

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Edmond Jacques Eckel House

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

515 N. 4th Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

St. Joseph

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

#6 - Hon. William Coleman

STATE

Missouri

CODE

029

COUNTY

Buchanan

CODE

021

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

DISTRICT  
 BUILDING(S)  
 STRUCTURE  
 SITE  
 OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

PUBLIC  
 PRIVATE  
 BOTH  
**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**  
 IN PROCESS  
 BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

OCCUPIED  
 UNOCCUPIED  
 WORK IN PROGRESS  
**ACCESSIBLE**  
 YES: RESTRICTED  
 YES: UNRESTRICTED  
 NO

## PRESENT USE

AGRICULTURE  
 COMMERCIAL  
 EDUCATIONAL  
 ENTERTAINMENT  
 GOVERNMENT  
 INDUSTRIAL  
 MILITARY  
 MUSEUM  
 PARK  
 PRIVATE RESIDENC.  
 RELIGIOUS  
 SCIENTIFIC  
 TRANSPORTATION  
 OTHER: Vacant

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

B.G.S. Development Company, Western Chemical

STREET &amp; NUMBER

615 Albemarle

CITY, TOWN

St. Joseph

VICINITY OF

STATE

Missouri 64501

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Registrar of Deeds, Buchanan County Courthouse

STREET &amp; NUMBER

5th &amp; Jules Streets

CITY, TOWN

St. Joseph

STATE

Missouri 64501

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

1. Historical Preservation Inventory

DATE

1972

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

City Hall

CITY, TOWN

St. Joseph

STATE

Missouri 64501

FHR-8-300A  
(11/78)

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HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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EDMOND JACQUES ECKEL HOUSE

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 6 PAGE 1

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2. Missouri State Historical Survey  
1979 state  
Department of Natural Resources  
P.O. Box 176  
Jefferson City Missouri 65102

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ITEM NUMBER 11 PAGE 1

2. Ms. Nancy Sandehn  
P.O. Box 43  
St. Joseph Missouri 64502

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Edmond Jacques Eckel House is located in downtown St. Joseph, Missouri in a formerly fashionable but now neglected neighborhood, one block north of the Buchanan County Courthouse and across the street from the Mannerist Revival City Auditorium, another building designed by E.J. Eckel. The Eckel House is a two and one-half story building with basement constructed of brick laid in common bond on a foundation of brick. It is capped with a truncated hipped roof faced with asphalt shingles. The house measures 25' along its east and west sides and 36' along the north and south and is rectangular in plan (see plan). A small inset porch with a shed roof and wooden turned columns is located on the south side while a small flat roofed portico of wood with wooden columns of the Tuscan order, painted white, shelters the main entrance on the west side. Hipped dormers are located along all sides of the hipped roof. Each features cast iron post and lintel supports of Eastlake inspiration.

Notable decorative features of the Eckel House include limestone lintels over the main entrance and the windows of the west and west half of the south facade which continue vertically, flanking each window to impost level. At the paired windows on the west side, this lintel is supported by wooden mullions ornamented with bull's eyes. The main first floor window in the projecting bay on the west side is further elaborated by the addition of a wide limestone course meeting the window at impost level. Over each of these lintels rests a fanciful hood mold with voluted termini. The terminus over the windows is the projecting western bay is in the form of a tightly rolled acanthus leaf.

The lintels of the Eckel House are differentiated and decorated in a very subtle manner. Those on the west side have edges beveled into diamond and ovoid patterns. The south lintels feature several variations of scalloped or curving decoration. Each is slightly different in design.

The remaining decoration on the exterior of the Eckel House is executed by means of subtle variations in the structure of the brickwork itself. Just below the cornice on the west and west half of the south side runs an elaborate corbel table which becomes plain on the east end of the south side and completes the circumference of the house. Below this, meeting the first and second story lintels at impost level on the west and west half of the south side two stringcourses run each formed by a soldier course of brick with each member placed obliquely. On the west side, the projecting window pair is further differentiated by its flanking brick piers with brick "capitals" of receding corbel courses resting on "shafts" accented by vertical interstices.

Except for the alteration of one door on the south inset porch to create a window, there have been no changes or additions to the exterior of this building. It is currently vacant, totally neglected and in a badly deteriorated state. The stonework of the lintels and some of the brickwork of the window sills have fallen away or been broken off in several spots, and the roof and drainage system are in need of repair.

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Unlike the exterior, the interior of the Eckel House has been altered often. Most recently, partitions have been added to several of the rooms on both the first and second floors. Some of the few ornate features of the interior such as the walnut and tile fireplaces and the walnut staircase have been damaged. The attic has been finished as servants' quarters.

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

## PERIOD

## AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1885

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Edmond Jacques Eckel

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Edmond Jacques Eckel House is significant as the home of E.J. Eckel, one of the foremost 19th and 20th century architects of St. Joseph, Missouri and the Midwest, which was designed by the architect himself as a home for him and his family.

Edmond Jacques Eckel was born in Strasbourg, the province of Alsace, France in 1845. His early schooling was at the Gymnase Protestant of Strasbourg, supplemented by architectural study under the city's architect (Men Who Make St. Joseph "The City Worthwhile", n.p.). From 1864 to 1868 he studied at the Ecole des Beaux Arts in Paris in the ateliers of Paccard and Vandoyer (Thieme and Becker, Vol. X, p. 318). Some of his drawings survive from this period which show him to be imbued with Beaux Arts design principles and a fine artist at this early date (Western Architect, XVII, p. 80). In 1868 Eckel came to the U.S.A. on the steamer Ville de Paris and worked for several months in New York and Cleveland (Bryan, p. 50). En route to Omaha in 1869, his train was delayed in St. Joseph. It is reported that he liked the town so much that he decided to stay. (Utz, p. 76). He first worked as an architect in this city for P.F. Meagher, and he later joined the firm of Stigers and Boettner (Bryan, p. 50). In 1872 he became a partner in the firm, and, with the retirement of Mr. Stigers, the firm became known as Boettner and Eckel. From 1880 to 1893 Eckel worked in association with George Mann, an architect from Indiana who had studied at M.I.T. and had previously practiced in Minneapolis, Detroit and Washington, D.C. as a draftsman (History of Buchanan County, Missouri, p. 826). From 1893 to 1903 Eckel practiced alone. In 1908 he joined into partnership with Walter Boschen and, in 1910, with William Aldrich. Still later, he joined with Otto Brunner. This firm exists today as Brunner and Brunner, with William, the son of Otto, as senior architect. Eckel, who has been described as "the...most successful architect and respected practitioner of architecture in the central western United States", was a member of the Western Association of Architects from 1885 to 1889 when that organization merged with the American Institute of Architects. At that time Eckel was made a fellow of the A.I.A. (Men Who Make St. Joseph "The City Worthwhile", n.p., Bryan, p. 50).

Other notable buildings in St. Joseph accredited to Eckel or his firms are the German American Bank Building (1889, listed on the National Register 11/24/78), the Josiah Beattie Moss Home (1890-1892), the Irish American Building (date unknown, now demolished), the Joshua Motter Home (1890), the J.W. McAlister House (1890-1891), the John J. Tootle Home (1890-1892) and the C.D. Smith Drug Company, all designed in the Richardsonian Romanesque Style.

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Others include the Beaux Arts Commercial Bank (1887), the Mannerist Revival City Auditorium (date unknown), the Neo-Classical Revival John J. Tootle Home (1900) and the Beaux Arts Tootle-Lemon Bank (1899). Others are the High Victorian Italianate Noyes-Norman Building (1872), Englehart-Winning and Co. (1880-1884) and Brittain-Richardson and Co. (1882) which were all placed on the National Register as Wholesale Row Historic District (9/19/77); and the Chateausque James H. Robison House (1888), the Italianate Adam Schuster House (1881), the Queen Anne Herschel Bartlett-Parker House (1888), the Chateausque Cummings-Ogden House (1895) and probably others not yet definitely attributed to him but similar in style, all in the Hall Street Historic District (placed on the National Register 7/17/79).

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1. Bryan, John Albury, (Ed.). Missouri's Contribution to American Architecture. St. Louis: St. Louis Architectural Club, 1928.
2. "Contemporary Architects and Their Works", Western Architect, XVII (September, 1911), 79-84.

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

QUADRANGLE NAME "St. Joseph, North, MO.-KANS."

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES

A 1, 5 | 3, 4, 1, 1, 2, 0 | 4, 4, 0, 3, 5, 9, 5

B    |    |   

ZONE EASTING

NORTHING

ZONE EASTING

NORTHING

C    |    |   

D    |    |   

E    |    |   

F    |    |   

G    |    |   

H    |    |   

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

All of Lot Two (2), Block Two (2) Roubidoux's First Addition, of the City of St. Joseph.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

1. Noelle Soren, Architectural Historian

September 20, 1979

ORGANIZATION

Department of Natural Resources

DATE

314/751-4096

STREET & NUMBER

P.O. Box 176

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Jefferson City

STATE

Missouri 65102

## 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL   

STATE x

LOCAL   

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE Director, Department of Natural Resources and  
State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

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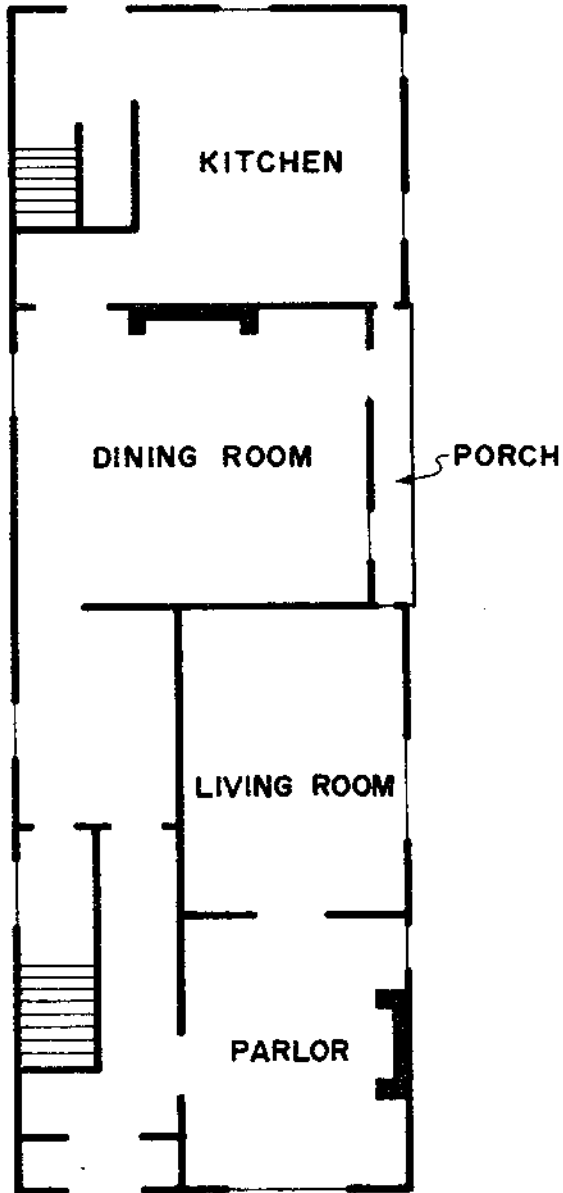
ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

3. History of Buchanan County, Missouri. St. Joseph: St. Joseph Steam Printing Co., 1881.
4. Men Who Made St. Joseph "The City Worthwhile". St. Joseph: W.P. Tracy, 1920.
5. Thieme, Ulrich and Felix Becker. Allgemeines Lexicon der bildenden Künstler, Vol. X. Leipzig: Verlag von A.E. Seemann, 1914.
6. Utz, Nellie. History of the Growth and Development of St. Joseph. St. Joseph: no publisher, 1935.

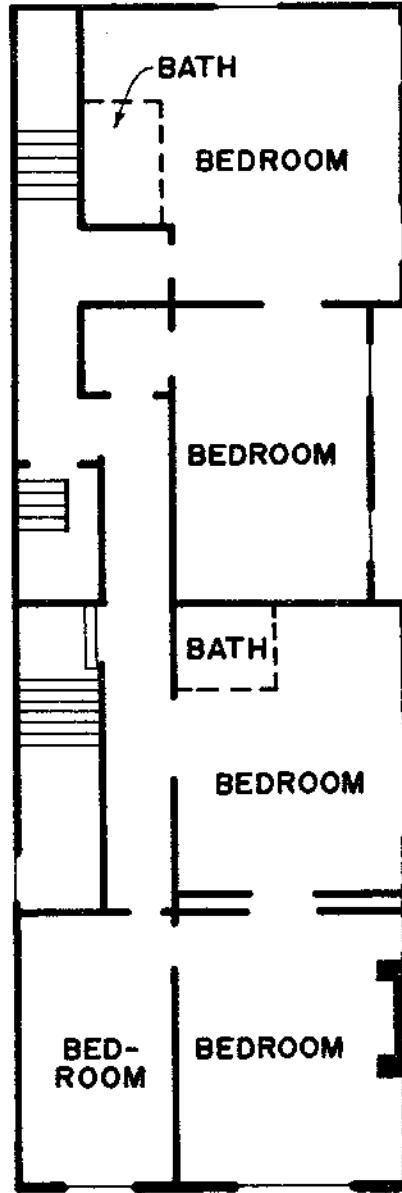
EDMOND JACQUES ECKEL HOUSE  
ST. JOSEPH, MISSOURI



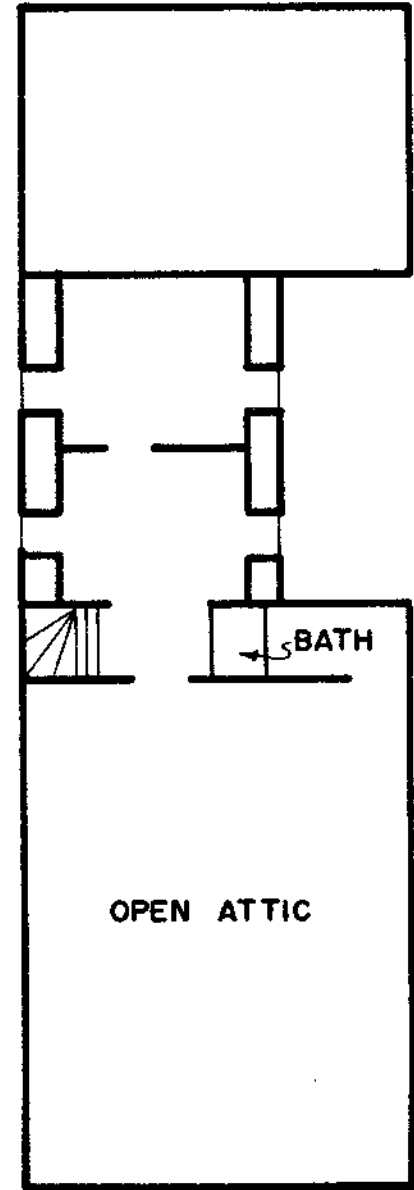
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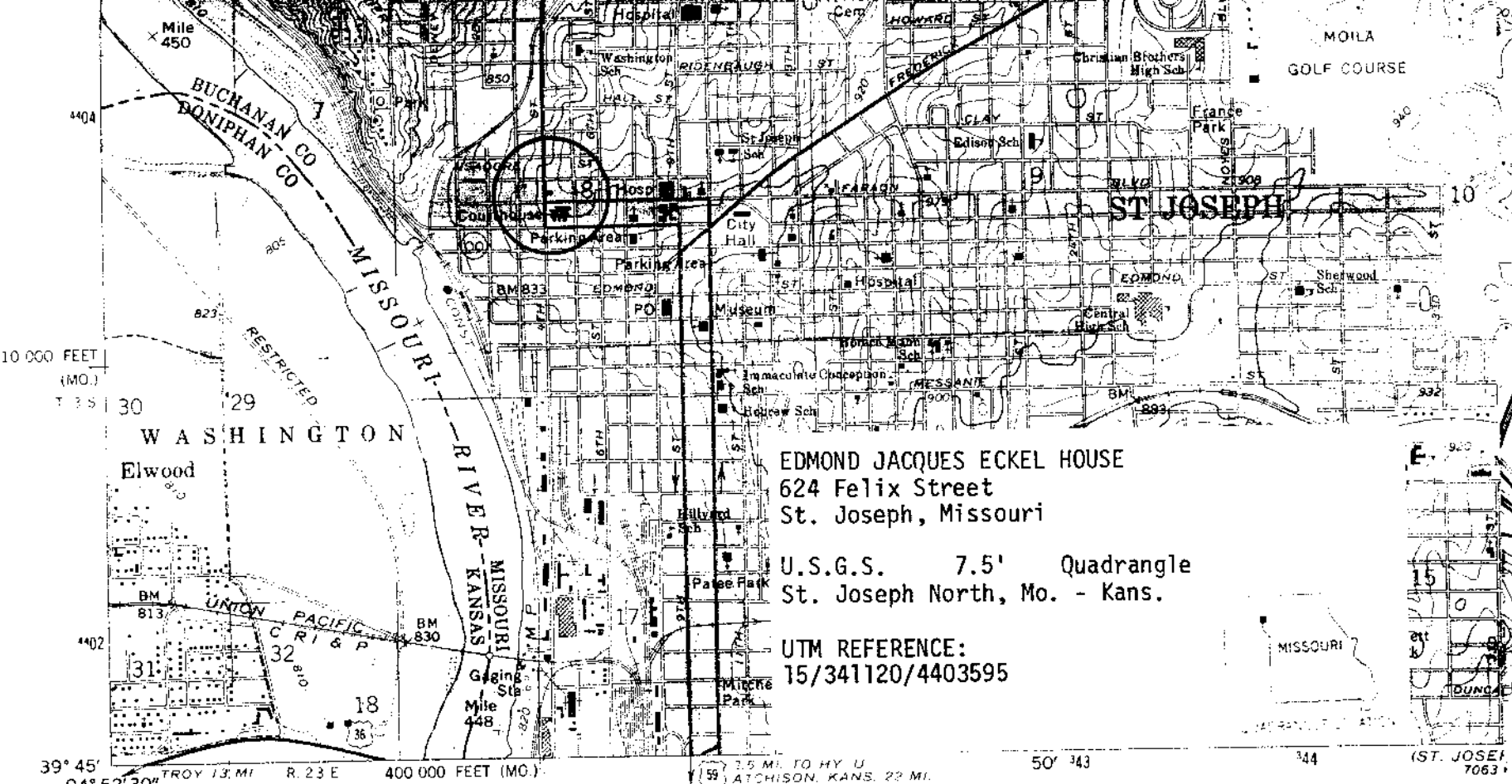
FIRST FLOOR



SECOND FLOOR



ATTIC



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS and USC&GS

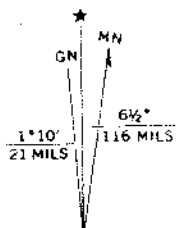
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1969. Field checked 1971

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
10,000-foot grid based on Missouri coordinate system, west zone  
and Kansas coordinate system, north zone  
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,  
zone 15, shown in blue

Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown

Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked

Revisions shown in purple compiled from aerial photographs taken 1977. Map edited 1978. This information not field checked



UTM GRID AND 1978 MAGNETIC NORTH DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

(HALLS)  
7063 III NW

**Photo Log:**

Name of Property: **Eckel, Edmond Jacques, House**

City or Vicinity: **St. Joseph**

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

Photographer: **Jill Watrous**

Date

Photographed: **May 1979**

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

1 of 5. View toward NE.

2 of 5. W façade, detail.

3 of 5. View to NW showing part of E and all of S sides.

4 of 5. S side, detail of window surrounds and obliquely set soldier course.

5 of 5. View to SW of N side.









