

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC

PATEE HOUSE

AND/OR COMMON

Patee House Museum

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

12th and Penn Streets

CITY, TOWN

St. Joseph

VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
006 (sixth)

STATE

Missouri

CODE

29

COUNTY

Buchanan

CODE

021

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT

☒ BUILDING(S)

☐ STRUCTURE

☐ SITE

☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC

☒ PRIVATE

☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS

☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED

☐ UNOCCUPIED

☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED

☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED

☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE

☐ COMMERCIAL

☐ EDUCATIONAL

☐ ENTERTAINMENT

☐ GOVERNMENT

☐ INDUSTRIAL

☐ MILITARY

☒ MUSEUM

☐ PARK

☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE

☐ RELIGIOUS

☐ SCIENTIFIC

☐ TRANSPORTATION

☐ OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mr. Charles Potter, President, Pony Express Historical Association

STREET & NUMBER

3312 Newport Road

CITY, TOWN

St. Joseph

VICINITY OF

STATE

Missouri 64505

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Buchanan County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

St. Joseph

STATE

Missouri

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Historic Sites Survey

DATE

1960

☒ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Historic Sites Survey, 1100 L Street, N.W.

CITY, TOWN

Washington

STATE

D.C.

CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT

☐ GOOD

☒ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED

☐ RUINS

☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED

☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE

☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

In 1856 John Patee began construction of the Patee House, a huge hotel at the foot of a bluff on Penn Street at 12th in St. Joseph, Missouri. The Patee House was an imposing structure of red brick, four stories tall and built in the shape of a "U". A two-story center section was enclosed on three sides. The block-size structure featured several balconies, front steps running the length of the building and an ornate cupola. The dining room was well equipped with steam tables and the floors were covered throughout with thick, red carpeting.

The Patee House was completed in 1858 and was very profitable until the outbreak of the Civil War. Its conversion into a shirt factory in 1885 led to massive interior alterations. The building was vacated in 1957 and stood empty for five years. During that time, the interior was continuously vandalized. In 1963 the Pony Express Historical Association was formed, and through their efforts the building was saved from demolition.

In 1975 the Patee House was partially restored. The cupola was replaced but balconies and the steps which ran the length of the west side of the hotel have not yet been reconstructed. The interior has been largely altered through the years but retains the second-floor ballroom, several original hotel rooms and a staircase. These will be restored as funds permit. Several areas have been renovated for use as museum space. One such area, the "Transportation Hall," contains antique cars, wagons, buggies, fire trucks, sleighs, and the 90-foot Hannibal & St. Joseph Railroad steam locomotive and mail car. The museum has been open free to the public since its inception.

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 type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1860 BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Patee House in St. Joseph, Missouri was the headquarters for Russell, Majors, and Waddell, the owners of the Pony Express. The cannon which inaugurated the opening of the Express was fired in front of this building on April 3, 1860. Arthur Chapman describes the Patee House as follows in The Pony Express:

In keeping with its dignity as the chief way-point between East and West, St. Joseph had provided itself with a hotel which was one of the marvels of the time. John Patee, in 1856, began the construction of what was to be the finest hotel in the West. The Patee House cost \$200,000, but, unfortunately for its promoter, its location was such that the project could not be made to pay. Stage coaches ran special excursions when the hotel was opened. Guests came from Liberty, and Weston and all the way from Hannibal. The long hitching rack in front of the hotel was lined with the "rigs" of the young bloods from St. Joseph and vicinity. But the railroad terminal, instead of being located on Penn Street, as Patee had been assured, was built several blocks away, at Eighth and Olive streets, and St. Joseph's marvel among hotels was a financial failure from the start.

Many distinguished guests of stage-coach days put up at the Patee House, notwithstanding. For the east-bound it afforded the first glorious plunge into the luxuries which the "States" possessed and the frontier lacked. For those bound west, it afforded a farewell revelry in such luxuries. William H. Russell and Alexander Majors were familiar figures about the Patee House when they were establishing their stage line and later the Pony Express. Richard F. Burton, keen to penetrate the mysteries of Mormondom; Horace Greeley and the correspondent Albert D. Richardson, intent on "writing up" the Colorado gold camps; adventurers headed for the distant excitements of Washoe; sportsmen who wanted to shoot buffaloes and perhaps have a not-too-dangerous brush with Indians--such figures gave the corridors of the Patee House something more than local swank.

Upwards of thirty riders, a large proportion of those selected to ride the eastern half of the trail, had been quartered at the Patee House, at company expense. The boys found that nothing in St. Joe was too good for them. Dances were given at the big hotel, and the "Pony " riders were privileged to dance in the costumes which they were to wear in the saddle, even spurs being permitted.

(continued)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

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CONTINUATION SHEET Patee House ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

On April 3, 1860, the Pony Express began operations between St. Joseph, Missouri, and Sacramento, California. The ceremonies were held in front of the Patee House, culminating with the cannon shot which signalled the first Express rider, at the stables two blocks west, to gallop full-tilt through town and into Kansas.

Patee House was a hotel three times, a women's college twice, and a shirt and overall factory for almost 80 years, before it became a museum. During the Civil War, the provost marshall's office was located in the building, as well as the Union Army recruiting office. In 1865, when the war left the hotel in a failing financial condition, John Patee held a lottery, selling tickets throughout the U.S. for \$2 each. When the winning ticket was drawn April 28, 1865, Patee won back his own hotel.

Patee House was a hotel from 1858 to 1865, a Methodist women's college from 1865 to 1869, a hotel again from 1869 to 1874, and a Baptist women's college from 1875 to 1881. It was called World's Hotel in 1881, with Dr. S. A. Richmond's epileptic sanitarium located on the top floor. During this period, Jesse James was killed April 3, 1882, on the hill just a block north of Patee House at 1318 Lafayette street. His widow was interviewed at the hotel the next morning.

The building became a shirt factory in 1885. During World Wars I and II millions of army uniforms were made here. Patee House was vacated in 1957, and stood empty for five years while vandals ruined the interior. The Patee House is now owned by the Patee House Historical Association with a museum in operation since 1965.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Chapman, Arthur, The Pony Express, 1932.
Chilcote, Gary, "Patee House History," unpublished ms., HSS files, 1974.
Mattison, Ray, "Patee House," Historic Sites Survey Report, 1960.
Work Projects Administration, Missouri: A Guide to the "Show Me" State, 1941.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

UTM REFERENCES

A

1	5
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3	4	1	9	5	0
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4	4	0	2	0	90
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ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B

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ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

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D

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The Patee House boundaries are described by the rectangular plot owned by the Pony Express Historical Association at the corner of 12th and Penn Streets in St. Joseph. The plot contains the Patee House and its industrial additions.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Stephen Lissandrello, Historian, Landmarks Review Project

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Historic Sites Survey, National Park Service

12/23/75

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

1100 L Street

523-5464

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Washington

D.C.

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

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

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

1/23/79

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

1/15/79

ATTEST: B. L. Lohmiller
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

(NATIONAL HISTORIC
LANDMARKS)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH MAP

1 NAME

HISTORIC PATEE HOUSE

AND/OR COMMON
Patee House

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN
St. Joseph

____ VICINITY OF

COUNTY
Buchanana

STATE
Missouri

3 MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE USGS 7.5' series, St. Joseph, Mo.-Kan. quadrangle

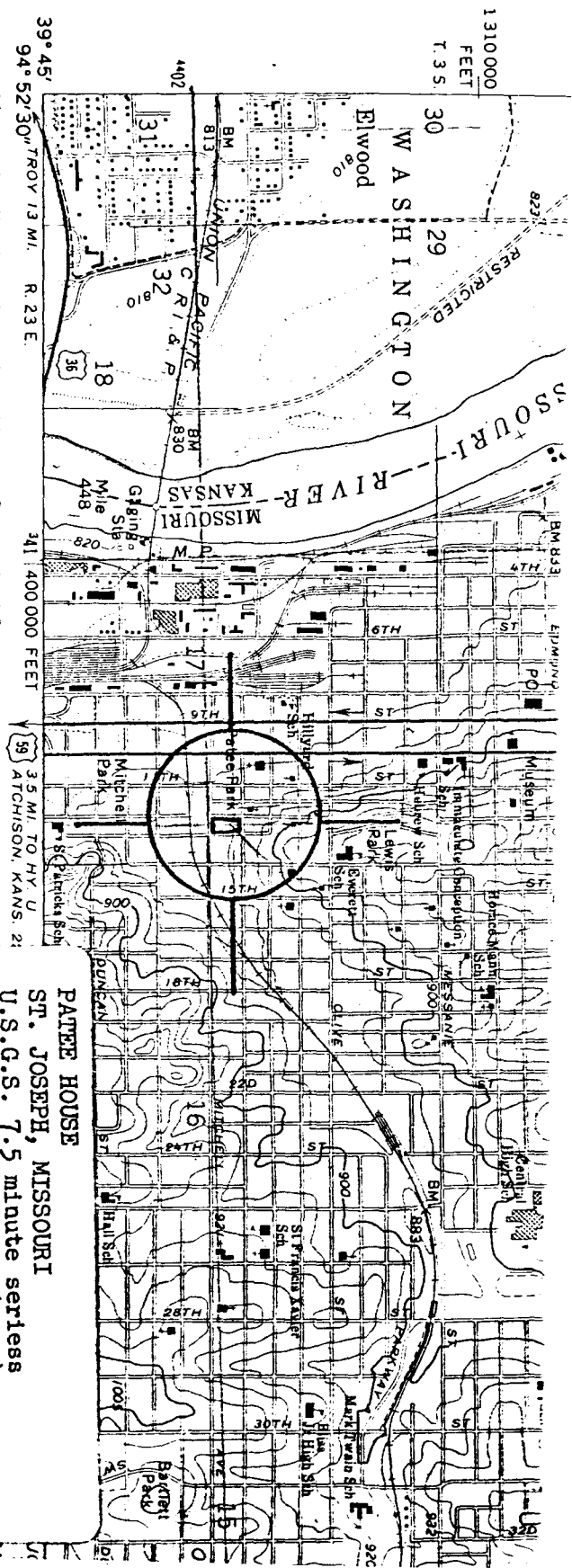
SCALE 1:24,000 DATE 1971

4 REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. PROPERTY BOUNDARIES
2. NORTH ARROW
3. UTM REFERENCES

INT: 2986-75



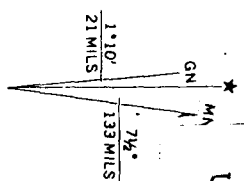
Control by USGS and USC&GS

PATTEE HOUSE
ST. JOSEPH, MISSOURI
U.S.G.S. 7.5 minute series
St. Joseph, Mo.-Kan. (1971)
UTM REFERENCE: 15/34L950/4402090

Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1969. Field checked 1971

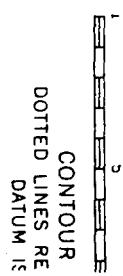
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Missouri coordinate system, west zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 15, shown in blue

Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown
 Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where
 generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked



UTM GRID AND 1971 MAGNETIC NORTH
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

THIS MAP COMPLETES WITH
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DE
MISSOURI GEOLOGICAL
AND STATE GEOLOGICAL
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC



PATEE HOUSE

COUNTY: Buchanan
LOCATION: 12th & Penn, St. Joseph, Mo.
OWNER: Pony Express Historical Association
ADDRESS: 516 1/2 Felix St., St. Joseph, Mo.
DATE PLACED ON NATIONAL REGISTER: 10-15-66
DATE AWARDED CERTIFICATE
(AND PRESENTER): 05-06-73
John Harr - AC member

DATE FILE REVIEWED:

NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK

DATE OF ELIGIBILITY: 11-01-61
DATE OF PRESENTATION OF PLAQUE: 04-03-65
DATE OF ENTRY: 11-05-61



PATEE HOUSE IN 1864







