

NR 10-20-85

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	JUN 11 1976
DATE ENTERED	12/20/85 (10/15/66)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

**** HISTORIC**
Jefferson National Expansion Memorial

AND/OR COMMON

The Gateway Arch, The Old Courthouse, and The Old Cathedral

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

11 North 4th Street

___ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

St. Louis

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

___ VICINITY OF

Third

STATE

Missouri

CODE

29

COUNTY

St. Louis

CODE

510

3 CLASSIFICATION

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

4 AGENCY

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)

U.S. National Park Service, Midwest Regional Office

STREET & NUMBER

1709 Jackson Street

CITY, TOWN

Omaha

___ VICINITY OF

STATE

Nebraska

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

U.S. National Park Service, MWRO

STREET & NUMBER

1709 Jackson Street

CITY, TOWN

Omaha

STATE

Nebraska

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE

1936

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Library of Congress

CITY, TOWN

Washington

STATE

D.C.

(See Continuation Sheet, page 1)

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 6

PAGE 1

TITLE: List of Classified Structures

DATE: 1975

FEDERAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: U.S. National Park Service, Midwest
Regional Office, Omaha, Nebraska

TITLE: National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings

DATES: 1957-1962

FEDERAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Office of Archeology and Historic
Preservation, National Park Service, Washington, D.C.

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The business center of old St. Louis grew up along the levee, where the riverfront was the jumping-off place for journeys westward. This area declined with the growth of the railroads, and most of the historic structures disappeared. The Jefferson National Expansion Memorial, including the Gateway Arch and the two remaining historic buildings, the Old Courthouse and the Old Cathedral, now occupies the area.

The large, T-shaped district in downtown St. Louis runs along the Mississippi River between the I-40/I-70 bridge, to the south, and Eads bridge, to the north. The great majority of the district is in the rectangular, park-like portion between the two bridges, Wharf Street, and I-55/I-70. This area includes the Gateway Arch and Visitor Center, the Old Cathedral, two scenic overlooks, parking facilities, several pedestrian paths, and two not-yet-completed ponds.

The Memorial was designed by Eero Saarinen in 1947. The original design envisioned a long, T-shaped park with the New Courthouse, (eight blocks west of the present memorial), Old Courthouse, and the Gateway Arch on a grand east-west axis linked by parks and terminating at the Mississippi River. The land between the two courthouses has never been cleared and the green belt axis has never been achieved, but the visual link can be clearly seen. Only the land between the Gateway Arch and the Old Courthouse has been cleared and incorporated into the Memorial. The final link to the river's edge, a grand stairway from the Arch to Wharf Street and the levee, is now under construction.

The easternmost structure is the Gateway Arch (No. HS 2), begun in 1962 and finished in 1965. The soaring, stainless steel, stressed-skin arch is 630 feet high. An inverted catenary curve, each leg is made up of double-walled, equilateral triangle sections. Throughout, the walls of each section are connected by high-strength steel rods, making a self-supporting, stressed-skin structure.

At ground level, each section is 12 feet high, and 54 feet long on each side; at the top, the sections are 8 feet high, and 17 feet on each side. The Arch's 630-foot span straddles the underground Visitor Center and Museum of Westward Expansion. Housed at the top is an observation deck from which visitors are afforded a thirty-mile view to the east and west.

Within the Memorial boundaries, but still owned by the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of St. Louis, is the Old Cathedral. It was begun in 1831 from plans prepared by Joseph Laveille and George Morton (who also designed the 1826, brick courthouse replaced by the courthouse cited below) and it was finished in 1834. This (Joliet) limestone church in modified Greek Revival is rectangular in plan with a nave, two aisles, an apse, no transepts, and a steeple above the entrance. A later, one-story, addition runs along the north and east sides of the church.

The third major, and westernmost, structure in the Memorial is the Old St. Louis County Courthouse (No. HS 1). Built between 1839 and 1864, this Greek Revival, three-story, brick and stone structure was designed by several architects over the period of its construction (Henry Singleton, William Twombly, George I. Barnett, Robert S. Mitchell, Thomas D. F. Lanham, and William Rumbold), and has been altered several times, including (See Continuation Sheet, page 2)

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a major restoration and remodeling completed in 1942. Basically a Greek Cross in plan, the junction of the four wings forms a central rotunda surmounted by a Renaissance style cast-iron dome and lantern. In the interior of the rotunda, the first three-stories are Greek Revival, but the later, upper levels, including the dome and lantern are Late Renaissance, almost Baroque, in style. This upper dome is elaborately decorated with murals, especially four lunette murals originally done by Carl Wilmar, and several later murals by Ettore Miragoli.

In the northeast and southeast corners of the Park are the two scenic overlooks. Designed to afford views of the river and the surrounding scenery, they are approached by a series of steps with variable slopes that reflect the catenary slope of the Gateway Arch.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ART	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" 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 1935 to present

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Eero Saarinen

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Park was established in 1935 to memorialize the role of Thomas Jefferson and others responsible for the Nation's territorial expansion to the Pacific and of the countless pioneers who explored and settled the great American West.

To dramatize the growth and the great social, political, and economic changes that followed in the wake of the Louisiana Purchase, the National Park Service and the city of St. Louis undertook an extensive development program. In 1947, the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial Association held a national competition to select a design for the Memorial. The late Eero Saarinen's design was selected from more than 200 entries.

The central feature of the Saarinen Plan is the 630-foot, stainless steel Gateway Arch, symbolizing St. Louis' historic gateway role. The Arch, one of the most challenging engineering and construction projects ever attempted, is in the form of an inverted catenary curve. The catenary is the soundest of all arches, because all forces pass through the legs into the foundation. A variety of structural methods, some not normally used for buildings, unique to this structure, were employed by Saarinen. The stressed-skin design is similar to airplane structural design and allows the skin to carry all structural loads without massive interior framing. Furthermore, the design demanded new construction techniques; the arch was erected by unique, 100-ton, steel creeper cranes mounted on steel tracks affixed to each arch leg. These cranes lifted and placed the triangular sections. After the final section was placed in the arch, the derricks crept down, taking up their tracks and polishing the surface as they went.

The Old Courthouse derives its significance from several areas - architecture, art, engineering, and law. The dome atop the Courthouse was a major feat of engineering and architectural design when it was built. In 1851, the Courthouse's fifth architect, Thomas D. P. Lanham, proposed and designed a new Renaissance style dome to replace the original, smaller dome. However, it was Lanham's successor, William Rumbold, who, between 1859 and 1862, accomplished the detailed structural design and engineering, which he patented. The lightweight iron skeletal designs of the St. Louis dome and its contemporary on the National Capitol were unique in the United States at that time, and were among the first in the world. The designers of many statehouses took their inspiration from the National Capitol, but the St. Louis dome was completed one-and-a-half years before, and in this sense was the forerunner of those that followed.

The interior of Rumbold's dome, because of its lightweight structural design, allowed for a very high rotunda, so the architect and the muralists August Becker, Charles Wimar, and Leon Pomerade collaborated to redesign the old rotunda, which had been designed by George I. Barnett, the building's third architect.

(See Continuation Sheet, page 3)

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Wimar designed the original program and, by 1862, executed the four lunettes depicting the history of St. Louis. Subsequent work by Ettore Miragoli in 1880, repairs by August Becker in 1888 and 1905, restoration work by James Lyons in 1921, and a fire in 1936 have obliterated all of Wimar's program except two of his lunettes. The majority of the work visible today is a National Park Service restoration of Miragoli's; nevertheless, both men were accomplished artists and the rotunda presents an impressive appearance.

An event of major political and legal importance occurred at the Courthouse in 1847, when Dred Scott sued the widow of Dr. John Emerson for his freedom. The trial verdict was rendered in favor of Mrs. Emerson. Upon appeal, this verdict was set aside and a second trial was held in 1850. These first two trials were known to have been held in the Courthouse. The State Supreme Court trial, in 1852, was probably not held in the Courthouse. The case saw its conclusion in the decision of the U.S. Supreme Court in Dred Scott vs. Sanford in 1857.

Also of note is the fact that Justice Louis Brandeis was admitted to the bar in this courthouse in 1878.

The old Cathedral, the second remaining historic building of old St. Louis, was built in 1831 to 1834, on land set aside for religious purposes by Pierre Laclède in the spring of 1764 when he founded the village of St. Louis. The building narrowly escaped destruction in the disastrous fire that swept the riverfront in 1849. The importance of the church declined sharply after the Civil War when the archdiocese moved its headquarters uptown to a new cathedral. But in 1961, Pope John XXIII designated the building "Basilica of St. Louis, King of France." This is the highest honor ever given an American Catholic church.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Bryan, John A., An Architectural and Historical Sketch of the Old Cathedral.
 St. Louis: Jefferson National Expansion Memorial, 1937.
- , An Architectural and Historical Sketch of the Old Courthouse.
 St. Louis: Jefferson National Expansion Memorial, 1937.
- , A Physical History of the Old Courthouse, St. Louis, Missouri. 1826-1938.
 St. Louis: Jefferson National Expansion Memorial, 1938.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

(See Continuation Sheet, page 4)

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 90.96

UTM REFERENCES

U A	1,5	74,50,0,0	4,27,9 ²³⁰ 21,0	A B	1,5	74,5 ³⁰⁰ 2,8,0	4,27,9 ²⁰⁰ 17,0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
30	1,5	74,50,2,0	4,27,80,8,0	C B	1,5	74,47,8,0	4,27,81,9,0

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

2 E	15	744 ⁹⁰⁰ 850	4278670	E C	15	744640	4278760
F C	15	744660	4278840	G C H	15	744 ⁹⁰⁰ 880	4278 ⁷⁵⁰ 780

(See Continuation Sheet, page 5)

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

Richard I. Ortega, Architectural Historian (Engineer)

ORGANIZATION

U.S. National Park Service, MWRO

DATE

3/3/76

STREET & NUMBER

1709 Jackson Street

TELEPHONE

402-221-3423

CITY OR TOWN

Omaha

STATE

Nebraska

12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES _____ NO _____ NONE _____

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Historic Preservation Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The evaluated level of significance is X National _____ State _____ Local.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE Deputy Assistant Secretary

DATE JUN 4 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE 8/4/77

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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- , The Riverfront at St. Louis; Gateway to the West. St. Louis: Jefferson
National Expansion Memorial, 1942.
- Dosch, Donald, History of the Old Courthouse. St. Louis: Jefferson National
Expansion Memorial, 1969.

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The T-shaped park, starting at the intersection of Eads Bridge and Wharf Street, St. Louis, Missouri, runs south along the west side of Wharf Street for approximately 3600 feet; thence west along the north side of Poplar Street for approximately 800 feet; thence north along the east side of the Third Street Expressway for approximately 1600 feet; thence west along Market Street approximately 800 feet; thence north along Broadway approximately 300 feet; then east along Chestnut approximately 800 feet; thence north along the Expressway approximately 1400 feet; thence east along the south wall of Eads Bridge approximately 900 feet to the beginning.

Photo Log:

Name of Property: Jefferson National Expansion Memorial National Historic Site

City or Vicinity: St. Louis [Independent City]

County: St. Louis [Independent City] State: MO

Photographer: Arteaga Photos (unless otherwise noted)

Date

Photographed: Sept 1975 (unless otherwise noted)

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

1 of 3. View of the Old Courthouse as seen from an elevated position SE of the building. Photo taken by Todd Studios, Inc., circa 1942.

2 of 3. Aerial view of the park as seen from the S looking N. Note: The scenic overlooks, one in the foreground and one in the background; the Gateway Arch in the right center of the middle ground; the Old Cathedral in the left center of the middle ground; and the Old Courthouse in the upper left hand corner. Note: This is a copyrighted photo.

3 of 3. West elevation of Old Courthouse with the Gateway Arch behind it, as seen from the W looking E. Photo taken Oct. 1975.





9.25-3

Artiga
Chicago

