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SEEIN	NSTRUCTIONS IN HOW	TO COMPLETE NATIO	NAL REGISTER FORMS	<u> </u>
Masket 4.5 g	TYPE ALL ENTRIES			
HNAME				
HISTORIC	St. Joseph's Ror	nan Catholic Churc	th	
AND/OR COMMON	Shrine of St. Jo	oseph		
LOCATION				
STREET & NUMBER	1220 North 11th	Street (Northeas	t corner of ullthioat	Biddle)
CITY, TOWN		•	CONGRESSIONAL DISTR	ICT
CTATE	St. Louis	VICINITY OF	#1 - Hon. William	
STATE	Missouri 63105	CODE	COUNTY St. Louis City	CODE 510
CLASSIFICA				
CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRES	ENT USE
DISTRICT	PUBLIC	XOCCUPIED	AGRICULTURE	MUSEUM
XBUILDING(S)	X_PRIVATE .	UNOCCUPIED	COMMERCIAL	PARK
STRUCTURE SITE	_BOTH	WORK IN PROGRESS	EDUCATIONAL	PRIVATE RESIDENC
OBJECT	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	ENTERTAINMENT	X.RELIGIOUS
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	BEING CONSIDERED	YES: UNRESTRICTEDNO	INDUSTRIAL	TRANSPORTATION
OWNER OF	PROPERTY		MILITARY	OTHER:
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COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ET	^{c.} Office of the Re	corder of Deeds,	St. Louis City Hall	
STREET & NUMBER	Twelfth and Mark	et Streets		
CITY, TOWN			STATE	
ANY ANY	St. Louis		Missouri	63103
REPRESENT	ATION IN EXIST	ING SURVEYS		
TITLE				
	Missouri Histori	c Sites Catalogue		
DATE	1963	FEDERAL	X STATECOUNTYLOCAL	
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS	Chata Wintowin-1			
CITY, TOWN		Society of Misso	urt State	
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	Columbia		Missouri	65201

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CO	NTINUATION SHEET	ITEM NUMBER 6	PAGE]
2.	Landmarks Association of St. Lo (formerly Heritage/St. Louis 1974-1976 611 Olive Street - Suite 2187 St. Louis, Missouri 63101	uis, Inc. Survey Survey)	local
3.	Missouri State Historical Surve 1976-77 Department of Natural Resources P.O. Box 176 Jefferson City, Missouri 65101		state

DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

__DETERIORATED

CHECK ONE

CHECK ONE

LEXCELLENT
LEGOOD
XFAIR

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__UNEXPOSED

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DATE____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Roman Catholic church, the Shrine of St. Joseph, sits on the northeast corner of Eleventh and Biddle Streets, about five blocks north of the central business district in St. Louis, Missouri. The church (which has always been located at this site) has undergone a substantial enlargement, a switch in axis, and a transformation in style since it was first completed in 1846.

The original building was begun in 1844 with George Purvis, a St. Louisan, as architect. Aligned on an east-west axis with the entrance on Eleventh Street, the church was described as having "an Ionic portico supported by four fluted columns with an octagonal turret and spire of beautiful design. "4 The overall dimensions were sixty feet by one hundred and seven feet. By 1865 the structure was judged inadequate to meet the demands of an expanding congregation. The following year the axis was switched so that it ran north-south with the main entrance facing Biddle Street and the dimensions were enlarged to eighty-five feet by one hundred eighty-five feet. A Baroque facade and twin flanking towers, designed by Druiding, were added in 1881. This addition gave the church a final dimension of 112 feet by 185 feet and a seating capacity for 2400 worshippers.

Except for an elaborate facade, the exterior of St. Joseph's as it exists today is of simple design. The basic structure is brick, constructed with an inner and outer wall separated by an air space. The low-pitched gable roof, hidden at the front by the projecting facade, is of timber covered with slate tiles. Both the foundation and decorative motifs are limestone. The long brick side walls contain eight roundarch window openings articulated by flanking brick pilasters leading to limestone capitals and a shallow brick cornice.

This simple order is abandoned, however, in the design of the facade and two towers. Here the influences of exuberant Southern and Northern Baroque architecture mingle in harmonious juxtaposition. The central, recessed portion of the facade rises in elevations of composed of a main entrance, flanked by smaller side doorways, a Palladian alcove, with matching windows shapes to each side, and a curved pediment and crowning balustrades. Pairs of limestone pilasters interrupted by two limestone cornices define the vertical elements. A compound round arch entrance is recessed inside the central pair of pilasters. Announced by a shorter set of pilasters carrying a semi-circular arch, the first arch is decorated with rosettes and a monumental keystone with a cross placed in a concave oval. The opening is composed of double doors decorated with twin panels, lintel with twin pediments and small, central pilaster leading to cornice and fanlight. The focal point of the second story elevation is a limestone Palladian niche containing a statue of St. Joseph.

The twin towers rise from projecting square bays, strengthened by systems of brick corner pilasters at the first two elevations. The corner pilasters plus the continuous limestone cornices at first and second floor unify the design and heighten the rhythm. At the third elevation, the towers separate from the central façade. (The original towers were topped by curving polygonal domes and cupolas.⁸) Rounded

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corners and the strong use of limestone link the third elevation to the mass of the facade and provide the transition from sturdy rectangular to the lighter octagonal of the final elevation. The eight faces of the final elevation are divided by brick pilasters and contain narrow, arched, louvered openings. The four clocks which had been located on the original cupolas have been placed on alternating louvers of the western tower. Three hand-rung bells are also located in the western tower.

The interior of St. Joseph's is as lavishly decorated as the facade. Every plastered surface is covered with decorative paintings. Ceilings are painted with floral designs and the pendentives with various religious symbols. These designs, as all others throughout the building, are in soft, almost pastel colors set against white background. The nave and side aisles, which end flat on the exterior, terminate in semi-circular apses on the interior. The central apse is higher and deeper. It contains a monumental, architectural Baroque altar with niches for sculpture. The Altar of Answered Prayers, commissioned by a grateful congregation in thanksgiving for St. Joseph's protection during the cholera epidemic of 1867, is illuminated by an oculus hidden in the semi-dome of the apse, a typically Baroque motif.

The interior elevation consists of a nave arcade with high rounded arches supported by slender Corinthian columns of simulated marble on 4-5 foot pedestals. The nave arcade is surmounted by a cornice from which the barrel vault is pierced by a pointed clerestory with rectangular windows. The aisles rise to the height of the cornice. Each bay has a flat circular ceiling on pendentive and a low drum. The sixteen windows which light the nave are contained in each bay of the aisles. Typically mid-Victorian design with lead tracery and small literal images, the windows are commentative; none depict figures or are narrative. The colors of the glass are translucent lavenders, yellow and blues with milky white.

At the southern end of the church is a two level loft. The sweeping curve of the first level, supported on cast iron columns, cuts across the two southernmost bays of the side aisles. The second level curves convexly over half of the lower level. The upper loft contains the pipes of a valuable hand-made tracker organ produced by the St. Louis firm of Anton Pfeffer.

Other details of the church include: a handcarved pulpit and canopy in the nave, some twenty-one religious statues (excluding those in the high altar), a six foot tall carved marble baptismal font, and solid walnut pews.

St. Joseph's is structurally sound. The exterior limestone trim has weathered badly, but the brick is in very good condition. The interior walls are in need of plastering and painting as there has been some water damage in the bay ceiling of the

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side aisles. Some of the windows on the facade and tower have been broken and one of the lower panels of a long nave window has been stolen. Immediate action is required in order that the building not deteriorate further.

<u>Footnotes</u>

- 1. Rev. John Rothensteiner, <u>History of the Archdiocese of St. Louis</u>, (St. Louis: Blackewell Wielandy Co., 1928, Vol. 1), p. 569.
- 2. The Catholic Cabinet (May, 1844), as cited by: Rothensteiner, Vol. I, p. 832.
- 3. Augustin Klass, S.J., "St. Joseph's Altar of Answered Prayers", <u>The Jesuit Bulletin</u>, April, 1958. Letter, 6 July 1962, Anthony H. Corey, S.J. to Mr. Spies, Missouri Historical Review Editorial Office, Ellis Library, Columbia, Missouri.
- 4. The Catholic Cabinet, (May, 1844). The two sources cited in footnote #3 claim that the original church opened onto Eleventh Street. A drawing included among the attachments for this nomination indicates that this was the case. There is a discrepancy, however, in the description of the portico as cited in The Catholic Cabinet. If it is assumed that the picture was taken in 1865 prior to the axis shift and enlargement of the building, it would seem that Purvis' portico was removed between 1846 and 1865 although no records were found of that modification. Careful study of the photograph indicates that such a modification had occurred, as faint marks on the brick wall on either side of the doorway and above the lintel are evident.
- 5. Ibid.
- 6. Rothensteiner, Vol. II, p. 559
- 7. Notable Catholic Institutions of St. Louis & Vicinity, ed. Thornte, 1911, p. 91.
- 8. Toni Flannery, "Other Near-North Churches May Follow St. Patrick's Demolition", (St. Louis Post-Dispatch, 30 December, 1973), p. G 5.

PERIOD	AF	REAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CH	IECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW	
—PREHISTORIC —1400-1499 —1500-1599 —1600-1699 —1700-1799 —X1800-1899 —1900-	ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORICARCHEOLOGY-HISTORICAGRICULTUREXARCHITECTUREARTCOMMERCECOMMUNICATIONS	COMMUNITY PLANNING CONSERVATION ECONOMICS EDUCATION ENGINEERING EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT INDUSTRY	LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE LAW LITERATURE MILITARY MUSIC PHILOSOPHY POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	X_RELIGIONSCIENCESCULPTURE X_SOCIAL/HUMANITARIANTHEATERTRANSPORTATIONOTHER (SPECIFY)
		INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1844-1846, 1865-1866, 1881 BUILDER/ARCHITECT George Purvis

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Shrine of St. Joseph is important to St. Louis as a building of great aesthetic value and as a monument to the Jesuits and their powerful role in the history of the Archdiocese and the City of St. Louis.

Of the churches built in Baroque revival style, St. Joseph's is one of two remaining in St. Louis. Neo-Baroque, popular with the Jesuits throughout the nation during the nineteenth century, had origins in the Tridentine Catholicism of the Counter Reformation.

In the 16th and 17th centuries the Church introduced a series of reforms that stressed the parish, regular Sunday attendance at Mass, an increased number of devotional activities, the creation of lay confraternities, and so on. Revived in the mid-1800's this style of worship sunk deep roots in the urban neighborhoods of German and Irish immigrants. It was the religion of three generations of American Catholics.

The parish of St. Joseph's, established in 1845 for the German-speaking Catholics of the near north side, grew out of a small immigrant community who settled near St. Louis University and worshipped at St. Aloysius Chapel, the College Hall of the Jesuit University. These newcomers were among the first arrivals of massive waves of European immigrants who would transform a steamboat town of around 16,000 in 1840 into a cosmopolitan commercial center with a population of 160,000 by the outbreak of the Civil War.

The cornerstone of the Roman Catholic Church of St. Joseph's was set by Bishop Kenrick of St. Louis on April 14, 1844 on land donated by Anne Mullanphy Biddle, daughter of John Mullanphy and widow of Major Thomas Biddle. "...a great concourse of people, including the Hibernians, came for the cornerstone laying..."² The church was completed by a volunteer labor force made up of parishioners. On the fourth of August of 1846, Father James van de Velde, S.J., later Bishop of Chicago, dedicated the building

Immediately, the parish became the center of the community. Schools and an orphanage were established for the young and the Jesuits' turned their attention to intense missionary work. In 1846 the Bureau for German Immigration was organized by Father Hafbauer, S.J. in order to attract immigrating Germans to Missouri's Jesuit settlements. Father Seisel, S.J. served as editor of "Herald des Glaubens", St. Louis' first German Catholic paper. Three parishioners organized the parent organization of the nationally important German Roman Catholic Central Society (Katholische Central Verein) in 1854. Another school, the first St. Louis installation of the Sisters of Notre Dame, was sponsored that same year. Even the miracle which established

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St. Joseph's as a shrine was a result of the Jesuit missionary effort.

In 1864 a German immigrant named Ignatius Strecker was cured of terminal tuber-culosis after being blessed by a visiting Jesuit missionary at St. Joseph's and kissing a relic of Peter Claver, Rome's apostle to Negro missions. In 1887 the miracle, one of the two needed for the canonization of Peter Claver, was declared authentic by Cardinal Bianchi in the Vatican. St. Joseph's, the only iste of an authenticated miracle in the Archdiocese, is still in possession of the relic. News of the miracle spread quickly; the parish grew, and the original building could not hold the congregation. Soon after the 1865 decision to enlarge the church and change the entrance to Biddle Street, a severe cholera epidemic hit St. Louis.

The parish of St. Joseph's watched in distress as coffin after coffin was carried from their church-sometimes as many as twenty-five a day. . . . One Sunday morning at the height of the epidemic, Father Joseph Weber, pastor of St. Joseph's and head of its Jesuit community, called the parishioners together, and with them made a solumn vow that if St. Joseph would intercede for them, so that there were no further deaths from cholera in the parish, they would erect a suitable monument to him as a thanksgiving tribute.

The assembled group pledged an initial \$4000. None of the families present were infected and a grateful congregation commissioned Bueschers of Chicago to carve the elaborate altar known as "The Altar of Answered Prayers". The enlarged church was rededicated at services held December 30, 1866 by the remarkable missionary to the Indians, Father Pierre Jean De Smet. A splendid tracker organ was installed in the 1870's and the monumental twin-towered facade was complete by 1881.

The two decades following the miracle were to be the brief, Golden Age of the parish. The City of St. Louis, pre-occupied in a losing race with Chicago, spread rapidly to the south and west. (See: Expanding City Limits Through Urban Growth", History: Physical Growth of the City, St. Louis City Planning Commission, p. 37). New subdivisions and mass transit - first omnibus, then horse car, cable and electirc car lines - dramatically changed the residential patterns as the more prosperous left the densely-built, small scale neighborhoods of the inner city. New churches sprang up to minister to these streetcar neighborhoods of middle-class, secondgeneration Americans. Left behind in neighborhoods around St. Joseph's were the poorest of the Germans and Irish, and the "new immigration" of Poles, Jews, Italians and Blacks. By the opening of the twentieth century, industry and warehouses, pushing north from the central business district, became the view from the steps of St. Joseph's. Twelve blocks to the northwest construction was underway for the Gothic Spire of St. Liborius, a German parish first sponsored by St. Joseph's.

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Meanwhile, the Jesuits of St. Louis University became concerned about the lack of preparation of incoming students. In 1908 four Catholic college preparatory schools, jointly sponsored by the University and four parishes, were opened. St. Joseph's, one cf the parishes, could sustain the school for only ten years.

By 1944 there were only twenty families in the parish of St. Joseph's. The opening of a nearby public housing project in the 1950's gave the parish a temporary reprieve. The opening of many more public housing projects in the immediate vicinity was overpowering. In 1965 the Archdiocese of St. Louis gained control of St. Joseph's.

By the late 1960's the Archdiocese and the local Urban Renewal Authority were discussing the purchase by the Archdiocese of property within the DeSoto Carr Urban Renewal Area, commonly known as the convention center site. Three existing archdioceast churches were within the Project boundaries: St. Patrick's, a 118-year-old structure at 1207 North 6th Street, 117 year-old Our Lady Help of Christians at 9th and Carr, and St. Charles Borromeo, a turn-of-the-century building at 2916 Locust. At this writing, only St. Charles Borromeo is standing, slated for demolition with the parish to be relocated in a new convention center church to be built at 7th and Carr. The cost of the new St. Charles Borromeo, a small triangular structure seating 500, is estimated at \$1,000,000. The Shrine of St. Joseph's is located just north of the Project boundaries. Since the public announcement, in December of 1975, of an overall redevelopment plan for the northern part of the convention center site, the Archdiocese has repeatedly told the press that there are no definite plans for St. Joseph's. But rumors persist that St. Joseph's is doomed.

On June 13, 1976, the Landmarks Association of St. Louis, Inc. held its annual meeting at St. Joseph's. As a result of that meeting, the Board of Directors of Landmarks authorized a study of St. Joseph's in order to determine the cost of restoration. Recent publicity surrounding the issue has brought the history and beauty of St. Joseph's to the attention of the St. Louis area. In addition to the unique ecclesiastical significance of the church, St. Joseph is a symbol of St. Louis' most dramatic period of growth and her varied ethnic background.

The survey of Missouri's historic sites is based on the selection of sites as they relate to theme studies in Missouri history as outlined in "Missouri's State Historic Preservation Plan." St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church is, therefore, being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places as an example of the themes of "Architecture" and "Society."

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Footnotes

- 1. William H. Leckie, Jr., "Preservation: Can a Nice Old Shrine Survive the Convention Center Blitz?", (St. Louisan, August 1976), p. 60
- 2. William Barnaby Faherty, S.J., <u>Dream by the River: Two Centuries of Saint Louis Catholicism</u>, 1766-1967, (St. Louis, Missouri: Piraeus, 1973), p. 70
- 3. Dana O. Jensen, "Historic St. Joseph's" (Reprinted from <u>The Bulletin</u> of the Missour Historical Society, St. Louis, April, 1963), p. 274
- 4. "Historic St. Joseph's," p. 275
- 5. Ibid.
- 6. "Preservation: Can a Nice Old Shrine Survive the Convention Center Blitz?", p. 60
- 7. Marsha Canfield, "\$9.7 Million Convention Area Plan Likely to Win OK", (St. Louis Globe-Democrat, Dec. 17, 1975), p. la

 Atlas of the City of St. 1883 	Louis, Mi	ssouri. Phila	delphia: G.M.	Hopkins, C.E.
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- 3. Faherty, S.J., William Barnaby. <u>Dream by the River: Two Centuries of Saint Louis Catholicism</u>, 1766-1967. St. Louis: Piraeus, 1973
- 4. Klaas, S.J., Augustin. "St. Joseph's Altar of Answered Prayers", <u>The Jesuit Bulletin</u>, April, 1958
- 5. Jensen, Dana O. "Historic St. Joseph's". St. Louis: <u>The Bulletin</u> of the Missouri Historical Society, April, 1963.
- 6. Landmarks Association of St. Louis, Inc. "From Kerry Patch to Little Paderhorn". St. Louis: Landmarks Association of St. Louis, Inc., June, 1966.
- 7. Leckie, Jr., William H. "Preservation: Can a Nice Old Shrine Survive the Convention Center Blitz?" St. Louis: The St. Louisan, August, 1976.
- 8. Rothensteiner, Rev. John. <u>History of the Archdiocese of St. Louis</u>. St. Louis: Blackewell Wielandy Co., 1928

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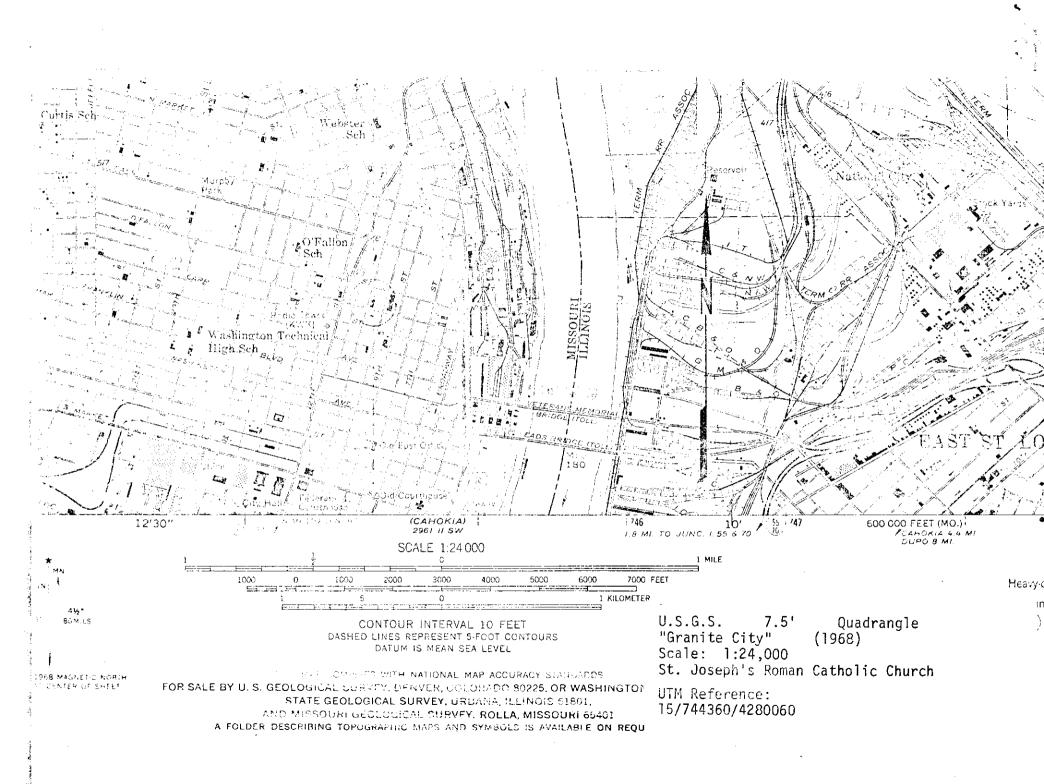
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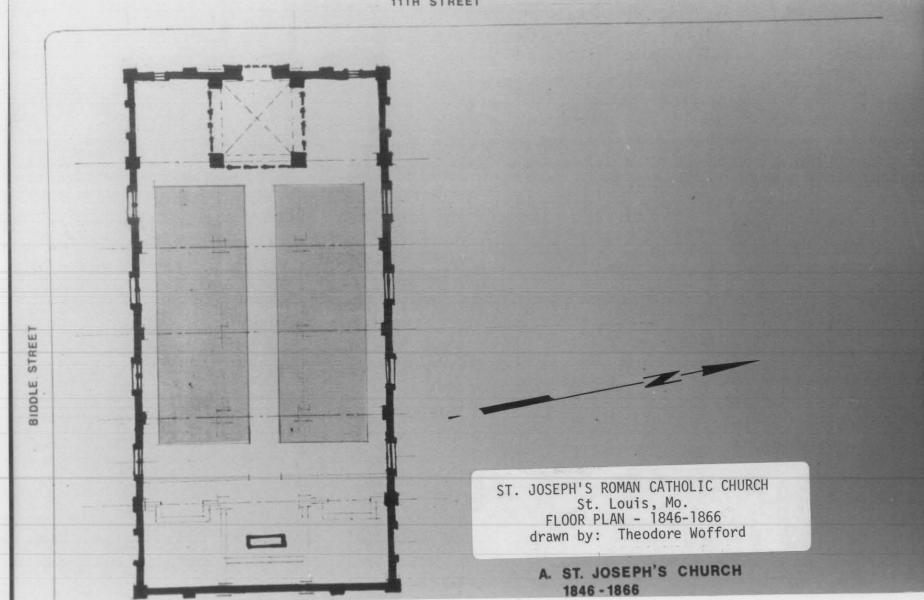
Nanette M. Linderer, Graduate Student (Dr. O.R. Overby)
 American Art and Architecture
 University of Missouri
 Columbia, Missouri

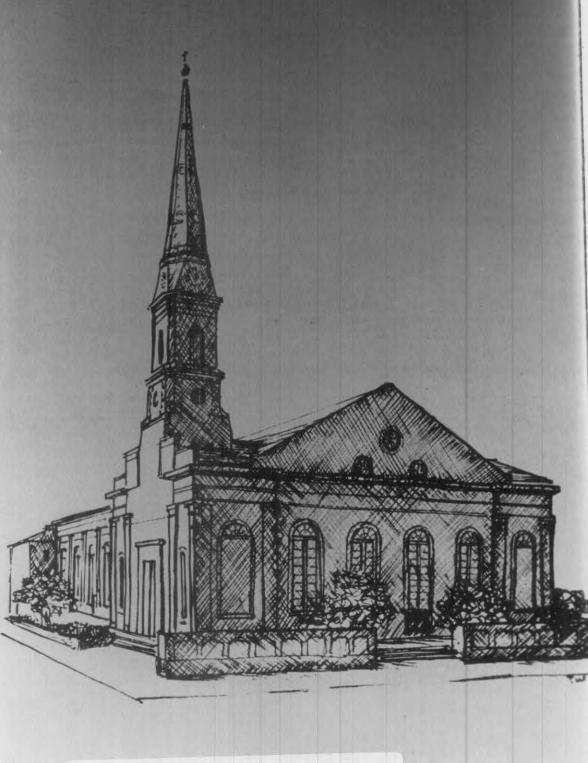




ST. JOSEPH'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH St. Louis, Mo. 1846-1866 drawn by: Theodore Wofford

A. 1846-1866





ST. JOSEPH'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH St. Louis, Mo. 1866-1880 drawn by: Theodore Wofford

B. 1866-1880



ST. JOSEPH'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH St. Louis, Mo. 1880-1954 drawn by: Theodore Wofford

C. 1880 - 1954

1881 - PRESENT

Photo Log:

Name of Property: City or Vicinity:		St. Joseph Roman Catholic Church St. Louis [Independent City]				
Photographer:		Frederick Breme				
Date Photographed:		Feb. 1977				

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

- 1 of 8. S-SW (primary) façade, view looking N-NE.
- 2 of 8. SE corner, view looking NW with the S-SW (primary) façade on the left and the E-SE façade on the right. The SE tower is in the foreground.
- 3 of 8. W-NW façade, view looking NE. The parish house is at the far left.
- 4 of 8. NE corner, view looking SW with the E-SE façade on the left and the N-NE (rear) façade on the right. A portion of the rear façade of the parish house is at the far right.
- 5 of 8. Detail of the E-SE façade, view looking W-NW.
- 6 of 8. Detail of SE tower, view looking N-NE. The degree of the church's deterioration is evident in the stone portions of the tower.
- 7 of 8. Interior view of sanctuary, view looking towards the apse (N-NE).
- 8 of 8. Detail of central apse.















