

**1. NAME**  
 HISTORIC St. Joseph City Hall  
 AND/OR COMMON

**2. LOCATION**  
 STREET & NUMBER Frederick at 11th Street  
 CITY, TOWN St. Joseph VICINITY OF  
 STATE Mo. CODE 29 COUNTY Buchanan CODE 021

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input 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	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" 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 City of St. Joseph  
 STREET & NUMBER  
 CITY, TOWN St. Joseph VICINITY OF STATE Mo.

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**  
 Buchanan County Recorder's Office  
 County Courthouse  
 St. Joseph, Mo.

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**  
 TITLE Missouri State Historical Survey, 1981  
 DETERMINED ELIGIBLE? YES  NO  FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY

**7. DESCRIPTION**

CONDITION	CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> moved
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed	date
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	
	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	

**8. DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**  
 St. Joseph City Hall is a monumental public building, constructed in 1926-1927, in an Italian Renaissance revival style. The south-(primary) facade faces the Civic Center park, which was created as a part of George Burnap's master plan for the park and boulevard system of the city. Additional buildings and soldiers' memorials were planned for the park, but never completed, due to the economic crash of 1929. The City Hall building is of stone and concrete construction with concrete balustraded loggia on the south (primary) facade and the east and west sides and a concrete balustrade above the second floor level. The third floor's smaller in area than the lower floors and is surmounted by a decorative tile roof. Doorways on the main floor and window openings on the second floor have round arches. Paired Ionic columns flanking the second-story windows on the east and west wings suggest the influence of the Ecole des Beaux Arts. The north facade, which faces Frederick Avenue, is nearly identical to the south facade, but lacks the second-story loggia. Door openings on the north facade are flat rather than arched. The overall impression of the building is one of grandeur, symmetry, and restraint, with strong horizontal lines reinforced by the use of coursed stone, strong belt courses and cornices, but softened by the balustrades and the hipped tile roof above the third story.

(See Photographs #19, #20, and #21.)

**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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" 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)

**PCEPIC DATES** 1926-27 **BUILDER/ARCHITECT** Eckel and Aldrich, George Burnap, and Jacques Greber, Architects

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (IN ONE PARAGRAPH)**  
 The Saint Joseph City Hall is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places according to the criteria under definitions A and C, to wit: It is a symbol of Saint Joseph's golden age of prosperity, which ended abruptly in the 1930's, just after the completion of this grand public building; a monumental building in a Renaissance revival style, the Saint Joseph City Hall, is the work of master architects and possesses high artistic values in its form and details. The building is significant in the general areas of commerce and architecture.  
**Commerce:** The grandiose plans for this building and the surrounding civic center park were the culmination of an era of stunning prosperity, which began in the 1870's and ended in the 1930's. Like other buildings on Frederick Avenue, the City Hall is a memorial to St. Joseph's boom years and, indirectly, to the difficult economic times that followed the crash of 1929. **Architecture:** The design of the building resulted from a collaboration among several master architects, including George Burnap, Jacques Greber, and the firm of Eckel and Aldrich. Its strict classical symmetry, second-story loggia, engaged columns, balustrades, arched window and door openings are features that give it great architectural significance. It is by far the most grandiose building on Frederick Avenue and one of the grandest in the City of Saint Joseph.

**MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

- St. Joseph Landmarks 1978, p. 29.
- Bryan, John A., Mo.'s Contribution to American Architecture, 1928, p. 274.

**G. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

**CREASE OF PROPERTY** \* **QUADRANGLE NAME** St. Joseph North **SCALE**

**TM REFERENCES** \*less than one acre.

<b>A</b>	1 5	3 4 1 8 16 10	4 14 0 13 4 17 10	<b>B</b>			
	<b>ZONE</b>	<b>EASTING</b>	<b>NORTHING</b>		<b>ZONE</b>	<b>EASTING</b>	<b>NORTHING</b>
<b>C</b>				<b>D</b>			

**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION AND JUSTIFICATION** All of blocks 39, 51, 52; the east 1/2 of block 40 and west 1/2 of block 53, all in Smith's Addition.

**I. FORM PREPARED BY**

... Cultural Resource Preservationist I and Nancy Sandenn

**Photo Log:**

Name of Property: **St. Joseph City Hall**

City or Vicinity: **St. Joseph**

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

Photographer: **Bonnie Wright**

Date

Photographed: **Jun. 1985**

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

1 of 3. Historic photograph from John A. Bryan, Missouri's Contribution to American Architecture, p. 274.

2 of 3. View of S (primary) façade.

3 of 3. View of N façade and E side.







