

Missouri Preservation Honor Awards

St. Joseph, Missouri

The Reilly Family







Porch Parties On Museum Hill

Summer of 2018

The third Sunday of the month:

May 20th, June 17th, July 15th

From 1 pm to 4 pm.

Anyone who agrees to host one of these events will be asked to open their porch for three hours on a Sunday afternoon. The event will be posted on the Museum Hill Neighborhood Facebook page and website and members and friends of Museum Hill will be asked to get out and visit their neighbors. Hosts may provide water and cookies, but are not required to do anything other than open their hearts and porches for three hours.

This event is free and friendly. Share your historic house history. We hope you join us!

To sign up, please call 262-9853.

Photo credit to Brenda Reilly



















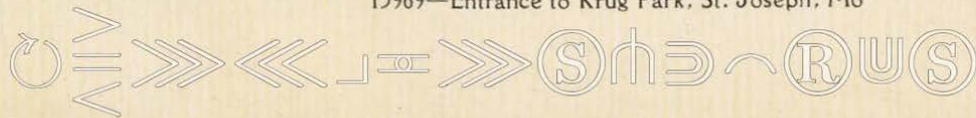


The Reeves Family



SOUVENIR POST CARD CO. N.Y.

15969—Entrance to Krug Park, St. Joseph, Mo







The home of Henry, Jr., and Selma Krug, circa 1890.





















Cole Woodbury



Horn's Antiques has new owners

By **BURTON TAYLOR**
burtont@npgco.com
St. Joseph News-Press

The sale of Horn's Antiques was made between friends Bryan Horn and Cole Woodbury, who renamed the store Felix St. Antique Exchange.

Ownership of the antique mall was finalized Feb. 1, and soon after, Mr. Woodbury and his wife, Ingrid, began business.

The store's merchandise will remain, but the new owners are planning future changes.

"We're trying to just come in and do something to make it look a little different for people that come here," Mr. Woodbury said. "The changes will take a little time."

Mr. Woodbury has been involved and interested in antiques for quite some time but is also incorporating e-business into his antique mall.

As owner of e-Sale Internet Auction Service, Mr. Woodbury will operate his second business from the same building, giving his clients an opportunity to sell antiques online.

"It'll be a good marriage between the two," Mr. Woodbury said.

Horn left the business as is, providing his friend a list of clients who rent space in the mall to sell antiques, Mr. Woodbury said.

"It's a huge advantage because most of the dealers that were already here have chosen to stay," Mr. Woodbury said.

Lola Schenk, longtime customer of the shop, said she hadn't even noticed the ownership had changed hands.

"I'd say I've been shopping here at least 10 years," she said. "I can always find something that I'm looking for in here."

The antique store is located at 502 Felix St. For more information, call 364-3717.

Savannah grocery stores

The Savannah, Mo., grocery business has been through some changes in recent months.

The Thomas Market was sold in November to Ray Heitman and his sons to become a new Green Hills IGA. Company employees and owners celebrated the store's renovations with a grand opening Sunday.

The store is located at 205 W. Main St. For more information,



BURTON TAYLOR/ST. Joseph News-Press

Ingrid and Cole Woodbury, owners of Felix St. Antique Exchange, stand in front of a display case of new collectibles for sale. The Woodburys recently purchased the business from Bryan Horn, former owner of Horn's Antiques.

call (816) 324-3178.

In the same neck of the woods, Garrett Enterprises recently purchased Swanson's Harvest Station, renaming the grocery store Savannah Foods.

Don Strahm, Garrett Enterprises human resources director, said the owners would add 14,000 square feet of space to its current 24,000 square feet.

Savannah Foods is located at 402 E. Price Ave. For more information, call (816) 324-3181.

Boudreauxs Louisiana Seafood & Steaks

Robert Boudreau, a Louisiana native, will introduce St. Joseph to Cajun-style cooking.

Although he has not yet

opened the doors to Boudreauxs Louisiana Seafood and Steaks, Mr. Boudreau said customers will not have to wait much longer.

"When I'm ready, I'll be the first one to open the doors and welcome you in," he said.

The store, located at 224 N. Fourth St., should be open by the end of the month.

City declares support for building preservation

As part of the city's preservation activities in May, St. Joseph Preservation Inc. hosted a social/educational gathering at the Fountains at Corby Place on Thursday evening.

Historian W. Cole Woodbury presented a slide program on the buildings in downtown St. Joseph as displayed on post cards from the turn of the century.

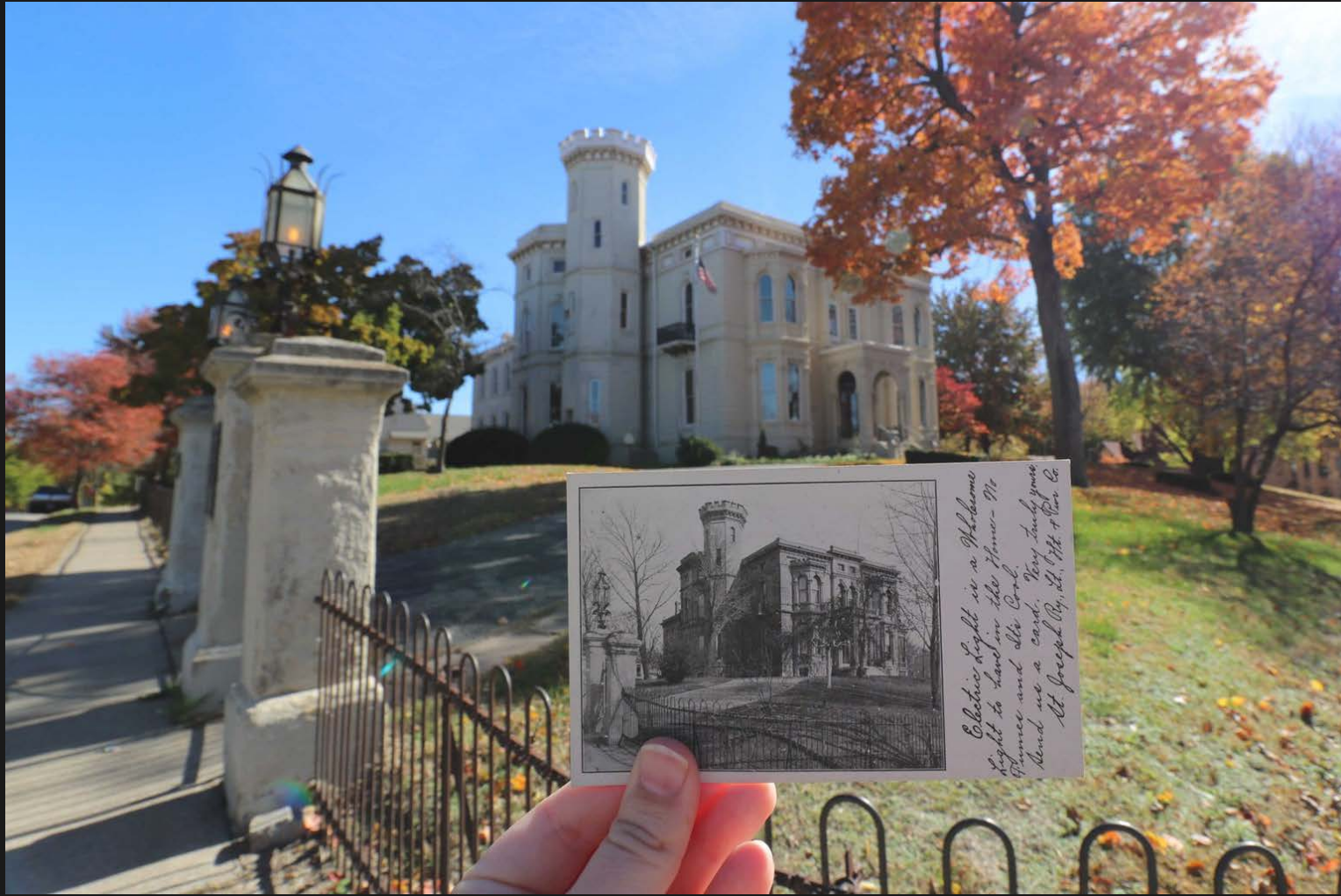


More than 60 people, including new members of the organization, discussed and compared notes on their favorite preservation projects during the social hour.

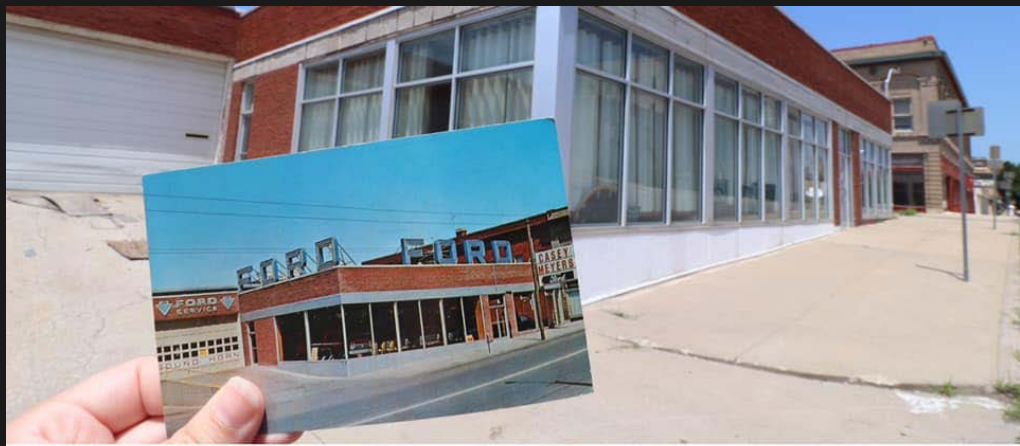
City commissioner Kim Gorman presented a proclamation from the mayor declaring the city's support of preservation.

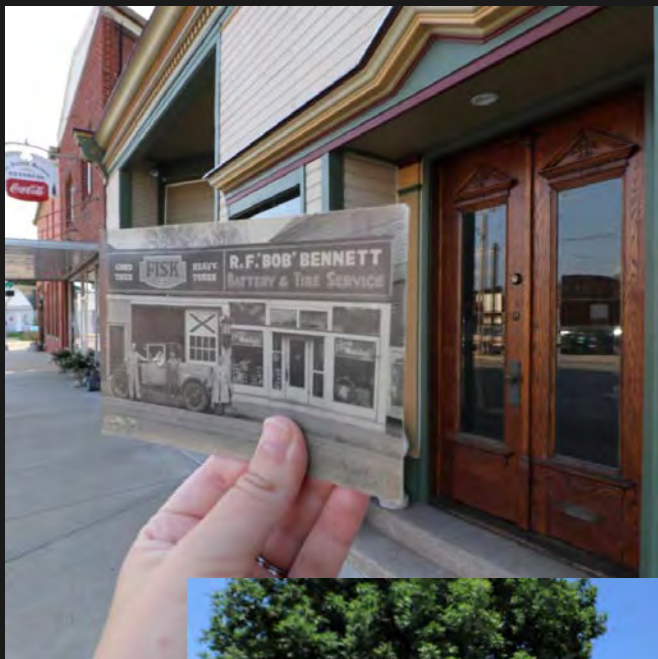
Friday
MAY 15, 1998





Electric Light in a Warhouse
Light to Level in the House - The
House and the Court.
Send us a card. Very truly yours
St. Joseph Co., St. Mt. & Co.

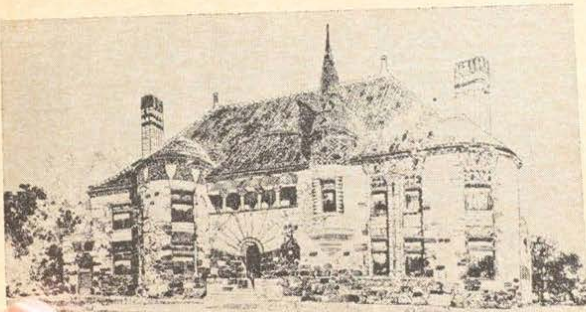








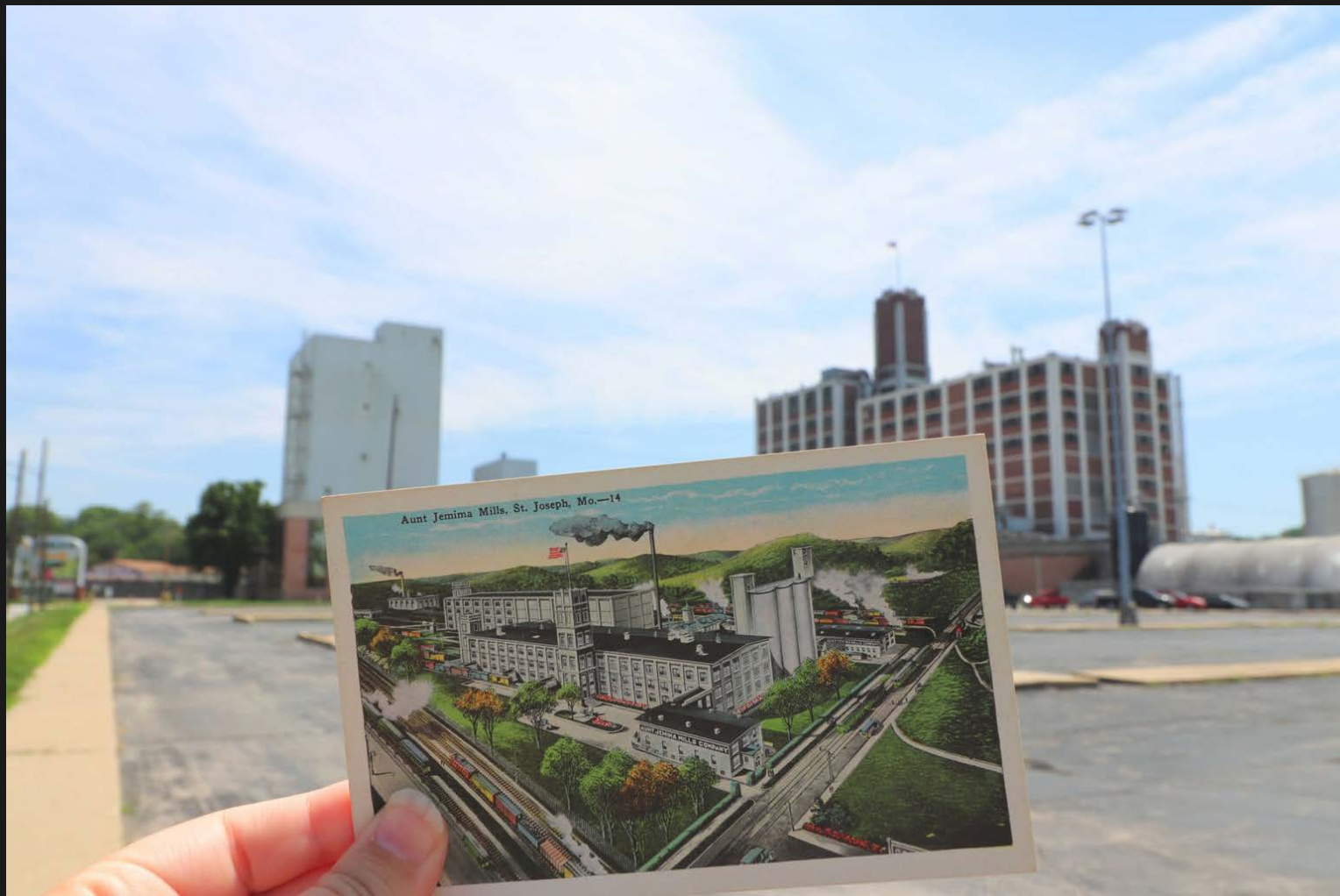




W. H. MUSEUM 19th AT FELIX ST. JOSEPH, MISSOURI
Worlds Famous Collections from Africa, Asia, Europe, North and South America.
Free to the public, afternoons except Monday.









4. 222 South 4th Street - St. Joseph, Buchanan County

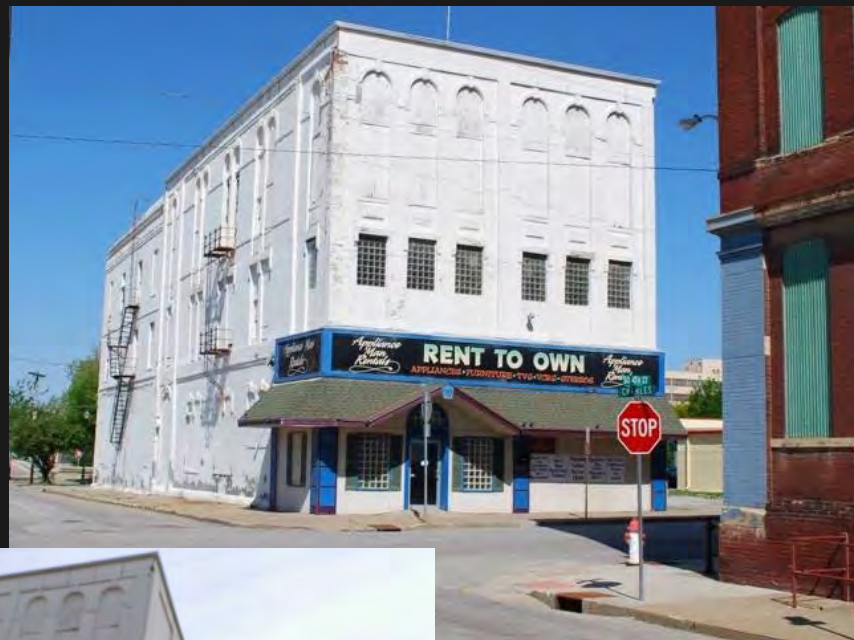
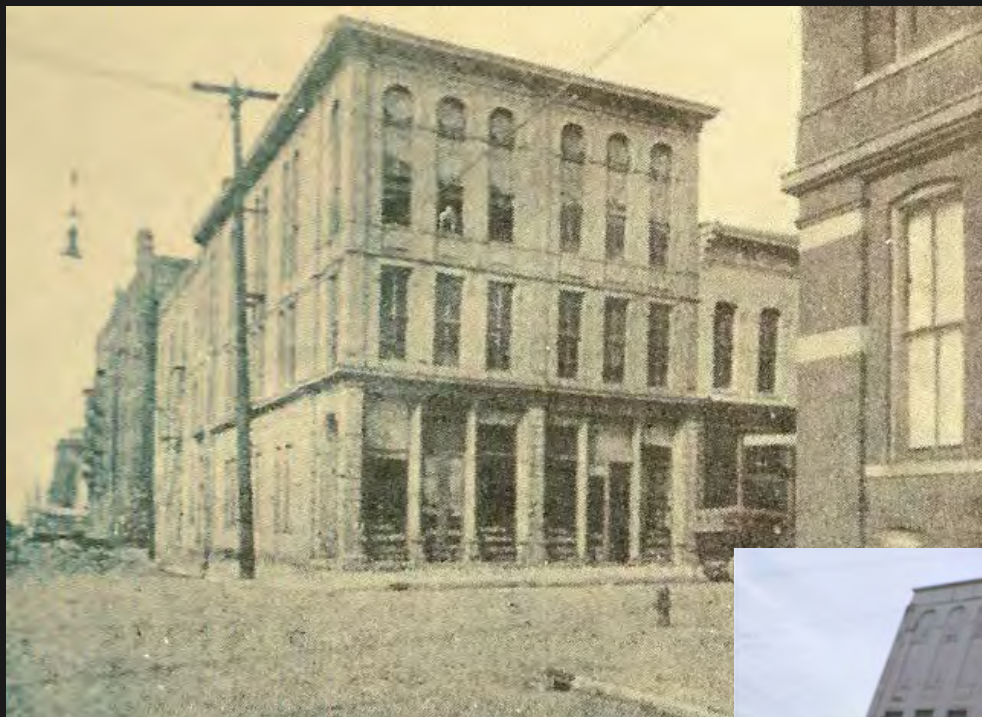


This building was constructed in 1874 for St. Joseph's first newspaper, *The St. Joseph Gazette*. The city editor for the *Gazette* at that time was a famous Missourian, Eugene Field, who went on to become known for his prolific works as "the children's poet." Over the years it was used for the sale of agricultural implements, carriages, saddles, tents and awnings, and for a time was used for light manufacturing. The building is a good example of the

type of commercial building that made St. Joseph the wholesale mercantile center of the United States during the latter half of the 19th century. During the period of urban renewal in the 1970s, A Victorian commercial building exhibiting Italianate and Romanesque details A city of over 102,000 in 1900, St. Joseph lost about a quarter of its population by the period of urban renewal in the 1970s. During this time it is estimated that the downtown lost over 200 commercial buildings. The building at 222 South 4th Street is a sole survivor on the west side of the block. The current owner of this structure is ready to retire and was offered his asking price by a neighboring businessman if he is permitted to demolish the building. The Historic St. Joseph Foundation has publicly opposed the building's demolition, and by listing on the Places in Peril, the Foundation hopes to find a preservation-friendly purchaser by the end of 2016. Sign the petition to encourage City officials to save 222 S. 4th Street at <http://www.thepetitionsite.com/525/982/212/encourage-the-citizens-of-st.-joseph-mo-to-embrace-historic-preservation./>

222 S. 4th Street

2016 Missouri Places in Peril



Jo Anne Grey





SUNDAY
NOV. 13, 2005



LISA HORN/St. Joseph News-Press

Mary Helen Stuber, left, chats with Jo Anne Grey at the kickoff for the annual Saint Joseph Symphony fund drive.

[Wednesday, February 18, 1920.]

BARGAINS

'CHESTNUT PROPERTY

120x140 S. E. corner 13th and Francis.
Six-room brick cottage, 1306 Francis
Four-room brick house, 1308 Francis.
Very attractive site for new apartments,
church or large garage. One block
east of Smith Park. FRANCIS STREET
IS THE PRINCIPAL EAST AND
WEST STREET. Business is moving
out Francis very rapidly: \$3,500 cash
will swing it, balance 6 per cent to
suit purchaser. Will sell cottages sep-
arate. "Buy it now."



NICE DAY FOR WORKING OUTSIDE



MONDAY
SEPTEMBER 25, 2006

IVAL LAWHON JR./St. Joseph News-Press

Jo Anne Grey reaches to get a piece of gingerbread she missed at the Pleasant Chesnut house, 1306 Francis St., which she is restoring. She was working on the

house Sunday while the weather was so nice. The 1877 front was of the house was used as a store and the back part as a home when it was built in 1877.





ABC'S of Architecture

The Coloring Book



By M. Fuller & J. A. Grey



Paul Helmer





Idea from students

Courthouse renovation story

By NORMAN STEWARD
Staff writer

Charles Hall, architect who prepared the plans for the courthouse restoration project, was in St. Joseph today to explain how he first became interested in restoring the Buchanan County courthouse.

Five college students sparked his interest.

Hall, in addition to being a qualified restoration architect, is a professor of architecture at Kansas State College at Manhattan.

Five of his students discovered what they thought was an unusual courthouse here and made a class project of showing how it could be restored. This resulted in Hall becoming extremely interested in such a project.

It was about three years ago that his students were looking around for the class project. They discovered the Buchanan County courthouse was significant because it is the only cruciform, Renaissance Revival courthouse in Missouri. They decided to use it as a model for the class

project showing how it could be restored to its former beauty. It is also significant by the fact that the building survived the devastating fire of 1885 which gutted the interior, leaving only the exterior walls and portico columns standing.

Another interesting historical fact the students learned was that the courthouse has thwarted efforts to replace it with another building for 94 years.

The first unsuccessful effort to replace it was in 1885 after the fire, the students learned. The insurance company refused to pay for the construction of a new building at that time, insisting that the payment should be made to restore the present structure.

Numerous efforts have been made in the last 94 years to replace it with a new structure, the students discovered, and each time these efforts failed.

The Buchanan County courthouse is second only to the St. Louis City courthouse in Missouri in size and monumentality.

Four of Hall's students spent much time here in preparing the project. When they submitted their completed project to Hall, he was so impressed with their work that he decided to come to St. Joseph for a first-hand view of the courthouse.

He also saw the possibilities of restoration and became extremely interested in such a project. He talked with judges of the county court, revived their interest in restoring the structure and, eventually, he was hired on a contract to make an overall plan. A federal grant was used to obtain this first plan from Hall.

When the present county judges decided to seek restoration and remodeling of the courthouse by submitting a four-year tax plan to the residents of the county, they authorized Hall to make detailed plans for the work. It is these plans which will be used if the proposal passes in April.

What began as a class project in the Kansas State University has evolved into a real plan for restoring and remodeling the Buchanan County courthouse with voters here holding the key to get the job done — a favorable vote on the tax proposal in April.

ST. JOSEPH, MO., NEWS-PRESS, FRIDAY, MARCH 16, 1979

Architect opposes razing jail

By GARY CHILCOTE
Special Projects Reporter

The Buchanan County jail may not be the most popular place in St. Joseph, but not everyone is ready to junk it as proposed Tuesday by an architectural planning firm.

Representatives of Midgley Shaughnessy Fickel and Scott Architects, Inc. and Gruzen & Partners, architects planners, have been hired by a special Committee for a Combined Law Enforcement Complex to design such a facility.

In a report to the committee this week, the architects were to propose that the present jail be razed to provide a better appearance for the restored Courthouse.

"The jail is an eyesore in the area," the report was quoted as saying.

But Paul Helmer, a former St. Joseph resident and now an historical

architect with the Kansas City Landmarks Commission, disagrees.

During his student days at Kansas State University, Helmer as an architectural student prepared drawings for restoring the Buchanan County Courthouse. He was a student of Charles Hall, the architect who was hired by the county to do the restoration.

"The old jail is in bad shape, but the building is certainly not beyond repair," according to Helmer. "It is constructed of heavy paving bricks and is structurally sound."

Helmer said contrary to popular belief, the Courthouse was built with the thought there would always be a jail at that corner of the block. The present jail was built after the turn of the century on the site of an earlier jail.

"If you examine the exterior shape of the Courthouse you will see that it is not symmetrical. The jail was planned

as a part of the buildings on that block."

Helmer said that since the Courthouse has been restored to its original red brick color, it no longer clashes with the red brick jail building.

"We didn't realize it was the Courthouse which was the white elephant next door, not the County Jail. Now that they are both the same color, they are not incompatible at all."

Helmer suggested if county officials wanted to construct a new jail complex at a different location, the present jail and sheriff's residence building could still be utilized. He said it is too good a building to tear down.

"They could be converted into office space and provide excellent expansion for the time when the Courthouse no longer can house all of the county offices. That time will eventually come," Helmer said.

And while Helmer suggested the jail building remain, he was critical of construction of the Robidoux Center complex immediately south of the Courthouse for blocking the view of the county government building.

"It could have been designed a little lower so as to compliment the Courthouse instead of blocking the view from the south," Helmer said.

He suggested more planning go into adjacent areas of public buildings. He said St. Joseph exhibited a rare bit of that planning in the 1920s when the City Hall was constructed with an adjacent park.

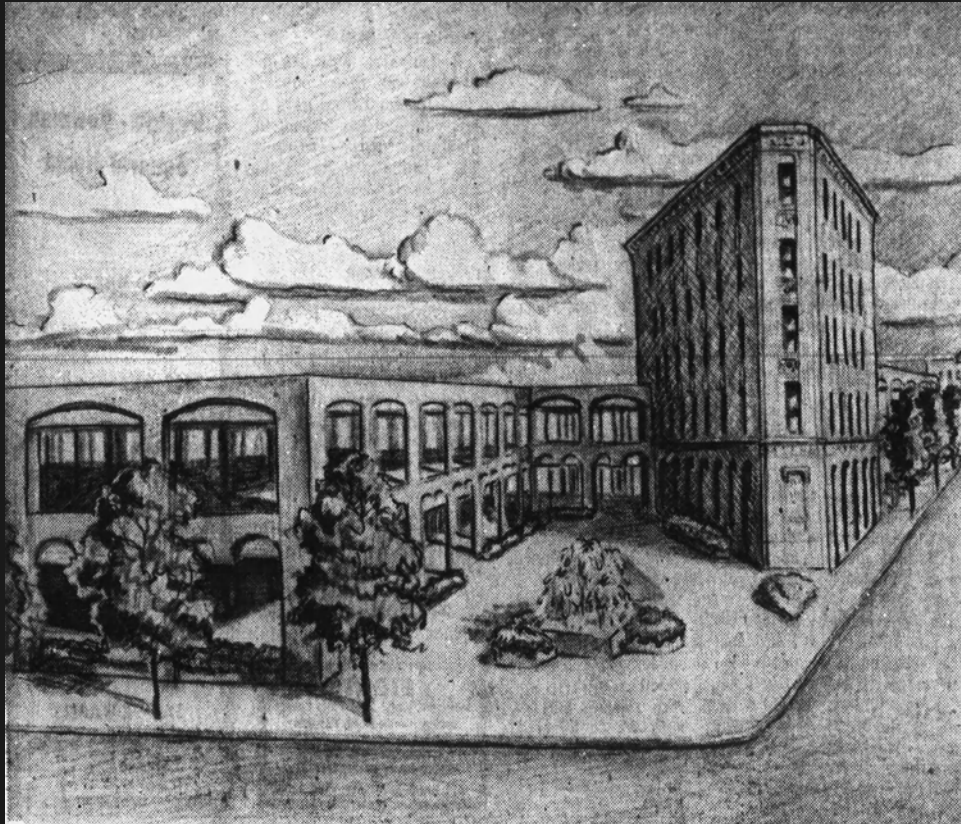
"The block to the east of the Courthouse should not be permitted to have tall buildings in order to retain the eastern view of the Courthouse," Helmer said. "Other cities take these things into consideration."

St. Joseph Gazette

(2d Cl. Post Pd at St. Joseph, Mo.)

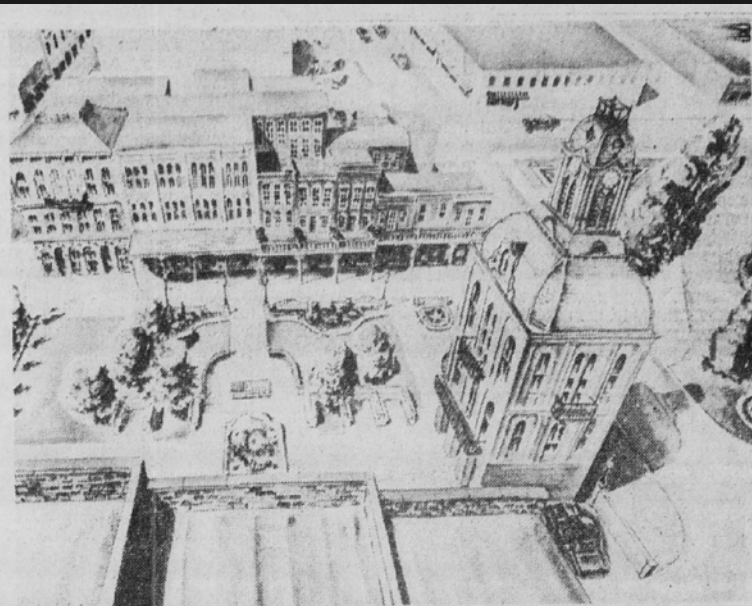
ST. JOSEPH, MO., THURSDAY MORNING, AUGUST 17, 1972

20 PAGES TWO SECTIONS



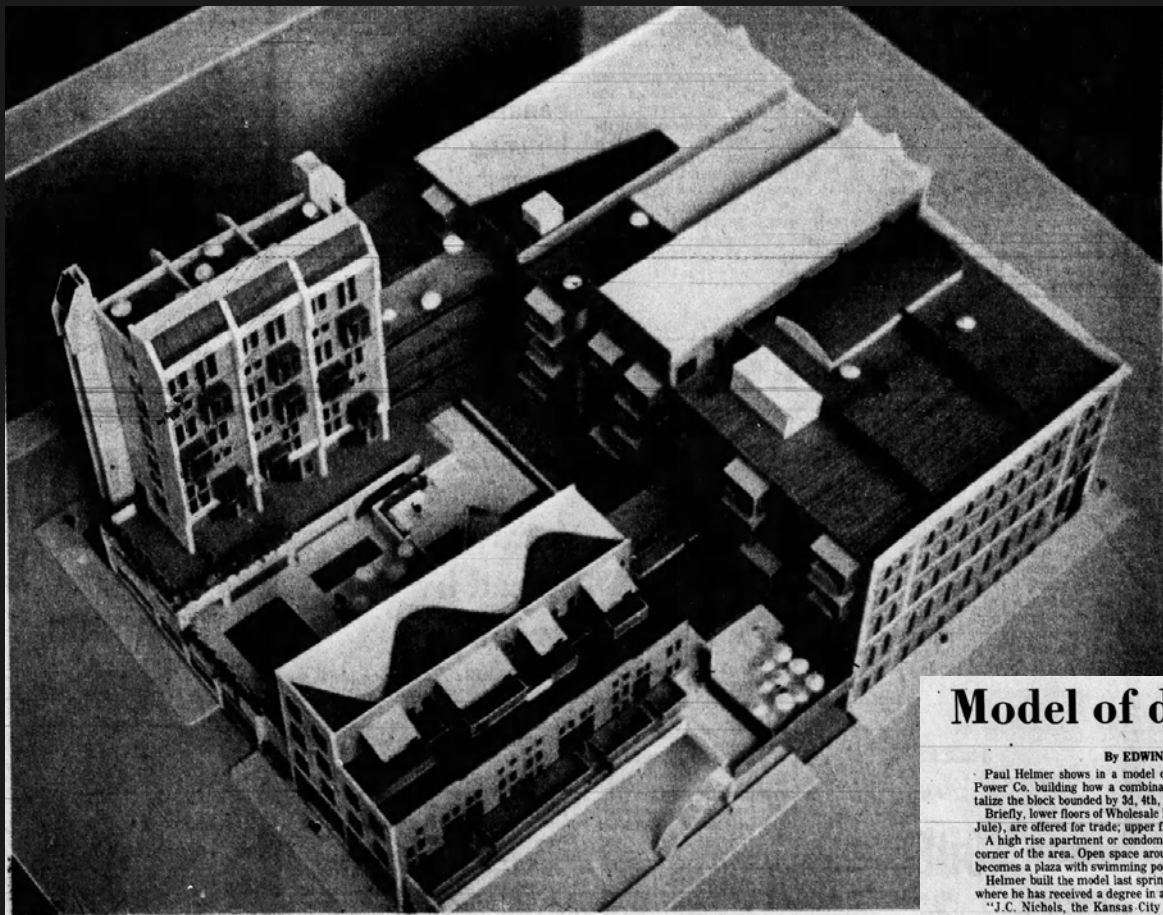
Artist's proposal for changes at 8th street and Frederick Avenue without destroying the Howitt building.

History-Minded Fight to Save Part of Old Town



Restored Charm

This is how Paul Helmer, a member of the St. Joseph Historical Society, would carry out the restoration of Market Square in St. Joseph. The tower at the right would be a replica of a part of the old city hall which was razed 35 years ago. The small park covers most of the site of the old city hall. The other buildings would be restored and used for a meeting hall, restaurant, shops, offices and small museum.



A square block in what once was St. Joseph's wholesale district becomes a business and residential area in this model built by Paul Helmer. Sturdy buildings erected before the turn of the century are the main portion of the proposed development. Other buildings would be erected in keeping with their architecture.



Model of downtown area stresses housing

By EDWIN R. McDONALD

Paul Helmer shows in a model on display in the lobby of the Light and Power Co. building how a combination of business and housing could revitalize the block bounded by 3d, 4th, Francis and Julie.

Briefly, lower floors of Wholesale Bow (the west side of 4th, from Francis to Julie), are offered for trade; upper floors, for apartments and condominiums.

A high rise apartment or condominium building is shown at the northwest corner of the area. Open space around the one building on the 3d street side becomes a plaza with swimming pool, walks and trees.

Helmer built the model last spring at Kansas State University, Manhattan, where he has received a degree in architecture.

"J.C. Nichols, the Kansas City developer, and others have said that a downtown area's biggest need is for people to live in it," Helmer stated in explaining his work.

"An area that is lived in is not dead after 5 p.m. and not subject to vandalism.

"There is a desperate need for handy, downtown places of abode in St. Joseph. Many people would like to be close to their jobs at the Methodist Medical Center. People who lived at Hotel Robidoux did so because they liked being downtown. They are the ones who would like luxury condominiums with a pleasant view of the Missouri River and the Kansas side.

"It is something that St. Joseph needs to think about.

"The landmark building at the northwest corner of 4th and Francis is owned by a group of developers interested in revitalizing the area. Another building at the north end of the block has been purchased by developers for the same reason.

"These efforts could be a catalyst for erection of new buildings and rejuvenation of old buildings in the area."



Olin Cox





TUESDAY, MAY 29, 2007

Many old houses get a 2nd chance

CONTINUED FROM Page A1

"life-saving machine" (a ramp-pole-like device to catch people jumping from burning buildings) certainly adds to the ambience.

The kitchen is small but very retro-1950s. The fire-house bathroom is nostalgically utilitarian, with the original urinal, side-by-side sinks and metal partitions.

The tower is only halfway livable if the weather cooperates.

The 16-foot square footprint is very basic — brick walls, concrete floors and a metal staircase — with minimal utilities. (Mr. Myers is building a platform to make room for a toilet drain.)

But anyone who's not scared of heights should envy the tower's rooftop view.

Regardless, the couple seems to have found a home. Mr. Myers' style of industrial sculpting created problems in his former industrial Kansas City neighborhood.

"I was getting noise complaints in the West Bottoms, and my neighbors here bring us casseroles," Mr. Myers said.

Around the corner, Olin Cox is about to pull off one of St. Joseph's most amazing comebacks.

He is restoring the Westminster Mansion, 1723 Francis St., which was all but lost to fire in September 1995 — the day Mr. Cox was scheduled to buy the house. In what was declared arson, the entire third floor, 90 percent of the second floor and 20 percent of the first floor were destroyed, Mr. Cox said.

He took it anyway.

This summer, he says he'll finish the 1895 house as a bed and breakfast. He restored the entire house, including replicating the original woodwork inside and out.

At the other end of the spectrum, Saxton Properties is just starting on a restoration/renovation of a building in overwhelmingly bad condition at 819-821 N. Ninth St.

Both second-story bathrooms had fallen through to the first floor, and the first floor bathtub had fallen into the basement. The roof was practically non-existent. Most interior walls

are gone, as are the floors.

The building, known as the McDonald Duplex, is on the edge of the Hall Street Historic District. It had received unflattering recognition as one of St. Joseph's most endangered historic properties.

Saxton got involved because the building is next door to its Saxton Care Chateau facility. The company has a long uphill road to converting it into a market-rate four-plex.

"It would've certainly been easier to make a parking lot out of it," said project manager Mike Sansonetti.

"They've started at the top with the roof and gutters and at the bottom with the floor joists. They hope to meet in the middle and finish the

project later this year, Mr. Sansonetti said.

He calls it a restoration for the most part on the outside — including replicated original wood millwork and custom wood windows — and a renovation on the inside. Somewhat miraculously, it still has an original walnut staircase.

Glenn Pataky sat looking at the 1887 A.E. McKinney House long enough to know he wanted it when it came up for auction.

Mr. Pataky lived across the corner from the elaborate Queen Anne Victorian at 624 N. Sixth St. — the former home of Park Eland.

"Everyone wants an old house," Mr. Pataky said. "... It came up, I put in a bid and I got it."

Did he ever? The original slate roof was leaking everywhere, and a real estate agent told Mr. Pataky the pipes had frozen and icicles were hanging from ceiling to floor on the second story. At one point, the house had been carved up into 13 apartments, although "apartment" might be too generous a word.

Mr. Pataky tore off first- and second-story additions, completely rebuilt the kitchen and added a courtyard. He replicated "Goldie's Window," a large stained glass window that was taken from the

house, which is a showpiece along with the original woodwork on the first floor.

If the offer is right, Mr. Pataky would sell the 6,500-square-foot house. Otherwise he'll keep working on the upper stories. Then for Mr. Pataky, the small frame house next door, circa 1850s.

Not all houses have to be uninhabitable to make for an impressive restoration.

Carlos and Dr. Linda Bass wanted a Queen Anne with wrap-around porch and a view. The San Diego couple didn't much care where it was located.

They found the house last July — 307 S. Ninth St., which sits atop downtown with Kansas sunsets greeting the front porch.

Then they found St. Joseph. "I had never even been to the Midwest," Dr. Bass laughed.

The house was structurally sound — prominent brick mason George Morris was the original owner. But it was in terrible need of up-dates — to have a century's worth of updates removed.

So far, their work has included leaning out an green carpet and restoring wood floors, relocating a family of pigeons (and their mess) and sealing the turret, repairing walls, removing wallpaper (nearly a marriage-killer) and rebuilding bathrooms. The kitchen is next.

The work continues.

Around the corner, Olin Cox is about to pull off one of St. Joseph's most amazing comebacks.

He is restoring the Westminster Mansion, 1723 Francis St., which was all but lost to fire in September 1995 — the day Mr. Cox was scheduled to buy the house. In what was declared arson, the entire third floor, 90 percent of the second floor and 20 percent of the first floor were destroyed, Mr. Cox said.

He took it anyway.

"I was getting noise complaints in the West Bottoms, and my neighbors here bring us casseroles."

JASON MYERS,
who is restoring structures at
1801 Fifth St.

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Martial Arts and Ninjutsu Fitness Center, Inc.
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One Way to be a Black Belt
• Testimonials
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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 1995



FROM THE ASHES

Jim Hines works on a house at 1723 Felix St. that was burned by an arsonist Sept. 17. Olin Cox, who had planned to purchase the house the next day, went ahead and bought the house weeks later and began restoration.

Staff photo by ERIC KEITH

MONDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2000

Labor of love



IVAL LAWHON JR./St. Joseph News-Press

Olin Cox was busy on Sunday restoring the house he lives in at 18th and Francis streets. He was replacing the window sashes on the downstairs windows and putting in new weather-stripping. The house was built in 1885.

Harris Addition officially historic

Although designation honorary, tax credits offered for rehab projects

By **PATTY SCULLY**
pscully@npgco.com
St. Joseph News-Press

About 26 years after their first attempt, residents of the Harris Addition succeeded Friday in getting on the National Register of Historic Places.

"It got turned down two different times," said Nigh Johnson, president of the Harris and Kemper Addition Neighborhood Association.

"This time we ended up getting the right people" to put together the application by hiring professional consultants with a grant secured through the city, Mr. Johnson said.

A series of meetings to explain the meaning of the honorary designation also helped stem opposition, he said.

"We had many different neighborhood forums to introduce them to the concept of the National Register instead of the local district," Mr. Johnson said. Once residents were convinced they wouldn't face

restrictions on renovating historic properties, objections to the application ceased, he said.

The 43-block area became the 16th St. Joseph neighborhood on the National Register.

The primary benefit of the designation is income-tax credits for rehabilitation projects.

Until recently, commercial developers used tax-credit programs far more frequently than homeowners did, said Robert Myers, city preservation planner.

That changed recently, Mr. Myers said.

A local consultant is working on as many as 19 tax-credit applications for homeowners, he said. Tax credits can save up to 45 percent of remodeling costs.

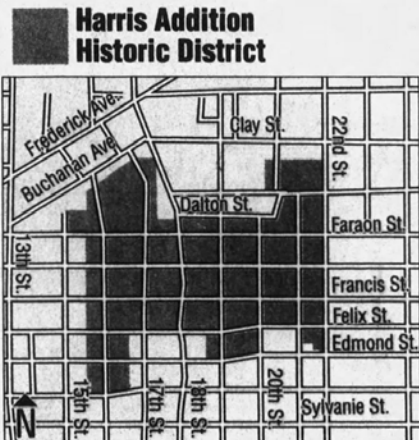
Olin Cox is restoring a home at 1723 Francis St. to turn it into a bed and breakfast.

The tax credits are "an opportunity to restore the properties and houses in the neighborhood when otherwise they wouldn't be able to," Mr. Cox said. The historic district designation also extends tax credits to rehabilitation of properties that may not have qualified

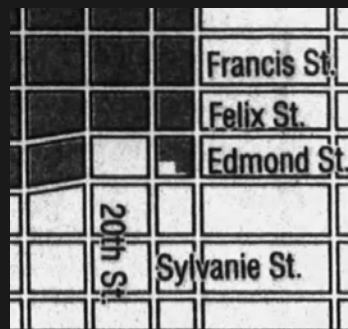
as historic on their own, he said.

"It extends the blanket," Mr. Cox said.

Please see **Harris/Page A5**



JIM FINLAY/St. Joseph News-Press



JIM FINLAY/St. Joseph News-Press

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as historic on their own, he said.

"It extends the blanket," Mr. Cox said.









WEDNESDAY, JULY 30, 2008

Bonnie and Clyde meet ... Dracula?



ERIC KEITH/St. Joseph News-Press

Olin Cox gave his bed-and-breakfast inn over to a film crew last year when a spoof about Bonnie and Clyde was filmed there. The Whiskey Mansion was chosen because it looked like Dracula could live there, the filmmakers said.

Movie filmed in St. Joe blends gangster, horror elements

By JENNIFER HALL
St. Joseph News-Press

When Bonnie Parker and Clyde Barrow went on the run from law enforcement in the early 1930s, the last thing they thought they'd run into was Dracula. That's the plot behind a feature-length horror flick filmed at St. Joseph's Whiskey Mansion.

According to the movie's official Web site, "Bonnie & Clyde Versus Dracula" combines the rough-and-tumble world of gangster outlaws with the violent Gothic atmosphere of a classic horror film.

"It will be fun for people to see," said Olin Cox, owner of Whiskey Mansion.

He served as host to Big Atom Productions out

Please see **BONNIE**/Page A7



On the path to restoration

Redevelopment of historic building receives panel OK

By JOE BLUMBERG
joeblumberg@sjnp.com
 St. Joseph News-Press

A historic "gateway" building to downtown is one step closer to restoration.

Local preservationist Olin Cox won unanimous approval Thursday from the citizens' Tax Increment Financing Commission for his \$838,945 redevelopment of the Ryan Block Building, 1137-1141 Frederick Ave.

"I want this to be an upscale building."

OLIN COX, local preservationist

Mr. Cox requested \$317,767 in TIF reimbursement to convert the building into three retail businesses and four loft apartments. The three-story brick building has an ornate oriel at the corner of Frederick and 12th Street, and Mr. Cox and others have worked for months on the facade.

Mr. Cox's expectations for the interior also are high. He told the commission he turned down businesses that he thinks aren't compatible with his ideas for downtown, instead holding out for a bakery, coffee shop or other retail shops.

"I want this to be an upscale building," Mr. Cox said.

The studio, one-bedroom and



JESSICA STEWART/St. Joseph News-Press

Olin Cox has applied for at TIF reimbursement of more than \$300,000 for restorations of the Ryan Block Building, 1137-1141 Frederick Ave.

two three-bedroom apartments would range from 450 to 1,600 square feet, with rents between \$550 and \$1,200.

The City Council will vote on

the project with recommendations for approval from both the city's planning department and the commission. The project is within a TIF district approved

along with Heartland Health's Uptown redevelopment of its former downtown hospital campus and surrounding neighborhood.

TIF allows developers to recoup half of the sales tax and all of the property tax increases created by projects.

Commissioners questioned the level of TIF reimbursement — 37 percent — but were ultimately satisfied because that percentage is what the Uptown plan anticipated it would cost to redevelop the downtown buildings.

Also, Mr. Cox won't receive any up-front TIF money; he'll only be reimbursed if the project generates sufficient new tax revenue. His projected rate of return on his investment is 6 percent, when many developers won't settle for less than 10, said Clint Thompson, the city's director of planning and community development.

"He's not doing this to make money ... not at that rate. He's a historic preservationist and loves the building," Mr. Thompson said in an earlier interview.

Commissioner and former mayor Larry Stobbs hesitated to give his support because the apartments won't be fully accessible to people with disabilities, but Mr. Cox said accessibility isn't required for only four apartments.

Mr. Cox bought the building from the late Ed Crowley, who operated an air conditioning service company. Preservationists had worked for years to buy the building from Mr. Crowley. He relented after having problems with the city over a permit for a flashing sign he hung from the facade, followed shortly thereafter by a violation for weeds growing in the sidewalk.

Window dressing



TODD WEDDLE/St. Joseph News-Press

Larry Christy peers out of a window opening as he installs wood trim pieces on the exterior of a building front in the 1100 block of Frederick Avenue Thursday. The three connected buildings are owned

by St. Joseph Restoration LLC., and are being restored in a series of three stages over the next several years according to Olin Cox, owner of the business. The project was started last November.

"He's not doing this to make money ... not at that rate. He's a historic preservationist and loves the building," Mr. Thompson said





1981



2017





Mt. Mora Cemetery
Preservation and Restoration Association

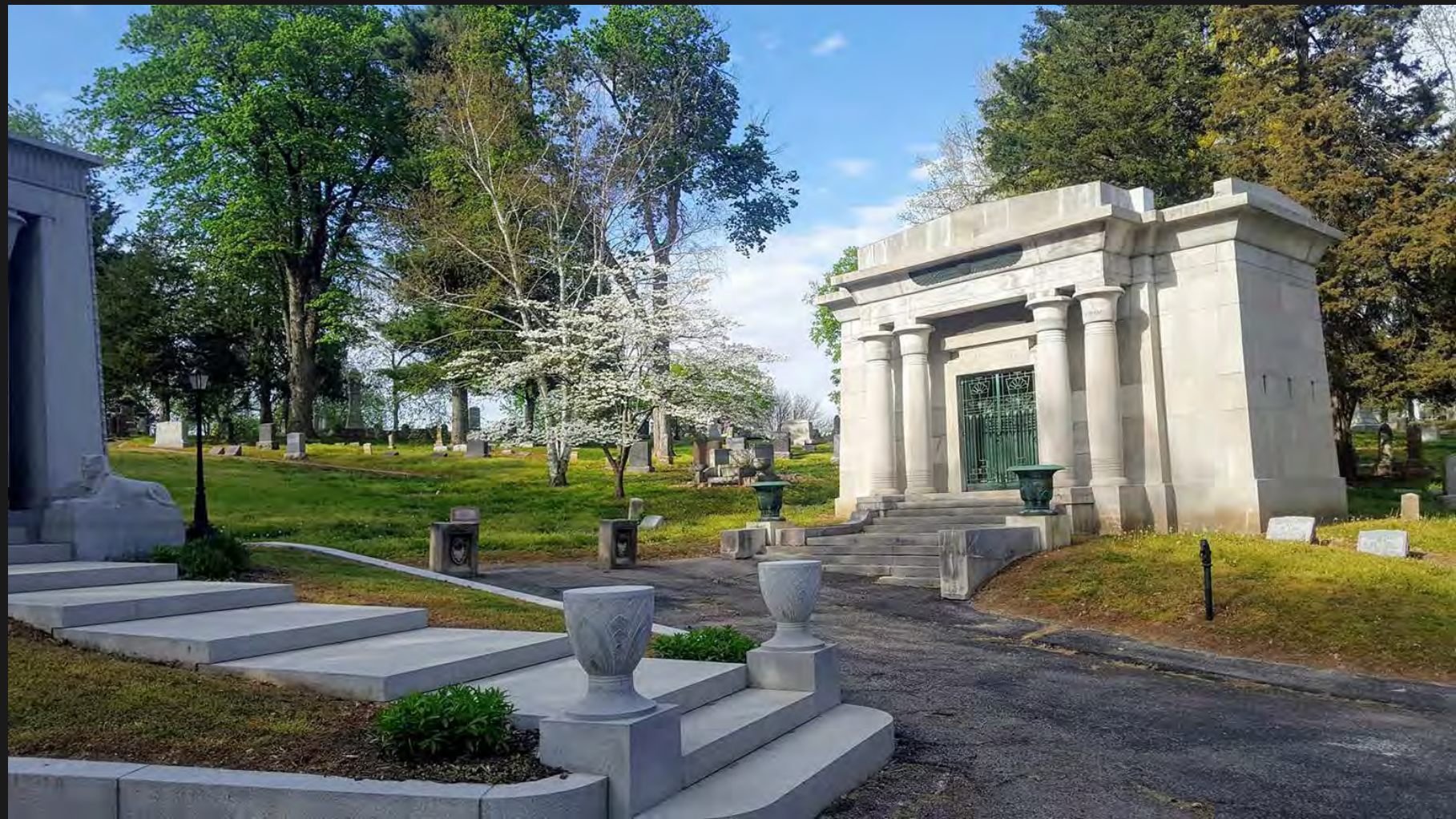
ADVENTURE.

ST. JOSEPH, MISSOURI.

Friday Morning, Feb. 28, 1851.

JERFERSON CITY, Feb. 18, 1851.

passed; an act incorporating Mount Mora Cemetery, St. Joseph, passed; most of these bills have passed the Senate, and others will by Wednesday. The bill districting the State into Judicial Circuits and Congressional districts, has not been acted on. I suppose the House will adjourn by the 3d of March. Yours, respectfully, — R.



CHANGES IN MT. MORA

THE SILENT CITY OF THE DEAD
WILL BE GREATLY BEAU-
TIFIED THIS SPRING.

NEW DRIVEWAYS LAID OUT.

The Receiving Vault Will Be Enlarged to Double Its Present Capacity—A High Bank in the Northwest Portion of the Cemetery Will Be Graded Down and New Walks Will Be Put in—Flowers in the Big Green-Houses Are All in Readiness for Transplanting in the Open Air, Which Will Be Done With the First Coming of Spring—Much Money to Be Expended.

Mount Mora Cemetery joins National Register

By **MARSHALL WHITE**
marshall@npgco.com
St. Joseph News-Press

Mount Mora Cemetery joined the growing list of historic St. Joseph properties on the National Register of Historic Places.

"Thanks to the efforts of volunteers and the Mount Mora Preservation and Restoration Association, this is another positive step in the recognition and preservation of the cemetery," said Houston Wyeth, president of Bags & Boxes II and the Mount Mora Cemetery board of directors.

The state Historic Preservation office received official word late last week that the cemetery nomination was accepted by the federal register, said Tiffany Patterson, the

state's National Register coordinator. Buchanan County has 52 sites on the National Register with the addition of the cemetery, Ms. Patterson said.

This addition is special because getting cemeteries on the National Register is fairly difficult, the coordinator said. There are about 1,700 properties in Missouri on the National Register, but only about 15 cemeteries have been individually listed, she said.

The nomination was a four-year project for Suzanne Lehr, Nancy Sandehn and Barbara Turner, Mr. Wyeth said.

The nomination got a huge contribution from David and Denese Denman, who wrote the technical architectural descriptions for all the mausoleums at Mount Mora, Mrs. Lehr said.

The Missouri Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, which reviews all National Register nominations, will hold its quarterly meeting in St. Joseph on Aug. 11. Council members and staff are coming a day early so they can tour Mount Mora and several other sites in St. Joseph, Ms. Patterson said.

Another bit of good news for Mount Mora came about a week ago from the cultural resources section of the Division of State Parks. The section has agreed to fund conservation work on the monument to Gov. Silas Woodson at Mount Mora Cemetery in 2007. The goal is to complete the project in June 2007, said Kim Dillon, a cultural resources section leader. Mr. Woodson was governor from 1873 to 1875.





A VOICE FOR THE DEAD

Suzanne Lehr crusades to preserve Mount Mora Cemetery

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2007

"Suzanne has become the voice for the thousands of people whose last resting place is Mount Mora," says Sharon Kosek, president of Mount Mora Preservation & Restoration Association board. "She realizes the great importance of saving this history for future generations."

Before 2001, Mrs. Lehr says she never dreamed she would get this involved with the cemetery. She isn't from St. Joseph originally, so names like McCord didn't mean anything to her. But when she retired, she got restless.

"The only thing I wanted to do was to find a project that was worthwhile," she says.

Then one day, while visiting Mount Mora with her husband, Jim, she asked who was buried in mausoleum row. It's a long row of impressive burial tombs at the entrance to the cemetery that look like small homes — very unusual homes — on a street. "Nobody knew," Mr. Lehr says. "That's when she really got interested in research."

Mrs. Lehr would learn that the only records for the burials from 1851 to 1871 were missing. They were believed to have been

burned in the same house at the cemetery where the records were still being kept.

"There were no copies," Mrs. Lehr says. "I thought, 'oh my,' this could happen again."

So she went to the Mount Mora board, got permission to put them on the computer, and then turned to her friend Barbara Turner for help.

"I thought it would take a couple of weeks," Mrs. Turner says. "It took like five years."

They have recorded more than 16,000 names and histories of burials at Mount Mora. With the help of more volunteers, they canvassed the entire cemetery, recording the tombstone information and comparing it to records for accuracy. Some of the information is now available on a Web site maintained by Missouri Western State University www.missouriwestern.edu/mounimora. The goal is to eventually be able to look up anybody buried there, learn their history and exactly where their final resting place is.

"The stories are so fascinating," Mrs. Lehr says. "Some are those that people know, but many have been forgotten."

She decided it would be fun to tell some of these stories, so in



Suzanne Lehr, right, gives a tour of Mt. Mora Cemetery.

RACHEL ANNE SEYMOUR/St. Joseph News-Press

Suzanne Lehr talks with Trevor Phillips about an Eagle Scout restoration project at Mount Mora.



RACHEL ANNE SEYMOUR
St. Joseph News-Press

2003, she began writing scripts for "Voices of the Past" tours.

"The first year I was a woman murdered by her husband," recalls Rebecca Giles, Mrs. Lehr's daughter.

Every year, Mrs. Lehr writes new scripts based on her research for a group of volunteers who dress in costume to tell the stories of those buried at Mount Mora. Mrs. Lehr guides the tours dressed as Mrs. Simeon Kemper, the cemetery founder's wife.

It's been a successful fundraiser for the cemetery, selling out every year.

A major setback to Mrs. Lehr's efforts was a vandalism last year by

a group of juveniles, who they damaged more than 300 tombstones.

"It was very disappointing," she says. "I couldn't go over to look at it. I didn't want to see it. The first time I saw it was when I gave the first tour to the first young man."

As part of a court agreement, the vandals wrote letters of apology. Mrs. Lehr took each boy on an individual tour through the cemetery.

"I wanted them to grow in their understanding of the importance of this place," she explains. "I told them one day you and I will both end up in a place like this. It will be up to those that come after us to take care of it."

She says in each case, they said they were sorry, and one of the youths came back this year on his own to help work at the cemetery.

"It put it to rest," Mrs. Lehr says. "They made an awful mistake, but the community has rallied to help us."

Mrs. Giles says her mother's experience as a counselor helped turn this situation around to be a positive one.

"She was a great counselor in the school system. And she's opened people's eyes that there is this treasure there. There are people who have lived their whole lives here and didn't know Mount Mora was there."

HEAR THEIR STORIES

Voices of the Past Interpretive Tours of Mount Mora Cemetery

■ **WHERE:**
Mount Mora Cemetery,
824 Mount Mora Road

■ **WHEN:**
5:30, 6:30, and 7:30 p.m. on Oct. 25, 26 and 27

■ **TICKETS:**
\$12 for Friends of Mount Mora, \$15 for non-members. Space is limited. Call the St. Joseph Museums Inc. at **232-8471** for reservations.





2 charged, 4 held in Mount Mora vandalism spree

More than 300 tombstones damaged

By AHMAD SAFI
ahmad.safi@njpc.com
St. Joseph News-Press

Two 17-year-old males have been charged with felony vandalism and four juveniles are in custody in connection with damage to more than 300 tombstones at the more than 150-year-old Mount Mora Cemetery.

Terry Lee Danberry Jr., 910 S. 16th St., and Randy E. Norris, 1720 N. Second St., along with four juveniles ranging in ages from 13 to 16, allegedly climbed the west fence of the historic cemetery — which contains the remains of Missouri governors, Civil War soldiers and Pony Express riders — on Sept. 28 and tipped over headstones, crosses and obelisks. They also allegedly scattered funerary materials from tombs along the rolling hills of the oldest operating cemetery in St. Joseph.

The next morning police and Mount Mora Cemetery Superintendent Tim Hamm found an estimated \$30,000 in damage. That estimate is expected to increase as the finely carved

marble, granite and alloy markers are appraised. Gravestones weighing 750 pounds and up to a ton were knocked off their pedestals and other tombstones were strewn in non-cemetery locations. Cemetery board members are in the process of filing an insurance claim.

"Some times it's just easier to destroy an antique," said Huston Wyeth, chairman of the cemetery board, who notes many newer cemeteries lack traditional plaques instead of traditional headstones, which are easier to

knock over.

He said Mount Mora was once the most fashionable burial place for many of St. Joseph's wealthy and powerful citizens. The cemetery was added to the National Register of Historic Places this summer.

Mr. Danberry and Mr. Norris remain in the Buchanan County Jail in lieu of \$40,000 bond for institutional vandalism, a Class C Felony. The four juveniles are being held in the custody of the Buchanan County Juvenile Office.

The vandalism created
an estimated \$30,000
in damage.



TERRY DANBERRY
charged in vandalism



RANDY NORRIS
charged in vandalism

Tyler Justice, left, and Dennis Chipps, both employees of Van Vickie Monuments Inc., were working Tuesday leveling headstones at Mount Mora Cemetery following vandalism there.

IVAL
LAWSON JR.
St. Joseph
News-Press



WEDNESDAY
APRIL 25, 2007
www.stjosephnews.net

ST. JOSEPH NEWS-PRESS

Mount Mora emerges from vandalism's dark shadow

Teenagers who caused
the damage now doing
service at the cemetery

By AARON BAILEY
aaron.bailey@njpc.com
St. Joseph News-Press

A glance around Mount Mora Cemetery reveals almost nothing of the wake of damage caused by a vandalism spree last year.

The hundreds of tombstones and obelisks that were knocked over in September now stand at attention, almost symbolizing the resolve of those determined to pick up the pieces. Vandals caused about \$70,000 in damage when they desecrated more than 300 grave sites at the historic cemetery.

Six individuals were arrested, charged and sentenced for the crime — not one older than 17. The bulk of the six teenagers' sentences consisted of hundreds of hours of community service at the cemetery, repairing the damage caused by a couple nights of bad decisions.

This is where Suzanne Lehr stepped in. Ms. Lehr serves on the Mount Mora Preservation and Restoration Association and recently contributed to the book, "Mount Mora 1851."

"Many people were angry over the vandalism and they asked me how I felt about the situation," Ms. Lehr said. "After the opportunity to work with the young men ... it reinforced my understanding that sometimes bad choices are made because they have bad information. Once they understood what was there, I believe each young man was impacted."

Ms. Lehr spent time with four of the juveniles individually at the cemetery, showing them a place drenched in history and the intricacies of the stories of those buried there. One of the juveniles was so moved and dis-



1000 WIDDEL/SA, Joseph News-Press
Catherine Kessberger, 84, and her daughter Margaret Sparrow, 54, look over their family's plot at the Mount Mora Cemetery Tuesday afternoon. Mrs. Kessberger said that the large Word obelisk was one of the grave sites desecrated last fall during a vandalism spree by six teenagers.

graced by his actions that he took his apology a step further.

"At the end of one of the tours," Ms. Lehr said, "the young man gave me a giant bear hug ... and his exact words were: 'I apologize, ma'am.' It was very moving."

Huston Wyeth, chairman of the Mount Mora Cemetery board, said that an insurance policy covered the costs of restoring the toppled tombstones. The work was done by a local

monument company, and completed earlier this year.

The community service part of the six individuals' sentences has been slowed by a lack of a supervisor, Mr. Wyeth said. Cemetery officials are working with the Buchanan County Juvenile Office to rectify the problem. But while the destruction at Mount Mora Cemetery has been erased, and the offenders are trying to make amends, the cemetery still faces a

dilemma. Over the years, Mr. Wyeth said, the cemetery's endowment fund has dwindled, causing even regular maintenance to stagnate.

Copies of the photo book "Mount Mora 1851" are still available at Hastings Books, Music and Videos, 605 N. Bell Highway, and also at Stillwaters, 3819 Frederick Blvd. Each copy costs \$38, with 100 percent of the proceeds benefiting Mount Mora Cemetery's endowment fund.



Mount Mora Cemetery Preservation & Restoration Association
invites you to re-live St. Joseph history . . .



Mary Alicia Owen
1858-1935

Folklorist; World Traveler

Come meet leaders whose final place is on
Mount Mora Cemetery's Mausoleum Row.
Come learn about several leaders at the
2019 Voices of the Past.

Advance tickets only

St. Joseph Museums, Inc.
3406 Frederick Avenue
PO Box 8096
St. Joseph, Missouri 64508
816.232.8471
stjosephmuseum.org/events
Tickets available July 1, 2019

Admission: only \$22 to the general public with tickets for
Mount Mora Cemetery Preservation & Restoration Association
members and St. Joseph Museums, Inc., members only
\$20 each. To get \$2 off, if you register online at
stjosephmuseum.org/events, you will need the discount code.
Members please call to receive the discount code before
registering online (816.232.8471). Pre-paid reservations are
required. Tours sell out early. Sorry, no refunds.

Voices of the Past Extraordinarily Extraordinary! St. Joseph Leaders

Thursday, October 17, 2019
6:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.

Friday, October 18, 2019
6:00, 7:00 & 8:00 p.m.

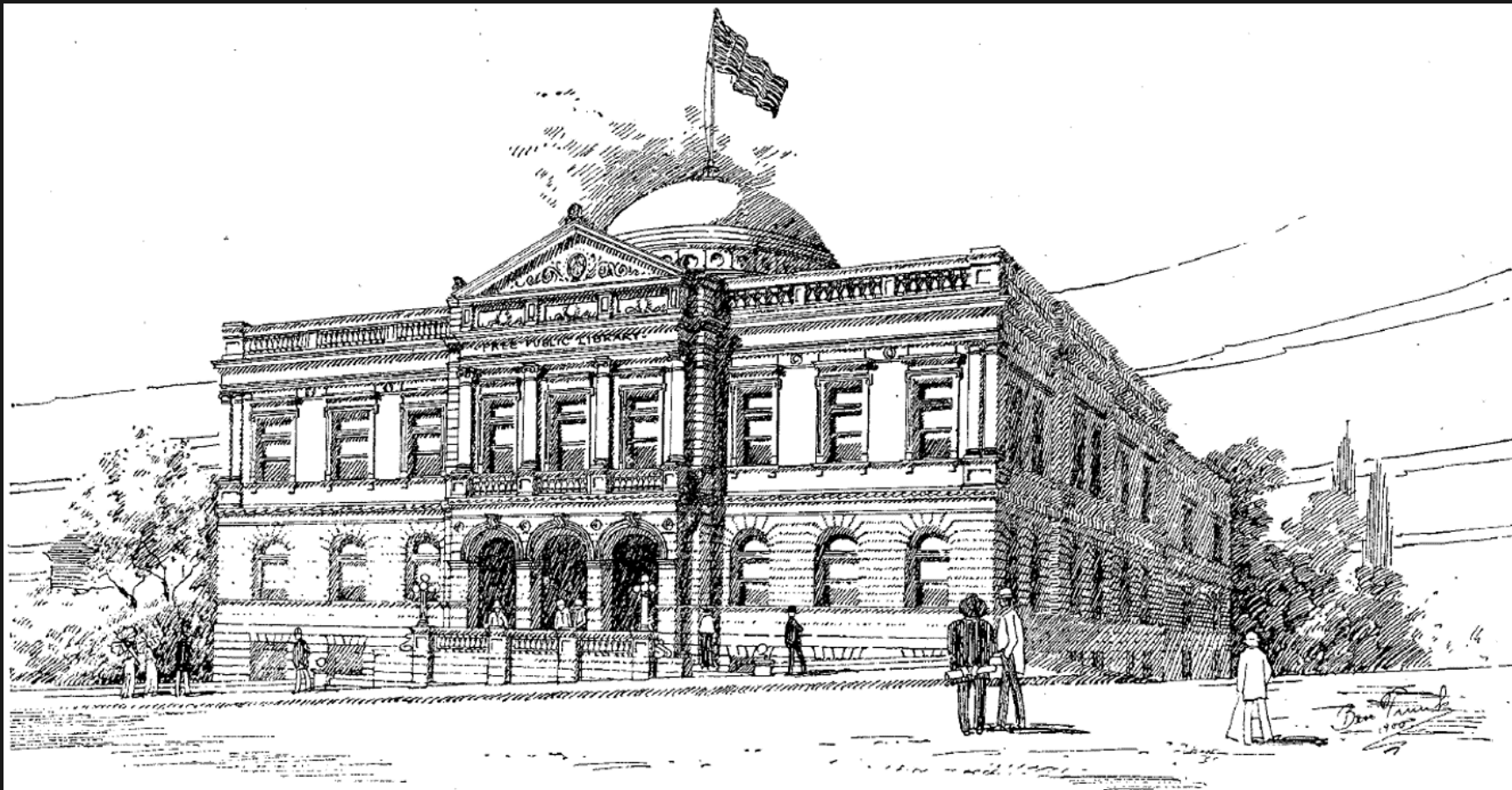
Honored as one of St. Joseph's best historic annual events, join us to re-live St. Joseph's past with living history characters. All tours will begin at the Wyeth Tootle Mansion, 1100 Charles St., with refreshments and a chance to briefly tour the Mansion before boarding the bus for Mount Mora Cemetery. At the Wyeth-Tootle, you will meet the first living history character of the Voices of the Past tour. Each year different stories are re-told by the characters. Mount Mora was established in 1851 and is one of the oldest cemeteries in our city. See upcoming and past Voices events at www.mountmora.org. Click on the events tab.

*Presented by Mount Mora Cemetery Preservation & Restoration Association in cooperation with
St. Joseph Museums, Inc.*

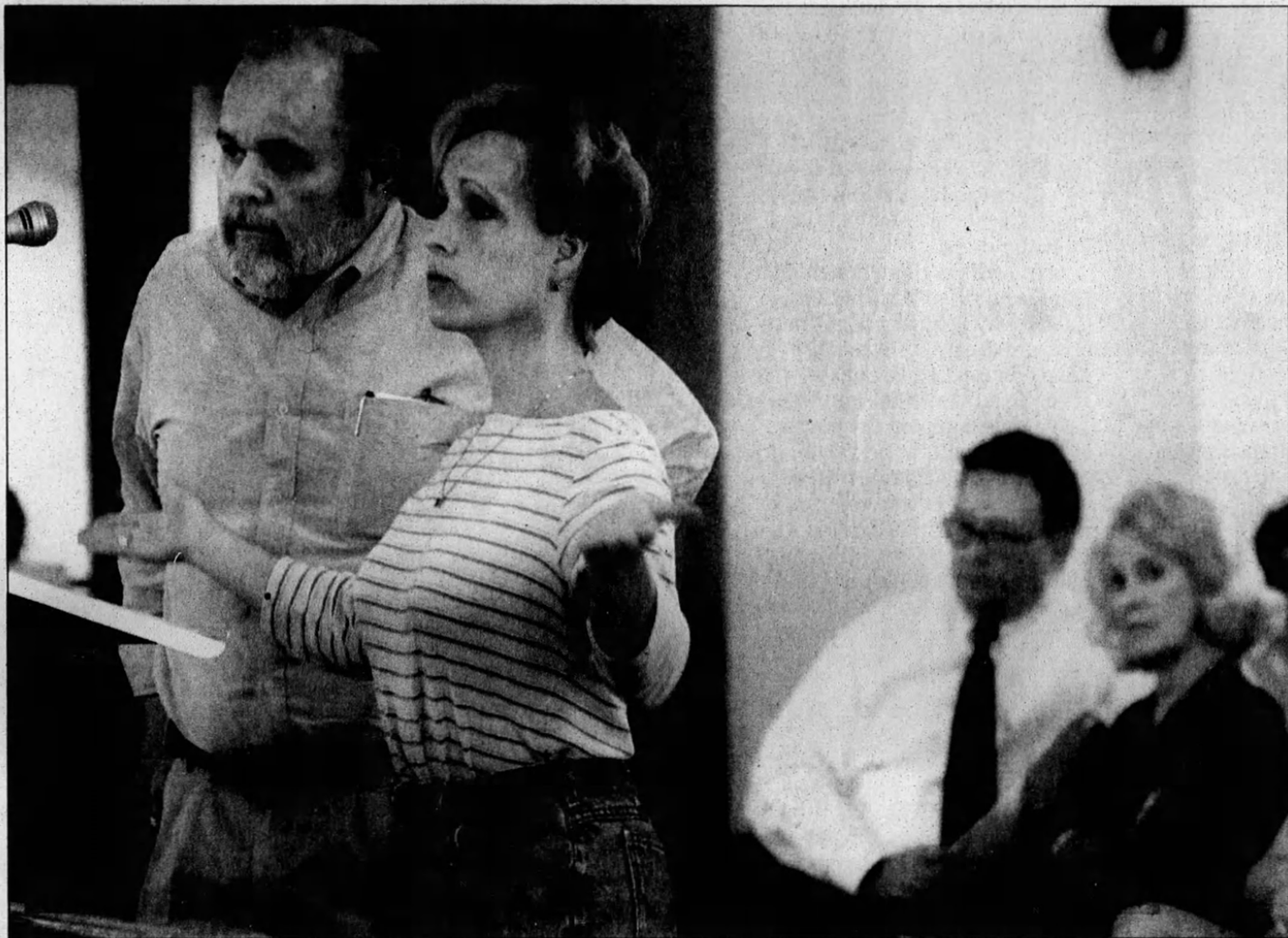


St. Joseph Public Library





E. J. Eckels. A.C.



Mary Beth Revels, the St. Joseph Public Library interim director, addresses Mayor David Jones, while St. Joseph Public Library board member George Pappas looks on Friday afternoon during a special City Council meeting at City Hall. The City Council voted 6-1 to approve the mayor's plan to resolve the East Side Library debate.

TODD WEDDLE
St. Joseph
News-Press



St. Joseph Public Library

HISTORY SPEAKS



*Downtown Library
First Saturdays
2 p.m.*



St. Joseph Public Library

HISTORY SPEAKS

JENNIFER SANDERS-TUTT
presents the history of
WWI VICTORY POSTERS

*Downtown Library
First Saturdays
10 a.m.*



St. Joseph Public Library

HISTORY SPEAKS

TREVOR TUTT
presents the history of
MARY CARTER BODER

*Downtown Library
First Saturdays
2 p.m.*



927 Felix St. • St. Joseph, MO • 232-8151 • sjpl.lib.mo.us

St. Joseph Public Library

HISTORY SPEAKS

Dr. Kim Schutte
presents the history of
African-American Community in 1920

*Downtown Library
Saturday, Feb. 2nd
2 p.m.*



927 Felix St. • St. Joseph, MO • 232-8151 • sjpl.lib.mo.us

St. Joseph Public Library

HISTORY SPEAKS

Marina Trifan
presents the history of
The Characters of Robidoux Row

*Downtown Library
First Saturdays
2 p.m.*



927 Felix St. • St. Joseph, MO • 232-8151 • sjpl.lib.mo.us



St. Joseph Public Library

HISTORY SPEAKS

presents the history of

Women in Preservation in St. Joseph



*Downtown Library
Saturday, March 2nd
2 p.m.*

927 Felix St. • St. Joseph, MO • 232-8151 • sjpl.lib.mo.us



St. Joseph Public Library

ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

THE PAST SPEAKS, THE FUTURE LISTENS

WHAT'S YOUR STORY?



CONTACT US TO GET INVOLVED!

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LOCAL HISTORY WEEK

SEPTEMBER 16 — 22



The Coffman Family









DOWNTOWN LIBRARY

Saturday, June 15 @ 2 p.m.

GROWING WITH DOWNTOWN FIRST BUSINESSES

with Cris Coffman



St. Joseph Public Library

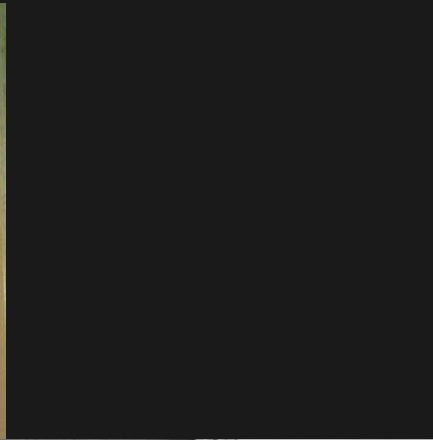
Photo Credit: Thomas Nathaniel Martin



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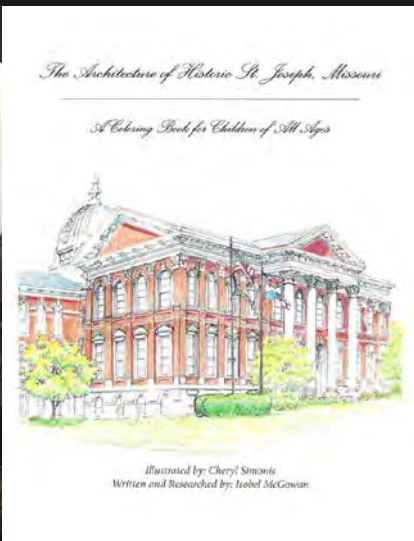


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The City of St. Joseph



SAVE OUR HERITAGE GRANT



SAVE OUR HERITAGE GRANT



SAVE OUR HERITAGE GRANT







FRANK POLLECK



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When the decorative plaster chips off at the Missouri Theater, the man who scoops up the pieces and glues them back together is Frank Polleck, the theater's technical director.

His title is inadequate, because Polleck is plumber, carpenter, set designer and — this past year especially — dedicated plugger of roof leaks.

He answers to many masters — the city, which owns the theater; Robidoux Resident Theatre, one of the Missouri's constant customers; the St. Joseph Symphony and other arts organizations, as well. But through it all, Polleck puts the theater itself first, lavishing so much love and care on the property that he makes the old building itself seem a living thing, deserving of his — and our community's — affection.



BUSINESS AND PRESERVATION PROPOSED PROJECTS



CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM



CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM







Thank You