

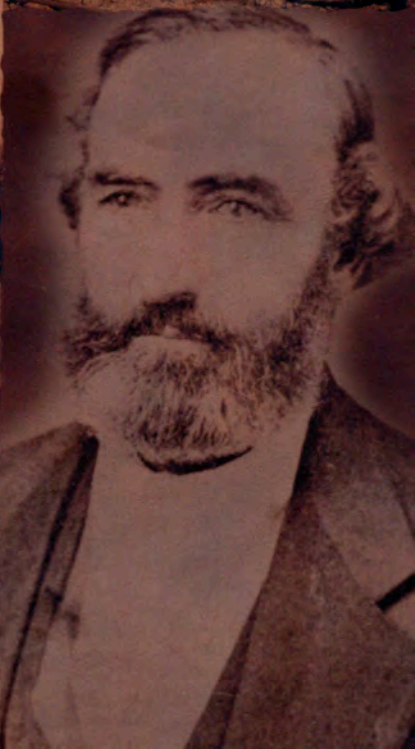
# JOPLIN

missouri

## *Historical Guide*



Joplin Convention  
and Visitors Bureau  
222 West 3rd  
Joplin, Missouri 64801  
800-657-2534  
[www.visitjoplinmo.com](http://www.visitjoplinmo.com)

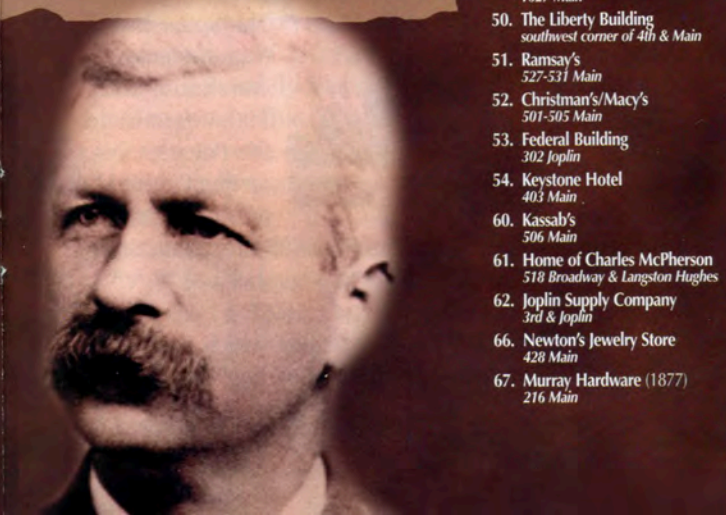


# DOWNTOWN & MURPHYSBURG



4. Jasper County Courthouse in Joplin  
7th and Virginia, east side
5. Memorial Hall  
212 W. 8th
6. Joplin High School  
310 W. 8th
8. First major lead strike  
near the Vernon Sigars viaduct
9. Thomas Hart Benton's mural  
Joplin Municipal Building, 303 E. 3rd
10. Connor Hotel  
324 Main
11. House of Lords  
319 Main
21. Frisco Building  
605 Main
28. John Wise Home/YWCA  
504 Byers
29. YMCA  
510 Wall
33. Club Theatre  
402 Joplin
34. Empire District  
602 Joplin
35. Crystal Cave  
4th and Gray Street
37. St. Peter's Catholic Church  
8th & Pearl
38. Fox Theatre  
415 Main
39. Elks Building  
320 W. 4th
40. Scottish Rite Cathedral  
5th & Byers
41. Union Depot  
behind 1st and Main
42. Newman Building  
602-608 Main
43. Carnegie Library  
828 Wall
44. Rains Brothers Building  
906 Main
48. Inter-State Grocery  
1027 Main
50. The Liberty Building  
southwest corner of 4th & Main
51. Ramsay's  
527-531 Main
52. Christman's/Macy's  
501-505 Main
53. Federal Building  
302 Joplin
54. Keystone Hotel  
403 Main
60. Kassab's  
506 Main
61. Home of Charles McPherson  
518 Broadway & Langston Hughes
62. Joplin Supply Company  
3rd & Joplin
66. Newton's Jewelry Store  
428 Main
67. Murray Hardware (1877)  
216 Main

Murphysburg, 1871. Patrick Murphy purchased a forty-acre tract from Oliver Picher in 1871. This land covered what is now 1st Street to 4th Street and from Main to Byers. After Murphy and an associate, W.P. Davis, filed for a plat for a new town on September 4, 1871, they named it Murphysburg. (In 1873, Murphysburg and Joplin City merged and became incorporated under the name of Joplin.) Murphy, who served as the fourth mayor of Joplin, also organized the Joplin Exposition Amusement Park and donated the land for the first permanent St. John's Hospital.



## 60. Kassab's (🏪)

In 1907 Ralph L. Kassab opened the Oriental Shop at 637 Main, where he sold imported silks, laces, rugs, linens, brass and ladies wear. Between 1907 and 1960 the business store moved several times but never left Main Street. In 1961 the business moved to 506 Main. (506 Main)

## 61. Home of Charles McPherson (🏠)

Charles McPherson, one of the finest alto saxophonists of our time, is described as "a Charlie Parker disciple who brings his own lyricism to the bebop language." McPherson was born in Joplin on July 24, 1939. His family moved from Joplin to Detroit in 1948. In 1998, he was commissioned to compose and perform original compositions and arrangements at Lincoln Center. Through the years, McPherson has toured the United States, Europe, Japan, Africa and South America and has recorded over 50 albums. (518 Broadway & Langston Hughes)

## 62. Joplin Supply Company (1899 🏪)

The Joplin Supply Company began supporting the local mining industry as a mining supply house. Established in the spring of 1899, it sold Worthington pumps, engines, boilers, steam heads, pulleys, belts, fittings, brass goods, and wire cloth. Joplin Supply built a five-story brick warehouse and began manufacturing parts and assembling automobiles for Ford

Motor Company. Completed in 1923, this building featured elevators large enough to move cars from floor to floor. (Third & Joplin)



## 63. Ozark Bible College

(a.k.a. Ozark Christian College) (1944 🏪)

In the fall of 1944, Ozark Bible College moved from Bentonville, Arkansas to Joplin. The college purchased a residential property for \$12,500 from Georgia Cragin. The residence was converted to serve as an office,

library, girls' dormitory, cafeteria, and classroom building. In 1959 representatives from the College purchased some property off North Main. By the fall of 1963, OBC students were attending classes at their new campus. (516 North Wall)

## 64. Joplin Stockyards (1931 🏠)

Thirty thousand people attended the grand opening of the Joplin Stockyards on August 27, 1931.

The 80-acre complex included a brick hotel, filling station, garage, café, hay barn, auction barn, dairy barn, two mule barns and a barbershop. The quarter-of-a million-dollar investment, which was financed by Joplin businessmen, provided an essential part of Joplin's economy. On the first day of business, more than 2,800 head of stock passed through the stockyard gates. (Turkey Creek & Range Line)



## 65. Missouri Southern State College Mission Hills Mansion (1920 🏪)

Around 1920 Lucius P. "Buck" Buchanan built an 11-room Spanish villa on a 230-acre wooded hillside overlooking Turkey Creek. In the early 1960s, the downtown Joplin Junior College was looking for additional land to establish a four-year college campus. George A. Spiva donated \$100,000 and Joplin leaders raised another \$205,000 to purchase the mansion and land of Mission Hills. The former Mission Hills became the first building occupied by Missouri Southern State College. (3950 Newman Road)

## 66. Newton's Jewelry Store (🏪)

In 1940 George Newton began selling jewelry on the corner of Fifth and Main. A distinguishing feature of the building for over five decades was the large revolving neon sign that hung over the corner entrance of the business. (428 Main)