county local				
depository for si	Missourvey records P.O.	uri Department of Nat Box 176	ural Resources					

city town Tefferson City

state Missouri 65102

#### 

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The St. Joe Lead Company Administration Building is situated on a hilltop adjacent to the main residential area of Bonne Terre, Missouri. and one-half story, H-shaped building is massive in scale and dominates the surrounding landscape. Of brick, with granite trim, the primary facade is defined by its gable-ended forward wings and a distinctive fenestration pattern: triple windows joined by heavy lintels and articulated by ashlar surrounds of varying width. The Administration Building is a translation of high style architectural forms into local materials by local craftsmen. Eluding strict stylistic classification, the building displays elements of several styles popular at the turn of the century: it owes its broad roof planes, monumentality of scale and grouping of its deep-set windows in ribbon-like arrangements to Richardsonian Romanesque, but derives from Victorian Gothic its pointed arched entrances, bay windows and bi-chromatic decoration. Characteristics of Victorian Romanesque appear in window surrounds and quoins. Yet, in general, the building retains a distinct vernacular flavor, with windows of narrow, three, six or nine over one sashes.

### Exterior details:

The building, constructed of brick laid in common bond, rises two and one-half stories above a full, concrete basement, whose exposed surface is faced in ashlar granite. The broad gable roof, sheathed in grey slate with copper flashing and ridge, is pierced on all facades by hipped-roof dormers.

The underlying symmetry of the five-bay primary facade is offset by the large bay window of the eastern projecting wing. Attention is focused upon the central bay, where a doubleleaf, panelled door and six-light tympanum are set under a pointed arch with molded archivolts, and surmounted by the large bay window of the second story.

Secondary (northeast and southwest) elevations are distinguished by windows grouped in ribbon fashion; secondary entrances on the southwest facade are recessed under gabled porches with pointed arch entries.

An interesting idiosyncracy of the Administration Building is the steel bracing which supports the wall fabric on all facades. This was intended to counteract possible structural damage incurred by the vibrations of the nearby mill's heavy crushers.

Additions to the building are confined to the southeast facade, where a one story projecting bay was constructed, and to the northwest (rear) elevation, whose eastern forward wing has been extended.

### Interior details:

With the exception of the alterations noted above, the interior of the Administration Building remains intact. The primary entrance opens onto a

### 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—C	heck and justify below	
prehistoric 1400-1499 1500-1599 1600-1699 1700-1799 1800-1899 X 1900-	archeology-prehistoric archeology-historic agriculture agriculture art commerce communications	community planning landscape architectu conservation law literature education military engineering music philosophy  X industry politics government invention	re religion science sculptureX social/ humanitarian theater transportation other (specify)
Specific dates	1909	Builder Architect unknown	

#### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The St. Joe Lead Company Administration Building is significant, to the city of Bonne Terre, the surrounding county of St. Francois and to Southeast Missouri, as the only intact structure associated with the history of the St. Joe Lead Company, the origin and sustenance of this area for more than a century. The building is an important illustration of architectural, social/humanitarian and industrial themes, and complies with Criteria A and G of the National Register's standards for the evaluation of historic properties.

#### Architecture:

The St. Joe Lead Company Building, erected ca. 1909, is a product of a period in the Company's history when Bonne Terre underwent intensive expansion and the Company was investing nearly all its yearly profits in new construction. A two and one-half story masonry structure, the Administration Building's eclecticism is significant as an example of the regional translation of high-style architectural motifs, which are adapted and transformed by local materials and workmanship. The building is executed in Tudor Revival Style.

It's essential purity is not mitigated by minor additions to the northeast and northwest facades, in a compatible style and apparently designed by the building's original architect.

Prior to the construction of the office building, the St. Joe Company's general offices were scattered in several frame buildings throughout the town. Centralized in one location, the Administration Building housed offices of the Superintendent, Engineer, Purchasing Agent and the Mine Captain, among others, until the close of the Company's mining interests in the area. Despite the dignity of its exterior, the building's interior decoration is restrained, and the atmosphere business-like: the only ornately appointed room was reserved for the Company President on visits from New York: it is fitted with fine oak panelling and large ashlar fireplace.

### Industry:

As early as 1720<sup>4</sup> Missouri's "Lead Belt" area had been recognized as an outstandingly wealthy mining area. French settlers were the first to begin exploitation of its mineral resources. The name "Bonne Terre" is thought to have signified the lead-rich topsoil found in the region. 5

In 1864, the St. Joe Lead Company was incorporated in New York, with the intent of developing the mining potential of the Bonne Terre area. The

9. Major Bib	liographica	l Refer	ences	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
1. Blackwell, Rob	ert M. Bonne T	erre: The	First l	Hundred Years and	d More.
	MO: Bonne Terro			•	
2. "Bonne Terre."	County Adverti	ser News,	Farming	on, MO. July 2	, 1980.
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2. State Hi	storic Pres	ervatio	n Offic	cer Certifica	tion
he evaluated significance of	of this property within the	state is:			
national	state	_v_local			
As the designated State His	toric Preservation Officer	for the National	Historic Pres	ervation Act of 1966 (Public	Law 89-
65), I hereby nominate this ccording to the criteria and	property for inclusion in t	he National Reg	ister and cert	ify that it has been evaluate	ed
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For NPS use only					·····
I hereby certify that th	is property is included in t	he National Reg	ister		
				date	
Keeper of the National F	Register				
Attest:				date	
- 111001					

Chief of Registration

# National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

St. Joe Lead Company Continuation sheet Administration Building

Item number 7



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small lobby whose triple archway grants access to the interior. The first floor comprised the President and Superintendent offices, and those of the mine clerks, stenographers and bookkeepers. The second floor contained rooms for Company engineers and electricians, as well as a large drafting room. On the third floor, which is attained by a rear stairway, were located the blueprint room and janitor's quarters, and two large, unfinished attics.

Interior decoration throughout is restrained. Of interest is the original oak panelling and ashlar mantle of the President's office; and the main hall, with its C-shaped stair and arcade of pointed arches.

NPS Form 10-900-a

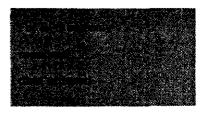
## **United States Department of the Interior**National Park Service

### National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

St. Joe Lead Company

Continuation sheet Administration Building

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Page 3

Company acquired approximately 1,000 acres known as the "LaGrave Tract", which had been in production since 1856. The land was conveyed to the St. Joe Board of Directors with outstanding morgages totalling \$75,000. As a result, the Company made few profits in the first years of the project. Severe weather, and Confederate raids delayed the operation further. In 1865, the Company recorded \$17,275.34 for sales of lead, but \$34,096.10 was expended. A few log structures were the extent of the Company's construction.

However, within a year, it was reported to the stockholders that 260,126 pounds of lead had been produced that year, at the rate of 500 pigs a month. At the time, the original millworks consisted of a small crushing mill with one set of rolls and a single furnace. Most of the work in mining and refining the ore was done by hand, methods that were expensive and inefficient. Only the most badly needed buildings were erected, a reverberatory furnace, company store and pump house. 10

In 1866, the Company began for the first time to mine deep below the surface, finding large deposits of ore. 11 With the importation of the new diamond drill in 1869, mining in the region was revolutionized. 12 Invented by Severence and Holt of Vermont, the drill enabled the Company to explore potential mineral property with relative ease and it soon became the accepted method for prospecting. As a result of the drill's success, strip (surface) mining was abandonned in Missouri's Lead Belt.

By the end of 1873, lead production for the Company had increased to 2500 pigs per month and to 11,000 per month by the end of 1881. L3 Extensive expansion during the early 1880's resulted in the construction of a large addition to the mill, blast furnaces, blacksmith and carpenter shops and a laboratory building. But in February of 1883, fire completely destroyed the millworks at Bonne Terre. L4 Four months later, an improved facility was erected, containing nearly ten times the equipment of the previous mill and allowing additional experimentation with new smelting techniques. In July of 1886, the St. Joe Company purchased the Deloge Mining Company to further extend its mining property. By 1887, the Company had three large shafts and proceeded to unite them underground.

At this time, it was decided to expedite rail shipment of the refined ore by the construction of a company-owned railway to the Mississippi River, thus providing access to need water and sand for processing, as well as saving considerable time and rail fares. The "Mississippi River and Bonne Terre Railway" was completed in 1890. With new access to the river, the smelting operations of the Company were removed to Herculaneum, where supplies for the process were readily available. 18

The new Administration Building was completed about 1909, a part of a mammoth

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Continuation sheet St. Joe Lead Company
Administration Building

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construction plan by the Company at Bonne Terre. Also completed in the same period were a Chemical Building, the Bonne Terre Depot, and several smaller structures. For the first time, the offices of the Company's administration were centralized in a dignified structure worthy of the increasing economic stature of the St. Joe Lead Company.

Expansion of the Company continued through the two World Wars, due to its considerable participation in armament production. From 1870 to 1943, the St. Joe Company yielded a product valued at \$300 million, and by 1936, it owned practically all of the mining property in St. Francois. 19

The mine at Bonne Terre was closed in 1962, as the ore in the area became depleted, and the Company's operations were gradually transferred to Viburnum. The Company retained its headquarters in the St. Joe Lead Company Administration Building until 1972, when that building, and most of the Company's real estate, were turned over to the town of Bonne Terre.

### Social/Humanitarian Historical Associations:

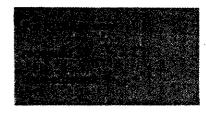
The St. Joe Lead Company played an intrinsic role in the life of Bonne Terre and St. Francois County for over a century. Although a few small log houses had been built in the area prior to its acquisition by the Company20 the town proper was settled in 1964, when miners and their families were imported to work the new operation. The first post office was organized in 1868 under the phonetic spelling "Bontear," which was later corrected when the Company took over. I For the first fifty years or so of its existance, Bonne Terre was an extension of the Company, which handled all social amenities and activities, for the benefit of its employees. A company store was established in 186522, which, unlike many such stores, sold goods at fair prices and never restricted outside competition. 23

In the late 1880's, when the Company had just begun to extract respectable profits from its operations, it expended the majority of its assets in the development of Bonne Terre. The population at the time had reached 5000, nearly all of whom were Company employees. 24 The Company built three schools; a public lecture hall, which offered free concerts; a hospital 25 clubroom and bathhouse. A free library was established in the Administration Building, and the Company provided support to several churches. The employees of the Company were so well satisfied that strikes occurred only in 1948 and 1969 times when economic recessions forced the Company to cut its labor force.

#### FOOTNOTES

Report to Stockholders, St. Joe Lead Company, April 10. 1909. Copy in Thompson Papers, Bonne Terre Library, Bonne Terre, Missouri.

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St. Joe Lead Company
Continuation sheet Administration Building

Item number 8

Page 3

- <sup>2</sup>Plans in the possession of the present owner, which may be the original working drawings for construction, indicate the additions were added in 1916.
- <sup>3</sup>Robert M. Blackwell, Bonne Terre: the First Hundred Years and More, Bonne Terre, MO: Bonne Terre Historical Society, 1982, p. 11.
- <sup>4</sup>J. Wyman Jones, <u>A History of the St. Joe Lead Company</u>, New York: May 1892, p. 5.
- <sup>5</sup>"Bonne Terre," <u>County Advertiser News</u>, Farmington, MO. July 2, 1980.
- <sup>6</sup>Jones, p. 7.
- 7<sub>Ibid</sub>.
- <sup>8</sup>Jones, p. 8.
- Goodspeed's History of Southeast Missouri, Independence, MO: BNL Library, Service, 1979, p. 206.
- 10 Henry C. Thompson, Our Lead Belt Heritage, Bonne Terre, MO: 1955, p. 116.
- <sup>1</sup>Blackwell, p. 7.
- <sup>12</sup>Jones, p. 15.
- <sup>13</sup>Ibid, p. 22.
- <sup>14</sup>Thompson, p. 129.
- <sup>15</sup>Ibid, p. 131.
- <sup>16</sup>Goodspeed, p. 207.
- <sup>17</sup>Blackwell, p. 13.
- <sup>18</sup>Ibid.,p. 23.
- <sup>19</sup>Ibid., p. 46.
- <sup>20</sup>Goodspeed, p. 206.
- <sup>21</sup>Blackwell, p. 19.
- <sup>22</sup>Ibid, p. 9.

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Southeast Missouri Regional Planning Commission, St. Joe State Park: the Economic, Social and Physical Impact of Missouri's Second Largest State Park, 1979.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>24</sup>Jones, p. 44.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>25</sup>Ibid, p. 23.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>26</sup>Blackwell, p. 25.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>27</sup>Ibid, p. 24.

### **National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form**

St. Joe Lead Company

Continuation sheet Administration Building

Item number

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Page 1

- 3. Dearing, F.H. A Historical Sketch of Bonne Terre. Bonne Terre, MO: 1933.
- 4. Goodspeed's History of Southeast Missouri. Independence, MO: BNL Library Service, 1979. Reprint of 1888 edition.
- 5. Jones, J. Wyman. A History of the St. Joe Lead Company. New York: May 1892.
- 6. Reports to the Stockholders of the St. Joe Lead Company: 1874, November 8, 1888, October 17, 1893. Copies in the Thompson Papers, Bonne Terre Library, Bonne Terre, MO.
- 7. Southeast Missouri Regional Planning Commission. St. Joe State Park: the Economic, Social and Physical Impact of Missouri's Second Largest State Park. 1979.
- 8. Thompson, Henry C. Our Lead Belt Heritage. Bonne Terre, MO: 1955.
- 9. \_\_\_\_\_. Papers. Bonne Terre Library, Bonne Terre, Missouri.

# National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

St. Joe Lead Company
Continuation sheet Administration Building

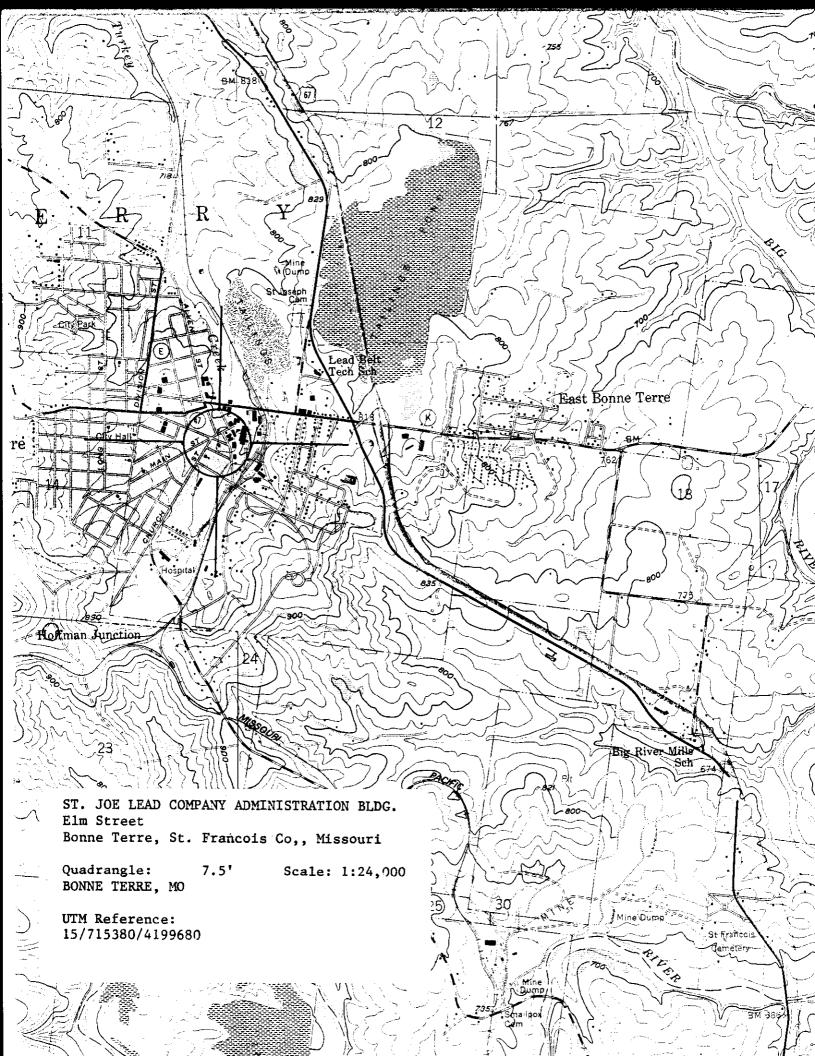
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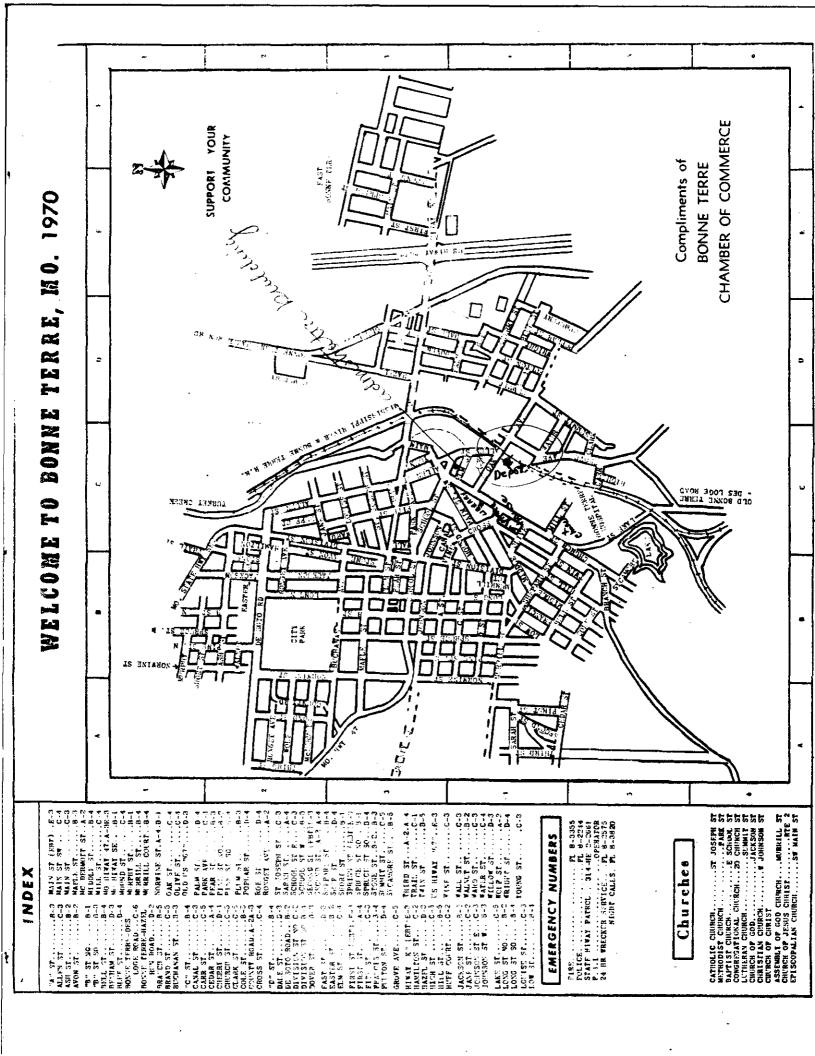


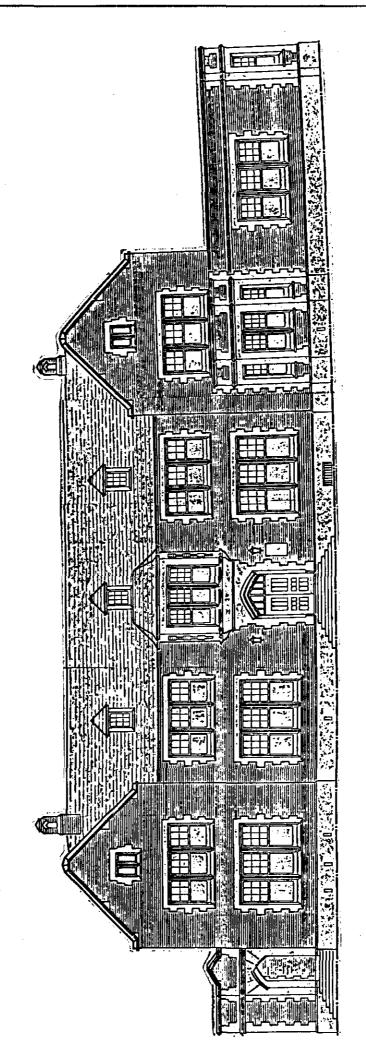
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Bonne Terre, dated the 14th day of October, 1975, being more particularly described as follows: Beginning at a point located 1613.40 feet East of and 822.91 feet South of the Northwest corner of said U.S. Survey #467, said point being at the point of intersection of the South line of Main Street and the East line of Allen Street, Town of Bonne Terre, thence South 28° 30' East 75.0 feet to the point of beginning; thence continuing South 28° 30' East aling the East side of Allen Street, 175.0 feet to a point; thence leaving Allen Street North 61° 30' East 200.0 feet to a point; thence North 34° 18' 49" West 267.15 feet to a point; thence South 42° 22' West 47.22 feet to a point on the South side of Main Street; thence along the South side of Main Street, South 61° 27' West 77.8 feet to a point; thence leaving Main Street South 28° 30' East 75 feet to a point; thence South 61° 27' West 50.0 feet to the point of beginning.

Containing 0.997 acres, more or less.

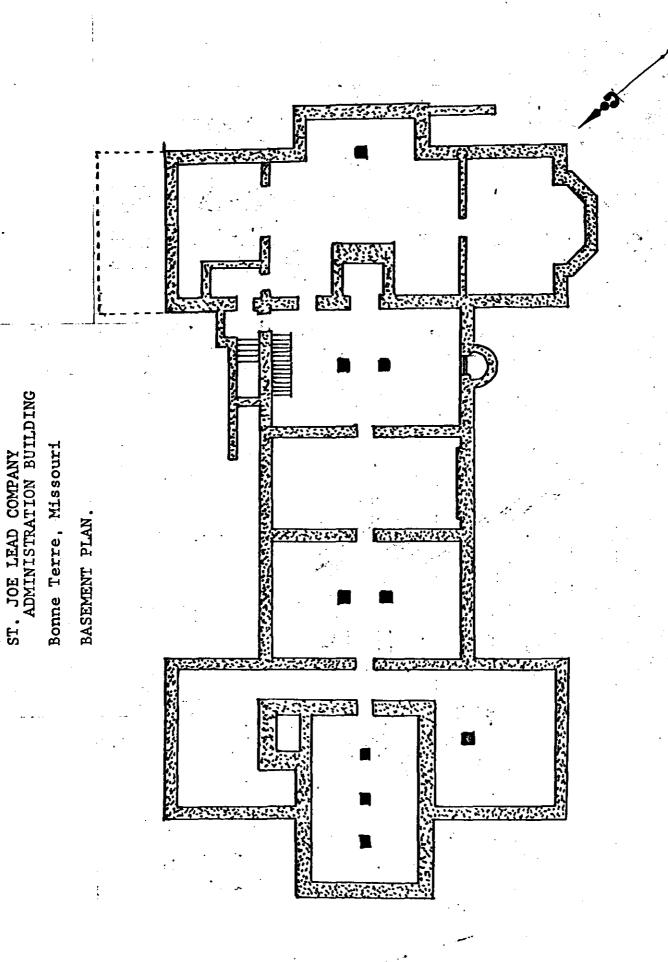


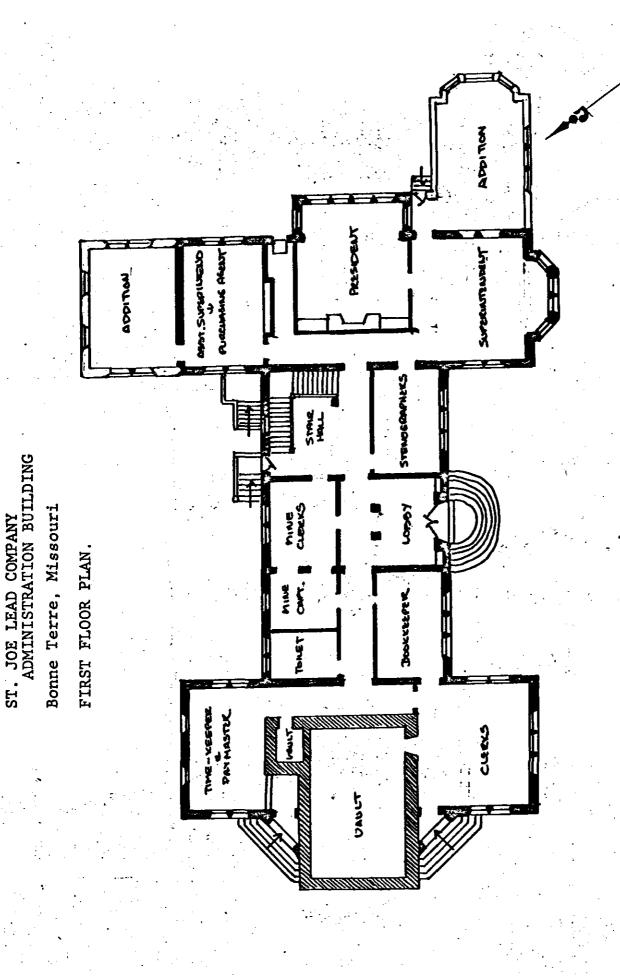


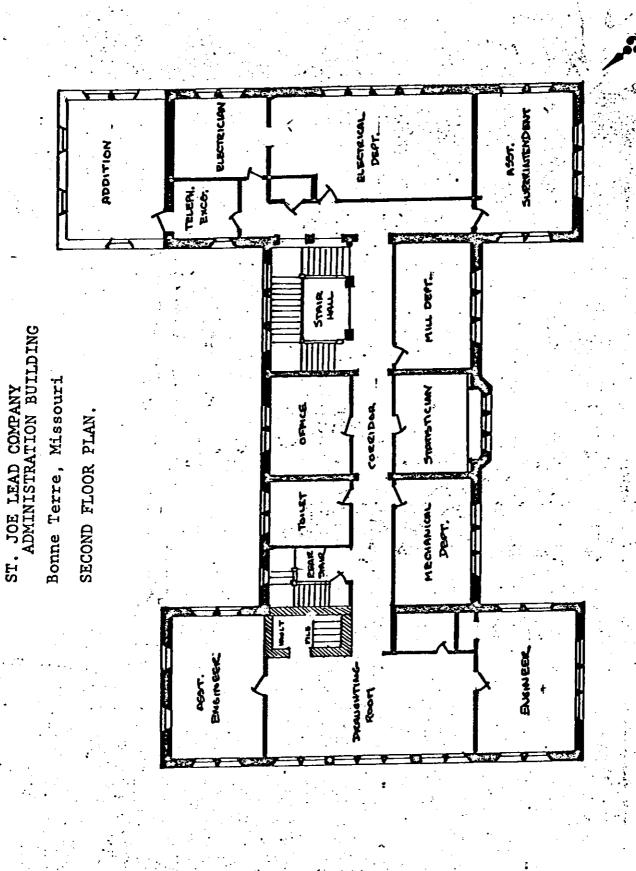


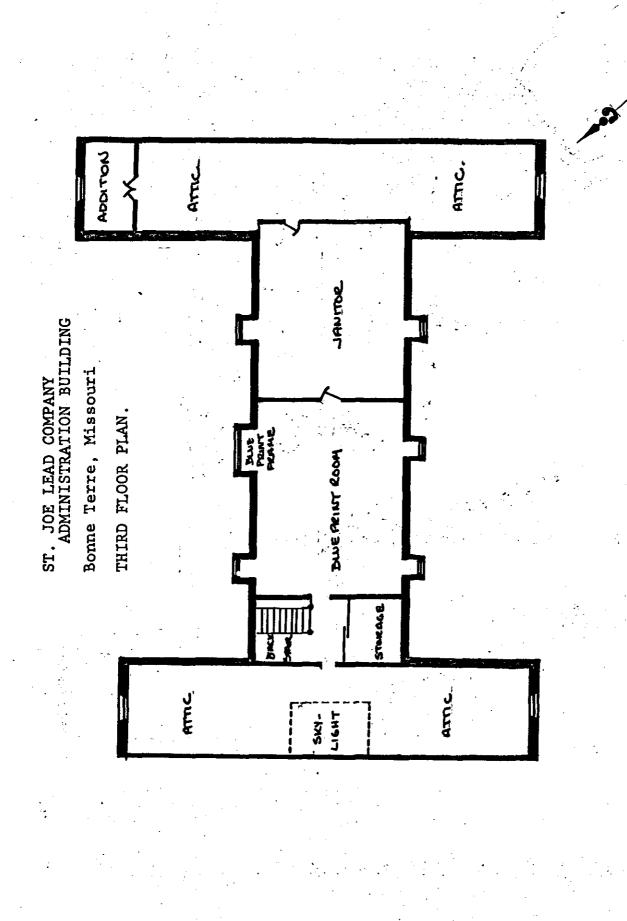
ST. JOE LEAD COMPANY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

PRIMARY ELEVATION









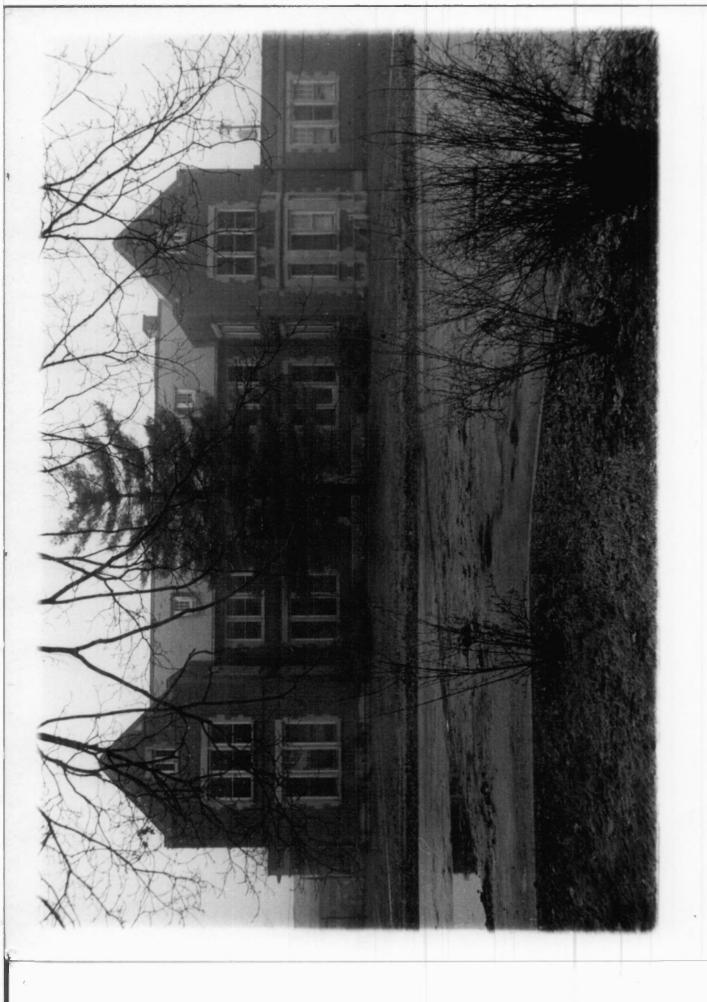
ST. JOE LEAD COMPANY

ADMINISTRATION BUILDING Elm Street, Bonne Terre Francois County, Missouri

PHOTOGRAPHER: DATE: NEG. LOC.:

Randall Cawley December 10, 1983 Rodica, Inc. 215 East Main Flat River, MO 63601

Primary facade; looking northeast.



2 of 13 ST. JOE LEAD COMPANY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING Elm Street, Bonne Terre

St. Francois County, Missouri

Randall Cawley PHOTOGRAPHER: December 10, 1903 Rodica, Inc. DATE:

NEG. LOC.: 215 East Main

Flat River, MO 63601

Detail of primary (southwest) facade; note steel bracing system.



ST. JOE LEAD COLIPANY

3 of 13

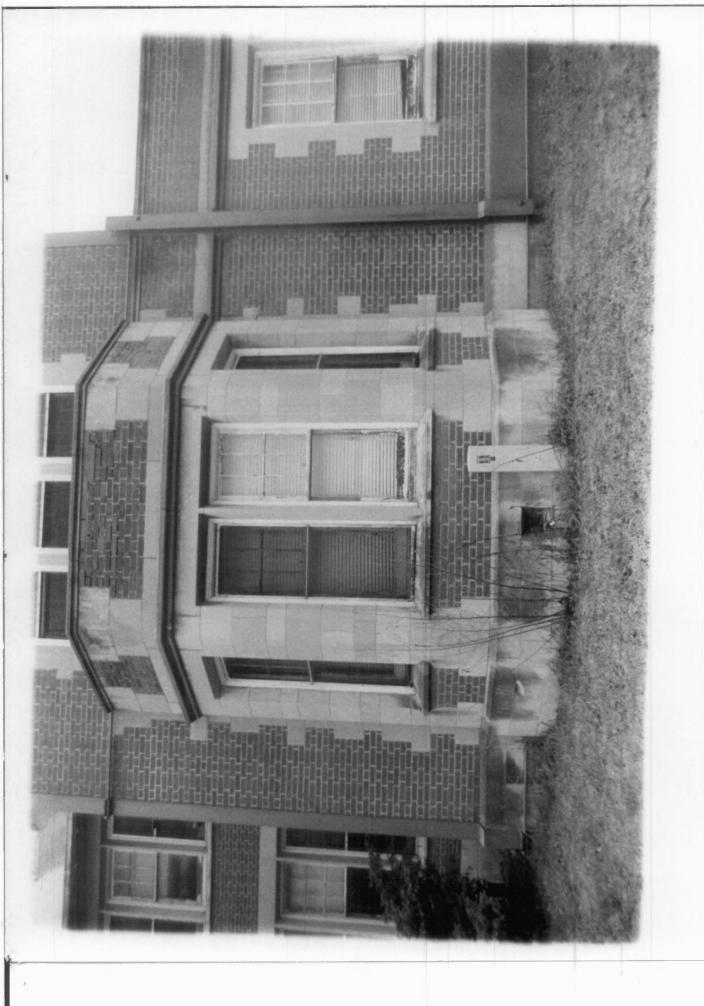
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING Elm Street, Bonne Terre St. Francois County, Missouri

PHOTOGRAPHER:

DATE: NEG. LOC.:

63601 Randall Cawley December 10, 1933 Rodica, Inc. 215 East Main Flat River, MO 63

Detail of primary (wouthwest) facade; bay window of western wing.



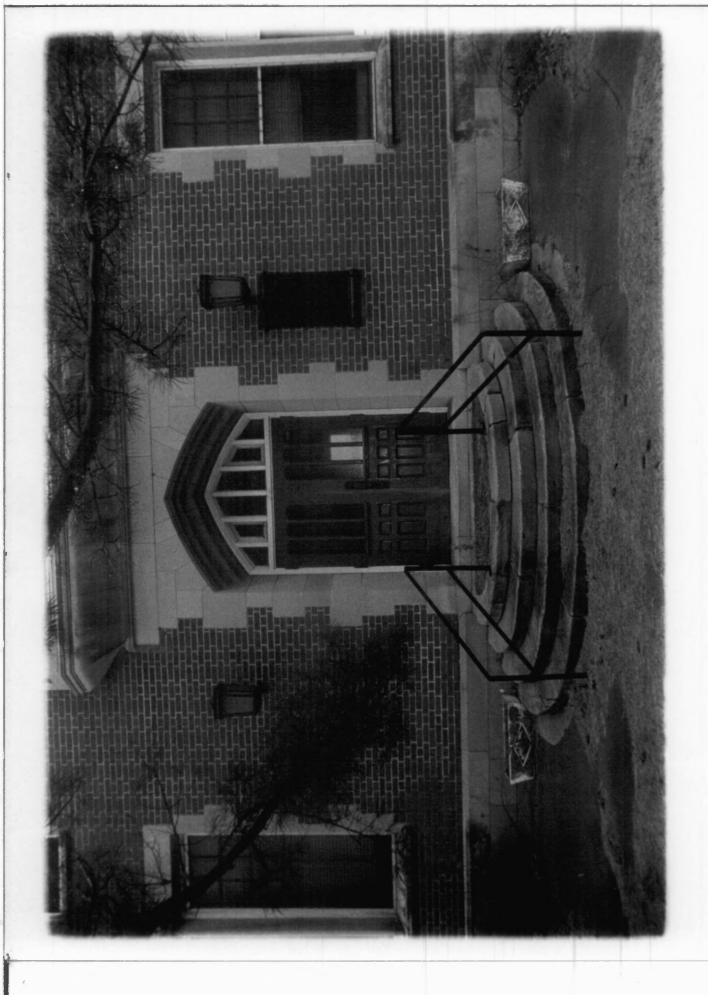
ST. JOE LEAD COMPANY
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
Elm Street, Bonne Terre
St. Francois County, Missouri

PHOTOGRAPHER:

DATE: NEG. LOC.:

Randall Cawley December 10, 1933 Rodica, Inc. 215 East Main Flat River, MO 63601

Primary entrance, southwest facade.



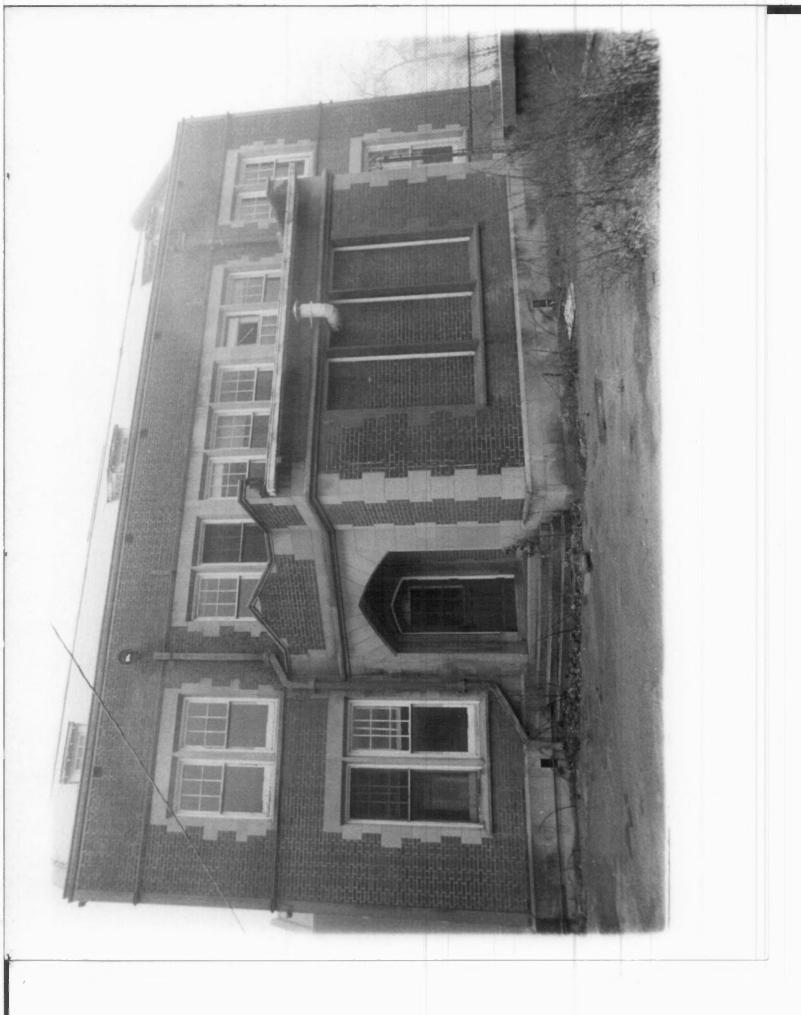
ST. JOE LEAD COMPANY
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
Elm Street, Bonne Terre
St. Francois County, Missouri

PHOTOGRAPHER:

DATE: NEG. LOC.:

Randall Cawley
December 10, 1983
Rodica, Inc.
215 East Main
Flat River, MO 63601

Northwest facade, looking east.



6 of 13 ST. JOE LEAD COMPANY
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

Elm Street, Bonne Terre St. Francois County, Missouri

PHOTOGRAPHER: DATE: NEG. LOC.:

Randall Cawley December 10, 1983 Rodica, Inc. 215 East Main Flat River, MO 63601

Northwest facade; detail of entrance.



Elm Street, Bonne Terre St. Francois County, Missouri ST. JOE LEAD COMPANY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING PHOTOGRAPHER:

DATE: NEG. LOC.:

Randall Cawley December 10, 1983 Rodica, Inc. 215 East Main Flat River, MO 63601

Southeast facade, looking north.



Randall Cawley December 10, 1983 Rodica, Inc. 215 East Main Flat River, MO 63601 ST. JOE LEAD COMPANY
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
Elm Street, Bonne Terre
St. Francois County, Missouri PHOTOGRAPHER: DATE: NEG. LOC.:

Rear (northeast) facade, main block, looling south.



ST. JOE LEAD COMPANY

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ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

Elm Street, Bonne Terre

St. Francois County, Missouri

PHOTOGRAPHER: I

Randall Cawley

DATE:

December 10, 1983

NEG. LOC.:

Rodica, Inc. 215 East Main

Flat River, MO 63601

Detail of northeast facade; projecting north wing (original).



ST. JOE LEAD COMPANY
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
Elm Street, Bonne Terre
St. Francois County, Missouri

PHOTOGRAPHER: DATE: NEG. LOC.:

Randall Cawley December 10, 1983 Rodica, Inc. 215 East Main Flat River, MO 63601

Interior view; president's office, showing fireplace and oak panelling.



ST. JOE LEAD COMPANY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

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Elm Street, Bonne Terre

St. François County, Missouri

PHOTOGRAPHER:

Randall Cawley

DATE:

December 10, 1983

NEG. LOC.:

Rodica, Inc. 215 East Main

Flat River, MO 63601

Interior view; stairwell, looking west from second floor.



ST. JOE LEAD COMPANY
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
Elm Street, Bonne Terre
St. Francois County, Missouri

PHOTOGRAPHER:

DATE: NEG. LOC.:

Randall Cawley December 10, 1983 Rodica, Inc. 215 East Main Flat River, MO 63601

Interior view, main hall, second floor, looking southeast.



13 of 13 ST. JOE LEAD COMPANY

ADMINISTRATION BUILDING Elm Street, Bonne Terre

St. Francois County, Missouri

PHOTOGRAPHER:

Randall Cawley December 10, 1983 DATE:

Rodica, Inc. 215 East Main NEG. LOC.:

Flat River, MO 63601

Interior view; third floor stairway; looking east.

