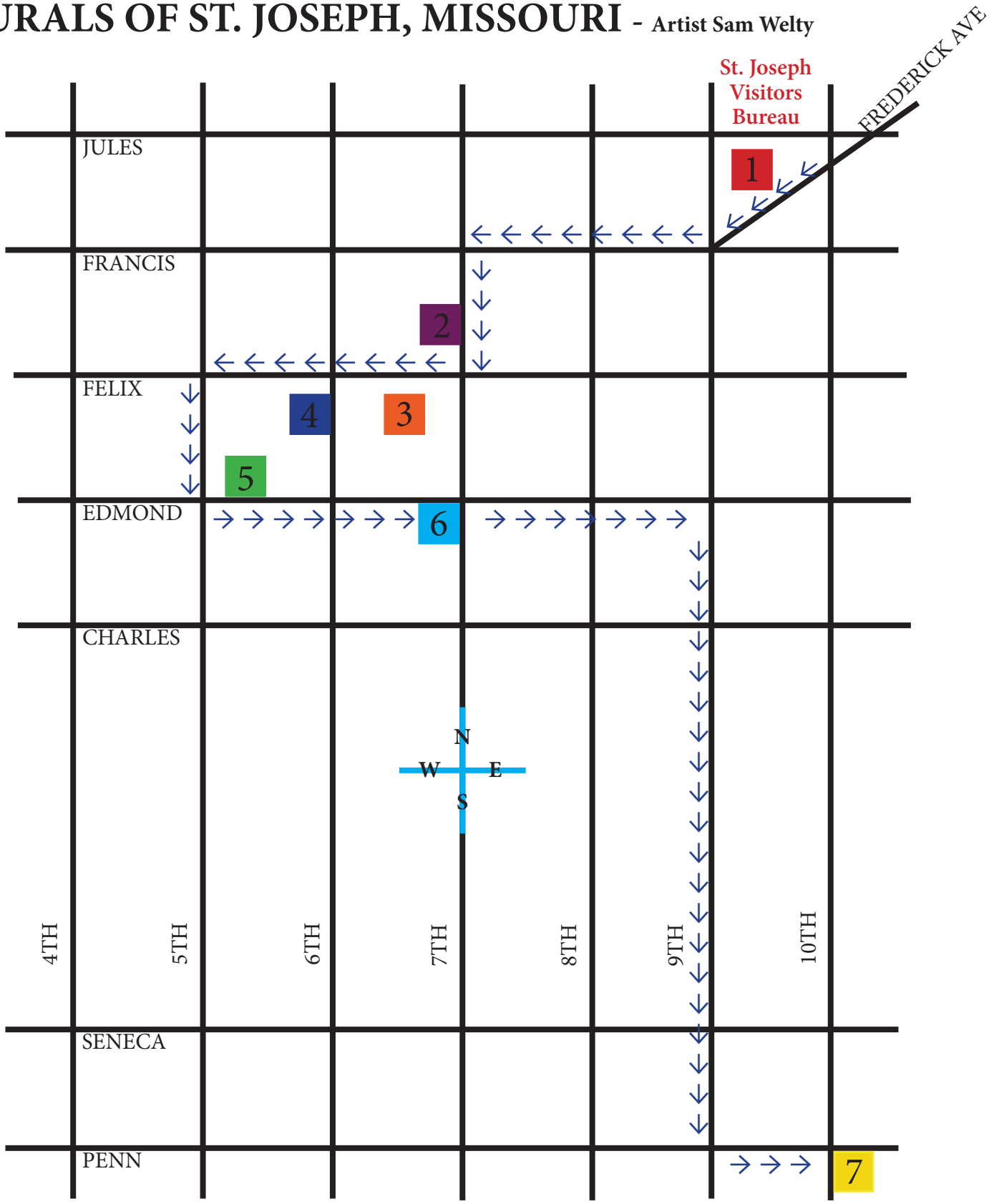
MURALS OF ST. JOSEPH, MISSOURI - Artist Sam Welty



1 Welcome to St. Joseph
911 Frederick (inside)

2 Local Music Legends Mural
700 Felix Street

4 Native American Mural
600 Felix Street

6 Days of Civil War Mural
620 Edmond Street

3 Krug Park Castle Mural
624 Felix Street

5 Western Migration Mural
500 Edmond Street

7 Pony Express Mural
1000 Penn Street

ST. JOSEPH MURALS

Starting in 2013, six murals have been painted on several downtown buildings showcasing St. Joseph's historic past.

Mural #1, located inside the St. Joseph Convention & Visitors Bureau at 911 Frederick Ave, is entitled ***"Welcome to St. Joseph."*** Based loosely off a painting from the 1800's that was historically accurate, depicting the river view St. Joseph's founding father Joseph Robidoux, whose bronze statue stands in the foreground, would have seen. The BCTB's first Board President, Bob Simpson and Board President at the time, Bob Slater were both enlisted to add the finishing touches by painting a few brush strokes of Joseph's Robidoux's outpost.

Mural #2, located in Coleman Hawkins Park, is a local ***Music Legends Mural***, and displays five of the communities more notable musicians. These include Saxophone Jazz Legend Coleman Hawkins, Bugsy Maugh a celebrated Blues favorite, well-known father and son musicians Larry and Lin Buck, musical artist Jeff Lux and last Steve Walsh, the lead singer in the pop group Kansas.

Mural #3 features the ***Castle at Krug Park***. The land comprising the park was deeded to the city by the Krug family. For many years, the Castle served as administrative offices and even provided a zoo with a bear on display. The park is a beautiful setting, where families can picnic, view special events and occasionally hear a concert.

Mural #4, around the corner, is the ***Native American Mural*** featuring Chief Keokuk. It depicts him peering at the settlers in the adjoining scene. The chief fought in the Black Hawk War in Illinois, along with future President, Abraham Lincoln. Afterwards, he would lead the Sac and Fox tribes, but would fall into disfavor with other Native Americans because of his supporting the United States government. The other renderings in the mural are those of tribal elders.

Mural #5, and the first one painted, depicts the city's cornerstone prominence as the "Gateway to the West," with the Western Expansion Mural. It is entitled: ***"Queen of the River Towns, King of the Trails."*** The image covers the backside of 6 buildings spanning a city block and at several points exceeds 100 feet in height.

Mural #6 is entitled, ***"Days of Civil War."*** This scene portrays the town's early involvement in the American Civil War, consisting of the train wreck on the Platte River Bridge at the hands of guerrillas, the Union fortification called Ft. Smith atop Prospect Hill, the Provost Marshal's headquarters in the Patee House Hotel, along with Union Troops. Lastly, there is an image of President Abraham Lincoln, who visited the city twice in 1859.

Mural #7, ***The Pony Express***, is on the north side of the Bolin Hydraulic Building at 9th & Penn Streets, directly west of the Pony Express National Museum. Its theme is the progression of the community as a western transportation hub for the country prior to 1860. The painting portrays Jonny Fry as the first Pony Express Rider, followed by a stagecoach and a period locomotive. In 1859, St. Joseph became the western terminus of nation's railroad leading in part to the Pony Express, which carried the mail to Sacramento, California.

Sam Welty of Virginia Beach, Virginia is the mural artist. He is well known on the east coast for his many renderings and has painted numerous unique impressions. As an aside, he also uses chalk as a medium. With many of his paintings, he allows the public and children to assist in their creation. The special thing about Sam is his versatility, or the ability to paint any image, as opposed to being tied to a certain genre.

Written by Joseph K. Houts, Jr. - September 20, 2017