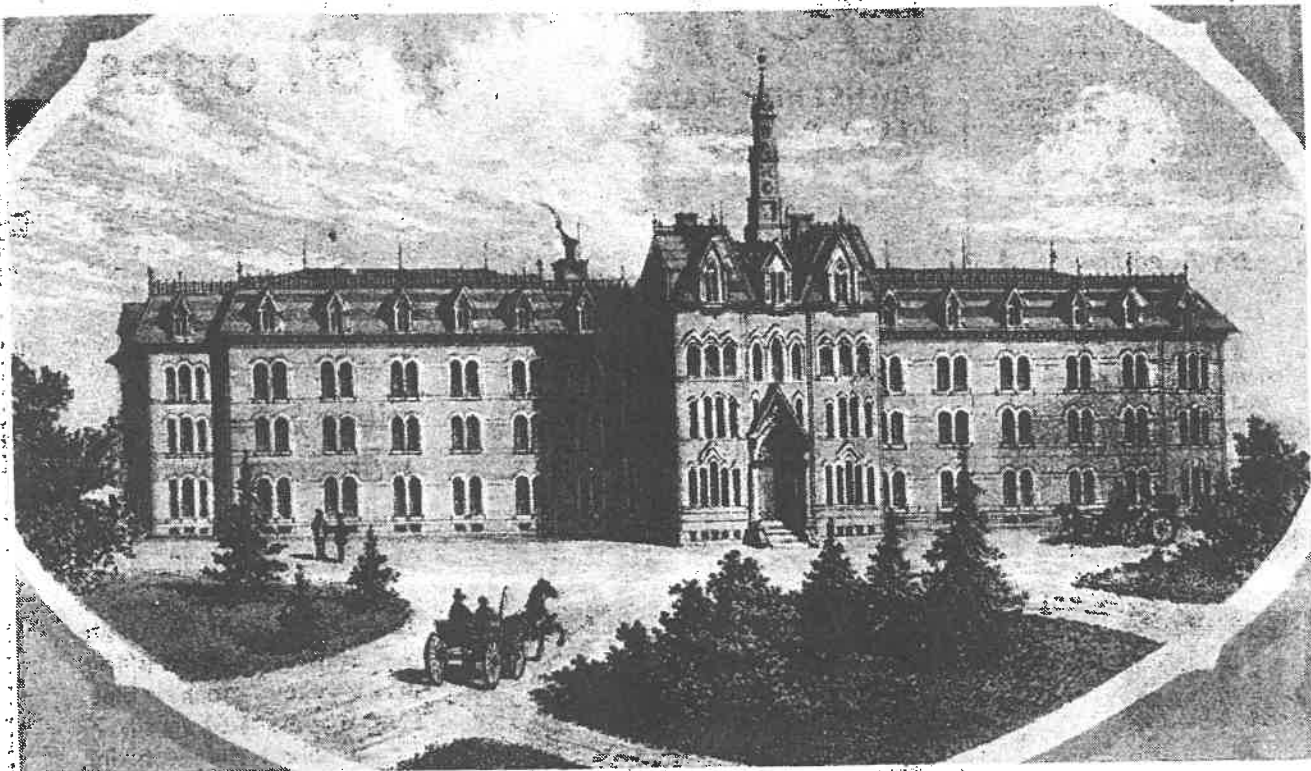


St. Joseph. State Hospital - History

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St. Joseph, Mo., News-Press, Sunday, June 1, 1975

Hospital Structure Designated as Landmark by Commission



The administration building at St. Joseph State Hospital has been designated a St. Joseph landmark.

The action was by the Landmark commission here. Mrs. Lucien Ide said money provided by the Bicentennial commission would be used to purchase a plaque for the building.

Fire destroyed the original hospital building Jan. 25, 1879. The outer walls, however, were left standing and were in-

corporated into the new building. Wings were added on both sides.

The original building, shown above, was opened Nov. 9, 1874. Thomas Walsh of St. Louis was the architect, and M. H. Fitzgibbons of St. Louis was the contractor.

When fire destroyed the hospital, some of the patients were kept in the basement of the Buchanan county courthouse for three months. Some went home to rela-

tives; others were housed in private homes here.

The rebuilt hospital was opened in the spring of 1880. Then known as the State Lunatic Asylum, it later became the State Insane Asylum. Today, it is St. Joseph State Hospital.

An ornate wooden porch was added to the west entrance when the hospital was rebuilt, but this was replaced in 1910 with a three-story porch with brick columns.