

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Joplin Furniture Company Building

other name/site number N/A

2. Location

street & town 702-708 Main Street N/A not for publication

city or town Joplin N/A vicinity

state Missouri code MO county Jasper code 097 zip code 64801

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Mark A Miles 06/14/12
Signature of certifying official/Title Mark A. Miles/Deputy SHPO Date

Missouri Department of Natural Resources
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

- entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register
 See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:)

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property
(check only one box)

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1		Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

Historic Resources of Joplin, Missouri MPDF

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Function
(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE / specialty store

Current Function
(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE / professional

COMMERCE / warehouse-storage

VACANT

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19th AND 20th CENTURY REVIVALS

OTHER: Three-part vertical block

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Limestone

walls BRICK

roof ASPHALT

other

Narrative Description
(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 7

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 8

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Areas of Significance

(enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1899-1923

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Persons

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

N/A

Architect/Builder

Michaelis, August C. architect

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other Name of repository: _____

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 9

Joplin Furniture Company Building
Name of Property

Jasper County, MO
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

1 1/5 3/6/5/4/5/0 4/1/0/5/2/5/0
Zone Easting Northing

2 / / / / / / / / / / / /
Zone Easting Northing

3 / / / / / / / / / / / /
Zone Easting Northing

4 / / / / / / / / / / / /
Zone Easting Northing

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property.)

See continuation sheet

Property Tax No.

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 10

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Paul Hohmann

organization ebersoldt + associates architecture date 1.25.12

street & number 1006 Olive Street, Suite 200 telephone 314.241.4566

city or town St. Louis state MO zip code 63101

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs: Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items: (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

name/title Tri-State Realty Group (contact Clayton Cristy)

street & number PO Box 1488 telephone 417-781-0643

city or town Joplin state MO zip code 64802

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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**Joplin Furniture Company Building
Jasper County, MO
Historic Resources of Joplin, Missouri**

7. Narrative Description

Summary

Located at the southwest corner of Main and Seventh Streets, in downtown Joplin, Missouri, the Joplin Furniture Company Building is a four-story bearing wall brick masonry building in the Classical Revival style. Based on designs by Joplin Architect August C. Michaelis, the structure evolved from separate but adjacent two and three story buildings completed at 702-704 and 706-708 South Main Street in 1899 and 1906 respectively. Shortly after occupying the three floors of 706-708 South Main in 1906, Joplin businessman Julius C. Finke commissioned Michaelis to plan a unified expansion of the buildings to four stories. The expansion was carried out in two phases with the first at the south half which gained a story in 1908 followed by the north half which gained two stories in 1923. Apart from a seam in the Main Street (east) elevation, the Joplin Furniture Company Building “reads” as a single building despite being completed in four phases over more than two decades. It exemplifies the Commercial and Industrial Buildings property type (Three-Part Vertical Block subtype) as described in the Multiple Property Documentation Form (MPDF) titled “Historic Resources of Joplin, Missouri.” Although there have been alterations at the storefront level and most of the original windows have been replaced, the building substantially reflects its historic appearance. The original materials and workmanship, including the prominent copper cornice, are still present and mostly in very good condition. The interior is remarkably intact in its retention of original features and finishes including pressed tin ceilings in most of the building. Although much of the context surrounding the building has been lost over the years, the Joplin Furniture Company Building still portrays a feeling of importance on Joplin’s primary commercial thoroughfare.

Setting

The Joplin Furniture Company Building is located just south of the center of Joplin’s historical commercial and business center which stretched uninterrupted from First Street at the north to Tenth Street at the south where the Missouri Pacific Railroad Depot was situated. As with most American commercial centers, Joplin’s Main Street district experienced an erosion of historic structures during the mid-to-late twentieth century.

Today, immediately surrounding the Joplin Furniture Company Building is a one story windowless paint store to the north across 7th Street and an automotive oriented business set back from the opposite corner. A modern era bank with a circular plaza and green space at the corner is directly across Main Street with alternating parking lots and modern one to two story commercial buildings occupying the remainder of the block face. To the east are two one story commercial structures dating from the earlier part of the twentieth century, one of which is currently undergoing a major renovation, followed by a public parking lot filling out the block to Eighth Street.

Building Construction - Exterior

Built on two city lots each 50 feet wide by 106 feet deep, the Joplin Furniture Company Building is a four-story bearing wall brick masonry structure originally constructed as two buildings with a

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masonry party wall dividing each floor in half. Each half of the building is divided into two bays by a row of five cast iron columns.

Architect August C. Michaelis chose a light brown iron spot Roman brick for the primary elevations facing Main and Seventh Streets. Michaelis' use of Roman brick, which is somewhat unusual for a commercial store building, may have been influenced by its use in many notable works by the architectural firm of McKim Mead & White. McKim Mead & White applied Greek and Roman vocabulary including the use of Roman brick in their Classical Revival style buildings with the aim of cleaning up what they considered to be the visual confusion of American cities during the Gilded Age. The original storefronts facing Main Street have been infilled in modern times with a brown common sized brick and painted stucco. Originally the storefronts were mostly composed of large plate glass windows with a row of smaller transoms above. An entrance was located in the western bay of the 702-704 portion of the building and a single entrance was centered on the two bays of the 706-708 portion of the building.

Along Seventh Street a half bay storefront window was wrapped around the corner at Main Street. The masonry wall along Seventh Street has banding articulated by recessing every sixth course of the Roman brick and is punctuated with a row of high square windows and a decorative pressed brick band below the second floor. Near the rear of the building along Seventh Street is an arched entrance opening and a narrow storefront opening, both of which have been bricked-in with closely matching Roman brick.

The second through fourth floors of the Main Street elevation are composed with symmetrical sets of three individual windows in each bay at both halves of the building. The window openings have limestone sills and deep Roman brick jack arches with articulated keystones which project slightly. Sill brackets of slightly projecting brick were added at the fourth floor only. The original windows have been removed and the openings partially in-filled with metal siding and aluminum windows. Windows at the Seventh Street elevation follow a somewhat irregular pattern. At the second floor, there are a total of twelve window openings mostly centered over openings at the first floor and some alternating between. At the third and fourth floors, which were added in the final phase of construction, there are seven windows per floor alternating over every other window at the second floor except following the first two windows off Main Street.

Crowning the fourth floor of the building is an intricate cornice composed in the Doric order. The architrave, triglyphs and projecting cornice are all pressed copper which has oxidized with a green patina. The metope are Roman brick with a circular header course filled with plaster. The cornice is almost entirely intact with the exception of a half bay section of guttae at the projecting cornice that is missing and has been replaced with a flat piece of sheet metal. The copper cornice wraps around the entire seventh street building façade and has returns at the west-alley and south elevations. Above the cornice there is a brick parapet with slightly recessed panels over the windows below and capped with a limestone coping.

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The west (alley) elevation is standard red brick. At the first floor there is evidence of a doorway flanked by high windows on both sides at the east bay of the 702-704 half of the building and at both bays of the 706-708 half. Except for one pair of doors, these historic openings have been infilled with brick. Two additional doors have been cut into this elevation, one of which is accented by yellow mosaic tile. Flanking each of the original doorways were window wells into the basement which have been infilled with concrete block. At the second through fourth floors there are regular window openings at each bay, with fewer windows at the third and fourth floors of the 702-704 half of the building. All of the windows have been partially infilled with metal siding and smaller aluminum windows. Window openings at an elevator shaft have been infilled with brick except at the penthouse. The south elevation of the building adjoining a one story structure has no window openings and has a thin cement stucco parging.

The roof structure is framed wood trusses spanning north-south from the bearing masonry walls to the center beam line of each half of the building. The roofing is rolled asphalt and is sloped to a gutter along the rear of the building. Along the Main Street and Seventh Street sides of the roof are tall parapets with regular small openings in the walls for drainage from the cornice. The back sides of the parapets have a spray-on foam coating. The center party wall extends a few feet above the roof and is covered in rolled roofing. The south parapet is capped with a sheet metal coping.

Building – Interior

The interior of the building is remarkably intact in its retention of original features and finishes throughout. Original pressed tin ceilings are intact on all four floors of the north half of the building and at the basement, first and third floors of the south half of the building. Water damage from leaks in the roof of the north half of the building have caused the removal of about half the tin ceiling on the fourth floor and some locations on the floors below, but the tin sheets were carefully removed and are stockpiled on the fourth floor for potential re-installation. Original pine flooring has been exposed in many areas where carpet has been removed. While exterior windows have been mostly replaced, in almost all cases, the original interior sill, apron and casing is intact and in good condition.

The first floor commercial space at the north half of the building remains intact with limited partitions enclosing a reception and office suite at the front of the space and restrooms at the rear of the space. The first floor commercial space at the south half of the building retains an original U-shaped mezzanine with some original partitions underneath. Some partitions have been added within the space, but the introduction did not destroy the original pressed tin ceiling. Floors two through four have very few floor to ceiling partitions dividing the spaces. On floors two, three and the south half of the fourth floor there are free-standing eight-foot high plywood and 2x4 partitions dividing the spaces into storage lockers. The north and south halves of all floors of the building are connected with openings through the masonry party wall near the rear of the building. Original rolling metal fire doors are intact at the second through fourth floors at these openings.

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An original staircase exists at the southwest corner of the building connecting the first through fourth floors. Some partitions have been added around the stair openings, but it is not enclosed. Another original stair connects the south commercial space to the basement. A new steel and concrete pan enclosed staircase was installed at the northwest corner of the building within the last five years connecting the basement, first and second floors. There are no stairs connecting the floors two through four in the north half of the building. A freight elevator and shaft which formerly contained a small passenger elevator are located adjacent to the openings between the halves of the building.

Integrity

The lack of new tenants above the first floor after the 1982 closure of the Joplin Furniture Company has resulted in almost complete retention of historic finishes, including light fixtures, throughout the majority of the Joplin Furniture Company Building resulting in "time capsule" like feel to the upper floors. First floor tenant improvements, which have for the most part been non-destructive, also resulted in a high degree of historic integrity remaining at the principal commercial floor of the building. While the buildings' exterior has been modified with the loss of the original storefronts and many of the original windows have been removed, the Joplin Furniture Company Building overall maintains a high degree of integrity with respect to retention of original materials and the good condition of those materials.

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Historic Resources of Joplin, Missouri**

8. Significance

Summary

The Joplin Furniture Company Building in Joplin, Missouri is locally significant and meets National Register Criterion A for its association with patterns of COMMERCE in the city of Joplin, Missouri and Criterion C for ARCHITECTURE as a prominent example of Classical Revival architecture by local architect August C. Michaelis. The Joplin Furniture Company Building is associated with the "Historic Resources of Joplin, Missouri" Multiple Property Documentation Form (MPDF), in particular the historic contexts "Evolution of Joplin as a Regional Commercial and Industrial Center 1871-1960" and "Architectural Styles and Vernacular Property Types, 1830-1960." The Joplin Furniture Company Building's period of significance spans the 24 year period of its construction in four stages from 1899 to 1923. When completed, it was one of the largest single tenant retail establishments of its kind in the state of Missouri outside St. Louis and Kansas City. The Joplin Furniture Company operated continuously at this location from 1908 to 1982, and while the building has had some exterior alterations to the windows and storefronts, the Joplin Furniture Company Building retains all other exterior features and has had very minimal interior alterations since its construction.

Elaboration

With respect to National Register Criterion A, the Joplin Furniture Company building is significant within the area of COMMERCE as a physical reflection of commercial development near the heart of downtown which was characterized by significantly larger buildings (Joplin Downtown Historic District, NR 2008), including several which range from five to eight stories in height. As set forth in the MPDF, the historical development of the community began with the July 28, 1871 platting of Joplin City, a 17-acre area near present-day Broadway and Cox Avenue. Within a year, another group laid out the town of Murphysburg, and in the early 1880s Patrick Murphy and William Byers laid out a new addition south of the original development, recorded as Byers and Murphy's Addition. Over 2,000 had settled in the two towns by 1872 and the following year the communities merged to form Joplin. During the remainder of the decade five national railroad lines connected with Joplin, which began to assume the appearance of a burgeoning city, with a bustling Main Street dotted by financial and retail establishments and surrounded by growing residential development.¹

Joplin experienced its most rapid growth between 1890 and 1910. In 1890, Joplin's population was 9,943 and by 1900, just after the initial construction of 702-704 S. Main, had ballooned to 26,023. By 1906, construction of a three story structure at 706-708 S. Main, followed the pattern of development of larger permanent masonry commercial buildings replacing single

¹ Schwenk, Sally and Davis, Kerry. "Joplin Downtown Historic District." National Register of Historic Places Registration Form. 2008

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story frame buildings and houses, transforming South Main Street into a mature downtown district (as illustrated by Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps for 1896, 1900 & 1906).

The significant increases in population reflected the growth of mining as an industry in the region during the period from 1867 to 1912 when twenty-nine cities and towns evolved from a disparate group of mining camps. By 1890, the size and rate of production of mining areas had increased significantly due to technological advances and new financing methods. Joplin's role as a regional railroad and interurban trolley line hub further solidified Joplin's role as the major commercial center of the region. As noted in the MPDF, by 1905, Joplin was the major metropolis of the Tri-State mining area.

The Joplin Furniture Company was established by James. M. Evans and George Huthmacher in 1897 in a one-story building at the southwest corner of Sixth and Main Streets to serve the rapidly growing city. The following year, businessman Julius C. Finke bought out Huthmacher's share of the company. In 1906 Evans and Finke moved the Joplin Furniture Company to a new three-story building at 706-708 S. Main designed by architect August C. Michaelis. The Sixth and Main site was purchased with adjoining properties by Joseph Newman for construction of the six story Newman's Department Store (now Joplin City Hall – National Register 7/23//90).

Michaelis had previously been commissioned to design the adjoining two story commercial building at 702-704 S. Main in 1899.² The building was occupied on the ground floor by the Anderson Drug Store and Grand Tailoring with offices on the second floor. Both buildings were owned at the time by J. C. Spring of Boston, MA.

Within a year of moving to 706-708 S. Main, the Joplin Furniture Company was preparing further expansion with the addition of a fourth floor by architect August C. Michaelis. In April 1923, the Joplin Furniture Company closed on the purchase of both the 702-704 and 706-708 S. Main buildings and announced plans to combine the buildings and construct a matching two-story addition to 702-704 S. Main in accordance with plans previously drawn by architect August C. Michaelis.³ The furniture store occupied the combined second through fourth floors while retaining Anderson Drugs and Bormaster Shoes as first floor tenants at 702 and 704 S. Main Street.⁴ With the exception of multi-department stores such as Newman's and Christman's, the completed Joplin Furniture Company Building had become one of the largest mercantile structures in the busy downtown commercial district.

The Joplin Furniture Company's main competitors in the furniture trade were Newman's Department Store, Christman's Dry Goods Co., and Montaldo Furniture. Ironically, the Newman Brothers in 1910 completed their six-story Chicago Style department store at the southwest corner of Main & 6th Streets, which was the first location of the Joplin Furniture Company.

² Michaelis Archives, Post Memorial Art Reference Library.

³ *Joplin News Herald*, April 2, 1923.

⁴ Joplin City Directory, 1927.

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According to advertisements in the *Joplin Globe*, by the early 1920s, growth in Newman's business led to the establishment of Newman's Furniture Division separate from their main department store and located at Main & 8th Streets. In 1917, Christman's Dry Goods Company, located at the corner of Main & 5th Streets, opened a new five story department store replacing their earlier 3-story building. Two years later, Christman's added another 30,000 square feet of warehouse space for furniture, carpets and other large items.⁵

Period advertisements from the *Joplin Globe* for Joplin Furniture Company, Newman Brothers, and Christman's showed a similar selection of general home furnishings, rugs, window treatments and other accessories. While the two department store competitors had larger overall stores, neither had a furnishings department which could match that of the Joplin Furniture Company's 45,000 square feet of floor space which operated continuously from the 1923 expansion until 1982. Montaldo Furniture Company, which had been located at 821 Main Street moved to a larger 3-story building at 713-15 Main in 1923, almost directly across the street from the Joplin Furniture Company Building. On May 17, 1932, however, a group of creditors filed an involuntary bankruptcy petition against George Montaldo and the Montaldo Furniture Company. Subsequent advertisements appear for the liquidation sale of all of Montaldo's remaining stock at 25% to 35% on the dollar in June 1932.⁶

The Joplin Furniture Company served a wide area around Joplin with many customers residing as far away as 100 miles. A fleet of four trucks operated free delivery service anywhere in the four-state area. In 1965, the Joplin Furniture Company expanded yet again taking over the first floor retail space at 702-704 S. Main Street. Over the years the space had been occupied by JC Penny from 1928 through 1938 and Hornaday's men's and boys clothier from 1940 through 1965.⁷ The company also operated a three-story warehouse at 8th Street and Grand Avenue. The Joplin Furniture Company, according to Jim Hays, grandson of J. M. Evans, was the oldest continually operating furniture store in the four-state region with the exception of Lammert Furniture Company of St. Louis. The store remained in operation until 1982 when William S. Finke Sr., grandson of Julius C. Finke, retired after operating the family business since 1945.⁸ Current occupants of the Joplin Furniture Company Building include a civil engineering company at 702-704 S. Main Street and a printing company at 706-708 S. Main Street. Both have made only minor alterations to the interior spaces. The upper three floors have been either vacant and/or used for storage since the closure of the Joplin Furniture Company, as no new permanent partitions have been introduced.

With respect to National Register Criterion C, the Joplin Furniture Company building is significant in the area of ARCHITECTURE as a significant work of August C. Michaelis. The son of an Alsatian nobleman, August Michaelis began as a carpenter and as a young man,

⁵ Missouri Digital Heritage, Christman Building postcard. <http://cdm.sos.mo.gov/u?/jplnpstcrds,736>

⁶ *Joplin Globe*: April 21, 1923; p.4, May 17, 1932, p.5; June 19, 1932, p.4; June 26, 1932, p.2.

⁷ *Joplin News Herald*, October 1, 1965.

⁸ William S. Finke, Sr., obituary, *Joplin Globe*, July 20, 2008; Joplin City Directory 1981-1983.

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taught himself the principals of architecture by studying books and buildings. In 1893, Michaelis opened an architectural practice in Joplin where he would become one of the city's most prominent architects, designing the majority of the important buildings in Joplin over a 32 year career.

Examples of Michaelis' early works included Joplin High School (c. 1896), St. John's Hospital (c. 1898), First Presbyterian Church (c. 1898), the Clarkson Hotel at 718-722 S. Main Street (c. 1899), Rains Bros. Building at 906-908 S. Main Street (National Register 7/19/90), and a high profile commission, the Joplin Carnegie Library (c. 1903, National Register 7/10/79). In 1903 his younger brother, Alfred, joined the architectural practice which continued as Michaelis Brothers.

Though the architectural designs of August C. Michaelis vary widely, the use of Classical Revival motifs persists throughout his work. He made prominent use of Greek inspired elements, often intermixing these motifs with Italian features. Romanesque features also appear in his designs including the Clarkson Hotel, which exhibited rock-faced masonry and round arches while highlighted by Classical motifs of a pedimented bay and smooth stone engaged columns. Prominent pediments and colonnades such as those found on the Carnegie Library and Second Presbyterian Church appear to be typical of his design character for monumental buildings.

The Joplin Furniture Company Building evolved in four stages, with the first two story building constructed in 1899 at 702-704 S. Main Street. This set the precedent of Classical Revival style employing Roman brick, windows featuring tall keystone jack arches, a rusticated treatment of the first floor along Seventh Street and an arched entrance. A simple projecting cornice, likely of sheet metal, is seen embellishing the Main Street façade in early photographs. These features were carried by Michaelis almost identically, but with an additional story immediately south, with the design for the Joplin Furniture Company at 706-708 S. Main Street constructed in 1906.

When Michaelis was commissioned to enlarge the Joplin Furniture Company Building to its present height less than two years after its construction, he continued the detailing of the body of the building through the additional floors, but with the larger scale of the building designed a larger, more elaborate copper cornice in the Doric Order. Although the expansion to four floors occurred in two phases, it is apparent from photographs of the first expansion at 706-708 Main Street that the expansion to the north was already planned. The cornice was wrapped around the corner to the south façade above an adjacent one-story building, but ended abruptly at the corner at the opposite side. Additionally, the elements of the cornice are not symmetrical within the façade of the first half of the expansion, but are symmetrical with the completed Main Street elevation. A *Joplin Globe* December 1922 article announcing building purchase by the Joplin Furniture Company and the last expansion which combined the buildings with the two-story addition to 702-704 S. Main Street also references that the completion of the building would be

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in accordance to plans drawn years previous⁹. Above the cornice, which ties the two halves of the building together as one, a well-proportioned paneled masonry parapet adds additional visual weight. The resulting ensemble completed in late 1923 portrayed a bold presence among the downtown commercial district.

Michaelis employed similar Classical revival motifs seen on the Joplin Furniture Company, including a rusticated first floor, keystones at the windows and a cornice with parapet for the six story Gentry Apartments (c. 1918, National Register 8/8/06) which was executed with buff brick and terra cotta. The Michaelis Brothers career culminated with the design of the Classical Revival style Memorial Hall which was constructed in 1925. Tragically, Alfred Michaelis was killed in a fifty foot fall from scaffolding while inspecting construction of Memorial Hall. Devastated from this great loss, August C. Michaelis closed his office and left Joplin. August with his wife Viola returned to Joplin in 1937 to open Michaelis Cafeteria, but died five weeks later.¹⁰

⁹ *Joplin Globe*, December 31, 1922, p.2.

¹⁰ Cydney E. Millstein, "Gentry Apartments," National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, 2006.

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9. Bibliography

Published Materials

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Derrick, Laura J. "Downtown Joplin." Missouri Office of Historic Preservation Architectural Historic Inventory Survey Form. 1987.

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Millstein, Cydney E. "Gentry Apartments." National Register of Historic Places Registration Form. 2006.

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Collections

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Michaelis Archives - Post Memorial Art Reference Library, 300 S. Main Street, Joplin, Missouri.

Tri-State Engineering – Photo Collection, 702 S. Main Street, Joplin, Missouri.

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**Joplin Furniture Company Building
Jasper County, MO
Historic Resources of Joplin, Missouri**

10. Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description:

Consisting of Lots 45 and 46 of Byer's and Murphy's Addition to Murphysburg, bounded on the north by the south curblineline of 7th Street, on the west by an unnamed alley, on the south by an adjacent one story building and on the east by the west curblineline of Main Street.

Boundary Justification:

The boundaries are those historically associated with the Joplin Furniture Company Building.

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Photograph Log:

The following information applies to all numbered 8x10 photographs:

Joplin Furniture Company Building, Joplin, Missouri

Photographer: Paul Hohmann

Date: January 2012

Original tiff image file location:

Photo # & Description:

1. Main Street (east) elevation
2. View from northeast at the intersection of Main & Seventh Streets
3. Seventh Street (north) elevation
4. Detail of cornice at Main Street elevation
5. Detail of Main Street cornice as it wraps around to south elevation
6. View from southeast on Main Street
7. Detail of former entrance arch on Seventh Street elevation
8. View of west (alley) elevation from Seventh Street
9. View of west (alley) elevation from parking lot across alley
10. First floor of 702-704 looking east toward front of space (missing tin tiles will be reinstalled after current work above ceiling is completed)
11. First floor of 706-708 looking east toward front of space
12. First floor of 706-708 looking northwest at portion of historic mezzanine
13. Second floor looking west at original stair
14. Second floor looking east at front wall with original window trim
15. Third floor looking east (missing tin ceiling is stockpiled for potential reinstallation)

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16. Third floor close-up of historic light fixture and tin ceiling
17. Third floor looking southeast
18. Third floor looking west showing detail of tin ceiling with original stair in background
19. Fourth floor looking west along Seventh Street wall
20. Original stair connecting basement and 706-708 commercial space

List of Figures:

1. Basement floor plan
2. First floor plan
3. Second floor plan
4. Third floor plan
5. Fourth floor plan
6. 1900 Sanborn depicting 702-704 S. Main St. as two-story building
7. 1906 Sanborn depicting 706-708 S. Main St. as three-story building
8. South Main Street postcard, c. 1901
9. South Main Street postcard (enlargement), c. 1907
10. Joplin Furniture Company Building, c. 1912
11. Joplin Furniture Company Building, as completed (sketch)
- 12. South Main Street, 1925**

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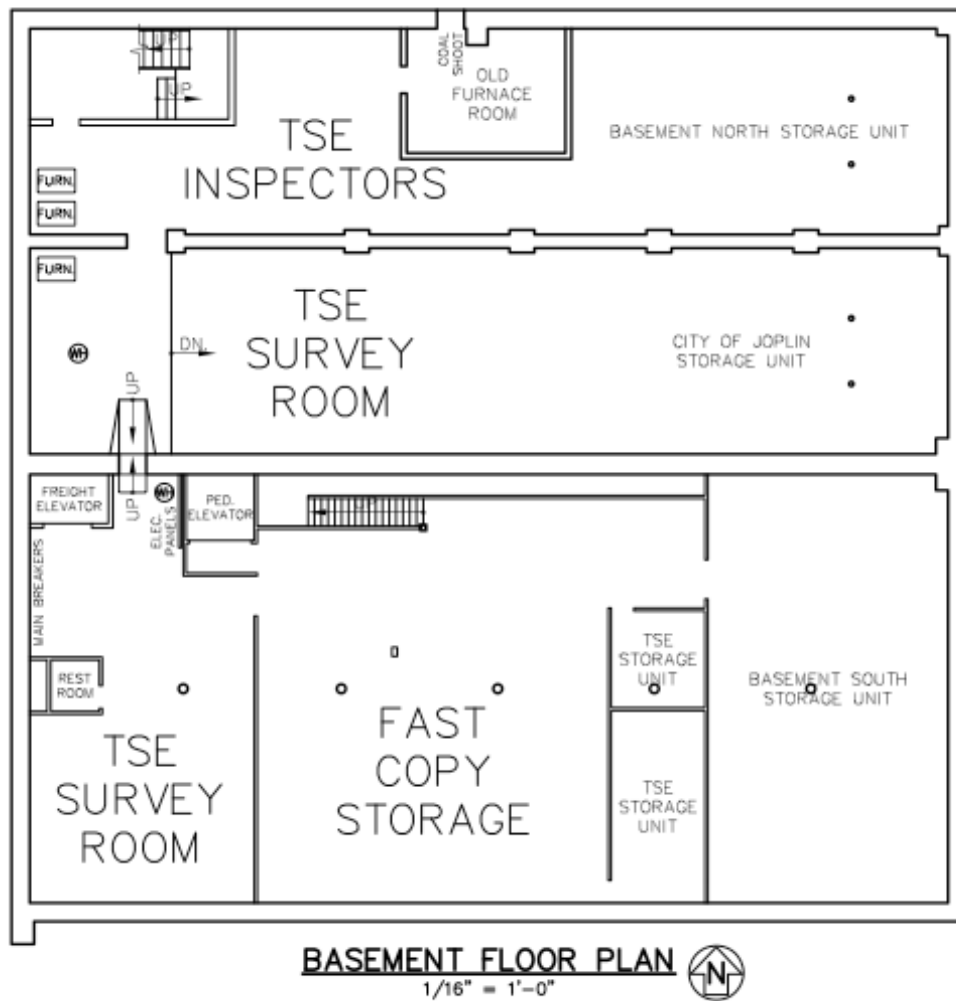


Figure 1: Basement Floor Plan

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Figure 3: Second Floor Plan

Note: Storage unit walls are 8-foot high temporary wood partitions.

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Figure 4: Third Floor Plan

Note: Storage unit walls are 8-foot high temporary wood partitions.

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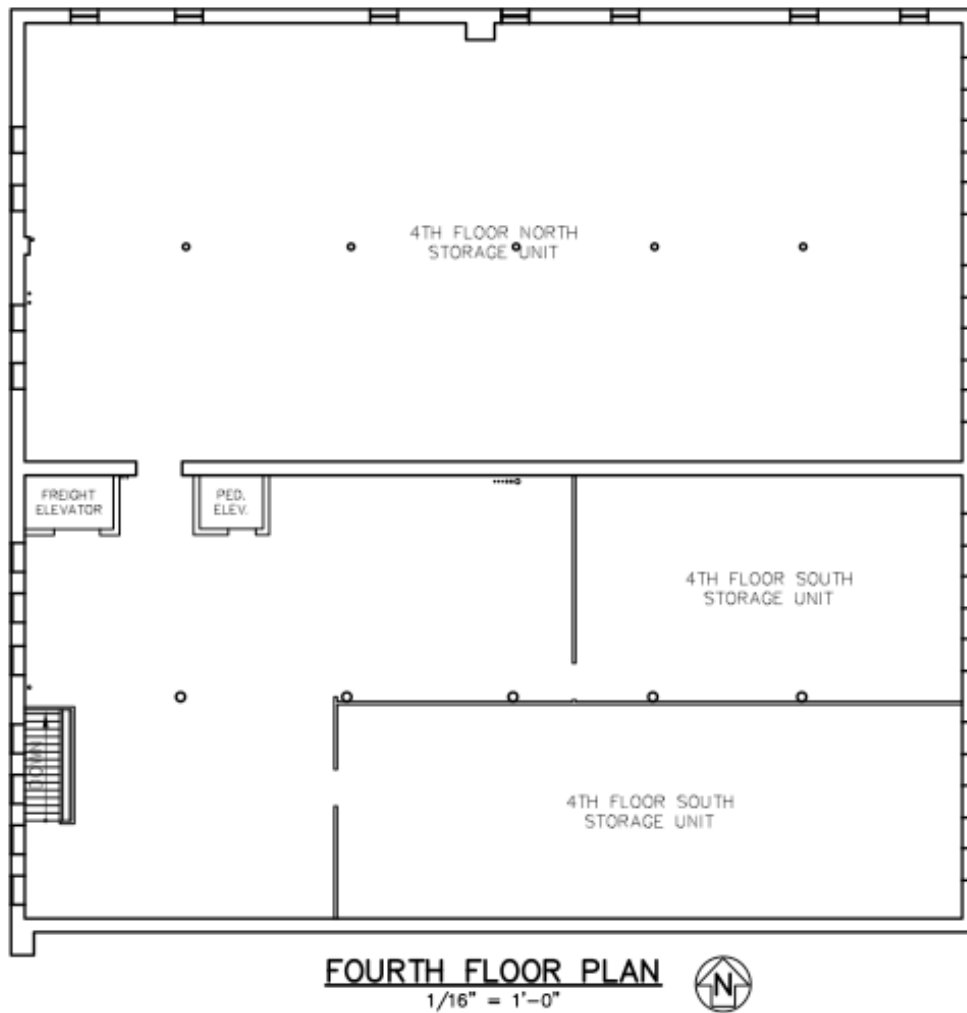


Figure 5: Fourth Floor Plan

Note: Storage unit walls are 8-foot high temporary wood partitions.

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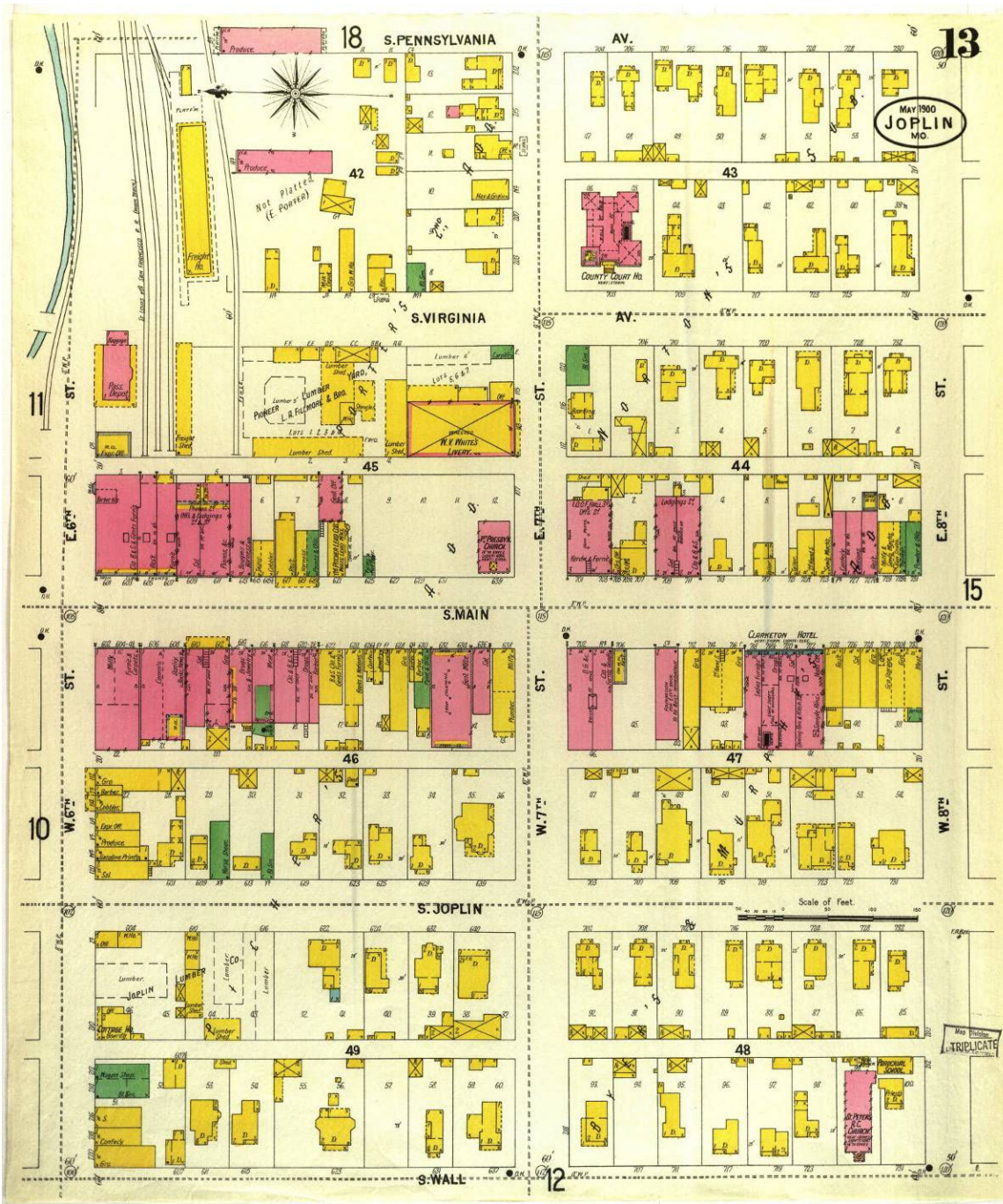


Figure 6: 1900 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map illustrates the presence of 702-704 S. Main Street constructed as a two-story building.

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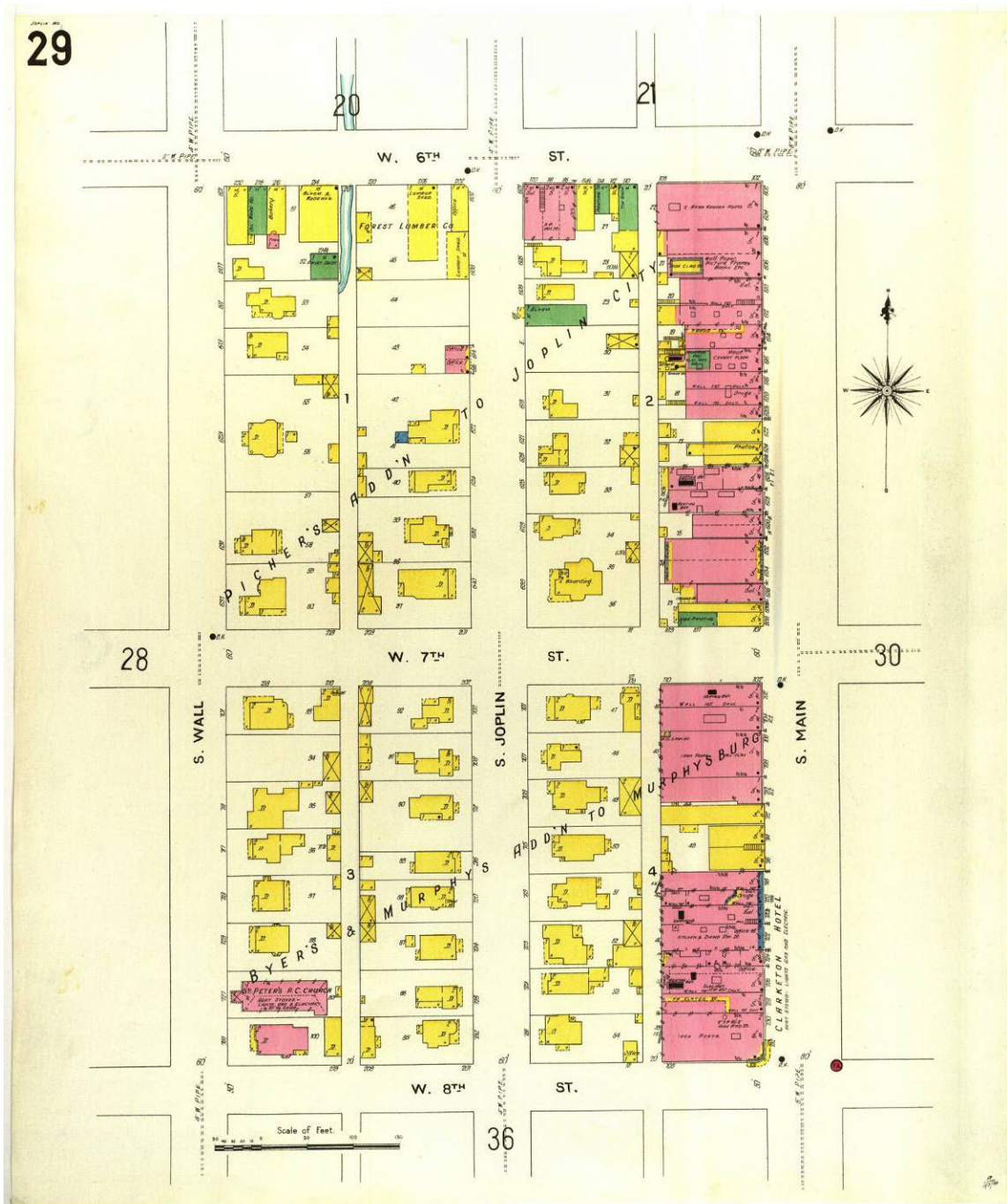


Figure 7: 1906 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map illustrates the presence of 706-708 S. Main Street constructed as a three-story building.

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Figure 8: Postcard of Main Street, c. 1901 shows 702-704 S. Main Street, originally constructed as a two story building. (From the collection of the Joplin Public Library)

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Figure 9: Postcard of Main Street (enlargement), c. 1907 shows 702-704 and the adjoining 706-708 S. Main Street. shortly after construction and occupancy by the Joplin Furniture Company. (From the collection of the Joplin Public Library).

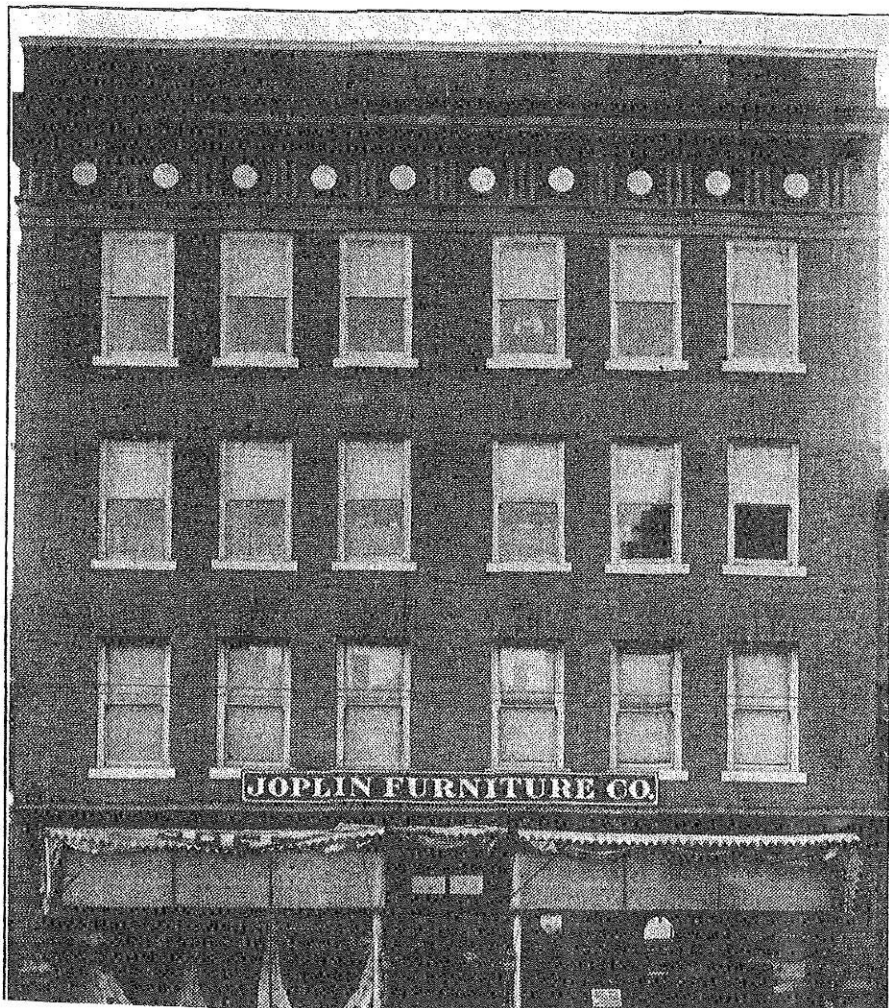
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Joplin Furniture Company Building
Jasper County, MO
Historic Resources of Joplin, Missouri

Stationery, Perfume and Candies CORNER FIRST AND MAIN



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Figure 10: A 1912 *Joplin Globe* photograph of the Joplin Furniture Company after enlargement to four stories by architect August C. Michaelis. The adjacent north half of the combined structure would soon receive a two story expansion including a mirror image of the grand cornice and parapet shown above, completing the building. (from the collection of the Post Memorial Art Reference Library)

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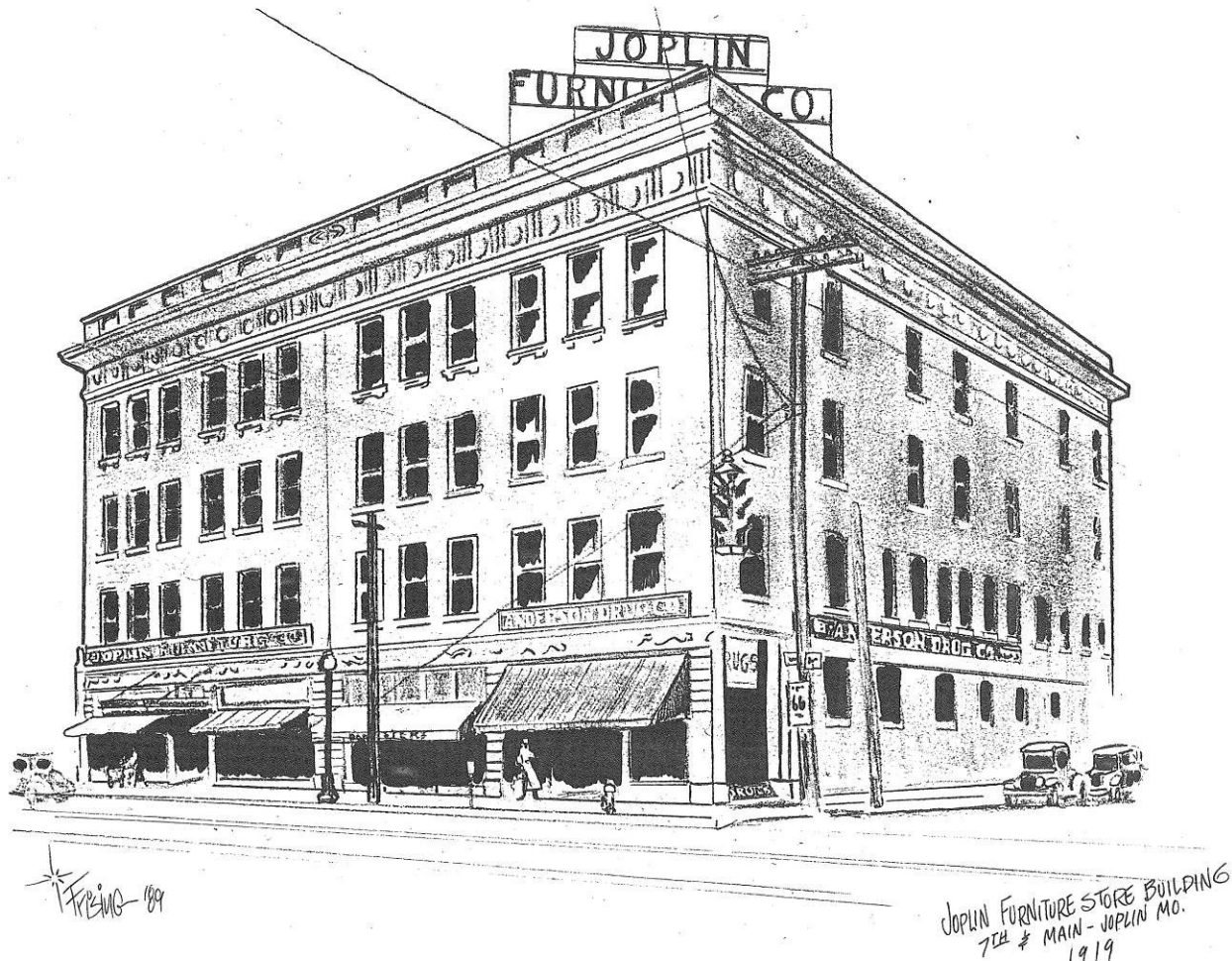


Figure 11: A sketch of the completed Joplin Furniture Company Building The Joplin Furniture Company store occupied the south half of the first floor and the entire second, third, and fourth floors. (from the collection of the Post Memorial Art Reference Library)

Note: since the building was completed in 1923, the date in the lower right corner is incorrect.

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Joplin Furniture Company Building
Jasper County, MO
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In 1925 Joplin motorists were confronted by an increase in gasoline prices. Before the year was completed, the gas pump price had risen by five cents to 19.9 cents per gallon.

THE BEST OF JOPLIN

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Figure 12: S. Main Street in 1925 showing the Joplin Furniture Company in context of Joplin's bustling downtown commercial district. (*The Best of Joplin - The American Photograph Series*)



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