1. Name

Historic
Lindenwood Hall; Sibley Hall

And/or Common
Sibley Hall

2. Location

Street & Number
The Lindenwood Colleges Campus

City, Town
St. Charles

State
Missouri 63301

3. Classification

Category

Ownership

Status

Present Use

District

Public

Occupied

Agriculture

Building(s)

Private

Unoccupied

Commercial

Structure

Both

Work in Progress

PARK

Site

Public Acquisition

Accessible

Educational

Structure

Site

Public Acquisition

Private Residence

Site

Object

Public Acquisition

Entertainment

Both

Work in Progress

Religious

Both

No

Government

Military

Object

Being Considered

Industrial

Other

Site

In Process

Scientific

Site

Accessible

Transportation

Site

Unrestricted

Public

No

Transportation

Private

No

Transportation

Private

No

4. Owner of Property

Name
The Lindenwood Colleges

Street & Number

City, Town
St. Charles

State
Missouri 63301

5. Location of Legal Description

Courthouse, Registry of Deeds, etc
Office of the Recorder of Deeds

Street & Number
St. Charles County Administration Building

City, Town
St. Charles

State
Missouri 63301

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Title
Missouri: A Guide to the "Show-Me" State (WPA Project)

Date
1941

Federal

County

Local

State

Published: New York: Duell, Sloan and Pearce, Inc.
Sibley Hall (originally called Lindenwood Hall), The Lindenwood Colleges campus, St. Charles, Missouri, is a three-story plus full basement building constructed of red brick laid in common bond. Shaped in the plan of a modified U, the structure measures 124 feet in width by 63 feet in depth. The low, hipped roof is covered with grey slate and has copper gutters; three brick chimneys are contained within the fabric of the south wing. Stylistically, Sibley Hall is a blending of Classical and Italianate elements, reflecting its consecutive alterations since original construction in 1857. A Neo-classical portico, centrally located on the primary facade, dominates the building. Additional noteworthy decorative features include a boxed cornice with block modillions; a Classical Revival central doorway; paired, arched windows above the central doorway; and segmental and semicircular arched windowheads of radiating brick voussoirs.

EXTERIOR

The original Lindenwood Hall (1857)

Lindenwood Hall was originally a three-story plus full basement, rectangular, red brick building. Measuring 73 feet in width by 48 feet in depth, it was seven bays wide with stone lintels and lugsills trimming rectangular, double-hung sash windows with six-over-six lights. Two brick chimneys with stone caps, contained within the fabric, serviced the building. Classical detailing was evident in the modillioned cornice and trabeated central entrance, while Italianate elements were present in the paired, arched windows above the main entrance, and in the polygonal cupola with arched windows which capped the low, hipped roof.

Addition of wings (1881; 1887)

In 1881 a three-story plus full basement, rectangular, red brick wing was added on the south, forming an ell-shaped structure. Rectangular, double-hung sash windows were capped with segmental brick arches with radiating voussoirs. A three-story, three-sided bay distinguished the eastern end of the wing (primary facade). A hipped roof covered the wing, and four brick chimneys were contained within the fabric. The boxed cornice with modillions of the earlier structure was continued on the wing.

In 1887 a corresponding wing was added on the north, resulting in the present modified-U-shape plan. Nearly identical to the first wing, the northern wing differed in having over-sized, semicircular arched windows capped with brick arches of radiating voussoirs on the first story of the north and west elevations. A squarish, hip-roofed vestibule with a semicircular arched doorway occurred on the northern elevation.
SIGNIFICANCE

<table>
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<tr>
<th>PERIOD</th>
<th>AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW</th>
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<tr>
<td>— PREHISTORIC</td>
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<td>THEATER</td>
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<td>TRANSPORTATION</td>
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<td>— 1900-</td>
<td>OTHER (SPECIFY)</td>
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SPECIFIC DATES 1857; 1881; 1887

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Sibley Hall, The Lindenwood Colleges, St. Charles, Missouri, is primarily significant on account of its association with George Champlin Sibley (1782-1863) and Mary Easton Sibley (1800-1878), founders of Lindenwood College and figures of paramount importance in Missouri history, in the history of westward expansion in America and in the early championing of women's education. Sibley Hall represents an early and successful attempt to provide an education for women on the frontier and is one of the earliest remaining examples of college architecture in Missouri.

On the 24th of February, 1853, by action of the General Assembly of the State of Missouri, Lindenwood Female College was incorporated - one of the earliest colleges in the Louisiana Purchase. Four years later, in 1857, the first permanent college building was built in a grove of linden trees about one mile west of St. Charles, Missouri. Originally known as Lindenwood Hall, in 1909 it was renamed Sibley Hall in honor of the college's founders, George Champlin Sibley and Mary Easton Sibley.

Major Sibley was in government service for many years and played a significant role in the history of Missouri and of the western movement. He was born in Great Barrington, Massachusetts, on April 1, 1782. His father, John C. Sibley, was a descendant of an Englishman who came to Massachusetts in 1629; his mother, Elizabeth, was the daughter of a prominent Rhode Island minister, Samuel Hopkins. John C. Sibley, a veteran of the Revolutionary War, moved to Fayetteville, North Carolina, in 1784. George lived with various relatives in New England and Maryland until 1788, when he was reunited with his father in Fayetteville. After schooling at the Pittsborough Academy in Chatham County, North Carolina, and the Fayetteville Academy, he was instructed in the principles of bookkeeping and accounting by a local merchant.

George C. Sibley first came to St. Louis in 1805, under a government appointment as assistant at Fort Bellefontaine, an Indian trading post (factory) located on the bluffs of the Missouri River near its confluence with the Mississippi. As that factory was quite distant from the Indians it purported to serve, it was soon decided to establish a government factory 300 miles up the Missouri River, deeper into Indian territory. George was appointed as factor of this westernmost outpost of the United States government, Fort Osage. From 1808 until the factory system was ended in 1822, George served as both factor and Indian Agent at Fort Osage. He was instrumental in concluding treaties with the Osage Indians and was known for his honesty and fair treatment of the Indians.
MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES


GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: .37 acres

QUADRANGLE NAME: St. Charles, Missouri

UTM REFERENCES:

ZONE EASTING
A 15 1720 0 42 95 194 0
B  
C  
D  
E  
F  
G  
H  

QUADRANGLE SCALE: 1:24,000

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

From a point marking the S.W. corner of the Lindenwood Female College Tract and the North R.O.W. line of First Capitol Drive (State Highway 94) proceed N 50° 56' 49" E 256.75' to a point, thence N 55° 48' 04" E 93.39" to a point, thence N 33° 00' W...

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

STATE  CODE  COUNTY  CODE

FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE: Claire F. Blackwell, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION: Dept. of Natural Resources, Office of Historic Preservation

STREET & NUMBER: P.O. Box 176

CITY OR TOWN: Jefferson City

STATE: Missouri

45102

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.

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

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION
## SIBLEY HALL

### CONTINUATION SHEET

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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2. **Missouri Historic Sites Catalogue**  
   1963  
   State Historical Society of Missouri  
   Corner, Hitt and Lowry Streets  
   Columbia, Missouri  65201  
   state

3. **Historic Sites in St. Charles County**  
   1976  
   St. Charles County Historical Society  
   St. Charles, Missouri  63301  
   local

4. **Missouri State Historical Survey**  
   1978  
   Department of Natural Resources  
   P.O. Box 176  
   Jefferson City, Missouri  65102  
   state
Addition of Neo-classical portico (1926)

In 1926 a colossal, Neo-classical portico was added to the primary facade, replacing an existing wooden porch with bell-cast, mansard roof which had been built sometime after 1857. Spanning five bays in width and reaching two stories in height, the Neo-classical portico consisted of eight Tuscan columns supporting an entablature of fasciated architrave, continuous frieze and modillioned cornice. A balcony atop the porch was enclosed by a wrought iron balustrade.

Other alterations

Sometime in the early 1900's the original Italianate cupola, wooden, louvered window shutters, and many of the chimneys were removed. A steel fire escape was installed. The light paint covering the red brick, evident in a historic photograph, may also have been removed at this time.

INTERIOR

1857-late 1950's

When built in 1857, Lindenwood Hall (Sibley Hall) housed all college facilities, including kitchen and dining areas, President's apartment, classrooms, and dormitory rooms for students and faculty alike. The building boasted certain "modern" features such as water pipes and gas burners. The addition of the southern wing in 1881 provided further dormitory space and a first floor library, while the subsequent addition of 1887 provided an assembly hall (now Sibley Chapel) on the main floor and an art classroom on the second.

As new buildings were built and as modernization was required, the interior of the building was modified to suit the college's changing needs. Electric lights, steam heat, and community bathrooms were added in the early 1900's. In 1914 the baths and the electrical system were modernized, and the walls were given new coats of paper and paint. A pipe organ was installed in the assembly hall/chapel on the main floor of the northern wing in 1915. At that time the windows behind the organ platform (the western end of the wing) were closed off. In 1917 the library was enlarged to cover half the first floor, and the second floor of the south wing was converted into an infirmary with diet kitchen. In 1926 extensive remodeling was done, including the addition of private baths. The parlor (formerly the library) was decorated and furnished with period furniture at this time and decorated again in the late 1950's.
1978

The interior of the present Sibley Hall has four functional floors plus an unfinished attic area. The basement, largely above ground and accessible from three exterior entrances, houses a recreation room, laundry room, storage rooms and work rooms. The second and third floors of the building are occupied by dormitory rooms, baths and storage areas. The first floor has two parlors, Sibley Chapel, an office and additional dormitory rooms. The chapel retains certain original features, of which the most noteworthy are the original assembly seats of 1887 and a large, round-arched transom of leaded glass bullions which occurs over the entrance from the first floor hallway to the chapel. The two parlors on the first floor retain a period flavor as a result of the decor and furnishings. Note-worthy are two marble fireplaces with cartouches as well as the individual portraits of the Sibleys which are displayed over the fireplaces.

CONDITION

Sibley Hall remains in excellent condition. It is structurally sound and is well-maintained on the exterior and interior.

CURRENT STATUS

Sibley Hall continues as a residence for women, housing sixty-seven students. Sibley Chapel is used regularly for recitals and occasionally for religious services and weddings. Because of the building's significance, a small historical display has been developed in the main hall of the building. The college plans to house a small museum in one of the rooms eventually.

SITE

Sibley Hall stands in the center of a wooded campus of 140 acres. The building faces a large, open area of grass, trees and walkways, and is flanked by campus buildings on either side. The main campus drive, Butler Way, leads directly from the gates to Sibley Hall, well removed from busy Kingshighway on the east and First Capitol Drive (Missouri State Highway 94) on the south.
FOOTNOTES

1. Construction specifications for the original building are recorded in George Champlin Sibley’s Diary, No. 7, May 1856 (Lindenwood College Collection, Missouri Historical Society, St. Louis, Missouri).

2. Lindenwood Female College, Minutes of the Board of Trustees, February 1, 1881; March 1881; October 1881.

3. Minutes, June 1887.


5. Photographs in the Lindenwood College archives show the porch with bell-cast, mansard roof on the original building, before the addition of either wing.


7. Although no records of the actual painting have been found, the paint is evident in historic photographs of the building after the addition of both wings.


10. Lindenwood Female College, Minutes of the Board of Trustees, February 1, 1881; March 1881; October 1881.

11. Minutes, June 1887.

12. Lindenwood College, Annual Register, 1903, p. 30.


16. Such windows, composed of spun-glass roundels, known also as bullions or bull's eyes, were popular in late Victorian times. Windows similar to the example in Sibley Hall were produced by the Tiffany Studios. See H. Weber Wilson, "Window Glass," The Old House-Journal, VI (April, 1978), 42; Robert Koch, Louis C. Tiffany, Rebel in Glass (New York: Crown Publishers, Inc., 1964), pp. 90-91.

In 1813, pressures of the War of 1812 forced the evacuation of Fort Osage. George retreated to St. Louis, and later that year established a temporary trading post at Arrow Rock (Saline County, Missouri), in an effort to maintain the friendly allegiance of the Osage Indian tribes which he had formed while at Fort Osage.

Returning to St. Louis before the reopening of Fort Osage after the war, George married Mary Easton on August 19, 1815. Born in Rome, New York, in 1800, Mary Easton was raised in St. Louis and educated at Mrs. Tevis' boarding school in Shelbyville, Kentucky. Her father, Rufus Easton, was an important figure in Missouri—a distinguished attorney, the first postmaster of St. Louis, a Federal Judge of the Louisiana Territory by appointment of President Thomas Jefferson, a delegate to Congress, and the first Attorney General of Missouri. Mary was a lively, spirited girl who was considered one of the belles of St. Louis, then a village of about 1,000. An accomplished musician, she was fond of outdoor sports, particularly horseback riding. She is said to have danced all night and ridden home on horseback, with her evening clothes tied in a bundle behind her.

Mary Easton Sibley agreed to return to Fort Osage with George in 1815, as George proudly relates in a letter to Jane H. Sibley.

I anticipate the question from you all in one breath - "do you intend to take this charming wife with you among the Indians?" and I answer you all, yes. She has long ago expressed her perfect willingness to live anywhere with me, and until I can withdraw from the Indian Service, she will willingly share with me the privations of a forest life. I mean to have a very comfortable establishment, and make no doubt we shall pass the time quite happily in the "howling wilderness."

George had returned to Fort Osage in the fall of 1815 to put the factory in order and to prepare the comfortable quarters for his wife, known subsequently as Fountain Cottage farm. When Mary made the trek up the Missouri to Fort Osage in the spring of 1816, she brought her special piano, a rather unique one equipped with fife and drum. Mary certainly contributed to the success of Fort Osage. She began teaching the Indian children, and her entertainment on the piano was a delight to all who listened.

Mary amuses me and herself every day for an hour or two with her piano, on which she performs extremely well;...You may be sure Mary is a very great favorite among the Indians, indeed they literally idolize her since they have seen her play.
The demise of the United States factory system resulted in the closing of Fort Osage in 1822. Major Sibley returned to farming at their home near the fort, Fountain Cottage. Three years later, Sibley was appointed as one of three commissioners to survey and mark out the Sante Fe Trail. "In 1825," wrote Major Sibley, "I was honored by President Adams, with the appointment of commissioner to lay out a road from Fort Osage to New Mexico, making treaties with the supervening tribes, etc." The undertaking took two years, at which time the following report was sent to the Secretary of the Department of War in Washington:

Upon the whole, the Commissioners may congratulate themselves and all concerned, that they have succeeded in locating and marking out a very direct and permanent highway across the immense desert plain that intervenes between the Settlements of the Missouri River and those of the Rio Grande del Norte, which, until recently subdued by the enterprising Spirit of our Western citizens, has been considered an impassable barrier to any direct or profitable commerce.

After the completion of the Sante Fe Road, the Sibleys "commenced residence in St. Charles" and Mary Easton Sibley again began teaching in their home, then located at 230 North Main Street. In 1833, the Sibleys moved to Linden Wood and started their school in a low, rambling log cabin.

I commenced this spring the little school I had last year consisting of seven or eight young girls - on the plan I have long thought necessary for the good of the rising generation. That is that woman instead of being raised helpless and dependent beings should be taught the habit of industry and usefulness. Especially that they should be made to consider it a privilege and duty to wait upon themselves, to be perfectly independent of the enervating effects that slavery has produced almost universally upon the character of the west and south.

As no catalogues exist from the early days in the log cabin school, one can only hazard a guess as to the courses of study available to those young girls. Surely music was one of the subjects taught, since Mary herself was an accomplished musician. The domestic arts were offered also, for Mrs. Sibley believed that women should be skilled in the art of homemaking. As she wrote in her journal, "I am opposed to the plan of making learned women at the expense of destroying their fitness for the peculiar duties allotted to them." Religion, too, was paramount. "I would not have anything to do with a school from which religion was excluded," Mary wrote to Judge Samuel Watson, friend and benefactor of the school. In addition, Mrs. Sibley's own rich library, now located in the archives of The Lindenwood Colleges, includes volumes of science, mathematics, history, geography, poetry
and translations from other languages, revealing the scope of the education which might well have been provided.

The school grew gradually and in 1853 was incorporated by action of the State Assembly as Lindenwood Female College. In that same year, Major Sibley willed his property to the Presbytery of St. Louis.

The establishment of a school at Linden Wood on a sound and lasting foundation, and on a large and liberal plan wherein female youths... may be properly educated has long been with me and not less so with my wife, a most cherished object.19

In 1856, however, he wrote a letter to the Presbytery stating that being "adverse to holding on to the end of their lives to worldly estates which they intend to give after their decease," he would deed his property to them.20 On July 4th, 1856, a quit-claim deed was executed and the corner stone was laid for the first building...the present Sibley Hall.21

Thus Sibley Hall stands as a symbol of Lindenwood College for Women - the focal point for its history and traditions. From 1857 until 1909 Sibley Hall was the only college building, housing the Presidents and their families, teachers, students and classrooms. Except for a short period during the War Between the States, when the college was closed because of the unsettled conditions in St. Charles County, it has been used continuously to the present time as a residence hall. It represents the heritage which George and Mary Sibley impressed upon Lindenwood and all of Missouri. The small cemetery on the campus where the Sibleys are buried can be seen from the windows of Sibley Hall. Mary Sibley's father, Rufus Easton, is also buried there.

The significance of Sibley Hall extends beyond the confines of the campus. This is not only because of the contribution of the Sibleys to the state and nation, but also because it has always been considered an integral part of historic St. Charles, the first capitol of Missouri. Sibley Hall is considered by the community as one of the outstanding and distinctive features of the city.

Sibley Hall is now part of a growing and developing college. Since 1922 it has been used solely as a residence hall, housing sixty-seven students. At that time classrooms were moved to Roemer Hall, the administration building. While beginning as a female seminary, Lindenwood became a junior college in 1913 and a four-year college in 1918. Lindenwood College for Men was added in 1969, the Lindenwood Evening College in 1972, and the Lindenwood College for Individualized Education
in 1975. Until 1976 only bachelor's degrees were conferred, but in that year the College began awarding master's degrees. Since 1969, this cluster of colleges has been known as The Lindenwood Colleges.

The survey of Missouri's historic sites is based on the selection of sites as they relate to theme studies outlined in "Missouri's State Historic Preservation Plan." Accordingly, Sibley Hall is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places as an example of the themes of "Architecture" and "Education".

FOOTNOTES

1. The one remaining college building of earlier date is Jewell Hall, William Jewell College, Liberty, Missouri, built in 1853.


3. Lindenwood College, Annual Register, 1906, p. 30; 1909, p. 36.


5. The history of the years at Fort Osage is presented in: Kate L. Gregg, "The History of Fort Osage," Missouri Historical Review, XXXIV (July, 1940), 439-488. See also: Jones, "The Prairie Puritan," pp. 62-133.


10. Gregg, "Fort Osage, 457.


15. The log cabin school is pictured in a sketch in the Lindenwood College archives.

16. Mary Easton Sibley, Journal, 1832-1847, August 7, 1833. (Sibley Collection, Missouri Historical Society, St. Louis, Missouri).

17. Ibid., January 21, 1836.

18. Letter, Mary Easton Sibley to Samuel Watson (no date). (Sibley Collection, Missouri Historical Society, St. Louis, Missouri).


20. Letter, George C. Sibley to Presbytery of St. Louis, July 4, 1856. (Sibley Collection, Missouri Historical Society, St. Louis, Missouri).


5. Gregg, Kate L., ed. The Road to Sante Fe: The Journal and Diaries of George Champlin Sibley and Others Pertaining to the Surveying and Marking of a Road from the Missouri Frontier to the Settlements of New Mexico, 1825-1827. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1952.


11. Lindenwood Female College. Annual Register, 1860.

12. Lindenwood College. Annual Register, 1900.

13. __________________________, 1902.

14. __________________________, 1903.

15. __________________________, 1904.

16. __________________________, 1908.

17. __________________________, 1909.
19. ___________________, Vol. 100 (October, 1926).
20. Lindenwood College Collection. Missouri Historical Society, St. Louis, Missouri.
21. Lindenwood Female College. Minutes of the Board of Trustees.
32. Sibley Collection. Missouri Historical Society, St. Louis, Missouri.
34. Missourians One Hundred Years Ago. Columbia, Mo.: The State Historical Society of Missouri and the Missouri Centennial Committee of One Thousand, 1917.


203.25' to a point, thence N 56° 30'E 90.00' to a point, thence N 33°30' W 65.00' to a point, thence N 56° 30'E 90.00 to a point, thence N 42° 41'8'' 482.80' to a nail marking the S.W. boundary of Sibley Hall. Beginning at that point and proceeding N 31° 10'60'' W 103.10' to a nail, thence N 58°26'20'' E 158.43' to a cross, thence S 32° 29'46'' E 98.60' to a nail, thence S 56° 49'54'' W 160.81' to the point of beginning.
2. Mary Lichliter  
The Lindenwood Colleges (retired) (Dean Emeritus)  
715 Tompkins  
St. Charles, Missouri  63301  
February, 1978  
314/724-9205

3. Mary E. Ambler  
The Lindenwood Colleges (retired) (Librarian Emeritus)  
929 Robert Place  
Kirkwood, Missouri  63122  
314/822-8812

4. B. Richard Berg, Ph.D., Vice President  
Campus, The Lindenwood Colleges  
St. Charles, Missouri  63301  
314/723-9222
Primary facade, looking west.
SIBLEY HALL
St. Charles, Missouri
Photographer: Marilyn Moore Zimmerman
February, 1978
Neg. Loc.: c/o Mrs. Zimmerman
7314 Forsyth
University City, Mo. 63105
Northern wing, showing entrance to Sibley Chapel.
SIBLEY HALL #3
St. Charles, Missouri
Photographer: Marilyn Moore Zirneman
February, 1978
Neg. Loc.: c/o Mrs. Zimmerman
7314 Forsyth
University City, Mo. 63105

View of rear facade, looking west.
Northern wing, looking east.
St. Charles, Missouri

Photographer: Marilyn Moore Zimmerman

November, 1977

Neg. Loc.: c/o Mrs. Zimmerman
734 Forsyth
University City, Mo. 63105

Sibley Parlor, looking south, showing marble fireplace and portrait of Mary Sibley.
SIBLEY HALL
St. Charles, Missouri
Photographer: Marilyn Moore Zimmerman
December, 1977

Neighborhood Location: Mrs. Zimmerman
7314 Forsyth
University City, Mo. 63105

Detail of transom over interior entrance to
Sibley Chapel, showing leaded glass bullions.
SIBLEY HALL
St. Charles, Missouri
Photographer: Rudolph Goebel
circa 1960
Neg. Loc.: Lindenwood College Archives
St. Charles, Missouri 63301
Historic photograph, primary facade. Sibley Hall (Lindenwood Hall) as it looked originally, before alterations/additions.
SIBLEY HALL
St. Charles, Missouri
Photographer: Probably Rudolph Goebel
circa 1895
Copy Neg. Loc.: Lindenwood College Archives
St. Charles, Mo. 63301
Historic photograph, looking north. Sibley Hall as it looked after the addition of both wings.