

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Missouri	
COUNTY: Buchanan	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
Pony Express Stables

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Pike's Peak Stables

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
91 1/2 Penn Street

CITY OR TOWN:
St. Joseph

STATE Missouri	CODE 64500	COUNTY: Buchanan	CODE 021
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____ _____			

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
St. Joseph Museum

STREET AND NUMBER:
11th Street and Charles Street

CITY OR TOWN:
St. Joseph

STATE: Missouri	CODE 64500
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5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Office of Recorder of Deeds, Buchanan County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
St. Joseph

STATE: Missouri	CODE 64500
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6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Missouri Historic Sites Catalogue

DATE OF SURVEY: 1963
 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
State Historical Society of Missouri

STREET AND NUMBER:
Corner, Hitt and Lowry streets

CITY OR TOWN:
Columbia

STATE: Missouri	CODE 65201
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6.

PONY EXPRESS STABLES

Missouri State Historical Survey (state)

1969

Missouri State Park Board

P. O. Box 176

1204 Jefferson Building

Jefferson City, Missouri 65101 Code: 24

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7.

PONY EXPRESS STABLES

The east brick wall has eight casement windows, with four lights in each frame, and jutting brick sills. The south elevation has one metalclad door in the southeast corner. The west wall has three double-hung windows. Two of these windows have 6 over 6 light sash, and the third has eight over eight lights. This brick wall is laid in common bond with Flemish variation.

A single brick chimney stack rises at the northeast corner of the roof.

The original building was a frame structure built in 1858, 60 x 125 feet. In 1888, due to deterioration, brick walls were built inside the frame walls to take the roof load. Then the frame walls were removed leaving the roof intact. The present brick structure is much shorter on the north-south axis than when it was built. (Mr. Don Reynolds, Assistant to the Director, St. Joseph Museum, recorded interview by Logan McKibbin, June 10, 1969.)

The original building was divided into horse stalls on the interior and covered by a full width and length hayloft. At present the interior is used as a historical museum with display areas, a reconstructed wheelwright's shop, a blacksmith shop, leather shop, and the present hayloft, which covers only half of the original area.

The building's exterior has been restored to its 1888 appearance.

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE						
<p>The Pony Express Stables in St. Joseph, Missouri, is a one story structure originally built entirely of wood in 1858, and in 1888, rebuilt incorporating brick exterior walls into the already existing fabric. The building's present dimensions are 58' 4" x 55' 3".</p> <p>The exterior walls (north, east and west) are constructed of coursed brick, two bricks thick; the south (rear) wall consists of 2 x 4 inch rough sawn wood framing with studding approximately 16 inches on center. This wall rests on a brick foundation and is covered on the exterior with 1/4 inch asbestos board.</p> <p>The north (front) facade is elaborately decorated in contrast to the severe simplicity of the rest of the building. Six applied brick pilasters divide the facade into two large and three smaller units. The two larger units enclose 1) the double-leafed stable door (left) capped by a segment arch and 2) paired or double windows with double-hung 6 over 6 light sash, (right). Separating these two windows is a small arch headed window (center), with double-hung 3 over 3 light sash, matched by an identical window on the left end unit. The right end unit encloses a double-leafed wooden doorway with 2 lights in the upper half of each leaf. All of the doorways and windows are segment arch headed with brick voussoirs. The facade is unified by three semi-continuous brick string courses, one above the arch head, one below the sills of the smaller windows, and the other below the sill of the large double window.</p> <p>The double-leafed wooden stable doorway is decoratively patterned with diagonal lathing forming a herringbone design overlaid by bracing in an arch motif on the upper half, and rectilinear motif on the lower half.</p> <p>A double string course below the cornice, which continues over the applied pilasters, further unifies the facade. A stamped metal cornice, and a brick dentil course on the two large units, surmount the wall. The same motif is repeated at a lower level in the central unit between the pilasters, enhancing the symmetrical design.</p> <p>The north gable of the ridge roof is essentially a tripartite brick pediment. The two smaller pediments surmount the two larger units of the facade. These pediments are further outlined and partitioned by brickwork. The central diamond-shaped area encloses a square brick area in which there are two windows with double-hung 2 over 2 light sash.</p>						

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PONY EXPRESS STABLES

St. Joseph Transfer Company for the purpose of quartering their horses. Under the direction of John Burlington, the company repaired the building by laying brick on the inside of the frame walls which were then removed leaving intact the roof and original vertical supporting timbers. As a result, the width of the building was reduced from 60' to 53'. (Mr. Don Reynolds, Assistant to the Director, St. Joseph Museum, recorded interview by Logan McKibbin, June 10, 1969.)

In 1950, restoration of the building was completed by Mr. Karl Goetz, president of the Goetz Pony Express Foundation which was endowed by his family and the M. K. Goetz Brewing Company of St. Joseph. (Missouri Historical Review, July 1950, p. 345.) When Mr. Goetz died, the building was deeded to the St. Joseph Museum which has operated the Pony Express Stables Museum since 1959.

3. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

The Pony Express Stables is significant as the starting point of the Pony Express which carried the mail from St. Joseph, Missouri to Sacramento, California, between April, 1860 and October, 1861. The first rider, who was either Billy Richardson or Johnny Fry, left the old Pike's Peak Stables on April 3, 1860 on the first run of the Pony Express. (Bartlett Boder, Museum Graphic, Third Edition, 1965, p. 4.)

The firm of William H. Russell, Alexander Majors and William B. Waddell organized the Pony Express as a device for publicizing the Central route to California which followed the Platte River through Nebraska to Bridger Pass. By using this route, the mail could be delivered in ten days which was considerably faster than the twenty-five day Southern route through Arkansas, Texas and Arizona to California. The firm hoped to obtain the government mail contract worth \$600,000. The Overland Mail Company who had the contract, used the slower Southern route. (Raymond W. and Mary Lund Settle, War Drums and Wagon Wheels, 1966, pp. 110-11.)

In 1858, Benjamin Holladay built the original 60' by 125' building which was capable of quartering 200 horses. "The heavy timbers were of native lumber, while the walls were of pine boards, with a shingle roof..." The building was known as the Pike's Peak Stables because of Holladay's freighting and stagecoach lines to the gold rush town of Pike's Peak, Colorado. (Missouri Historical Review, July 1950, pp. 349-50.) Holladay leased the stables to the firm of Russell, Majors and Waddell for their Pony Express which operated for 18 months before the telegraph was put through to Sacramento, California on October 24, 1861. (Mr. Don Reynolds, Assistant to the Director, St. Joseph Museum, recorded interview by Logan McKibbin, June 10, 1969.) It is probable that the stables also quartered livestock for Russell, Majors and Waddell's overland freighting business.

After the failure of the Pony Express to win the government mail contract, the building was sold and used for various businesses such as: a stage line, a feed and livery stable, a mattress factory and a machinery shop. In 1886, the building was purchased by the

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9.

PONY EXPRESS STABLES

3. Reynolds, Don. Assistant to the Director, St. Joseph Museum, St. Joseph, Missouri. Recorded interview by Logan McKibbin, Architectural Consultant, June 10, 1969, filed at Missouri State Park Board, 1204 Jefferson Building, P.O. Box 176, Jefferson City, Missouri 65101.
4. Settle, Mary Lund and Raymond W. War Drums and Wagon Wheels. Lincoln, Nebraska: University of Nebraska Press, 1966, pp. 110-16.
5. Shoemaker, Floyd C. "The Pony Express--Commemoration, Stables, and Museum," Missouri Historical Review. Columbia, Missouri: State Historical Society of Missouri, July 1950, pp. 343-363.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1. Boder, Bartlett. "The Pony Express," Museum Graphic, Third Edition, St. Joseph, Missouri: St. Joseph Museum, 1965, p. 4.
2. McKibbin, Logan O. Architectural Consultant Field Report, received June, 1969, contracted by the Missouri State Park Board and filed at its central office, P.O. Box 176, 1204 Jefferson Building, Jefferson City, Missouri 65101.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES								
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE			LATITUDE			LONGITUDE		
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	39°	45'	22"	94°	50'	57"	
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"							
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"							
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"							

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: less than ten

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Charla A. Piggott, Research Historian

ORGANIZATION: Missouri State Park Board DATE: January 27, 1970
State Historical Survey and Planning Office

STREET AND NUMBER: P.O. Box 176, 1204 Jefferson Building

CITY OR TOWN: Jefferson City STATE: Missouri 65101 CODE: 24

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name Joseph Jaeger, Jr.

Title Director, Missouri State Park Board, and Missouri State Liaison Officer

Date _____

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST: _____

 Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Photo Log:

Name of Property: **Pony Express Stables**

City or Vicinity: **St. Joseph**

County: **Buchanan County** State: **MO**

Photographer: **Charla A. Piggott**

Date

Photographed: **January, 1970**

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

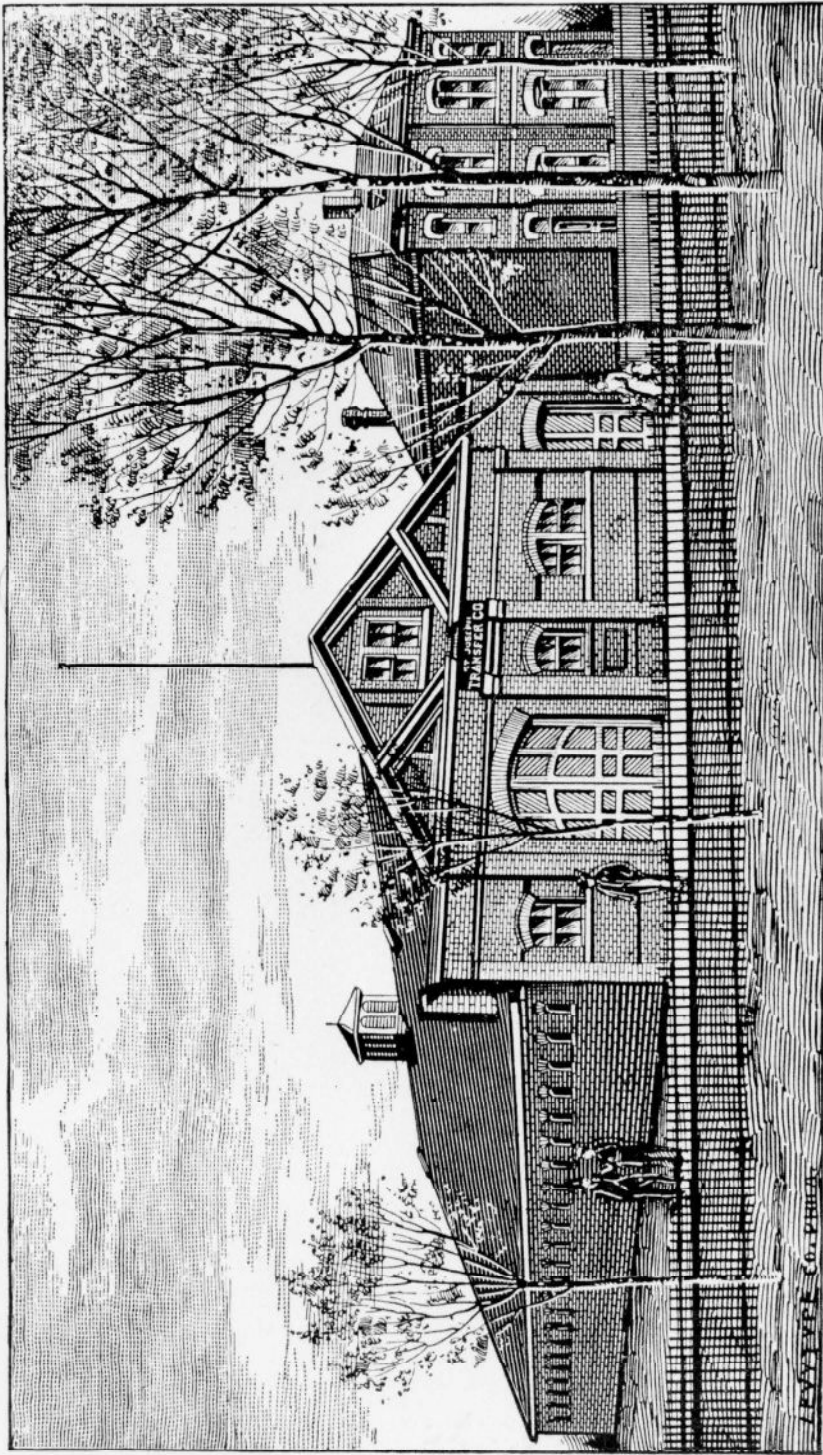
- 1 of 7. Building when owned by the St. Joseph Transfer Company.
- 2 of 7. Building when owned by the St. Joseph Transfer Company.
- 3 of 7. Original Pony Express Stables, 1858.
- 4 of 7. Interior, looking S
- 5 of 7. S elevation
- 6 of 7. W elevation
- 7 of 7. E elevation



ST. JOSEPH TRANSFER COMPANY

John Burlington, Pres. and Supt. 103 South Fourth Street, St. Joseph, Mo. Robert Winning, Sec'y and Treas.

Office Telephones
M. & K. T. Co., No. 91
Stable Telephone
M. & K. T. Co., No. 95



David H. Blair, Business Manager

Stables 910-12-14-16-18-20-22 Penn Street

Prompt, efficient, trustworthy in everything. They refer to anyone who has done business with them. Reasonable charges.

