



MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION

QUESTIONNAIRE TO DETERMINE NEED FOR CULTURAL RESOURCE ASSESSMENT

P.O. BOX 176
JEFFERSON CITY,
MISSOURI 65102

Forwarding of this completed form to the Missouri Department of Natural Resources' Historic Preservation Program constitutes a request to review a proposed project/activity to determine if a cultural resource assessment will be required in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, 36 CFR Part 800, and other relative federal legislation. THIS ASSESSMENT, INDEPENDENT OF THE A-95 REVIEW PROCESS, IS REQUIRED FOR ALL CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS THAT WILL BE FUNDED, ASSISTED, OR LICENSED BY A FEDERAL AGENCY AND IT MUST BE COMPLETED PRIOR TO INITIATING ANY PROJECT.

I. APPLICANT City of St. Joseph Planning & Community Development		COUNTY OF PROJECT Buchanan	
APPLICANT'S ADDRESS 11th & Walter Welsh	CITY St. Joseph	ZIP CODE 64501	
CONTACT PERSON Dale Nimz		TELEPHONE (816) 271-4648	
CONTACT PERSON'S ADDRESS, IF DIFFERENT FROM APPLICANT'S		CITY	ZIP CODE

IF APPLICANT IS NOT A FEDERAL AGENCY, TO WHICH FEDERAL AGENCY IS APPLICANT APPLYING

FEDERAL PROGRAM
Certified Local Government

CIRCLE TYPE OF ASSISTANCE SOUGHT

GRANT

LOAN

OTHER

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT OR CONTACT PERSON REQUESTING THIS ASSESSMENT

Dale E. Nimz

DATE

4/20/92

II. 1. Briefly describe this project. Redevelopment of former state psychiatric hospital

If more than one project/activity is involved, complete separate assessment for each project/activity.

2. Has the identical project been previously submitted for cultural resource assessment? (If YES, enclose copy of State Historic Preservation Program's comments/response and disregard remaining questions.)

☐ YES

☒ NO

3. Project location

a. Attach a USGS 7.5 min. topographic map (15 min. if 7.5 min. not available) and project map indicating the precise location of the project and total acreage involved. **THIS MUST BE PROVIDED.** If more than one project/activity is involved, provide one map for each project/activity. Project location must be clearly indicated.

b. Approximately how many acres are in the project area? 266 acres

c. Give legal description of project area (Township, Range, Section, 1/4 Section, etc.)

NE 1/4 S10-T57-R35

If inside city limits, give street address and city involved 34th & Frederick, St. Joseph, MO

4. To your knowledge, has a cultural resources survey been conducted of the project area? If YES, attach survey report or reference and related correspondence.

☐ YES

☒ NO

5. To your knowledge, will the project involve building(s) or structure(s) listed on the National Register of Historic Places or included in a National Register District? If YES, provide property or district name(s), address(es) and related documentation.

☐ YES

☒ NO

FOR MO. HPP USE

☐ SN

☐ PD

☐ NE

☐ PE

☐ LP

☐ HP

St. Joseph State Hospital

Significance and history

An evaluation of significance for the St. Joseph State Hospital raises the question of whether the entire complex is significant or if the Center-Administration building is individually significant apart from the other buildings and grounds. For almost twenty years, the Center Building was the center of activity as the only major building of the hospital. In this statement, the entire complex will be considered as a historic/architectural district.

The St. Joseph State Hospital complex is likely to be significant in local and state history because of its associations with the institutional treatment of mental illness during the period from the opening of the hospital in 1874 until 1939 when a major expansion and modernization campaign was completed. The Hospital also has significant associations with the historical development of the City of St. Joseph. From the 1890s until the present, the Hospital has been a major employer in the city. As a medical institution, the Hospital probably influenced the historical development of the medical profession and health care system in St. Joseph. The Hospital complex also evidenced the expansion of an urban infrastructure (for example, water and sewer service, electric lighting, road building and paving).

The Hospital complex may be architecturally significant because it embodies the distinctive characteristics of a historic property type and landscape--the self-sufficient medical institution surrounded by extensive grounds. The Center Building may be significant as an example of a historic building type--a mental hospital designed according to the theory of Dr. Thomas Kirkbride. The distinctive central building with attached wings (now demolished) was representative of Kirkbride's system of segregating men and women, docile and aggressive patients. Later buildings on the property represent the need for more specialized treatment facilities and institutional self-sufficiency. Much of the land associated with the hospital was used for farming which provided food and also therapeutic activity.

History

Early in 1872 the Missouri state legislature approved a \$200,000 appropriation for a northwestern or southwestern asylum. The committee in charge decided June 14 to purchase 120 acres for an institution in Buchanan County. The tract was located a short distance beyond the eastern limits of St. Joseph. A contract was awarded in September, 1873 to construct a four-story building with north and south wings. The hospital opened November 9, 1874 with sixty patients. A fire January 25, 1879 destroyed the building, but it was rebuilt and reopened again by April 1, 1880. Three quarters of the original walls and foundation remained intact and were incorporated into the reconstructed building. The interior plan was changed to accommodate more patients and additions to the wings included wide iron stairways to provide safer access from each floor.

2-State Hospital

After the main Hospital building was reopened, a separate Buchanan County Asylum was established for 150 local patients, "but this did not alleviate the overcrowding appreciably within the hospital." In 1886 four new sections were added to the Center Building. This increased the capacity from 250 to 550 patients. During the 1880s the farming operation associated with the hospital became an important source of meat, poultry, vegetables, and fruit for the institution. By 1885 a water line was constructed to connect the hospital with the city water system. In 1886 the superintendent requested funding for construction of sewage lines to connect with the city system, but apparently, these were not constructed until about 1891.

In 1893 a detached infirmary building (now Progress Hall) was completed and bay windows were added to the front of the Center Building and the first wards in the north and south wings. The windows matched those of the 1886 additions. The hospital superintendent requested \$10,000 from the state in 1894 to be matched by the city and Buchanan County for macadamizing the road from the city limits to the east side of the hospital grounds. Another improvement requested in January, 1897, was an electric light plant and fixtures. Since the opening of the hospital, the day halls had been lighted by gas fixtures and the sleeping rooms had been lighted only by attendants with lanterns. The power plant was constructed in 1898.

The major capital investment of this period was the purchase in 1896 of 110 acres of land north of the original hospital tract. Throughout the early twentieth century, the number of hospital patients steadily increased. This growth was reflected in the construction of more buildings both to house and serve patients and in the use of more land for producing food. By 1907 the hospital rented approximately 1,000 acres. A more intensive poultry farming operation began in 1910. By ca. 1915 it was reported, "In these days of 'high cost of living', the advantages of a productive farm and garden are of greater importance than ever. The value of our daily supplies of fresh vegetables of all kinds, an abundance of pure milk from a well selected dairy herd, pork for our entire 'family' of 2,000 members; corn, hay, and other products of the farm, cannot be overestimated."

In 1903 the institution's name was changed from "Asylum for the Insane" to the State Hospital #2. An anecdote from this decade illustrating the hospital's position in the local landscape concerns the custom of Sunday afternoon pleasure drives through the grounds. This was so popular that the patients' benches were moved to the rear of the Center Building to avoid stares from the sight-seers. By 1919 St. Joseph State Hospital became the largest in the state--housing more patients than any other but owning the least amount of land. This was not alleviated until 1946 when the hospital purchased 587 acres of land (known as the Tootle farm) within two miles of the main grounds. This tract was later acquired for the interstate highway right-of-way and the site for Missouri Western State College. The farming operation, which was a main source of food for the hospital for nearly one hundred years, was discontinued about 1969 when it became cheaper to buy food than to grow it.

3-State Hospital

With more patients the need for additional buildings was recognized by the legislature. Construction on the Bigger Building, planned as the Central Station for men, began in 1906, but was not completed until 1910. The building was destroyed by fire January 29, 1922 and rebuilt. When it reopened late in 1922 it was used as a female infirmary and renamed the Hadley Building. In 1910 the ornate wooden front porch of the Center Building was replaced by a three-story porch with a concrete floor and brick columns. Food service for the hospital was improved in 1914 by the construction of a refrigeration plant and ice house. Also, two large reservoirs and a fire pump were installed for improved fire protection. The east part of the center section of the main hospital building was rebuilt and enlarged about 1922 to include a modern kitchen, dining room, bakery, and auditorium. Later, in 1923, a surgical hospital was opened. The building was renamed Panettiere Hospital after World War II.

The greatest period of expansion and construction in the hospital's history occurred in the late 1930s as part of the Works Progress and Public Works Administration. An employee dormitory was completed in 1936. Two major new buildings were constructed in 1937-38. The Woodson Building with a capacity of 182 patients was opened as the new psychiatric clinic and receiving center. The Park Building was designed as a new infirmary with a capacity of 476 patients. Also, many minor projects were completed including the construction of sidewalks, sewers, building additions, street paving, and the installation of new fire-resistant concrete floors in several buildings. About this time funding was requested to purchase the former residence of Governor Silas Woodson which had been leased by the hospital for the superintendent's residence. Reportedly, this residence was constructed in 1858-60. Woodson acquired the house in 1865 shortly before he was elected governor. The property was eventually sold to the state March 15, 1944.

The first burial in the Hospital cemetery was recorded in January, 1908 and the last occurred May 2, 1943. Approximately 1,500 burials for provided during this period for indigent patients and those whose families shunned all contact. The cemetery is located to the southeast of the Center Building. Originally, the graves were marked with a small numbered stone, but in recent times the stones were covered with dirt for more convenient mowing.

2500 +

In 1916 visits to patients at the hospital which had been limited to four hours a week became unrestricted. A dental clinic was established in 1921 and a Surgical Hospital finally opened November 12, 1923. Later in 1943 this building was named in honor of Dr. A.H. Pannettiere. The patient library requested as early as 1927 was finally opened in 1934. During the war years from 1941 to 1945, operations at the State Hospital became increasingly difficult because of a lack of staff and materials. In 1945 the patient population reached a record high of 2,845. In 1950 five residential cottages for the staff doctors and an occupational therapy building were completed. The Twenty Building (now known as Buchanan) was constructed as an infirmary and opened in 1951. A medical-surgical wing added to the Pannettiere Hospital in 1969, but the facility was closed in 1974 because it was too expensive to maintain.

4-State Hospital

Before 1921 each state institution was administered by a separate Board of Managers. In June, 1921 a State Eleemosynary Board was appointed to govern the four state hospitals, one state school, and a sanatorium. In 1946 this board was merged into the Division of Mental Diseases of the State Department of Public Health and Welfare. A state Mental Health Commission was established in 1957 to advise the division. An indication of trends to come was the first annual hospital "open house" held in the spring of that year. During this period the hospital became more of a treatment facility and not merely a custodial institution. In 1962 a childrens' treatment program began. This was housed in the Woodson Building. Between 1966 and 1969 patients who for years had had only minimal attention were being involved in more intensive treatment programs and were responding to the treatment positively.

References

Building Inventory. Chief Engineer, St. Joseph State Hospital, comp.

Rutt, Chris. History of Buchanan County and St. Joseph, Missouri (St. Joseph: St. Joseph Publishing Company, 1898).

"St. Joseph State Hospital-A Century of Service," George Glore, comp. (1974). This document was compiled from Biennial Reports-Board of Managers, Annual Reports-Department of Mental Health, and Official Missouri State Manuals.

"Cemeteries-The Burial Grounds," John Ostertag comp. St. Joseph Telegraph 6-06-91, p. 6, col. 1-6.

Sanborn Insurance Company Maps. (1911, 1955).