

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED MAY 15 1978
DATE ENTERED SEP 1 1978

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

* *
St. Joseph's Hospital

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Lewistown

___ VICINITY OF

___ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Eastern Montana

02

STATE

Montana

CODE

COUNTY

Fergus

CODE

27

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: Vacant

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Fergus County

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Lewistown

___ VICINITY OF

STATE

Montana

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Fergus County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Lewistown

STATE

Montana

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

___ FEDERAL ___ STATE ___ COUNTY ___ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" 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

St. Joseph's Hospital and Nursing School looks down upon the central Montana city of Lewistown from a hill in the northeast section of the community. The complex was started in 1906 and grew as additions, alterations and service buildings were constructed from 1913 to 1953. The complete unit is remarkable in size for a relatively small rural town. It has been well-maintained and in continuous use until recently.

The central section, constructed of rough-faced sandstone quarried in the area, was the first unit built. It has two and a half stories above grade and a lower floor half below grade. This is crowned by a stone balustrade around a second floor roof deck. Originally the entry was reached by a long flight of stone steps encased by stone walls; light standards were set at different landings. These steps have been removed and entry to the hospital is now gained from the other side. The door into this original entry is set in a large semi-circular head that has a keystone and voussoir stones. The upper floor has a similar opening onto the roof deck of the entry porch. Both doors have semi-circular transoms above them.

The windows of this unit and of the later additions are tall, narrow double-hung units having 1/1 lights. Those of the upper floor have semi-circular heads with a keystone and voussoir stones. The lower floors have horizontal lintels. These windows are also wood double-hung units with 1/1 lights and have rectangular transoms above them.

The units are crowned by a stone parapet wall having blind arcading of rectangular spaces. The central portion of the original unit rises above the adjoining parapet walls and bears a plaque containing the name, "St. Joseph's Hospital." Above the plaque rises a distinctive stone cross of the botonee type.

Of special note are the ornate staircases of hardwood. They have intricately carved newel posts and turned baluster spindles, and turned wood handrail. In many instances they have been partially enclosed by paneling to meet fire codes, but the paneling could be easily removed. The stained woodwork contrasts pleasantly with the plastered walls.

Additions that began in 1913 and concluded in 1933 extend northwest and southeast from the original building. The 1913 wing extends south-southeast in the form of an "L." It also is constructed of native sandstone and has a projecting entry vestibule (the short leg of the "L") like the original entry. A cornerstone with the date "1913" identifies this addition. This wing follows the external treatment of the first unit. To the east-northeast of this portion there is another wing of the same height, material and fenestration, constructed in 1926. This addition, connected by a passageway, designed by W. D. Devine. This 40' x 66' addition contained the maternity ward.

The next addition was the extension of the original building to the north-northwest. It, too, is constructed of native sandstone and has similar fenestration and material treatment. This section has a sculptural niche with a semi-circular compound arch

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CONTINUATION SHEET St. Joseph's H. ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

that houses a statue of St. Joseph. Above the statue niche there is a false-fronted gable that breaks the continuous stone parapet. The chapel is located in this unit of the complex and the windows of the chapel on the southwest facade are two stories in height, with semi-circular heads that match the heads of the upper floor windows of the rest of the building. The chapel windows are stained glass. The chapel originally was two stories in height, but a lowered ceiling was installed later. Restoration to the original space could be done easily.

In 1935 another sandstone wing matching the rest of the building was added to the northwest. This building has a basement in addition to the three floors found in the rest of the complex.

A nursing school building was constructed in 1936 farther to the northwest of the hospital complex. It is connected to the hospital by a skyway. This 39' x 84' addition was designed by J. G. Link of Billings. It departs from the design of the previous units in both material usage and fenestration. It also is three stories in height, counting partially-above grade basement. The foundation walls are of concrete and the concrete extends up to the sill line of the first floor windows. The upper walls are of brick with dressed stone trim.

The nursing school windows are wooden double-hung units, 1/1 lights, without transoms. All of the windows have flat lintels with stone keystones having flanking soldier brick. The upper floor windows have dressed stone sills. The central section is defined by dressed stone quoins and has a low gable pediment extending above the main roof line. The parapet wall is decoratively treated with brick and stone. Within the pediment there is an arched statue niche containing a religious statue.

In 1944 the firm of J. G. Link & Co. did some remodeling on the complex and in 1945 the same firm designed the boiler house that is a separate building located south of the main building. At this time the kitchen, located in the 1913 addition, was remodeled. The laundry building, also designed by the same firm, was erected in 1933. It is connected to the northeast wing by a skyway.

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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" 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 1906; 1913; 1926; 1933; 1935; 1936; 1945 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Several; See Below

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Lewistown is a small town located at the exact geographic center of the state of Montana. It began with a few cabins that were built around a trading post about 1879, and grew steadily thereafter. Two events occurred that made possible the building of St. Joseph's Hospital. In 1898 the first of many stonemasons arrived from Croatia. The demand for these men's skills had taken them to many parts of the world, and the rapid growth of towns in Montana brought several of them to Great Falls. While there three of them heard of great opportunities for stonemasons in Lewistown, a growing community with an abundance of good building stone. Pete Tuss, John Plovanich and Peter Drazich moved to Lewistown and quickly found jobs. Word of their success spread to their home town of Bribir and other Croatian stonemasons followed them, bringing their families or sending for them as they got settled. By 1915 it is estimated that there were some 100 stonemasons from Croatia (now part of Yugoslavia) in Lewistown. Pete Tuss opened a stone quarry nearby and most of the major buildings in Lewistown during that period were built by these craftsmen.

The second contributing event to the foundation of St. Joseph's Hospital was the arrival in 1903 of a group of nuns from France. They came at the request of the Right Rev. J. B. Brondel, Catholic Bishop of Montana, and organized their "First House" in Lewistown. They were members of the Order of the Daughters of Jesus, which had been founded in Brittany in 1831. Their Lewistown house, their "First House" in the United States, turned out to be the only place in the United States where they became established.

The Sisters started to work as soon as they arrived, starting a convent/school open to all students regardless of their religious affiliation. Sister Philomene saw the need for a hospital and began soliciting funds for its construction. Her dream began to materialize on October 10, 1906, when the foundation for the hospital was begun. Plans had been drawn by Kirkwood Cross. The contract was awarded to Pete Tuss, who also furnished the stones from his quarry.

The hospital opened October 15, 1908, and was operated by the Daughters of Jesus and Mother Philomene, Superior. According to a newspaper article at that time, "The doors of St. Joseph's Hospital are open to receive those of every creed and color in the time of need, and clergymen of every denomination are always welcome visitors. No one has ever left the hospital who has not spoken in the highest terms of the kind treatment received at the hands of these noble women, whose life calling it is to administer to and comfort the suffered in the hour of pain."

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Fergus County Democrat, May 25, 1909
- Fergus County Argus, Dec. 13, 1907; Dec. 18, 1908; July 15, 1926
- Lewistown Democrat News, May 4, 1933
- Lewistown Daily News, Sept. 2, 1962
- Central Montana's Communities, Ken Byerly
- Lewistown Facts and Figures, 1968
- The Men from Bribir, Anna Zellick, Montana, the Magazine of Western History, January, 1978, XXVIII, 44-55

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 7,141 7.25
 UTM REFERENCES

A	1 2	6 2 0 1 0 0	5 2 1 3 7 5 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

An irregularly-shaped lot bounded on the southwest, on the southwest by High Street, the northwest by East Main Street, southeast by Water Street, then by Ouellette which joins Hawthorne curving east and north. The north boundary is defined by Judith Place Addition. *As shown on plat recorded in Title & Abstract Office of Fergus County, Montana, Book 10, Page 107, dated 10/12/1978.*

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE: John N. DeHaas, Jr., Architect
 ORGANIZATION: _____ DATE: April 30, 1978

STREET & NUMBER: 1021 S. Tracy
 CITY OR TOWN: Bozeman TELEPHONE: 406 586-2276
 STATE: Montana

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL X STATE _____ 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.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE: *Ken Korte*
 TITLE: State Historic Preservation Officer DATE: 5/1/78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

ATTEST: *R. B. Peltz* DATE: 9/13/78
 DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
William Levovich DATE: Sept 12, 1978
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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CONTINUATION SHEET St. Joseph's Hospital ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

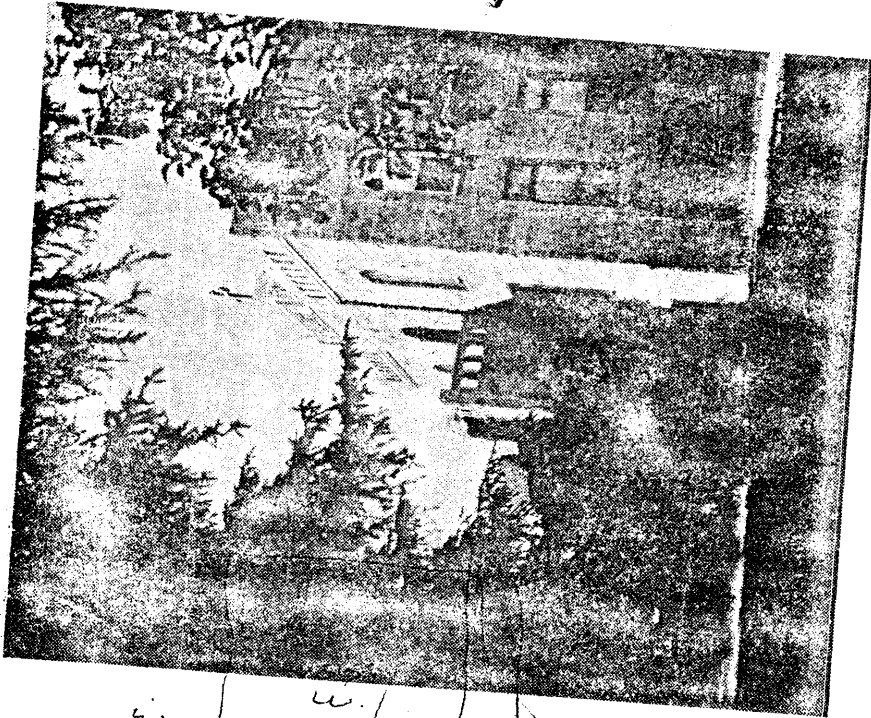
As Lewistown grew the hospital needed more space, and a second unit was built in 1913. The firm of Link and Haire provided architectural services, and it is believed that the contractor was John F. Plovanic, nephew of the John Plovanich who was in the vanguard of stonemason immigrants to the area. The Croatian stonemasons (all Catholic) donated one day's labor a week without pay in the construction of the first two units, and possibly for the third, as well.

The third unit, a maternity ward, was built in 1926. This was designed by W. D. Devine, who may have been associated with Link & Haire at the time. John Plovanic had the contract for the stone. The tiled floor for this unit was done by Lawrence and Walter McKelvey from California, and the woodwork was done by John Haugen, a highly skilled carpenter who had received his training in his native town of Lillehamer, Norway. He came to Lewistown in 1911.

In 1933 a fourth unit was built, again by John Plovanic. The architect was J. G. Link, Billings. Plovanic was also awarded the contract for the fifth unit, built in 1936. In addition, the retaining wall around the hospital is built of local sandstone, cut and placed by John F. Plovanic and completed about 1936-7.

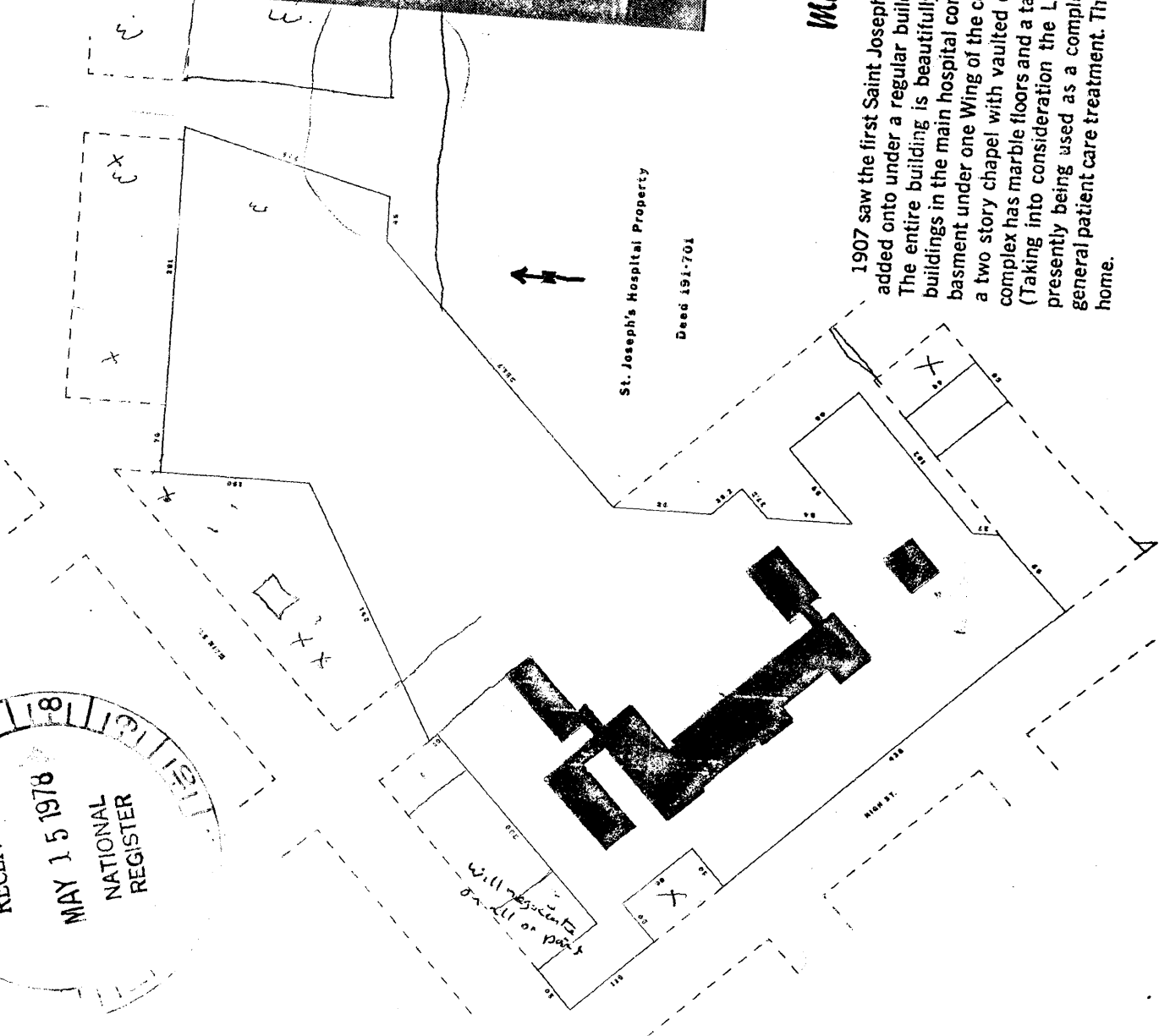
In 1936 the nursing school building was built, this time of brick, rather than the sandstone used for the other complex. A heating plant and a laundry building, both built of brick and designed by J. G. Link & Co. complete the group of buildings. In 1968 St. Joseph's reportedly had 75 beds plus 15 nursing home beds and 15 bassinets. It was staffed by 8 physicians, 15 Sisters and 150 other employees. It included St. Joseph's School of Practical Nursing and treated 5,500 patients annually.

St. Joseph's Hospital continued to serve the people of Lewistown and the surrounding area until 1977 when a new central Montana hospital was built. St. Joseph's is now vacant but a compatible adaptable use is being planned.



Hospital Buildings Main Hospital Complex

1907 saw the first Saint Joseph's Hospital Building completed. The original building was added onto under a regular building expansion program which spanned some 29 years. The entire building is beautifully and sturdily constructed out of sandstone block. All buildings in the main hospital complex are three stories in height, however, there is a full basement under one Wing of the complex. The building contains a kitchen, a cafeteria, and a two story chapel with vaulted ceiling and is serviced by three modern elevators. The complex has marble floors and a tar and gravel roof. Dimensions: approximately 425'x50'. (Taking into consideration the L and T shaped wings). The main hospital complex is presently being used as a complete hospital facility, providing surgical, maternity and general patient care treatment. The main hospital complex is also being used as a nursing home.



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Accession Number

St. Joseph's Hospital

Title:

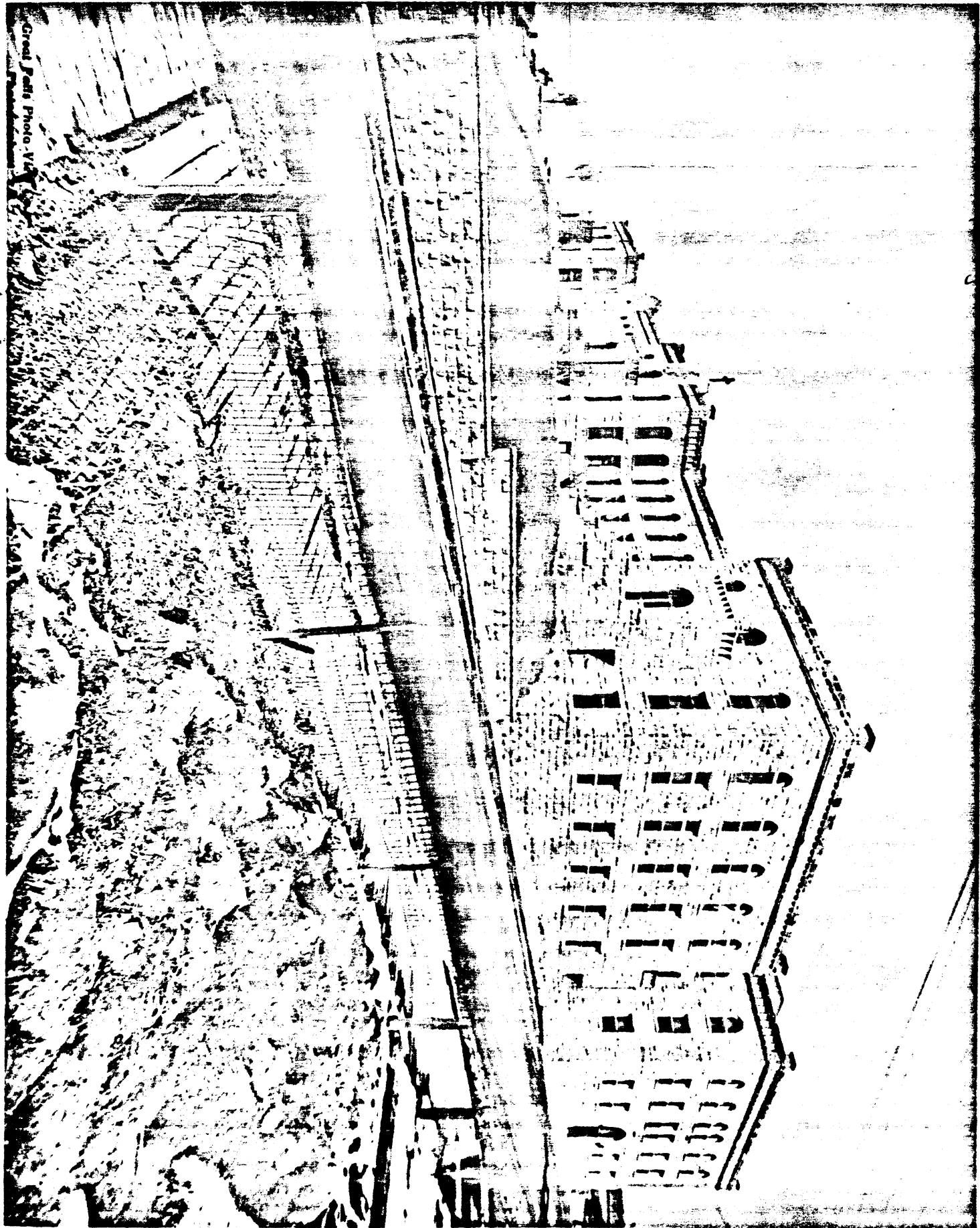
#1 drawing

Loc.

Fergus County
Lewistown, Montana

OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL ARCHIVIST

SEP 13 1978



Credit Photo Photo - V

WPS Number

Title: St. Joseph's Hosp. 421

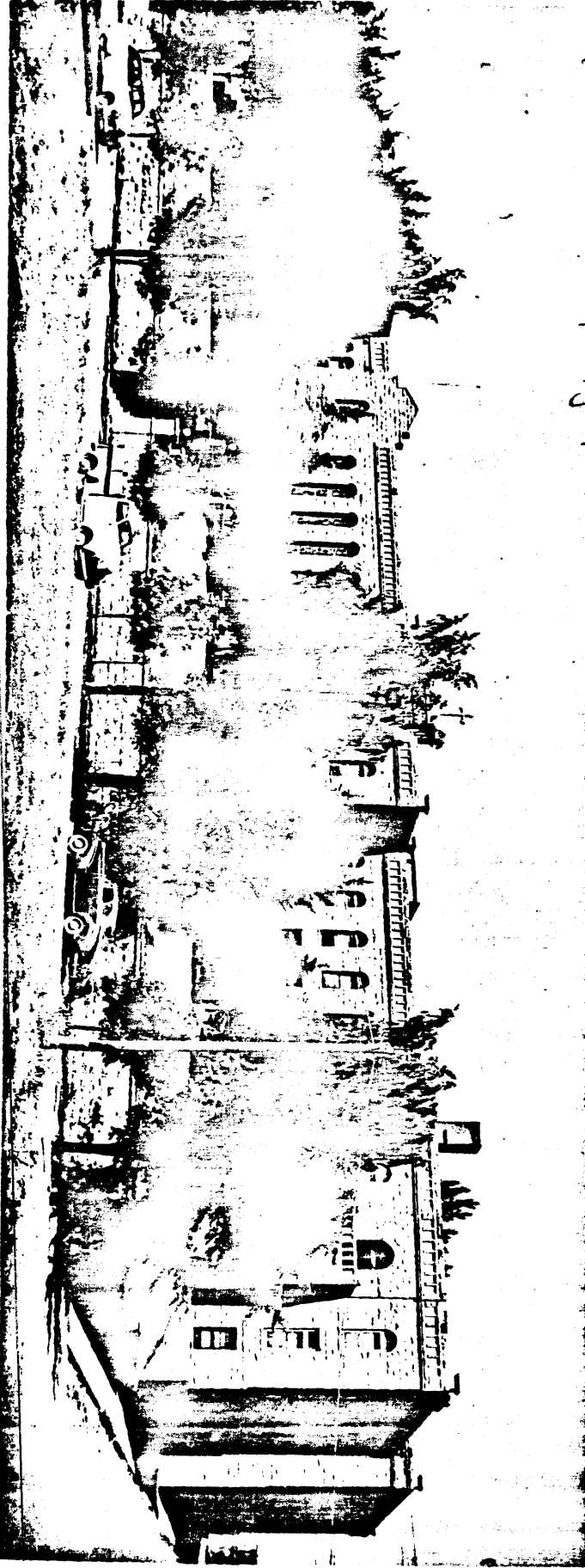
3 drawing

Loc. FERGUS COUNTY

LEWISTOWN, MONTANA

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Undated historic photograph



NPS Number

Title:

St. Joseph's Hospital
#2 drawing

Loc.

Fergus County
Lewis & Clark, Montana

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

SEP 13 1978