

Jefferson

National Expansion Memorial

ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI



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WHEN THE Thirteen English Colonies in North America gained their independence in 1783, the western boundary of our Nation was established at midstream of the Mississippi River, from its source to near Natchez, Miss.

While a few trailblazers and settlers had crossed the Appalachians, about half of the newly created United States was unpopulated by white people at that time. But mounting numbers of land-hungry pioneers began to fill this empty space. Floating down the Ohio, or trudging through Cumberland Gap on the Wilderness Road, they filtered into the Old Northwest and Kentucky and Tennessee. By 1800 they had reached the banks of the Mississippi.

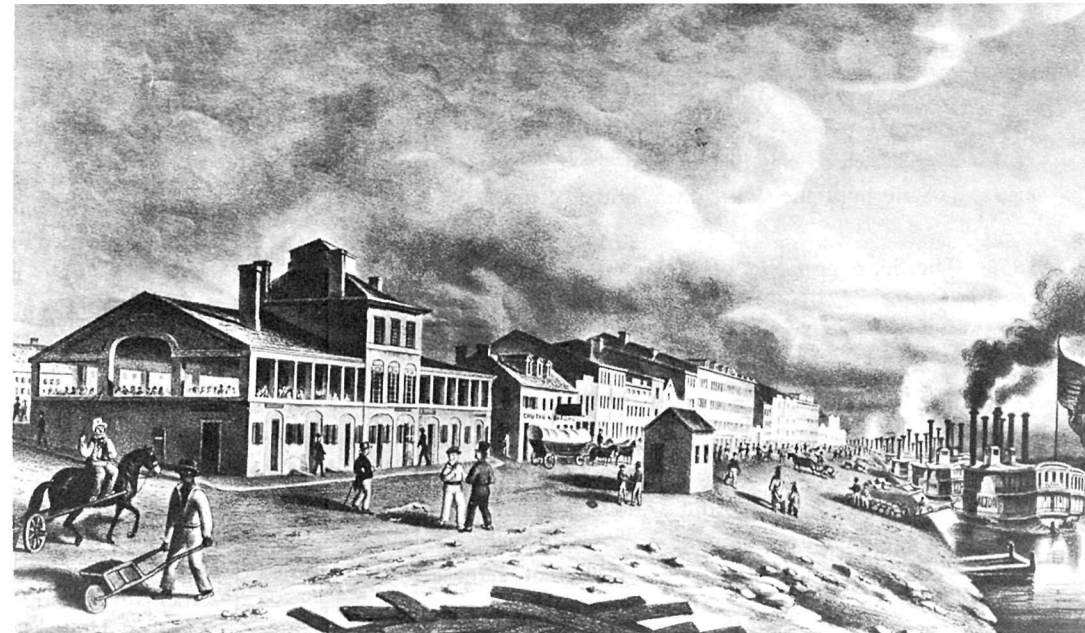
The vision of President Thomas Jefferson, greatest architect of westward expansion, led to the purchase of the vast empire of Louisiana from Emperor Napoleon of France in 1803. This brilliant act doubled the land area of our infant republic, assuring the United States a major role in the development of the North American continent. The West was not to be preserved for Old World empires and restraints; it was to be a rich land of opportunity for free men.

The westward surge of our Nation has given us a heroic heritage of accomplishments and ideals. Mastering the midcontinent, our pioneers left historic marks upon the face of the West, and the experience placed an imperishable stamp upon the American character.

The annals of the West include the pageant of exploration and the fur trade; covered wagon migrations; the Pony Express and the telegraph; stage, freight, and railroad lines; steamboats churning western rivers; cowboys and a range empire of grass; the last phase of Indian warfare; courageous homesteaders; boom towns; and new States in the Union.

The National Park System, of which this area is a unit, is dedicated to conserving the scenic, scientific, and historic heritage of the United States for the benefit and inspiration of its people.

View of the St. Louis riverfront in 1840. From a drawing by J. C. Wild.



GATEWAY TO THE WEST

Founded in 1764 by French fur traders from New Orleans, St. Louis grew slowly as a center of French-Canadian culture and Spanish governmental control. It became part of the United States through the Louisiana Purchase.

Its strategic location on a flood-free bluff, convenient to the Ohio, Missouri, and other river approaches, made it the hub of midcontinental commerce, transportation, and culture, and a gateway to the wilderness beyond. In his classic, *The American Fur Trade of the Far West*, Hiram M. Chittenden wrote:

It is doubtful if history affords the example of another city which has been the exclusive mart for so vast an extent of country as that which was tributary to St. Louis. . . . Every route of trade or adventure to the remote regions of the West centered in St. Louis. . . . Following the lines of trade, all travel to the Far West, whether for pleasure or for scientific research, all exploring expeditions, all military movements, all intercourse with the Indians, and even the enterprises of the missionaries in that country, made St. Louis their starting point and base of operations.

Here, too, was the western outpost of advanced cultural, scientific, and political thought. At St. Louis were located the first theater, the first Episcopal and Unitarian churches, the first post office, the first administrative center for western Indian affairs beyond the Mississippi—among many trans-Mississippi firsts.

St. Louis was the headquarters of the western fur trade. Manuel Lisa, the Chouteaus, Ashley, Sublette, and other leaders of the trade built their homes here and directed the activities of the legendary mountain men. Along the river-

front, towering steamboats from the East and South met the smaller river boats serving the frontier communities and outposts on the upper Mississippi and Missouri Rivers. Mercantile establishments, boatyards, saloons, and lodging-houses were erected to handle business and commerce at this major transfer point.

For many years, this small, teeming area remained the supply base and marketplace of the frontier. Here the Oregon pioneer and the gold seeker bought tools, wagons, guns, and supplies. Lumbermen, planters, farmers, and fur dealers sold their products. Here were fashioned the Newell & Sutton plows, Murphy wagons for the Santa Fe trade, Grimsley dragoon saddles, Hawken "plains" rifles, and the cast-iron stoves of Filley, and Bridge & Beach. The East met the West at this focal point where westbound settlers congregated before starting out to cross the plains.

The business center of old St. Louis developed along the riverfront levee. But the completion of the Eads Bridge in 1874 and the expansion of the railroads, in competition with river traffic, led to the decline of the riverfront as business moved uptown.

THE MEMORIAL SITE

Because of its historic role as "Gateway to the West," St. Louis was chosen as the focal point for interpreting and memorializing our Nation's westward expansion.

Jefferson National Expansion Memorial was established as a National Historic Site by Executive order in 1935, to be administered by the National Park Service. The memorial,

on the Mississippi riverfront, occupies an area of more than 80 acres, or nearly 40 city blocks, on the site of the original village of St. Louis founded by Laclède in 1764. The lands within the memorial were purchased with funds provided jointly by the City of St. Louis and the Federal Government.

Crowded, obsolescent industrial buildings have been cleared away. Two historic buildings—the Old Courthouse and the Old Cathedral—have been restored.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE MEMORIAL

To dramatize the physical growth of the Nation and the great cultural, political, and economic contributions and the other benefits that followed in the wake of the Louisiana Purchase, an extensive development program has been planned for Jefferson National Expansion Memorial.

In 1947, the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial Association, a nonprofit organization of public-spirited citizens interested in the development of the memorial, conducted a nationwide architectural competition to select an architect to design the memorial. The Gateway Arch design, submitted by the noted American architect, Eero Saarinen, won this competition.

The dominant point of the memorial development will be a 630-foot high stainless steel arch. Standing on the west bank of the Mississippi River, the arch will symbolize St. Louis' historic position as "Gateway to the West," and will contain an elevator system enabling the visitor to reach a lofty observatory at the top. Scaled to the heroic dimensions of such other famous structures as the Washington Monument, the Eiffel Tower, and the Statue of Liberty, the arch will rank with them both in size and grandeur.

An underground visitor center, featuring the new Museum of Westward Expansion, will be built at the base of the arch. Museum exhibits portraying the experiences and contributions of western explorers, fur traders, statesmen, overland emigrants, soldiers, miners, Indians, cattlemen, and farmers will present our western heritage in new dimensions.

Guided, as well as self-guided, tours for visiting groups will be provided. The devices and services used in telling the story of westward expansion will be enriched through the years by continuing historical research.

The developments at the memorial are being financed jointly by the Federal Government and the City of St. Louis, in a ratio of three dollars to one. The Federal Government contribution is a part of MISSION 66, the 10-year development, improvement, and conservation program of the National Park Service.

MISSION 66 was launched in 1956 and is scheduled for completion in 1966, the golden anniversary of the establishment of the National Park Service. This program is concerned with developing, staffing, and improving the areas that are managed by the National Park Service in a way that assures their widest possible use. For the areas themselves, it means the maximum preservation of the scenic, scientific, and historic resources that give them their distinction.

THE MEMORIAL'S HISTORIC BUILDINGS

Two historic buildings have been preserved at the memorial. **The Old Courthouse**, where the Dred Scott case was first tried, was started in 1839. In its rotunda resounded the oratory of Thomas Hart Benton and other famed speakers of the 19th century. **The Old Cathedral**, begun in 1831 on church property set aside when St. Louis was founded in 1764, was the home of the archdiocese, but is now used as a shrine and a place of worship for residents of downtown St. Louis and visitors to the city. Another historic building, the *Lisa Warehouse*, which was built as a riverfront ware-

The Old Cathedral.



house in 1818 for the western fur trade, was dismantled recently because of the required relocation of the waterfront railroad tracks.

The Old Courthouse

Standing high above the river, at the western edge of the former riverfront business district, the Old Courthouse was a dominant feature of the town during many of the years when St. Louis was the "Emporium of the West." Around it thronged the widely assorted people whose interests led them beyond the frontier.

The building served as a public forum as well as a courthouse. Here the community honored its volunteers returning from the Mexican War, and in the rotunda, men met in a national convention to project a railroad to the Pacific. The fateful Dred Scott slavery controversy case was first brought to trial here, a decade before the Supreme Court's proslavery decision concluded the case in 1857. In this building, Senator Benton delivered his famous oration, using as his theme Bishop Berkeley's poetic phrase, "Westward the course of empire."

The courthouse was begun in 1839 to replace an outgrown smaller brick structure. The rotunda and west wing were formally opened in 1845, but the rapid growth of the community soon rendered the building inadequate, and additional construction was started in 1853. The east wing was built to complete the original plan. Large wings were added to the north and south. The older west wing was remodeled, and a new, taller Italianate dome replaced the original. The building was completed in 1864, and appears today much as it did then. Carl Wimar's historical and allegorical murals were, and still are, outstanding public building decorations. They were restored recently by the National Park Service.

The courthouse was used by St. Louis County until taken over by the city. It remained in city use until 1941, and was later donated to the Nation by the people of St. Louis. It now serves as headquarters of the memorial and contains museum exhibits on parts of the westward expansion story.

During construction of the memorial, the park museum will be located in the Old Courthouse. Here are portrayed many aspects of the westward expansion story; numerous exhibits also deal with the history of St. Louis. Two separate museum wings—"The Louisiana Purchase" and the "Indians and the West"—contain a series of exhibits and dioramas which graphically summarize the events and people associated with these important phases in the history of the West.



The Old Courthouse.

The Old Cathedral

The cathedral square is adjacent to the memorial area, on land set aside in 1764 as church property when St. Louis was founded. The present stone cathedral and the land it occupies have remained the property of the Roman Catholic Church, which is contributing to the development of the memorial area by extensive preservation and restoration work on the cathedral.

Construction of the cathedral began in 1831, following a Greek revival architectural design. Dedicated in 1834, the cathedral narrowly escaped destruction in the disastrous fire that swept the riverfront business district in 1849. The importance of the cathedral declined sharply after the Civil War, when the archdiocese moved its headquarters to a new cathedral uptown. Now designated "Church of St. Louis of France," it still actively serves a parish.

YOUR VISIT TO THE MEMORIAL

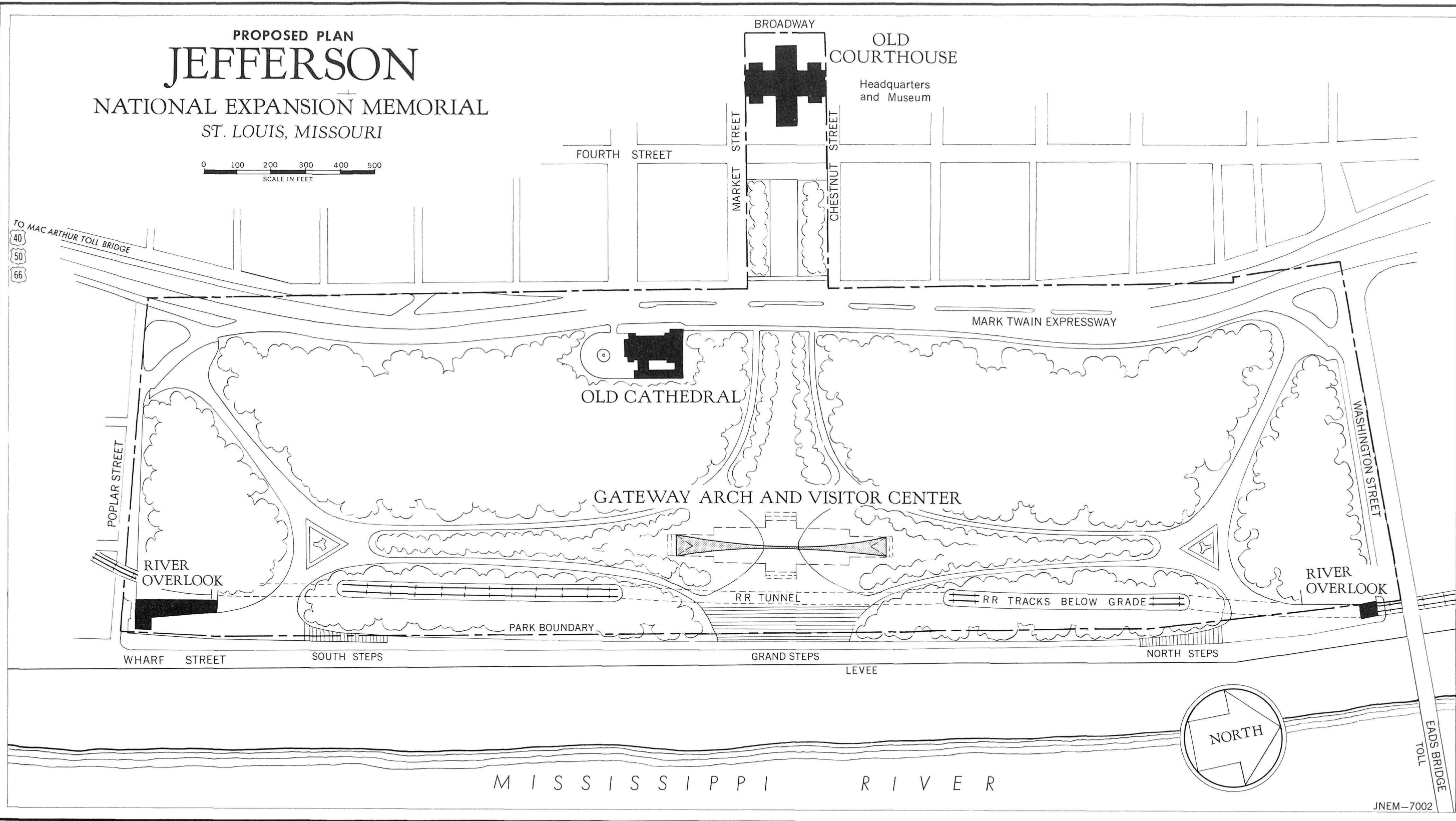
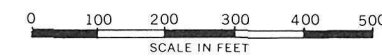
The memorial is within easy walking distance of the downtown business district of St. Louis, where eating and sleeping accommodations are available.

By automobile, you can reach the memorial via U.S. 40, 50, and 66. If you cross the Mississippi River by the MacArthur or Eads Bridges, you pass within sight of the memorial and can reach it readily from the west side of the bridges.

Groups wishing guided tours are asked to make arrangements in advance.

The headquarters of the memorial and the Museum of Western Expansion are in the Old Courthouse. Museum hours are from 8:15 a.m. to 5 p.m.

PROPOSED PLAN
JEFFERSON
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JNEM-7002

THE STORY OF DRED SCOTT

The most famous slave of his time, Scott first sued for his freedom in the Old Courthouse. The case inflamed a nation poised on the brink of civil war.

- 1800 Dred Scott, a slave, was born in Virginia, probably in 1800.
- 1830 His master, Peter Blow, moved with Dred to St. Louis.
- 1833 Dred Scott was sold by Blow's daughter to Dr. John Emerson, an Army surgeon stationed at Jefferson Barracks.
- 1834 When Dr. Emerson was assigned to Fort Armstrong at Rock Island, Ill., Scott was taken along. Under the Northwest Ordinance of 1787 and the State Constitution of 1818, slavery was prohibited in Illinois. Missouri courts had held that residence in a free state or territory entitled a slave to sue for his freedom.
- 1836 Dr. Emerson was assigned to Fort Snelling in what is now Minnesota. He took his slave along, although Fort Snelling was in territory from which slavery was barred by the Missouri Compromise of 1820. Dr. Emerson bought from another officer a slave girl named Harriet whom Dred married.
- 1838 Dred and Harriet joined Dr. Emerson at Jefferson Barracks, Mo.
- 1843 Dr. Emerson died and the Scotts were left to his widow.
- 1846 Dred and Harriet prepared to bring suit against Mrs. Emerson in the circuit court charging assault and false imprisonment and asking damages of \$10. This was the legal procedure by which slaves might sue for their freedom.
- 1847 The case came to trial in the west wing of the Old Courthouse of St. Louis. The Scotts lost, but moved for a new trial. The verdict was set aside and a new trial granted.

- 1850 The second trial of Dred Scott's suit again took place in the Old Courthouse. This time the Scotts won. Mrs. Emerson moved for a new trial, which was denied, and she appealed to the State Supreme Court on a writ of error.
- 1852 The Supreme Court of Missouri reversed the judgment of the Circuit Court and remanded the Scotts to slavery.
- 1853 The former Mrs. Emerson, who had remarried, transferred ownership of her slaves to her brother, John Sanford, who had moved from St. Louis to New York. Accordingly, Dred, Harriet, and their daughters brought a new suit against Sanford. Because citizens of two different States were involved, the case came under Federal jurisdiction.
- 1854 The trial of Scott vs. Sanford was held in the Federal District Court. The Scotts lost and their motion for a new trial was overruled. They then appealed to the Supreme Court of the United States on a writ of error.
- 1856 The case was argued before the Supreme Court in February and again in December. This was a Presidential election year, and slavery was a critical issue.
- 1857 The Supreme Court of the United States announced its historic decision that a slave was not a citizen. The case was dismissed. Soon afterward Sanford transferred ownership of Dred Scott to Taylor Blow, son of Dred's first owner, who immediately set Dred free. Dred Scott died the following year.

The decision of the Supreme Court in the Dred Scott case was a momentous one. Chief Justice Taney's majority opinion held that Congress could not bar slavery from the territories. The North was instantly aroused by the newly strengthened legal position of the South for expanding slavery into the territories. The Republican Party made rapid gains. For the Democratic Party, the decision contributed greatly to its eventual cleavage into northern and southern wings before the election of 1860. The era of compromise between the North and the South was nearing an end.

Administration

JEFFERSON NATIONAL EXPANSION MEMORIAL is administered by the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior. A superintendent, whose address is 11 North 4th St., St. Louis 2, Mo., is in charge of the memorial.

Created in 1849, the Department of the Interior—America's Department of Natural Resources—is concerned with the management, conservation, and development of the Nation's water, wildlife, mineral, forest, and park and recreational resources. It also has major responsibilities for Indian and Territorial affairs.

As the Nation's principal conservation agency, the Department works to assure that nonrenewable resources are developed and used wisely, that park and recreational resources are conserved for the future, and that renewable resources make their full contribution to the progress, prosperity, and security of the United States—now and in the future.

Cover: Architectural Model of the Gateway Arch.

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 NATIONAL PARK SERVICE



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