

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 Thompson - Brown - Sandusky House

and/or common Jess Marriott House

2. Location

street & number 207 E. Cliff \_\_\_\_\_ not for publication

city, town St. Joseph \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of Missouri 6th, Hon. Thomas

state Missouri \_\_\_\_\_ code 029 \_\_\_\_\_ county Buchanan \_\_\_\_\_ code 021

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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
			<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Marriott

street & number 207 E. Cliff

city, town St. Joseph \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ state Missouri 64501

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Recorder of Deeds, Buchanan County Courthouse

street & number 5th and Jule

city, town St. Joseph \_\_\_\_\_ state Missouri 64501

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title St. Joseph landmarks has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

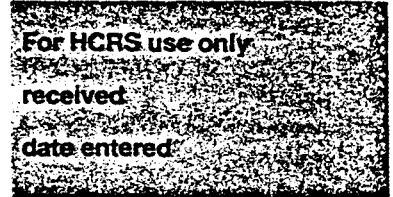
date 1971 \_\_\_\_\_ federal \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ county  local

depository for survey records St. Joseph Landmarks Commission, City Hall

city, town St. Joseph \_\_\_\_\_ state Missouri 64501

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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



THOMPSON-BROWN - SANDUSKY HOUSE  
Continuation sheet

Item number 6

Page 1

St. Joseph Landmark: A record.  
1978

St. Joseph Landmarks Commission, City Hall  
St. Joseph Missouri 64501

# 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<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
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date _____

## Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

This one and a half story red brick Federal Style house is of exceptional architectural detail for its construction date circa 1850. The date of construction, its location and style of architecture is early for Buchanan County, Missouri.

The west gable end of the one and a half story main block forms the central third of the west facade and is flanked symmetrically by one-story twin wings having their gable ends perpendicular to that of the central section. There is a one-story porch on the west facade of the central section. This porch is not original but was added at the turn of the century. The columns have Doric capitals and sit on rectangular bases.

The atypical plan has no center hall and originally no interior stairway for access to the second floor. The three main facade rooms are of about equal size across the front of the house measuring sixteen and one-half (16.5) feet including walls in width by nineteen (19) feet deep for the center portion and fourteen (14) feet deep in the two twin wings. This measurement fits the early frontier practice of measuring rooms in rods rather than feet and inches. The ceilings are eight (8) foot ten (10) inches.

The three rooms (kitchen, dining room and utility room) on the rear of the house forms the long side of the ell plan of the house. These rooms have been reconstructed by the present owners and in the process an interior stairway was installed. One of the original beams of the first frame structure forms a decorative accent between the kitchen and dining room. The upstairs bedroom plank door was salvaged from the basement. The basement is located beneath the center section of the rooms on the west facade. It is reached by a limestone staircase and the walls and floor are of limestone. There is evidence this area was once used for storage of produce raised on the farm.

The original mill work was changed by Henry Brown and the present owner restored the fireplace mantles and clothes press in the north bedroom. The renovation and restoration by the present owners has been carried out with the intent of returning the home to its original condition whenever possible, but making it a comfortable home to live in during the present decade. The house is in excellent condition with fresh plaster, paint and restored fire boxes in the fireplace.

# 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/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

**Specific dates** Circa 1850      **Builder/Architect** William N. Thompson

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

The Thompson-Brown-Sandusky House is significant under criteria B and C to wit: it is early local example of a brick Federal Style house with an atypical plan; it is also associated with William N. Thompson, an early settler of Buchanan County and Frances M. Sandusky, a locally renowned educator and philanthropist.

Following the Platte Purchase in 1837, settlement of this new fertile triangle of Missouri was rapid. Pioneers from east of the Mississippi, who had settled in the original portion of Missouri, pulled up stakes and ventured west.

The first settler in the Southwest quarter (¼) of Section Thirty-two (32), Township Fifty-eight (58), Range Thirty-five (35) of Buchanan County was, apparently Claiborne Palmer (Parmer) who came from Ray County in 1838 and was appointed one of the Township allotting Justices in 1840.<sup>1</sup> Palmer's farmstead and fields are annotated on the early surveyors map of Buchanan County, an 1855 copy of which is on file at the City of St. Joseph Engineering Department. Palmer was probably one of the "sod-busters" who came to areas early and then moved on, since he is shown in the 1850 census as an occupant of Holt County.

In 1842, William N. Thompson arrived in Buchanan County from Callaway County, Missouri.<sup>2</sup> Perhaps Palmer had already moved north and west and the Thompson family settled on his land. This can only be conjecture, since the patents to the land are in Thompson's name.

Thompson was a native of Kentucky, born circa 1798. Sometime around 1820, he emigrated from his native state to Missouri. His move to Missouri can be authenticated by the fact that all of his children were born in Missouri, the eldest David, being shown as age 30 in the 1850 census. The family of two adults, seven children and a household slave and her two children first lived in a log cabin which was to the east of the brick section of the house being nominated. The cabin is shown in photographs (number five) included with the nomination. Exactly when Thompson constructed his home is not known, but the assumption is the early 1850's. On January 3, 1860, Thompson died, leaving his widow and two unmarried daughters one-hundred twenty (120) acres of land which included "the homeplace". At the time of his death, Thompson was the owner of the Southeast quarter (¼) of Section thirty-one (31), thirty-two (32) acres in the Southwest quarter (¼) of Section thirty-one (31) and the Southwest quarter (¼) of Section thirty-two (32) all in Township fifty-seven (57) Range Thirty-five (35) as well as one-hundred seventy-five (175) acres in Section Nine (9) and ten (10) and thirty-two (32) acres in Section Thirty-six (36) all in Township fifty-six (56) Range thirty-six (36).<sup>3</sup>

On January 7, 1864, Mrs. Thompson and the two daughters, who by this time were both married, sold "the homeplace" of 120 acres to Andrew M. Brown. On the same date, John and Harriet Thompson Gillespie sold an adjoining 50 acres to Brown.<sup>4</sup>



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

For HCRS use only

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Continuation sheet THOMPSON - BROWN - SANDUSKY HOUSE Item number 8

Page 1

Andrew M. Brown was the son of William Smith Brown who was born in 1790 in Pennsylvania. By 1811, William Smith Brown had emigrated to Bath County, Kentucky where his eldest son, Alexander, was born. In 1823, the Brown family was increased by the birth of twin sons, William Washington and James Jackson. In 1826, or 1827, W. S. Brown moved to Decatur County, Indiana where in 1838 another son, Andrew was born. In the fall of 1839, Brown brought his family to Buchanan County where he pre-empted a quarter section of land on Sugar Creed. Sometime after settling in Missouri, Brown's first wife died and he married Martha Eastborn of Platte County in 1849. By this marriage Brown had two more sons.<sup>5</sup>

In August of 1864, Andrew Brown sold 160 acres of land to his elder brother William Washington. Interestingly enough the 160 acres is a different plot from that purchased by Andrew. Included is the north half ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ) of the Southwest quarter ( $\frac{1}{4}$ ) of Section Thirty-two (32) and the Northeast quarter ( $\frac{1}{4}$ ) of the Southeast quarter ( $\frac{1}{4}$ ) of Section thirty-one (31) which were involved in the 1864 sale and the Northwest quarter ( $\frac{1}{4}$ ) of the Southeast quarter ( $\frac{1}{4}$ ) of Section Thirty-one (31), which was disposed of under provisions of William Thompson's will. The parcel does not include the land sold to Andrew by John and his wife.<sup>6</sup> In 1859, Andrew Brown had married Julia Kendley, only daughter of Mary J. Kendley a widow with extensive land holdings. Since the A. M. Browns always lived in Bloomington Township it appears that this land transaction was speculative on his part. W. W. Brown married Mary Ellen Martin of Bloomington Township in 1852. During the 1860's, before purchasing this land and home, Brown died, leaving his home and land to his widow and children, Fannie, Bell, Walter, Florence, Ollie and Hallie. To his son, Henry T. "who is crippled"<sup>7</sup> he left \$900. Henry became a carpenter and developed a local reputation as a master woodworker. In May 1893, after the death of Mary Ellen Brown, Walter and his sisters sold 9 acres including the house to Henry.<sup>8</sup> The alteration of interior millwork in the house probably was done while Henry was the owner.

Less than a year after he had purchased the house, Henry sold it to his brother Walter and Bertie his wife. In turn they sold the 9 acres to Florence Brown English and her husband William in 1901. In October of 1901, the Browns and the English's platted the land from King Hill to Belding and approximately 350 feet on either side of Cliff as Cedar Springs addition to the City of St. Joseph.<sup>9</sup>

On December 8, 1904, the house was purchased by Frances M. Sandusky, the wife of Harmon W. Sandusky, thus concluding 40 years of ownership by the Brown Family. Mrs. Sandusky, born 1876, was a native of Troy Mills, Iowa. She grew up in Leavenworth, Kansas and at the age of 18 began teaching school in Marysville, Montana. In less than two years she was principal of the school. In 1902, she married Sandusky who was a widower with two children. His daughter, Ada lived at the Cliff Street residence until her death in 1966. Sandusky, who was listed in several City Directories as a farmer died in 1932. In 1928, Mrs. Sandusky was Secretary of the St. Joseph Travelers Aid Society and in April of that year was one of the first of two women elected to the St. Joseph School Board. Mrs. Sandusky served as both vice-president and president of the School Board before retiring from it in 1934. She was appointed to the Missouri State Social Security Commission by Governor Guy B. Park. In the late 1930's and early 1940's she was a member of the Buchanan County Welfare Commission as well as several other

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THOMPSON - BROWN - SANDUSKY HOUSE

Continuation sheet

Item number

8

Page 2

boards and commissions in the city and county. She was a life member of the YMCA, serving on the Board beginning in 1939 and as President from 1945 to 1948. She died in 1969 at the age of 93.<sup>10</sup> The Sandusky's elder daughter, Gertrude reitred from a business career and returned to St. Joseph, living at the Cliff Street home until her death in 1971. In 1971, the current owners purchased the home from the Sandusky estate and have systematically renovated and restored this frontier residence.

The survey of Missouri's Historic sites is based on the selection of sites as they relate to theme studies in Missouri's Hisotry as outlined in "Missouri State Historic Preservation Plan." The Thompson, Brown, Sandusky Home, therefore, is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places as an example of the themes of "Architecture" and Exploration and Settlement."

Footnotes:

<sup>1</sup>Williams Birdsall & Co., Ed. History of Buchanan County, Missouri. (St. Joseph Mo.: St. Joseph Steam Printing Co., 1881) 1973 reprint p. 136.

<sup>2</sup>St. Joseph Gazette. St. Joseph Mo.: The New Gazette Co., 216-18 S. 6th, obituary of Spencer P. Thompson, May 3, 1907. p.5.

<sup>3</sup>Will of William N. Thompson as included in Abstract of title of Property, in possession of Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Marriott.

<sup>4</sup>Abstract of Title of property in the possession of Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Marriott.

<sup>5</sup>Family genealogical information as compiled by family member, in the possession of Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Marriott.

<sup>6</sup>Abstract of title. op. cit.

<sup>7</sup>Ibid.

<sup>8</sup>Ibid.

<sup>9</sup>Ibid.

<sup>10</sup>St. Joseph Gazette. St. Joseph, Mo., The News Press Publishing Co., 9th and Edmond, obituary of Mrs. Sandusky, August 20, 1969. p. 2A.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Abstract to the Thompson - Brown - Sanduſky House.

Family genealogical information as compiled by family member, in the possession of Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Marriott.

History of Buchanan County, Missouri. St. Joseph, Mo.: St. Joe. Steam Printing Co., 1973

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name St. Joseph South

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A 

115	3410	51410	413	916	91310
Zone	Easting		Northing		

B 

Zone	Easting		Northing		

C 


D 


E 


F 


G 


H 


Verbal boundary description and justification

Part of Let Three (3) Block One (1) of the Cedar Springs addition to the City of St. Joseph. Beginning on the North line of East Cliff Street Seventy (70) feet East of the East line of Morris for the point of beginning, thence North One-hundred thirty

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 1) Nancy Sandehn, Research Assistant

organization Northwest Missouri Historic Survey date April 20, 1981

street & number Box 43 telephone 816/279-3558

city or town St. Joseph state Missouri 64468

# 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

Director, Department of Natural Resources and  
title State Historic Preservation Officer date

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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  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

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Continuation sheet THOMPSON - BROWN - SANDUSKY HOUSE  
Item number 9

Page 1

St. Joseph Gazette. St. Joseph, Mo.: The New Gazette, Co., May 3, 1907.

St. Joseph Gazette. St. Joseph, Mo.: The News Press Publishing Co., August 20, 1969.

U.S. Bureau of the Census. Sixth Census of the United States: 1840. Manuscript,  
Buchanan County.

U.S. Bureau of the Census. Seventh Census of the United States: 1850. Manuscript.  
Buchanan County.

U.S. Bureau of the Census. Eighth Census of the United States: 1860. Manuscript.  
Buchanan County.

U.S. Bureau of the Census. Ninth Census of the United States: 1870. Manuscript.  
Buchanan County.

U.S. Bureau of the Census. Tenth Census of the United States: 1880. Manuscript.  
Buchanan County.

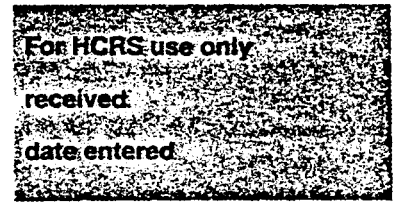
U.S. Bureau of the Census. Eleventh Census of the United States: 1890. Manuscript.  
Buchanan County.

U.S. Bureau of the Census. Twelfth Census of the United States: 1900. Manuscript.  
Buchanan County.

U.S. Bureau of the Census. Seventh Census of the United States: 1850. Manuscript.  
Holt County.

United States Department of the Interior  
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National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

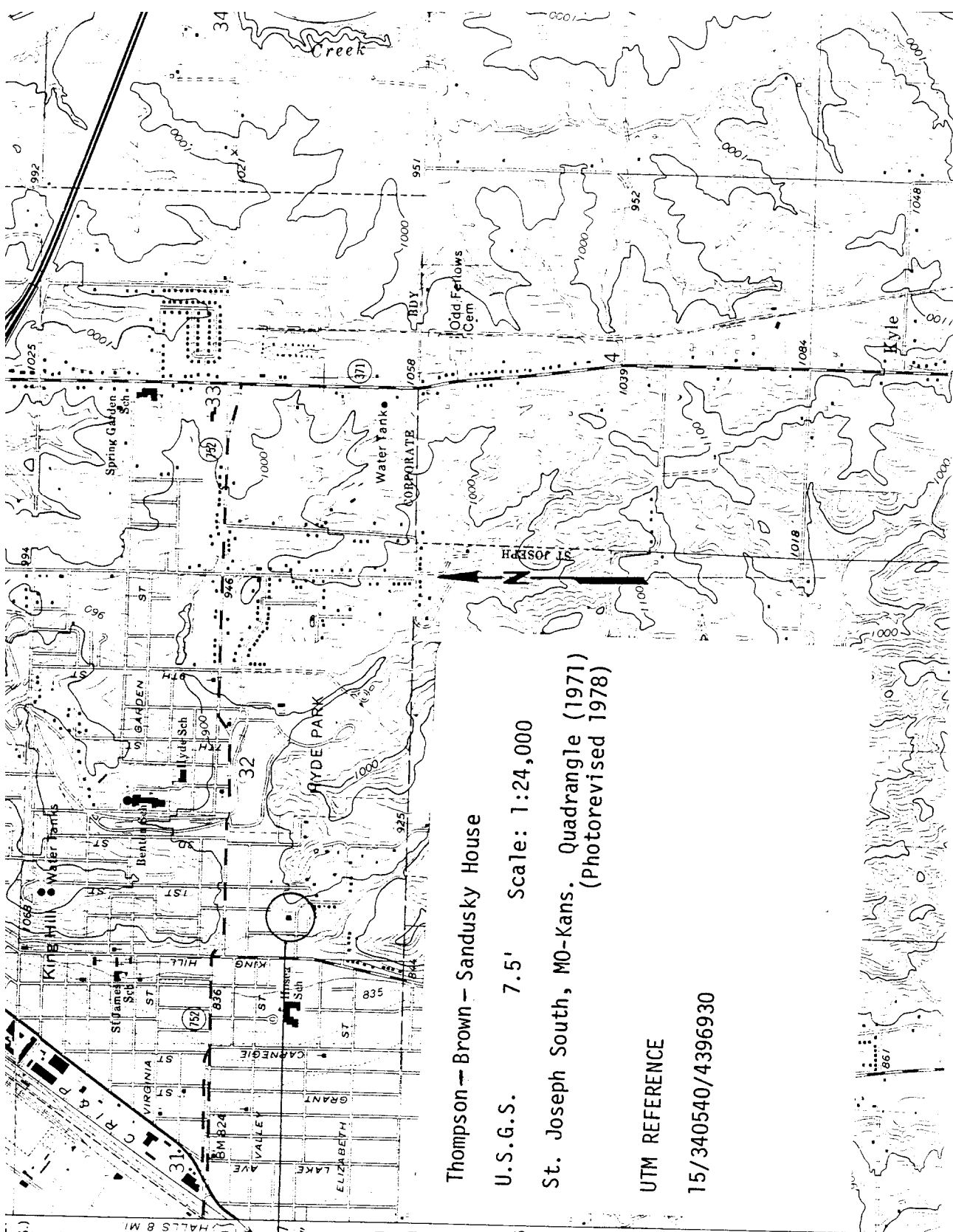


Continuation sheet THOMPSON - BROWN - SANDUSKY HOUSE Item number 10 Page 1

eight point sixty-four (138.64) feet; thence East Seventy-three (73) feet; thence continuing East Sixty-six point forty-six (66.46) feet; thence South One-hundred thirty-eight point sixty-four (138.64) feet mostly to the North line of East Cliff Street; thence West one-hundred thirty-nine point forty-six (139.46) feet to the point of beginning all within the Southwest quarter (¼) of Section Thirty-two (32), Township Fifty-eight (58), Range Thirty-five in Buchanan County, Missouri.

Continuation Sheet Item number 11 Page 1

- 2) Thomas W. Carneal, Associate Professor  
Northwest Missouri State University  
306 Colden Hall  
Maryville  
April 20, 1981  
816/582-7141 ext. 1289  
Missouri 64468
  
- 3) James M. Denny, Section Chief, Nominations-Survey  
and State Contact Person  
Department of Natural Resources  
Historic Preservation Program  
P.O. Box 176  
Jefferson City,  
April 20, 1981  
314/751-4096  
Missouri 65102



Thompson - Brown - Sandusky House

U.S.G.S. 7.5' Scale: 1:24,000

St. Joseph South, MO-Kans. Quadrangle (1971)  
(Photorevised 1978)

UTM REFERENCE

15/340540/4396930

**Photo Log:**

Name of Property: **Thompson-Brown-Sandusky House**

City or Vicinity: **St. Joseph**

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

Photographer: **Tom Carneal**

Date Photographed: **Mar. 1981**

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

- 1 of 14. W.
- 2 of 14. N.
- 3 of 14. S.
- 4 of 14. NE.
- 5 of 14. SW, photo taken by unknown, circa 1870.
- 6 of 14. W, photo taken by unknown, circa 1900.
- 7 of 14. Interior, living room fireplace.
- 8 of 14. Interior, S front room fireplace.
- 9 of 14. Interior, N bedroom fireplace.
- 10 of 14. Interior, kitchen fireplace.
- 11 of 14. Interior, original beams, kitchen.
- 12 of 14. Interior, plank door, 2<sup>nd</sup> FL.
- 13 of 14. Interior, window casing, S front room.
- 14 of 14. Interior, basement steps.







