

# NATIONAL ORGANIZATION SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

## CIVIL WAR MEMORIAL ASSESSMENT FORM

**PLEASE:**

- 1. Type or print, using a ball-point pen, when filling out this form. Legibility is critical.
- 2. Do not guess at the information. An answer of, "Unknown," is more helpful. Include a photograph of each viewable side and label it with name & direction of view.

- Thank You.

**Type of Memorial**

- Monument with Sculpture
- Monument without Sculpture
- Other ( flag pole, G.A.R. buildings, stained glass windows, etc.)
- Monument with Cannon
- Historical Marker
- Plaque

**Affiliation**

- G.A.R. (Post Name & No. \_\_\_\_\_)  M.O.L.L.U.S
- SUVCW (Camp Name & No. \_\_\_\_\_) (Please describe below)
- WRC (Corps Name & No. \_\_\_\_\_)
- ASUVCW (Aux Name & No. \_\_\_\_\_)
- DUVCW (Tent Name & No. \_\_\_\_\_)
- LGAR (Circle Name & No. \_\_\_\_\_)
- Other Missouri Humanities Council

**Original Dedication Date** unknown Please consult any/all newspaper archives for a local paper's article that would have information on the *first* dedication ceremony and/or other facts on the memorial. Please submit a copy of your findings with full identification of the paper & date of publication. Thank you.

**Location**

The Memorial is *currently* located at: N39.772611 and W94.862844  
 Street/Road address or site location Bellevue Street and West Michel Street  
 City/Village St. Joseph Township St. Joseph County Buchanan  
 State Missouri

The front of the Memorial faces:  North  South  East  West

**Government Body, Agency, or Individual Owner** (of private cemetery that Memorial is located in)

Name City of St. Joseph  
 Dept./Div. Parks, Recreation, and Civil Facilities  
 Street Address 1100 Frederick Avenue City  
St. Joseph State MO Zip Code 64501 Contact Person  
 Telephone ( ) 816-271-5500

If the Memorial has been moved, please list former location(s).

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### Physical Details

Material of Monument or base under a Sculpture or Cannon =  Stone  Concrete  Metal  Undetermined If known, name specific material (color of granite, marble, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

#### SUVCW -- CIVIL WAR

Material of the Sculpture =  Stone  Concrete  Metal  Undetermined  
If known, name specific material (color of granite, marble, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_  
If the Sculpture is of metal, is it solid cast or "hollow?" \_\_\_\_\_

Material of Plaque or Historical Marker / Tablet = steel and plastic \_\_\_\_\_

Material of Cannon =  Bronze  Iron - Consult known Ordnance Listing to confirm  
Markings on muzzle = \_\_\_\_\_

Markings on Left Trunion \_\_\_\_\_ Right Trunion \_\_\_\_\_

Is inert ammunition a part of the Memorial?  If so, describe \_\_\_\_\_

note: adjacent cannon is a reproduction

#### Approximate Dimensions (indicate unit of measure) - taken from tallest / widest points

Monument or Base: Height 2' Width 3' Depth 1" or Diameter \_\_\_\_\_

Sculpture: Height \_\_\_\_\_ Width \_\_\_\_\_ Depth \_\_\_\_\_ or Diameter \_\_\_\_\_

For Memorials with multiple Sculptures, please record this information on a separate sheet of paper for each statue and attach to this form. Please describe the "pose" of each statue and any weapons/implements involved (in case your photos become separated from this form). Thank you!

#### Markings/Inscriptions (on stone-work / metal-work of monument, base, sculpture)

Maker or Fabricator mark / name? If so, give name & location found \_\_\_\_\_

The "Dedication Text" is formed:  cut into material  raised up from material face

Record the text (indicate any separation if on different sides) Please use additional sheet if necessary.

see pictures for complete text

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Environmental Setting

(The general vicinity and immediate locale surrounding a memorial can play a major role in its overall condition.)

#### Type of Location

- Cemetery
- "Town Square"
- Municipal Building
- Courthouse
- Traffic Circle

- Park
- Post Office
- State Capitol
- College Campus
- Library

- Plaza/Courtyard
- School
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_
- Fort Smith Park \_\_\_\_\_
- Huston Wyeth Park \_\_\_\_\_



**Surface Coating**

Does there appear to be a coating? \_\_\_ Yes  No \_\_\_ Unable to determine

If known, identify type of coating.

\_\_\_ Gilded \_\_\_ Painted \_\_\_ Varnished \_\_\_ Waxed \_\_\_ Unable to determine

Is the coating in good condition? \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ Unable to determine

**Basic Surface Condition Assessment (check one)**

In your opinion, what is the general appearance or condition of the Memorial?  Well maintained \_\_\_

Would benefit from treatment \_\_\_ In urgent need of treatment \_\_\_ Unable to determine

**Overall Description**

Briefly describe the Memorial (affiliation / overall condition & any concern not already touched on) .

Historical marker describes the role Fort Smith and Union forces played in St. Joseph during the Civil War.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Supplemental Background Information**

In addition to your on-site survey, any additional information you can provide on the described Memorial will be welcomed. Please label each account with its source (author, title, publisher, date, pages). Topics include any reference to the points listed on this questionnaire, plus any previous conservation treatments - or efforts to raise money for treatment. Thank you.

**Inspector Identification**

Date of On-site Survey 27 July 2015

Your Name Dale Crandell

Address 7535 Grand Avenue

City Kansas City

State MO Zip Code 64114

Telephone (     ) 816 444 7244

What Order or Organization is submitter a member of? Westport Camp #64

Please send this completed form to

Walt Busch, PDC, Chair  
P.O. Box 509  
Pilot Knob, MO 63663  
(314) 630-8407  
webusch@hotmail.com

Thank you for your help, and attention to detail. SONS OF UNION V

CIVIL WAR VETERANS OF THE National Civil War Memorials Committee







# FORT SMITH

## The Union's hope to hold St. Joseph

Fort Smith was erected in September 1861 as a Union fortification. St. Joseph was of great importance to preservation of the United States and the security of the goldfields of California for the war effort.

### 1861: Union in Crisis

Within a span of roughly two months, the Union had seen the defeat in three successive battles. The Confederacy was well on its way to gaining military control over the State of Missouri.

map image: Fort Smith (top, Telegraph Hill)

A military presence in St. Joseph became essential. St. Joseph was recently split in its sentiments between the Union and Confederacy. The city had been controlled several times by Union and Confederate forces up to and during the early part of 1861.

A raid in May 1861 led by former mayor, M. Jeff Thompson, brought a unit of dragoons from Fort

Lewisport and the 2nd Iowa

Infantry. When these troops

left in late August, St. Joseph

was again open to Confederate

occupation. In September, the

Confederates left when word came

that the 4th Illinois Infantry had

been ordered to occupy St. Joseph.

In late September 1861, the 52nd

Illinois Infantry and the 36th Ohio Regiment

joined the 4th Illinois Infantry, setting up camp

on Prospect Hill, then known as Telegraph Hill

(top). This hill, south of the business district,

overlooked the Missouri River to the west

and the city to the east. The soldiers built an

abutting circle of earthworks and named it Fort

Smith, for their commander Col. Robert F.

Smith (top, image).

Men who were accused, or found to be guilty of Southern sympathies were driven out to work building the fort. The Union troops estimated there were 100 to 150 men who fled to the Missouri River and built up and down the Missouri River and had a clear view of the city. It was

in (top) with 12 cannons.

In December 1861, two of

those cannons were fired over

the city for target practice.

Altogether, a signal

politics was presented to

Col. Smith asking that

he send a small detachment

before opening fire on the

city again, as women and

children could be evacuated,

Fort Smith became a symbol in the

Union States in those early months. By

1862, Missouri had been secured for the

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Railroad and enforce martial law.





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### 1861: Union in Crisis

Within a span of roughly two months, the Union had been defeated in three successive battles. The Confederacy was well on its way to gaining military control over the state of Missouri.

main image:  
Fort Smith atop Telegraph Hill

A military presence in St. Joseph became essential. St. Joseph was evenly split in its sentiments between the Union and Confederacy. The city had been controlled several times by Union and Confederate forces up to and during the early part of 1861.

A riot in May 1861 led by former mayor, M. Jeff Thompson, brought a unit of dragoons from Fort Leavenworth and the 2nd Iowa Infantry. When these troops left in late August, St. Joseph was again open to Confederate occupation. In September, the Confederates left when word came that the 16th Illinois Infantry had been ordered to occupy St. Joseph.

In late September 1861, the 52nd Illinois Infantry and the 38th Ohio Regiment joined the 16th Illinois Infantry, setting up camp on Prospect Hill, then known as Telegraph Hill (left). This hill, north of the business district, overlooked the Missouri River to the west and the city to the east. The soldiers built an oblong circle of earthworks and named it Fort Smith, for their commander Col. Robert V. Smith (inset image).

Men who were accused, or found to be guilty of Southern sympathies were often put to work building the fort. The Union troops stationed here were able to see both up and down the Missouri River and had a clear view of the city. It was fortified with 12 cannons.

In December 1861, two of those cannons were fired over the city for target practice. Afterwards, a signed petition was presented to Col. Smith asking that he notify civil authorities before opening fire on the city again, so women and children could be evacuated.

Fort Smith became critical to the United States in these early months. By 1862, Missouri had been secured for the Union. Troops remained throughout the war to protect the Hannibal & St. Joseph Railroad and enforce martial law.

