

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Oklahoma City National Memorial
 Other names/site number: Oklahoma City National Memorial & Museum; Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building Plaza and Parking Garage; India Temple Shrine Building/Journal Record Building
 Name of related multiple property listing:
N/A
 (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

Street & number: Bounded by NW 6th Street, N. Robinson Avenue, NW 4th Street & N. Harvey Avenue
 City or town: Oklahoma City State: Oklahoma County: Oklahoma
 Not For Publication: N/A Vicinity: N/A

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,
 I hereby certify that this ___ nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.
 In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:
 ___ national ___ statewide ___ local
 Applicable National Register Criteria:
 ___A ___B ___C ___D

_____ Signature of certifying official/Title:	_____ Date
_____ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	
In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.	
_____ Signature of commenting official:	_____ Date
_____ Title :	_____ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>4</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	structures
<u>5</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>11</u>	<u>1</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 1

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Landscape: park
Recreation and Culture: museum
Landscape: plaza
Transportation: road-related (vehicular)

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Landscape: park
Recreation and Culture: museum
Landscape: plaza
Transportation: road-related (vehicular)

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Modern Movement

Modern Movement: Brutalism

Late 19th and 20th Century Revival: Neo-Classical Revival

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Bronze, Granite, Concrete, Limestone, Brick

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The Oklahoma City National Memorial is located near the north end of the city's central business district. The nominated property is bounded on the north by Northwest 6th Street, on the east by North Robinson Avenue, on the south by Northwest 4th Street, and on the west by North Harvey Avenue. The area encompassed by these streets originally consisted of two city blocks. As planning for the Oklahoma City National Memorial commenced, Northwest 5th Street was vacated between Robinson and Harvey Avenues and the land formerly dedicated to the roadway was incorporated into the Memorial. The Memorial is being nominated as a historic district consisting of three major components: the Memorial Museum/Journal Record Building located at the district's northeast corner, the Outdoor Symbolic Memorial located to the south and west of the museum building, and the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building Plaza and Parking Garage at the district's south end. These resources are unified by their association with the bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building on April 19, 1995 and its aftermath, as well as the memorialization process that resulted in the creation of the Oklahoma City National Memorial & Museum. The Memorial Museum/Journal Record Building is a five-story, limestone- and brick-clad Neoclassical building constructed in 1923. Following the bombing, a portion of the building was converted to the Oklahoma City National Memorial Museum and opened to the public in 2001. The Outdoor Symbolic Memorial was completed in 2000 and is comprised of nine major

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features. Along the south side of the Memorial Museum/Journal Record Building are the Rescuers' Orchard and the Survivor Tree. Along the west side of the building and stretching to the Reflecting Pool is the Children's Area. Marking the former location of Northwest 5th Street are the bronze 9:01 Gate and 9:03 Gate facing North Robinson Avenue and North Harvey Avenue, respectively. The two gates flank the Reflecting Pool, a 318-foot long ribbon of smooth black granite and calm water located in the center of the historic district. To the south of the pool is the Field of Empty Chairs, a grassy slope containing 168 bronze, granite, and glass chairs representing the victims of the bombing of the Murrah Building. East of the chairs is the Survivor Wall, an original concrete wall of the Murrah Building containing granite panels engraved with the names of the survivors of the blast that destroyed the building and damaged adjacent ones. Along the west side of the district facing North Harvey Avenue is the Fence, a 210-foot long chain link fence upon which visitors hang tokens of remembrance. The Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building Plaza and Parking Garage was completed in 1977 in the Brutalist style and formerly served as "the front porch" of the Murrah Building. It anchors the south end of the district, stretching between Robinson and Harvey Avenues. The district also contains a contributing sculpture and a noncontributing bus shelter. Surrounding the district are two early twentieth-century churches, a mid-20th century federal courthouse, a 10-story office building constructed in 1958, parking lots, and a parking garage. Also nearby are a post office, federal office building, and a two-story retail/commercial building constructed after (and as a result of) the 1995 bombing. The Oklahoma City National Memorial is in excellent condition. It retains a high degree of integrity and possesses the seven elements of design, materials, workmanship, location, setting, feeling, and association. The period of significance for the district is 1995 to 2001. The earlier date corresponds to the bombing of the Murrah Building in 1995. The latter date relates to the opening of the Oklahoma City National Memorial Museum.

Narrative Description

The Oklahoma City National Memorial is being nominated as a historic district containing three major components. At the north end is the Oklahoma City National Memorial Museum, located in the Journal Record Building, a five-story Neoclassical style building constructed in 1923 and listed on the National Register in 1980. In the middle of the district is the Outdoor Symbolic Memorial, constructed between 1998 and 2000 in remembrance of the victims and in tribute to the survivors, rescuers, and volunteers who responded to the April 19, 1995 bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building. A portion of the Memorial lies within the footprint of the Murrah Building. The third component is the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building Plaza and Parking Garage, constructed in 1977 in the Brutalist style and located at the south end of the district. The district is located at the north end of the city's downtown where its skyline begins to transition from high-rise office towers to lower-story public buildings, churches, and commercial buildings. The nominated property forms a rectangle with a north-south orientation. It is defined by the central business district's traditional grid pattern and is bounded on the north by Northwest 6th Street, on the east by North Robinson Avenue, on the south by Northwest 4th Street, and on the west by North Harvey Avenue. Prior to the creation of the Memorial, this area was composed of two city blocks with Northwest 5th Street bisecting it in an east-west direction. This street was vacated as planning for the Memorial progressed.

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Much like the Oklahoma City National Memorial, the area surrounding the district has been shaped by the events of April 19, 1995. All adjacent buildings were damaged by the bombing of the Murrah Building. Some were so severely damaged that they were demolished. The buildings now surrounding the district were constructed between the early 1900s and the early 2000s. The latter were constructed in the rebuilding effort following the bombing of the Murrah Building. Immediately to the north of the district is the former Southwestern Bell Headquarters Building at 707 N. Robinson Avenue. The 10-story, Two-Part Vertical Block was constructed in 1958. To the west of this building is a contemporaneous parking garage. Northwest of the district is the Oklahoma City Federal Building. The three-story horseshoe-shaped building encompasses the entire block. It was completed in 2004 and replaced the destroyed Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building. South of the federal building is a post office that replaced another post office that was severely damaged by the bombing of the Murrah Building and later demolished. Immediately to its west is the Regency Tower, a 24-story apartment building constructed in 1967 and whose profile looms over the Memorial. South of the post office is St. Joseph Old Cathedral, a red brick Gothic Revival church constructed in 1903. Immediately south of the district is the Oklahoma City Federal Courthouse, a five-story building constructed in 1959-61 in the Formalism style. East of the district is the First United Methodist Church, another red brick Gothic Revival style building constructed in 1903-04. North of the old church is a red brick sanctuary and education building completed in 1998. At the southeast corner of Northwest 5th Street and Robinson Avenue is the Heartland Chapel, an outdoor interdenominational chapel completed in July 1995, three months after the bombing. Across Northwest 5th Street is the former location of the Downtown YMCA building, an International style building constructed in 1952. It was heavily damaged by the bombing and demolished in 2001. In its place is a parking lot that primarily serves the Oklahoma City National Memorial & Museum. North of the parking lot is the Robinson Executive Building at 620 N. Robinson Avenue. This two-story office and retail building was constructed in 2000 on the site of the Kirkpatrick Hotel, a two-story, Two-Part Commercial Block constructed in the mid-20th century that was also heavily damaged by the Murrah bombing and demolished.

Contributing Resources

Oklahoma City National Memorial Museum (a.k.a. Journal Record Building; formerly known as the India Shrine Temple Building), 621 N. Robinson Avenue/620 N. Harvey Avenue (Map Key: H)

The Oklahoma City National Memorial Museum/Journal Record Building is located at the northeast end of the nominated historic district at the corner of Northwest 6th Street and North Robinson Avenue. The Neoclassical building has a rectangular massing approximately 260 feet long and 140 feet wide. The front (east) and north elevations are sheathed with smooth-faced limestone whereas the south and west elevations (originally secondary elevations) are faced with red brick painted a creamy yellow. The five-story building sits on a raised basement which is especially evident along the south and north elevations. Its symmetrical façade faces North Robinson Avenue and features characteristics of the Neoclassical style (Photos 1 and 2). It is divided into nine bays with a string course of stone separating the lower two floors from the upper stories. Eight Ionic engaged columns separate the windows on the third and fourth floor. A

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denticulated cornice surrounds the parapet. Set back from the parapet is a gabled penthouse containing the fifth floor.

The north elevation features a secondary entrance that sits above Northwest 6th Street and is accessed by a flight of stairs (Photo 3). The walls around the doors are covered with green marble. Above the doors is a curved canopy. This area provides access to the Oklahoma City National Memorial Center for Education & Outreach. The west elevation provides access to the Memorial Museum (Photos 4 and 18). The south elevation contains remnants of metal fire escapes near the east end of the building. Also notable on this elevation is graffiti painted onto the wall following the attack on the Murrah Building. Located near the Survivor Tree and painted in blue lettering, it reads: "Team 5/4-19-95/We search for the truth./We seek Justice./The Courts Require it./The Victims Cry for it./And GOD Demands it!" (Photo 5)

The Journal Record Building was severely damaged as a result of the bombing of the Murrah Building. It sat vacant for five years with the interior exposed to the elements as a result of roof damage and broken windows. The publishing plant at the west end of the building (a nonhistoric addition) was removed. Renovation of the building began in 2000. At the heart of the renovation was the conversion of approximately 30,000 square feet of the building's west end into the Memorial's museum. The museum, opened to the public on February 19, 2001, occupies three stories with its entrance located on the west elevation of the building (using the address of 620 N. Harvey Avenue). Included within the museum are interactive exhibits that examine the moments before the blast and the stories of victims and survivors, as well as the heroic actions of many who responded to the terrorist act. Also told is the impact of the loss of the victims, the investigation of the bombing, and acts of remembrance and rebuilding. These stories are arranged in "chapters," each of which is told through a variety of media that includes audio recordings, photographs, news footage, artifacts such as keys, shoes, jewelry, and briefcases belonging to victims and survivors, clocks stopped at the time of the blast, tattered window blinds, and building debris. A section of the second floor was left unrepaired so that visitors could see for themselves the damage caused by the bomb blast. Several pieces of artwork formerly on display in the Murrah Building are included in the museum's exhibits. The museum also includes offices for the Oklahoma City National Memorial Foundation, the Center for Education & Outreach, a gift shop, the Memorial's archives, and a research library. The remainder of the building was renovated for commercial use.

The Memorial Museum/Journal Record Building is counted as one contributing building to the district but because it was previously listed on the National Register (NR# 80003286), it is not included in the resource count in Section 5.

Outdoor Symbolic Memorial

The Outdoor Symbolic Memorial occupies approximately 3.5 acres between the Memorial Museum/Journal Record Building and the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building Plaza and Parking Garage. It is an affiliate of the National Park Service but is owned, operated, and maintained by the Oklahoma City National Memorial Foundation, a private non-profit that also operates the

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Oklahoma City National Memorial Museum. The Outdoor Symbolic Memorial is opened to the public every day of the year at no charge.

Within the Outdoor Symbolic Memorial are the following features: Gates of Time (9:01 Gate and 9:03 Gate), Reflecting Pool, Field of Empty Chairs, Survivor Wall, Survivor Tree, Rescuers' Orchard, Children's Area, and the Fence. The area encompassed within the Outdoor Symbolic Memorial is not a flat plane as might be suggested by the surrounding street grid. The Survivor Tree is located at the Memorial's highest point. Its surrounding stone terraces descend to the west and south through the Rescuers' Orchard. The lowest point of the Memorial is located at the foot of the Gates of Time and the Reflecting Pool. These features mark the former location of Northwest 5th Street. There is a gradual incline from the Reflecting Pool south to the wall of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building Plaza and Parking Garage. On this incline is the Field of Empty Chairs.

There are six points of entry into the Outdoor Symbolic Memorial. The two main entrances are located at the 9:01 Gate off of North Robinson Avenue and at the 9:03 Gate off of North Harvey Avenue. These gates "frame" the time of 9:02 a.m., the moment that the bomb exploded. There are four secondary entrances that lead to irregular-cut sandstone or brick-laid paths that provide access to the Survivor Tree, the Rescuers' Orchard, the Memorial Museum, and the Children's Area. One is located off of Northwest 6th Street at the west end of the Memorial Museum/Journal Record Building. Two are towards the north end of North Harvey Avenue and provide access to the Children's Area. The fourth is located off of North Robinson Avenue near the southeast corner of the Memorial Museum/Journal Record Building. Also scattered across the site are interpretive signs explaining the history of the site and the Memorial's features.

There are 86 trees in the Outdoor Symbolic Memorial. Since the Memorial's dedication on April 19, 2000, the once newly-planted trees have matured, providing shade and serenity, particularly around the Field of Empty Chairs. The Survivor Tree, a nearly 100-year old American Elm that is the only tree original to the site, has also flourished as it assumed its role as the symbol of the Oklahoma City National Memorial.

Although the Outdoor Symbolic Memorial is made up of diverse elements, they are united by their reliance on a grid pattern not unlike a building designed by Ludwig Mies van der Rohe (Seagram Building, New York City) or a landscape by Dan Kiley (Miller Garden, Columbus, Indiana and Fountain Place, Dallas, Texas). In the Outdoor Symbolic Memorial there are grids of trees in the Field of Empty Chairs and the Rescuers' Orchards (which are separated by the linear Reflecting Pool), and in the Children's Area. These elements place the Outdoor Symbolic Memorial within the Modern idiom. In addition, the Reflecting Pool provides a classical element, which in turn is not uncommon in Modern landscape designs.¹

There are a number of sources that describe the symbolic meaning of the features within the Outdoor Symbolic Memorial. The following descriptions draw upon those provided through published interviews with the designers, Hans-Ekkehard Butzer, Torrey Butzer, and Sven Berg

¹ Rachel Leibowitz, PhD, to Susan Allen Kline, January 23, 2014, email correspondence (copy on file at OKSHPO).

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of Butzer Design Partnership, as well as sources produced by the Oklahoma City National Memorial Foundation. These include the design competition's Evaluation Panel's Report (1997), "The Oklahoma City National Memorial: Symbolizing Our Vision" (c. 1998) and *A Memorial Walking Tour Commemorative Edition* by Ann E. Clark (2005).

9:01 Gate (Map Key: A)

The 9:01 Gate is located on the east side of the Memorial along North Robinson Avenue at the former location of Northwest 5th Street. The massive rectangular-shaped gate is composed of two upright walls, one behind the other (Photo 6). The space between them contains stairs providing access from the street level to the Outdoor Symbolic Memorial below (Photo 7). Landing areas between the stairs are covered with black granite from Quebec, Canada. The wall facing the Reflecting Pool is 56 feet wide, 48 feet high, and 23 inches thick. The wall facing the street has the same width and thickness but is shorter due to the change in grade from the street level to the floor of the Memorial. The surfaces of the walls are sheathed with "naval" and "yellow" bronze panels. Since the panels were installed in August 1999, the golden hue of the gate's exterior walls has acquired a gray patina. The interior walls of the gate are a lighter color. At the center of the gate is a narrow rectangular opening from which one enters the Memorial. Above the entrance on the Robinson Avenue elevation is the mission statement of the Oklahoma City National Memorial inscribed with a stencil cut directly through the panels. It reads: "WE COME HERE TO REMEMBER/THOSE WHO WERE KILLED, THOSE WHO SURVIVED AND THOSE CHANGED FOREVER./MAY ALL WHO LEAVE HERE KNOW THE IMPACT OF VIOLENCE./MAY THIS MEMORIAL OFFER COMFORT, PEACE, HOPE AND SERENITY." The west side of the gate facing the Memorial is inscribed with the time "9:01" above the entrance (Photo 8). This time represents the moments before the truck bomb exploded at 9:02 a.m. on April 19, 1995. The stencil cut allows for sunlight to shine through the "9:01." In addition, the mission statement, "9:01", and the grid pattern around the bronze panels are backlit at night, adding to the Memorial's dramatic appearance after dark. The 9:01 Gate (and its twin 9:03 Gate) functions much like a narthex of a church providing the passageway to the "sacred ground."

The 9:01 Gate is counted as one contributing object.

Reflecting Pool (Map Key: B)

The Reflecting Pool is the first feature visitors encounter as they enter the Outdoor Symbolic Memorial through the Gates of Time (Photos 9 and 10). The rectangular pool is 318 feet long and 53 feet wide and marks the former location of Northwest 5th Street. It also marks the spot where a crater was blasted into the street when the truck bomb exploded. Surrounding the pool is a walkway of irregular-cut sandstone. The pool is constructed of 1,080 black granite slabs that were quarried in Quebec, Canada, and measure three-and-one-half feet by four feet. Although shallow (it has a depth of three-quarters of an inch), the pool holds approximately 70,000 gallons of water. The surface of the pool's water is nearly level with the walkway surrounding it. The

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source of the water is hidden. Careful engineering forces the water into the pool through gaps between the granite slabs. The flow of the water is imperceptible as it moves across the pool and drains into gaps between the black granite and the sandstone walks where it collects in an unseen trough below. Even on windy days, there is no perceptible movement of the water. The sound of the water cycling through the pool adds to the peacefulness of the site. The pool's black granite makes it appear deeper than it is and transforms the surface of the water into a mirror that casts reflections of people walking by (those changed forever as noted in the mission statement), the features of the Memorial, or adjacent buildings, depending on one's vantage point. Similar to the street it replaced, the reflective nature of the pool unites it with the features within the site and the surrounding area.

The Reflecting Pool is counted as one contributing structure.

Field of Empty Chairs (Map Key: C)

The focal point of the Outdoor Symbolic Memorial is the "Field of Empty Chairs," a sloping lawn of Zoysia grass containing 168 bronze, granite, and glass chairs representing the absence of the people killed as a result of the bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building on April 19, 1995. The field sits within the footprint of the Murrah Building and is surrounded on the east, south, and west by the concrete walls of the adjacent plaza and parking garage (Photos 10, 11 and 12). Broken rebar and rough edges scar the surface of the concrete.

Each of the chairs was created individually, thus recognizing the individuality of each victim (Photo 13). The placement of the chairs is an abstraction of the image of the Murrah Building following the blast—a deep gouge cut through the middle of the building. Similarly, most of the chairs are clustered in the middle of the field. The chairs are arranged in nine rows representing the building's nine stories. Near the west end of the field is a row of five chairs representing the four people who were killed in or near other buildings and a responding nurse killed within the early hours of the rescue effort. Nineteen chairs are shorter than the others. They represent the children who were killed in the Murrah Building (fifteen of whom were in the America's Kids Child Development Center). The chair backs and seats are constructed of bronze and granite and sit atop frosted glass bases that are illuminated from within at night. On the front of each base is the name of a person killed in the bombing (in three instances, the names of unborn children are included beneath the names of their mothers). The names are placed within the field according to the floor where the victim worked or was visiting at the time of the bombing. The Field of Empty Chairs is surrounded by paths constructed of red granite slabs taken from the adjacent Murrah Building Plaza.

Loblolly Pines are located along the sidewalk fronting the Reflecting Pool and the paths surrounding the east, south, and west sides of the field. Originating from a tree plantation near McLoud, Oklahoma, the pines provide a sense of seclusion as well as shelter from the harsh Oklahoma sun as they cast graceful shadows over the chairs. Their evergreen needles bring life and color to the site throughout the seasons and contribute to its feeling of tranquility.

The Field of Empty Chairs is counted as one contributing site.

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Survivor Wall (Map Key: D)

To the east of the Field of Empty Chairs and south of the 9:01 Gate is the Survivor Wall (Photo 8). Red granite panels salvaged from the Murrah Building were attached to an original concrete wall of the former Murrah Building. This wall forms a niche that sits apart from the Field of Empty Chairs, leading the designers to refer to the area as a “side chapel.” The top of the wall is jagged and its protruding rebar creates a visual reminder of the violence that shaped the site (Photo #14).

Inscribed on the panels are more than 800 names of the survivors who were in the Murrah Building and other buildings or areas within a defined perimeter around the blast site. Names are grouped according to the building or location where the individual was at the time of the blast.

The Survivor Wall is counted as one contributing object.

The Survivor Tree (Map Key: E)

The Survivor Tree is located between the Reflecting Pool and the Memorial Museum/Journal Record Building. The tree is a nearly 100-year old American Elm (*Ulmus americana*) that was severely damaged as a result of the bombing of the Murrah Building. Its branches and trunk were littered with evidence from the blast and the leaves burned off. Prior to the bombing, it stood amidst an asphalt parking lot, all but neglected. Yet its branches provided coveted shade for the owners of the cars parked beneath it. Following the bombing and under the direction of Mark Bays, Urban Forester with the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry, great energy was expended to save it. Today, it is much cared for and stands as a symbol of the resiliency of the bombing survivors, the families of those killed, and, indeed, the spirit of the people of Oklahoma City, the state, and the country. The image of the Survivor Tree is used as the logo for the Oklahoma City National Memorial & Museum.

In essence, the Outdoor Symbolic Memorial was built around the Survivor Tree. It sits on the Memorial’s highest point and is surrounded by a circular plaza, or promontory, with a diameter of approximately 71 feet (Photos 15, 16, and 17). The promontory is paved with rectangular-shaped sandstone. So as not to damage the tree’s roots, the promontory was placed on piers, most of which were hand-dug. Under the promontory are an aeration and irrigation system that provides the tree’s roots with air and water to keep it healthy. Around the promontory is a low sandstone wall with a built-in bench facing the tree. Inscribed on this side of the wall as it circles the tree are the words “THE SPIRIT OF THIS CITY AND THIS NATION WILL NOT BE DEFEATED; OUR DEEPLY ROOTED FAITH SUSTAINS US.” On the side of the promontory’s wall facing the Rescuer’s Orchard are the words “TO THE COURAGEOUS AND CARING WHO RESPONDED FROM NEAR AND FAR WE OFFER OUR ETERNAL GRATITUDE.” Radiating from the promontory are stone terraces that descend to the west and south through the Rescuers’ Orchard.

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Cuttings from the Survivor Tree are being cared for by nurseries across the state, preserving its genetic stock. Each year, hundreds of seeds are collected from the tree. The resulting saplings are distributed on the anniversary of the bombing. These trees have been planted throughout the United States.

The Survivor Tree and its promontory are counted as one contributing site.

Rescuers' Orchard (Map Key: F)

The Rescuers' Orchard surrounds the Survivor Tree and is dedicated to those who flocked to the site to lend assistance in the minutes, hours, and days following the bombing. The placement of the trees in a grid pattern represents the willingness and readiness of the rescuers (some of whom were also survivors) who responded to the tragedy (Photos 15 and 16). The Memorial's designers had envisioned an orchard consisting of apple and pear trees as a way of invoking the cycles of healing and life. Due to the difficulty such trees have acclimating to Oklahoma's climate, a decision was made to use Oklahoma Redbuds, Amur Maples, Chinese Pistache, and Bosque Elms, all of which are better adapted to regional conditions. These trees are flower-bearing in the spring (Oklahoma Redbud, Amur Maple, and Chinese Pistache) or yield nuts or colorful foliage in the fall (Chinese Pistache, Amur Maple, and Bosque Elm). Oklahoma Redbuds were planted closest to the Survivor Tree, representing the Oklahomans who responded first to the tragedy. Descending through the orchard are stone terraces mentioned previously. They provide flat surfaces for visitors to sit and rest.

The Rescuers' Orchard is counted as one contributing site.

Children's Area (Map Key: G)

The loss of 19 innocent children and the injury of dozens of others had a profound effect on the nation. Children across the country responded to the tragedy by sending messages of encouragement to the children of Oklahoma City. The Memorial's Children's Area is a representation of this outreach.

The Children's Area is located immediately west of the entrance to the Memorial Museum (Photos 4, 18, and 19). Marking its eastern edge is a curving wall covered with white tiles upon which are colorful drawings created by children from across the country. What started as a response from children in New York grew into a movement from children around the nation and from Canada who wanted to reach out to the children of Oklahoma City. More than 5,000 tiles were created as a part of this effort; 600 were used in the construction of the wall. To the west of the wall, the ground is covered with rectangular sandstone tiles. Within their midst are slate slabs quarried in Vermont. These slabs are used as chalkboards upon which a new generation of children can express their feelings about the bombing and their experiences at the Memorial (Photo 4). At the north end of the Children's Area near Northwest 6th Street is a low concrete retaining wall that contains the words "OKLAHOMA CITY NATIONAL MEMORIAL & MUSEUM and the logo of the National Park Service. Next to the sidewalk along North Harvey

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Avenue are blocks of sandstone that define the western edge of the area. Between Northwest 6th Street and the Reflecting Pool, the lawn is filled with rows of trees.

The Children's Area is counted as one contributing site.

9:03 Gate (Map Key: I)

The 9:03 Gate provides the west bookend for the Outdoor Symbolic Memorial as it overlooks the west end of the Reflecting Pool and North Harvey Avenue at the former location of Northwest 5th Street (Photos 9, 12, 20, and 21). It is nearly identical to the 9:01 Gate and has acquired the same gray patina. Instead of stairs as at the 9:01 Gate, here, ramps between the two walls of the gate provide access from the street level to inside the Memorial (Photo 22). As with the 9:01 gate, the memorial's mission statement is written above the entrance facing North Harvey Avenue. Above the entrance facing the Reflecting Pool is the time "9:03" which represents life and the process of healing after the bombing. The mission statement, "9:03", and the grid pattern around the gate's bronze panels are also backlit at night.

The 9:03 Gate is counted as one contributing object.

The Fence (Map Key: J)

A typical chain link fence was erected along the south side of Northwest 5th Street to protect the Murrah Building site following the bombing and after the implosion of the building in 1995. It became a spontaneous memorial as family members, survivors, rescuers, and others made pilgrimages to the site as part of their mourning process. Items such as American and Oklahoma flags, teddy bears and other stuffed animals, jewelry, key chains, crosses, t-shirts, and photographs were left as tokens of remembrance, as were messages for those killed or as encouragement to survivors. Before the memorial was even created, a decision was made to save these items. As material was removed from the fence, it would be replaced by other tokens. Because of these actions, the fence became endowed with its own significance. Its preservation became of importance to many, leading it to be included in the Memorial's final design. On October 26, 1998, sections of the fence were moved from Northwest 5th Street to North Harvey Avenue. Today, 210 feet of the chain link fence remains along North Harvey Avenue where it marks the western edge of the Memorial. As they did in 1995, visitors still leave messages and tokens of remembrance. The Memorial's staff treats the items as artifacts and they become part of the museum's collections. The process of removal and replacement continues. (Photo 20).

The Fence, although technically two segments, is counted as one contributing object.

Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building Plaza and Parking Garage (Map Key: K)

The Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building Plaza and Parking Garage (classified as one building for this nomination) is located to the south of the Field of Empty Chairs. Like the Murrah Building, it was constructed of warm-toned reinforced concrete in the Brutalist style and completed in 1977. The concrete has a board-formed finish that was created by a rubber liner inside the forms

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that left impressions resembling wood forms. This texture is a character-defining feature of the plaza and parking garage. The building sits on a rectangular parcel of land containing approximately one-and-one-half acres.

The Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building Plaza provided the formal entrance to the Murrah Building and still functions as the roof of the parking garage below it. The plaza faces Northwest 4th Street and stretches nearly the entire width of the block between North Harvey Avenue on the west (Photo 23) and North Robinson Avenue on the east (Photo 24). It sits above the street and is composed of three primary levels. It is accessed by open stairs at the southeast and southwest corners and another set of stairs directly in front of the Oklahoma City Federal Courthouse. The latter stairs are not original but were in place by 1995. Walled stairways are located on the east and west sides. Concrete ramps also provide access to the different levels. It is notable that these ramps predate the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act in 1990. The surface of the plaza is composed of granite tiles and brick laid in a basket weave pattern. At the center of the plaza is a C-shaped fountain constructed of dark gray granite (Photo 25). The sound of water falling over its walls enlivens the surroundings. To the sides and rear of the fountain are granite tiles engraved with the logos of the America's Kids Child Development Center, the Federal Employees Credit Union, Raymond's Place Snack Bar, and the 17 federal agencies that occupied the Murrah Building on April 19, 1995 (Photo 26). There are numerous raised planters constructed of board-formed concrete located across the plaza (Photo 27). Their geometrical shapes make for angular paths that invite exploration. The beds are planted with turf grass, ornamental grasses, shrubs, herbaceous plants, and trees. Raised vents for the parking garage are also located on the plaza. Numerous benches made of railroad ties are original to the plaza and were constructed by General Services Administration (GSA) employees (Photo 28). Near the center of the north end of the plaza is a pylon that contains a bronze medallion. On one side of the medallion is the federal shield with eagle; on the other is the GSA logo. A glass-walled overlook to the Field of Empty Chairs and the Outdoor Symbolic Memorial is located at the center of the north edge of the plaza (Photos 11 and 13). This area formerly was the entrance to the second floor of the Murrah Building. To the east of the overlook is a grassy area surrounded by a chain link fence. This was the former location of the playground for the America's Kids Child Development Center (Photo 29). Lamp posts with round globes are scattered across the plaza. An original flag pole is near the overlook.

Below the plaza is the Murrah Building's parking garage. There are garage bays accessing Harvey Avenue on the west side (Photo 30) and the North Robinson Avenue on the east side (Photo 24). The garage has a capacity for 600 cars and consists of four stories with the majority of the space below grade. The garage was used by federal employees for their personal cars as well as cars belonging to the federal fleet. The garage also included a service center for maintenance of the fleet which was directly connected to the Murrah Building. An elevator on the north side of the garage provided access to the Murrah Building. The elevator has been removed but the shaft remains.

The Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building Plaza and Parking Garage retains a high degree of integrity and is extremely significant as the only intact remnant of the Murrah Building. Immediately after the April 19, 1995 bombing, both the plaza and the parking garage played

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important roles as staging and triage areas during the rescue and recovery efforts that occurred within the Murrah Building. When the remains of the Murrah Building were imploded on May 23, 1995, the plaza and parking garage was left intact but remained closed to the public. Renovations included the replacement of pavers and landscaping, the addition of the glass wall overlooking the Outdoor Symbolic Memorial, and the installation of interpretive plaques and signs relating the history of the Murrah Building and the role the plaza played during the rescue and recovery efforts following the bombing. The plaza reopened to the public on August 5, 1999. The garage is still used by federal employees.

The Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building Plaza and Parking Garage is counted as one contributing building.

Vigil (Map Key: L)

Vigil is a stainless steel sculpture located near the southeast corner of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building Plaza (Photo 28). It consists of three identical, freestanding pieces that are approximately 10' high and 2' 9" wide. Each piece sits atop a round base and forms a thin elliptical shape (or oblate spheroid) that is 8" deep at the center. The pieces are moveable and were designed to rotate in the wind. The stainless steel has a matte finish with a slightly ribbed texture. *Vigil* was designed by artist William Scott and installed in 1978 as part of the General Services Administration's Art-in-Architecture program. A plaque mounted on a wall near the sculpture describes it this way: "The three independently moving sculptures stand to reflect the changing wind, light and color of the surrounding environment, echoing both the calm and ferocity of nature."

When it was installed in 1978, no one could have predicted the appropriateness of the sculpture's name. It survived the bombing of the Murrah Building intact but was removed from the site for its protection and conservation, and then returned in 1999 when the plaza was reopened to the public. It was later removed from the site for conservation treatment and returned in 2013. It retains a high degree of integrity.

Although the sculpture is composed of three pieces, their relationship to each other is integral to the design and it is counted as one contributing object.

Noncontributing Resource

Bus Stop Shelter (Map Key: M)

The Central Oklahoma Parking and Transportation Authority had a bus stop shelter constructed near the north end of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building Plaza and Parking Garage facing North Harvey Avenue in 2002-2003 (Photo 31). It consists of a metal bench behind which is a low wall with profiles of the Survivor Tree, the symbol of the Oklahoma City National Memorial. Flanking the bench are off-white colored brick piers, each surmounted by two square columns that support the shelter's low-pitched, standing metal seam hipped-roof. Underneath the roof and between the columns is a sign reading "OKC NATIONAL MEMORIAL." Hanging

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from the corners of the roof are half-globe lights. This shelter was one of four constructed downtown between 1999 and 2003 for the "Oklahoma Spirit Trolley," special buses that resembled historic trolley cars. The design of this shelter is attributed to Huitt-Zollars.

The shelter is counted as a noncontributing structure because it was not present during the period of significance.

Alterations Since 2001

The period of significance for the Oklahoma City National Memorial is 1995 to 2001. This period represents the time from the bombing of the Murrah Building on April 19, 1995 to the opening of the Memorial Museum on February 19, 2001. Since 2001, no significant alterations have occurred to the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building Plaza. The same is true for the Outdoor Symbolic Memorial. In late November 2013, the Reflecting Pool received routine maintenance that included the replacement of the 248 Bison Jacks that support the concrete structure and granite slabs that form the pool. The entire pool was recaulked. The pump room beneath the 9:01 Gate was refabricated and redesigned. In the fall of 2014, work will begin to address settling issues at the 9:03 Gate. The work that has been completed has had no perceptible effect on the Outdoor Symbolic Memorial. The same will be true of the work on the 9:03 Gate.

In January 2014, work began on a \$7 million project in the Memorial Museum. The goal of the project is to make the exhibits relevant to an audience that had not been born by 1995. Exhibit space will be added to incorporate artifacts and information that were not available at the time the Museum opened in 2001. Phase 1 of the project was completed in April 2014. It included the relocation of the Gallery of Honor, where portraits of those killed are displayed along with items that reveal something about the person. New interactives were added that tell more stories about each person. The Museum's archives division was redesigned and enlarged to enhance the preservation and storage of its ever-growing collections. Additional work will include the installation of an elevator between the second and third floors to make an easier transition from one floor to another. An overlook is being constructed on the south side of the second floor of the Museum. Four large openings are being inserted into the wall near the west end of this elevation. The Memorial's mission statement will be written above the opening. A glass enclosure will frame the opening and project from the wall a few feet (see Figures 16 and 17). This overlook will provide visitors with another view of the Outdoor Symbolic Memorial and the transformation that has occurred downtown since April 19, 1995. The overlook is expected to be completed by September 2014. These alterations will have no adverse effect on the integrity of the building.

As a historic district, the Oklahoma City National Memorial retains a high degree of integrity. The district's three major components, the Memorial Museum/Journal Record Building, the Outdoor Symbolic Memorial, and the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building Plaza and Parking Garage are unified by their association with the bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building on April 19, 1995, its aftermath, and the memorialization progress honoring "those who were killed, those who survived and those changed forever." Each of these components also retains their integrity of design, materials, workmanship, feeling, location, and setting.

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Summary of Contributing Resources

Name	Date	Map Key	Resource Type
9:01 Gate	1999	A	Object
Reflecting Pool	2000	B	Structure
Field of Empty Chairs	2000	C	Site
Survivor Wall	2000	D	Object
Survivor Tree	2000	E	Site
Rescuers' Orchard	2000	F	Site
Children's Area	2000	G	Site
Memorial Museum/Journal Record Building	1923/2001	H	Building (previously listed on the National Register)
9:03 Gate	1999	I	Object
Fence	1995	J	Object
Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building Plaza & Parking Garage	1977	K	Building
<i>Vigil</i> (sculpture)	1978	L	Object

Summary of Noncontributing Resources

Name	Date	Map Key	Resource Type
Bus Stop Shelter	2002-03	M	Structure

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Social History

Period of Significance

1995 to 2001

Significant Dates

April 19, 1995

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Butzer Design Partners, architects (Memorial)
Lippert Brothers, Inc., general contractor (Memorial and Journal Record Building rehab)
Sasaki Associates, Inc., architect of record (Memorial)
Shaw and Associates, Inc. and Locke, Wright and Foster, architects, (Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building Plaza and Parking Garage)
Layton, Smith, and Forsythe, architects (original India Temple Shrine Building)

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Oklahoma City National Memorial is associated with the April 19, 1995 bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building, an event of national significance that impacted many aspects of American life. In addition to killing 168 people and severely damaging a portion of a major city's central business district, the bombing and its repercussions have shaped responses to natural and man-made disasters at the local, state, and national levels, the design and protection of government buildings, and legislation meant to empower victims of crime. It changed the way people perceived the threat of terrorism as this was an event that happened in America's "heartland." It was an act of domestic terrorism against Americans, including 19 children. It also gave rise to a greater acceptance of the memorialization of acts of violence. The memorialization process that took shape following the bombing has served as a model to other communities that have experienced tragic events. The Oklahoma City National Memorial is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places at the national level of significance under Criterion A in the area of Social History for its association with the many ways the bombing has shaped American society. Although a commemorative property, the symbolic value of the Oklahoma City National Memorial has invested it with its own historical significance, thus meeting Criteria Consideration F. As a property achieving national significance within the past 50 years, it also meets Criteria Consideration G. The period of significance is from 1995, the year the bombing occurred, to 2001 when the Oklahoma City National Memorial Museum opened to the public.²

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Oklahoma City was "Born Grown" as journalist Roy P. Stewart noted in the title of his book about the city's history.³ No other major city in the country could claim the same origins as Oklahoma City. It lay in the south central part of the Unassigned Lands which was opened to non-Native settlement on April 22, 1889 by means of a dramatic land run with 50,000 participants. By the end of that first day, Oklahoma Station (as the town was first called) had a population between 4,000 and 6,000 people. When the Unassigned Lands became known as Oklahoma Territory in 1890, Oklahoma City had a population of 4,151. Access to railroads and a soon-to-be-established agricultural economy assured its growth. By 1900, the city's population numbered 10,037 and at the time of statehood in 1907, its population was 32,452. Three years

² The preparer of this nomination is a survivor of the April 19, 1995 bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building. She was employed by the Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office which occupied Suite 375 on the third floor of the Journal Record Building at the time of the bombing.

³ Roy P. Stewart, *Born Grown: An Oklahoma City History* (Oklahoma City: Metro Press, Inc., 1974 [second printing 1975])

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later, when voters of the state favored the removal of the capital from Guthrie to Oklahoma City, it had a population of approximately 64,000.⁴

Oklahoma City's physical development initially was defined by a traditional grid pattern that remained compact until the advent of a streetcar system. Bordering the community on its east side were the Santa Fe Railway tracks. Two blocks west was Broadway Avenue, the city's major north/south arterial. Perpendicular to the tracks and Broadway Avenue was the major east/west arterial, Main Street. Within this grid was the commercial and residential core of the city. The area east of the Santa Fe tracks became home to industrial and warehouse buildings, as well the location of a vibrant African American community.⁵

North Robinson Avenue, one block west of Broadway Avenue, became the location of some of the city's most prominent commercial and public buildings, many of which are still extant. But it was because of the preponderance of early church buildings that the street was often referred to as "Church Street."⁶ Some of these early religious structures were torn down and replaced with new edifices at the same location or further from the commercial core. Beginning at the south end of the street and continuing north, extant historic buildings include the Colcord Building, 15 N. Robinson (1910, NR 1976); the Perrine Building, 119 N. Robinson (1927); First National Bank, 120 N. Robinson (1931); Ramsey Tower, 204 N. Robinson (1931); U. S. Post Office, Courthouse, and Federal Building, northwest corner of Robinson and Northwest Third, now Dean A. McGee Avenue (1912, 1919, and 1937; NR 1974); Braniff Building (later known as the Kerr-McGee Building), 324 N. Robinson (1923, NR 1980); First United Methodist Church, northeast corner of North Robinson and Northwest 4th (1903-04); St. Paul's [Episcopal] Cathedral, northeast corner of North Robinson and Northwest 7th (1903, NR 1977); Central High School, 817 N. Robinson (1910, NR 1976); First Christian Church, 1104 N. Robinson (1910, NR 1984); First Church of Christ, Scientist, 1200 N. Robinson (1922, NR 2001), First Baptist Church, 1201 N. Robinson (1912), and First Lutheran Church, 1300 N. Robinson (1913). Also located on the street was the city's Carnegie Library which opened in 1901 at the northeast corner of Northwest 3rd and North Robinson Avenue. It was demolished in 1951 to make way for the city's new public library on the same site.⁷ Three other notable mid-century buildings were also constructed along North Robinson Avenue. These included the YMCA, a great example of the International style, constructed in 1952 at the northeast corner of Northwest 5th and North Robinson Avenue (demolished in 2001), the 10-story Southwestern Bell Headquarters Building at 707 N. Robinson (1958), and a federal courthouse at the southwest corner of Northwest 4th and North Robinson (1959-1961).

⁴ Bob L. Blackburn, Arn Henderson, and Melvena Thurman, *The Physical Legacy: The Buildings of Oklahoma County, 1889-1931* ([S.I.]: Southwestern Heritage Press [1980]), 6-21; Linda D. Wilson, "Oklahoma City," *Encyclopedia of Oklahoma* (<http://digital.library.okstate.edu/encyclopedia/entries/O/OK025.html>), accessed April 7, 2014. Published by the Oklahoma Historical Society.

⁵ Dianna Everett, "First Church of Christ, Scientist, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma County, Oklahoma" National Register of Historic Places Nomination, #01000949.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Cynthia Savage, "Main Public Library, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma County, Oklahoma" National Register of Historic Places Nomination, #1000199."

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A building that became instrumental in the aftermath of the Murrah Building bombing and in the creation of the Oklahoma City National Memorial & Museum was the former India Shrine Temple (NR 1980). Located at 621 N. Robinson Avenue toward the north end of the central business district, the five-story Neoclassical style building served as the headquarters for the city's Masonic lodges. It was designed by the prominent architecture firm Layton, Hicks and Forsythe. The general contractor was Campbell and Price. The sturdy building was constructed of reinforced concrete and structural steel. Bedford limestone faced the front elevation overlooking North Robinson Avenue and the north elevation overlooking Northwest 6th Street. The secondary elevations were covered with brick. When it was completed in the 1923, the \$1,300,000 facility featured a façade with a tripartite entrance and giant Ionic engaged columns between the second and fourth floors. Interior features included three lodge rooms on the fifth floor, a large auditorium that had a seating capacity of 2,062, a smaller auditorium that could seat 700, a rotunda and social rooms on the second floor, and a basement containing two ballrooms and recreation rooms. The building was designed so that the large auditorium could be used by the public without interfering with Masonic function. To accommodate this usage, a public entrance was located on the north elevation. The Commandery Room, described as the building's most elaborate interior space, was designed by Leonard H. Bailey.⁸

Unfortunately, the Masonic bodies struggled financially to operate the building. The ensuing Depression of the 1930s forced the organization's Building Association to turn the property over to the lender. The Masons continued to use the building but a dwindling membership forced the lodges to vacate the building. The India Shrine was the last to leave, holding its final meeting in the building on April 15, 1937.⁹ It sat unused until December 1945 when it was sold at a sheriff's sale to Joe D. Morris for \$201,000. Morris was president and founder of the Home State Life Insurance Company. Morris had the building renovated for commercial use. By 1947, the Masonic ornamentation had been removed, the front entrance altered, and air conditioning was added. The auditorium was left intact for the use of live theater acts and as a movie theater. A marquee and an additional entrance were added to the north elevation. Although the Home State Theatre was the largest "and most successful" theater in downtown Oklahoma City, financial difficulties forced its closure. In 1952, the theater space was mostly gutted and another floor was inserted. For the next two and one-half decades, the building served as office space.¹⁰ In addition to the Home State Life Insurance Company, tenants included Southwestern Bell Telephone,

⁸ Bob L. Blackburn, "India Temple Shrine Building, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma County, Oklahoma," National Register of Historic Places Nomination, #80003286 and Marsha Weisiger, "India Temple Shrine Building, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma County, Oklahoma," National Register of Historic Places Nomination, 1987 [Additional Documentation, Draft]. Copy on file at Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; Gene McKelvey, *The Masonic History of the Oklahoma City National Memorial Museum* (Oklahoma Lodge of Research, Grand Lodge A.F.&A.M. of the State of Oklahoma, n.d.), 3-4. Both Blackburn and Weisiger state that the architect for the building was Layton, Hicks, Forsythe and Weisiger mentions that Leonard H. Bailey designed the Commandery Room. However, historic photographs of the building list Layton, Smith, and Forsythe as the architects and Jewell Hicks and Leonard H. Bailey as associated architects. Copies of the photographs are available at the Oklahoma City National Memorial Museum's archives.

⁹ McKelvey, *The Masonic History of the Oklahoma City National Memorial Museum*, 5-9.

¹⁰ Blackburn, "India Temple Shrine Building, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma County, Oklahoma."

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Safeway Stores, General Motors Corporation division offices, Coca Cola Bottling Company, and Northern Oil Company, as well as office space for professionals such as doctors and lawyers.¹¹

In 1977, the Home State Life Building was sold to Dan Hogan, owner of the Law Journal Record Publishing Company. At that time, the company published the *Daily Law Journal Record*, the leading business and law newspaper in the state. The production department was located on the first floor and the editorial and sales offices were on the third floor. Additional office space was leased to other tenants.¹² A production plant for the newspaper was added to the west end of the building. The building was commonly referred to as the Journal Record Building. On April 19, 1995, it was 97% occupied.¹³ Tenants included state agencies, professional offices, a restaurant, a non-profit, and the Journal Record Publishing Company. In all, there were 303 occupants in the building that day.¹⁴

The Federal Presence in Downtown Oklahoma City

After statehood, four buildings became part of a complex that represented the physical manifestation of the federal presence in downtown Oklahoma City. In keeping with its new status as the state capital, the first of these buildings, an impressive post office, was constructed at the northwest corner of North Robinson Avenue and Northwest 3rd Street (now Dean A. McGee Avenue) in 1912. The three-story limestone building was constructed in the Beaux Arts style and featured arched openings and engaged Corinthian columns. An addition to the west in 1919 continued the Beaux Arts style and reoriented the building toward Northwest 3rd Street. As the functions of the federal government expanded in the city, an addition in 1937 in the same style extended the building to North Harvey Street. At the same time, a nine-story tower containing federal courtrooms was constructed above the 1919 addition. The style of the tower was sympathetic to the Beaux Arts style but featured ornamentation characteristic of the PWA Moderne style then popular for public buildings. The second building to be constructed was the Oklahoma City branch of the Federal Reserve Bank. It was located south of the post office on Northwest 3rd Street. It was constructed in 1922 in a Beaux Arts design in a scale that was complimentary to the post office.¹⁵

Following an oil boom in the late 1920s and the presence of a strong defense industry during World War II, Oklahoma City's population had grown to 243,504 by 1950 and reached 324,253 by 1960. In the post-war years, Oklahoma City's business leaders pressed for an aggressive program of annexation to accommodate the expanding population. The city's land mass nearly

¹¹ Advertisement for Home State Life Building, courtesy Oklahoma City National Memorial Museum, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

¹² Blackburn, "India Temple Shrine Building, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma County, Oklahoma."

¹³ "Panel Approves \$12.5 Million for Journal Record Building," *Daily Oklahoman*, October 1, 1997.

¹⁴ Oklahoma City National Memorial, Murrah Building Bombing—A Look at Numbers," Press Packet.

¹⁵ Wayne Bell, "Post Office, Courthouse and Federal Building, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma County, Oklahoma" National Register of Historic Places Nomination, #74001665; "Federal Reserve Bank Building," Oklahoma Landmarks Inventory, Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office (available at www.okhistory.org/shpo/oli.htm), accessed April 7, 2014.

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doubled in size between 1949 and 1959.¹⁶ The needs of the federal government also expanded during this time, resulting in the construction of another federal building and courthouse. This building was located north of the U.S. Post Office and Courthouse. Facing north onto Northwest 4th Street, it also stretched between North Robinson and North Harvey Avenues. Construction began on the five-story limestone and granite building in 1959 and was completed in 1961. The building was an example of Formalism, a very modern style that also had elements of the Stripped Classicism that was popular during the Great Depression. The design was well-suited for a public building and was complimentary to the U.S. Post Office and Courthouse to the south. *Bas relief* sculptures by Bernard Emerson Frazier were added to the east and west elevations in 1966 and 1967, respectively, continuing a tradition of incorporating art into federal buildings.¹⁷

The Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building

By 1971, federal agencies such as the Secret Service had outgrown their space in the “new” federal building. This agency and others were leasing 80,000 square feet of office space in buildings scattered across the city. Federal officials sought to secure a new federal office building for the city to consolidate the agencies in one location, hopefully downtown near the federal complex. It was nearly two years later before it was announced that the building would be sited directly north of the Oklahoma City Federal Courthouse. The architectural firms selected to design the building were Shaw Associates and Locke, Wright & Foster, both from Oklahoma City. James Loftis of Shaw Associates headed the design team for the firms.¹⁸

On August 8, 1973, the *Daily Oklahoman* featured three drawings of the proposed facility. The nine-story building and its multi-level plaza filled the block bounded by Northwest 4th and 5th Streets and North Robinson and North Harvey Avenues. Constructed during the urban renewal era, the design of the plaza was required to conform to I. M. Pei’s redevelopment plan for downtown Oklahoma City and would provide pedestrians with unobstructed views of the adjacent St. Joseph Old Cathedral at Northwest 4th and North Harvey Avenue, as well as the First Methodist Church at Northwest 4th and North Robinson Avenue. The 397,346 square-foot building included a four-story parking garage below the plaza that could accommodate 600 cars. Board-formed concrete was to be used for the exterior walls, evoking the Brutalist style then in vogue. A rubber liner placed within the forms would give the concrete the look of having been poured in wood forms. Care would also be taken to integrate the geometric pattern of the tie holes into the design of the concrete walls.¹⁹ The front of the building faced south and overlooked the plaza. This elevation featured a nine-foot diameter, semi-circular glass shaft near the elevator lobby that provided a 180-degree view of the downtown. Bronze-tinted windows on

¹⁶ Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office, “Reconnaissance-Level Survey of Modern Architecture in Oklahoma City,” 2009, 23.

¹⁷ “Federal Building & U.S. Courthouse, Oklahoma City, OK,” *U.S. General Services Administration* (<http://www.gsa.gov/portal/ext/html/site/hb/category/25431/actionParameter/exploreByBuilding/buildingId/12850>), accessed April 7, 2014.

¹⁸ *Daily Oklahoman*, April 28, 1971, April 29, 1971, September 27, 1971, February 1, 1973, and August 8, 1973; James Loftis, FAIA, to Susan Allen Kline, email correspondence, April 24, 2014 (copy on file at OKSHPO).

¹⁹ *Daily Oklahoman*, August 8, 1973 and August 23, 1974; Loftis to Kline, April 24, 2014.

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this elevation were to be shaded by pre-cast concrete overhangs. The tree-filled plaza would also serve to dissipate heat from the southern exposure. The north elevation facing Northwest 5th Street featured large bronze-tinted windows above the first floor that essentially converted it into a glass wall. One-story wings extended from the east and west ends of this elevation. The upper floors of the east and west elevations had no windows and the walls were covered with granite panels. Built during an energy conscious decade, the interior featured the latest in computer-operated climate control including heat generated by solar power. It was anticipated that the energy-efficient design, in tandem with heat generated by lights and body temperatures, would keep the building at a comfortable temperature during the winter without having to use fossil fuel to heat the interior.²⁰

It was not until August 1974 that the contract for the building's construction was awarded. Two firms from Dallas, J.W. Bateson and Contex Corporation, were the successful bidders for the \$13.2 million project. Before construction of the building could begin, the contractors had to clear existing structures from the site that included St. Joseph Roman Catholic School, Knights of Columbus Meeting hall, and several apartment/residential hotel buildings. After that was accomplished, a groundbreaking ceremony for the federal building was held on October 21, 1974. By the end of 1976, officials were planning for the move of 18 federal agencies into the building. Employees of the Social Security Administration were the first to move in, setting up office space on the first floor in March 1977. The largest federal tenant was the Department of Housing and Urban Development with 149 permanent employees. Other agencies included the Secret Service, General Services Administration, U.S. Geological Survey, Federal Energy Administration, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, Small Business Administration, and the Civil Service Administration. The Federal Credit Union was another tenant.²¹

The building was officially dedicated on October 14, 1977. It was named for Alfred P. Murrah (1904-1975), an Oklahoma jurist who was appointed U.S. District Judge for the Western, Eastern, and Northern Districts of Oklahoma in 1937, making him one of the youngest judges appointed to a federal court. In 1940, he was elevated to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit. He retired from the bench in 1970. Although he was much respected for his contributions to the administration of justice, his name would become best known for its association with his namesake building.²²

²⁰ *Daily Oklahoman*, August 8, 1973 and August 23, 1974. Internationally known architect and urban planner I.M. Pei created a radical urban renewal plan for downtown Oklahoma City that called for the demolition of hundreds of buildings in an effort to reinvigorate it. Pei's vision had five components for the area's redevelopment: "a business/financial office area; a garden based on Copenhagen's famed Tivoli Gardens; a convention center; a residential area; and a downtown shopping area." Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office, "Reconnaissance-Level Survey of Modern Architecture in Oklahoma City, 2009, p. 26. Pei's plan was not fully implemented and was later criticized for the resulting demolition of historic and architectural landmarks such as the Baum Building and the Patterson Building.

²¹ *Daily Oklahoman*, August 23, 1974, October 22, 1974, July 8, 1976, December 12, 1976, and March 20, 1977.

²² U.S. General Services Administration, Public Building Service, Greater Southwest Region, "Determination of Eligibility for Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building Plaza & Parking Garage, 200 Northwest 5th Street, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma County, Oklahoma," November 10, 2012 (copy on file at OKSHPO); *Great Buildings Ahead: A Guided Tour of Central Oklahoma's Architectural Landmarks; For Walking and Motoring* (Oklahoma City: The American Institute of Architects, Central Oklahoma Chapter and the Metropolitan Library System, 1989), 26; Von R. Creel,

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A dedication ceremony of a different type was held on the Murrah Building's plaza on June 7, 1978. On that day, Joan Mondale, wife of Vice President Walter Mondale, assisted in the dedication of 32 pieces of art acquired for the building. The pieces were created by 26 artists, 11 of whom were from Oklahoma. The work was the first installed in a federal building as part of the General Services Administration's new Art-in-Architecture program. This program allowed for one-half of one-percent of the total building cost to be used for the purchase of artwork. The art pieces chosen for the Murrah building were selected by an art panel that was convened in August 1977. The works consisted of textiles, sculptures from a variety of mediums, and photography. The pieces were displayed throughout the building, including the windows of the elevator lobbies on the north elevation. Mrs. Mondale, an artist herself, praised the Art-in-Architecture program and the artwork. She said "'You have a model here of what can be done when good architecture and art are combined in a truly human environment.'"²³ Of the 32 pieces, only three were designed or specifically modified for the Murrah Building. One of these pieces, *Sky Ribbons: An Oklahoma Tribute* by Gerhardt Knodel, consisted of 161 fabric panels suspended from the ceiling above the lobbies of the first and second floor where it formed an impressive statement as one entered the building. The earth-tones used in the fabric were inspired by Native American and pioneer textiles. The pieces modified for the building were the stainless steel sculpture *Vigil* and the quilt titled *Oklahoma Quilt*. Artist William Scott expanded *Vigil* from one to three kinetic pieces for its installation on the building's plaza. Artist Terrie McGuire had submitted a quilt with a giraffe motif but altered the design to incorporate regional images at the request of GSA. The finished quilt included appliqued images of Native Americans and cowboys on horseback, buffalo, oil derricks, cattle, and windmills. The artwork became an important aspect of the building's environment and the pieces were embraced by tenants and visitors alike. As an example, people interacted with the sculpture *Vigil* by spinning the pieces around. According to Richard Williams, a former GSA employee, this necessitated the replacement of the bearings "'on a regular basis.'"²⁴

The building's special features garnered the attention of the state's architectural community in 1983. That year, the Oklahoma Chapter of the American Institute of Architects named the Alfred

"Murrah, Alfred Paul (1904-1975)," (<http://digital.library.okstate.edu/encyclopedia/entries/M/MU010.html>), accessed April 23, 2014. Published by the Oklahoma Historical Society.

²³ *Daily Oklahoman*, June 8, 1978; U.S. General Services Administration, *An Oklahoma Tribute: Art Collection from the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma* (Washington, DC: U. S. General Services Administration, Public Buildings Service, Office of the Chief Architect, Center for Design Excellence and the Arts, 2003), 4-7. Mrs. Mondale's remarks can be found on page 6.

²⁴ U.S. General Services Administration, *An Oklahoma Tribute*, 5, 38. Richard Williams' remarks regarding *Vigil* can be found on p. 35. Among the items recovered from the ruins of the Murrah Building were the artwork that had been purchased or commissioned for the building. Twenty works of art on the upper stories had little or no damage. The sculpture *Vigil* also survived on the building's plaza. One piece, a round acrylic sculpture by Fred Eversley that had been placed by a window on the ninth floor, was thrown through the window and found in pieces on the plaza below. Nine pieces, including Gerhardt Knodel's *Sky Ribbons: An Oklahoma Tribute*, were destroyed or damaged beyond repair. Twenty-three pieces survived. Several, including the fragments of Fred Eversley's acrylic sculpture, are on display in the Oklahoma City National Memorial Museum. The sculpture *Vigil* remains on the Murrah Building Plaza. Nineteen of the surviving pieces are on display on the first floor of the Chambers Library at the University of Central Oklahoma in Edmond. See U.S. General Services Administration, *An Oklahoma Tribute*, 2, 36, 38.

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P. Murrah Federal Building as one of the ten best buildings in the state. The building's energy efficient design, "extensive art collection," elevated landscaped plaza, and its parking garage were cited as features that made the building noteworthy. The Murrah Building was the only public building to make the list.²⁵

In August 1988, an innovative program was made available to workers in the Murrah Building. A day care center with a capacity for 34 children was opened in the building. A committee of the U.S. House of Representative had directed the General Services Administration to actively encourage federal agencies to establish day care centers. It was recognized that worker productivity increased when adequate day care was provided for the children of federal employees. Having a day care center in the building would be convenient for the parents and reduce the need for them to miss work shuffling children to distant day care centers or when children were sick. Parents were involved in the organization and operation of the center. The General Services Administration spent \$48,000 converting space within the Murrah Building for the use of the day care center and on fencing and sodding a section of the building's plaza for an outdoor play area. The *Daily Oklahoman* reported that rates for the day care center in the Murrah Building were less than those at the nearby YMCA building.²⁶

For the next seven years, the Murrah Building continued its role as principally an office building for federal agencies. Tenants on April 19, 1995 were as follows:

First Floor	Social Security Administration and General Services Administration
Second Floor	America's Kids Child Development Center
Third Floor	Defense Audit Agency, Federal Employees Credit Union, Housing and Human Services, U.S. Army, and General Accounting Office
Fourth Floor	Federal Highway Administration, Army Reserve, Army Recruiting, Raymond's Place Snack Bar
Fifth Floor	Department of Agriculture, Housing and Urban Development (HUD), U.S. Customs, and Veterans Administration
Sixth Floor	U.S. Marine Corps Recruiting (and vacant floor space)
Seventh Floor	HUD and Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA)
Eighth Floor	HUD
Ninth Floor	Secret Service, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, and DEA ²⁷

April 19, 1995

Wednesday, April 19, 1995 seemed like a typical spring day in Oklahoma City until 9:02 a.m. It was at that moment that an estimated 4,800 pounds of ammonium nitrate and fuel oil exploded inside a yellow Ryder truck parked in front of the north entrance to the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building. The result was a horrific scene unlike any other in the country's history to that date.

²⁵ *Great Buildings Ahead*, 26; Mary Jo Nelson, "Architect's Select State's 'Best' Buildings," *Daily Oklahoman*, October 16, 1983.

²⁶ *Daily Oklahoman*, August 11, 1988.

²⁷ Eve E. Hinman and David J. Hammond, *Lessons from the Oklahoma City Bombing: Defensive Design Techniques*, (New York: ASCE Press, 1997), 4-5.

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The glass wall that comprised the north elevation was gone, exposing a deep crater. Approximately half of the nine-story building had collapsed with the floors of each story stacked, or “pancaked,” on top of each other. Northwest 5th Street was covered with rubble and the contents of the building were strewn among the debris.

Local law enforcement, fire department personnel, and medical professionals rushed to the site to lend assistance as did many civilians. Survivors also worked to free their trapped co-workers and to recover the dead. The precarious condition of the building made rescue and recovery difficult and two separate bomb threats delayed these efforts. Cars in the parking lot north of the building were damaged, many catching on fire. The two buildings to the west of the parking lot, the Oklahoma Water Resources Board Building and the Athenian Building (its name was derived from a restaurant located in the building), were severely damaged. The face of the Athenian Building, a brick, three-story early 20th century structure, was peeled away.

The damage caused by the bomb was not contained to the Murrah, Oklahoma Water Resources Board, and the Athenian buildings. Many other buildings lost their windows and the sidewalks and streets were littered with shards of glass. The bomb’s shock waves radiated far from the bomb site. Three hundred and twelve buildings sustained damage within one square mile. Eleven buildings, all constructed of unreinforced masonry, collapsed. Window glass in buildings as far away as two miles was broken as a result of the pressure waves. The most severely damaged buildings were north of the bomb site as the Murrah Building acted as a barrier to the shock waves traveling south.²⁸

By 9:45 a.m., Governor Frank Keating declared a “State of Emergency.” By 4:00 p.m., President Bill Clinton had signed an emergency declaration authorizing the federal government to provide emergency assistance. The last survivor was pulled from the Murrah Building at approximately 10:00 p.m. but that fact would not be known for several days as rescue efforts continued around the clock. By 11:00 p.m., Urban Search and Rescue Task Forces (USR) from Phoenix and Sacramento had arrived on the site. Over the next several days, they would be joined by nine additional USR teams from California, Washington, Florida, Virginia, Maryland, and New York. Recovering the bodies of the victims was a slow process as the crumbling building required that workers use extreme caution removing debris, most of which was done by hand. Engineers were kept on site to monitor the building’s stability. On May 1, the work on the site transitioned from a rescue to a recovery mission. The search for victims continued through May 22. On May 23, at 7:02 a.m., the remains of the Murrah Building were imploded. Over the next several days, the remains of the last three victims were recovered.²⁹

In all, 168 people were killed as a result of the bombing, 19 of whom were children. There were 361 people in the Murrah Building at the time of the blast; 163 of them were killed. Of those killed, 98 were federal employees, 18 worked at the Federal Credit Union and three were credit union customers, 24 were customers at the Social Security Office, one was a visitor to the U.S.

²⁸ Hinman and Hammond, *Lessons from the Oklahoma City Bombing*, 10. Figure 1.25 in the book is a map showing the levels of damage sustained by buildings in the vicinity of the Murrah Building.

²⁹ Oklahoma Department of Civil Emergency Management, *After Action Report: Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building Bombing, 19 April 1995 in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma*, 17-33, 73.

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Army Recruiting Battalion, one was making a delivery to the building, three worked at the America's Kids Child Development Center, and 15 were children at the development center. An off-duty nurse died of injuries she received responding to the disaster. Two state employees were killed in the Oklahoma Water Resources Board Building, one person died in the Athenian Building, and one died in the parking lot adjacent to it (and immediately north of the Murrah Building. For a list of those killed, see the Appendix).³⁰

Eight hundred and fifty people were injured in the bombing. Four hundred and twenty-six people were treated at local hospitals. Eighty-two were admitted to a hospital and 344 were treated and released. One hundred and seventy-five people were treated at private physicians' offices. The majority of the injuries were lacerations, abrasions, and contusions. Eighty percent of the injuries were caused by flying glass.³¹

The way in which Oklahomans responded to the crisis was admired the world over. News outlets reported that the city suffered no looting during the crisis. Overall crime dropped dramatically for the two weeks following the event. Everyday citizens volunteered to give blood or answered requests for gloves and equipment for the rescuers at a moment's notice. Non-profits such as the Salvation Army and the American Red Cross jumped into action. The Oklahoma Restaurant Association was having its annual trade show in Oklahoma City at the time of the bombing. Its members immediately responded by preparing meals for rescuers and volunteers at the rate of 15,000-20,000 meals per day around the clock for ten days straight. Out-of-state rescuers found that their every need was met which resulted in someone coining the phrase "Oklahoma dollar" as they found the dollar they brought to Oklahoma was the same dollar they took home. The special needs of rescue dogs were met by the Oklahoma Veterinary Medical Association. The cumulative effect of such efforts resulted in the phrase "Oklahoma Standard." State Representative Debbie Blackburn, whose district covered downtown Oklahoma City, was quoted as saying that the "'Oklahoma Standard' stands for 'can-do' in the worst of conditions.'" This new-found respect elevated the self-esteem of Oklahomans accustomed to the negative stereotypes associated with John Steinbeck's "Okies."³²

The Perpetrators

As the rescue and recovery effort continued, federal investigators treated the Murrah and adjacent buildings, streets, and parking lots as crime scenes as they searched for evidence. The force of the blast blew a rear axle housing a block west where it landed on a car parked in front of the Regency Tower Apartments. The twisted remains of a truck were found in the parking lot north of the building. Also found near the Murrah Building was a mangled Florida license plate. Items such as these made it possible for the FBI to identify the vehicle that was used in the bombing. Although many assumed that such a horrendous act was perpetrated by foreign

³⁰ *Daily Oklahoman*, June 6, 1997; Oklahoma Department of Civil Emergency Management, *After Action Report*, 62.

³¹ *Ibid*; Tom Harpole, "A Safety Lesson from Oklahoma City," *Progressive Architecture* (July 1995): 65.

³² *Daily Oklahoman*, September 24, 1995; Linenthal, *The Unfinished Bombing*, 47; *Tulsa World*, July 26, 1995; *Daily Oklahoman*, May 12, 1995.

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terrorists, the evidence led authorities to Timothy McVeigh and Terry Nichols, two American-born Gulf War veterans who would be convicted of the bombing of the Murrah Building.³³

As the crime happened on federal property, McVeigh and Nichols were indicted on August 10, 1995 in U.S. District Court for the Western District of Oklahoma on conspiracy to use weapons of mass destruction, the use of such a weapon, destruction by explosive, and eight counts of first-degree murder. The venue for the trials was moved to Denver, Colorado as it was feared that an Oklahoma jury would be too biased to give the defendants a fair trial. Separate trials were held for the pair and their co-conspirator, Michael J. Fortier. On June 2, 1997, McVeigh was found guilty of all charges and received the death penalty. Nichols was convicted of conspiracy and manslaughter six months later. Because the jury was unable to agree on his punishment, Nichols received a sentence of life in prison with no parole. In 1998, Fortier was sentenced to twelve years in prison.³⁴

On June 11, 2001, Timothy McVeigh was executed by lethal injection at the U.S. Penitentiary in Terre Haute, Indiana. He was the first federal prisoner to be executed since 1963.³⁵ Terry Nichol's was put on trial a second time in 2004, this time for the deaths of 161 civilians. The trial was held at the Pittsburg County Courthouse in McAlester, Oklahoma from March to mid-June. When the jury's deliberations began, it only took them four hours to find him guilty on all counts. When it came to deciding on a sentence, they became deadlocked. Without a recommendation from the jury, the judge could only give Nichols a life sentence without the possibility of parole.³⁶

Movement to Create the Oklahoma City National Memorial

Rescue and recovery efforts were only in the early stages when the offices of Governor Frank Keating and Oklahoma City Mayor Ron Norick began to receive ideas from around the world for the design of a memorial to the tragedy. In the summer of 1995, the mayor appointed a 350-member Memorial Task Force that was charged with overseeing the development of a fitting memorial. The members of the task force consisted of survivors, family members of those killed, and volunteers with "expertise in areas ranging from mental health, law, and the arts, to fund-

³³ Jon Hersley, Larry Tongate, and Bob Burke, *Simple Truths* Oklahoma City: Oklahoma Heritage Association, 2004), 22, 33-41, 48; Ann E. Clark, *A Museum Walking Tour* (Oklahoma City National Memorial Foundation, April 2006), n.p.

³⁴ Edward Tabor Linenthal, "Oklahoma City Bombing," *Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture* <http://digital.library.okstate.edu/encyclopedia> (accessed May 13, 2014). The eight counts of murder were for the federal agents killed in the bombing. Fortier was released from prison in 2006 and entered the federal witness protection program. See Arnold Hamilton, "Fortier Gets New Life, New Identity—Key Witness in Oklahoma Bomb Trials Leaving Prison for Protection Program," *Dallas Morning News*, January 19, 2006.

³⁵ Julie DelCour, "Timothy McVeigh Receives the Death Penalty," *9:02 a.m. April 19, 1995: The Official Record of the Oklahoma City Bombing* (Oklahoma City: Oklahoma Today, originally published in January 1996, revised January 2001 and January 2005), 164.

³⁶ Rod Walton, "Justice Revisited," *9:02 a.m. April 19, 1995: The Official Record of the Oklahoma City Bombing* (Oklahoma City: Oklahoma Today, originally published in January 1996, revised January 2001 and January 2005), 166-167. The 161 people included an unborn child.

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raising, business, communications and government.”³⁷ The task force was charged with creating an inclusive process; determining what visitors to the memorial “should think, feel or experience”; developing a mission statement; soliciting designs for the memorial based on the mission statement; and recommending to the mayor and city council “a plan for the design, construction, administration and maintenance of the memorial, including citizen oversight during the construction.”³⁸

The task force was divided into 10 subcommittees. For eight months, the Families and Survivors Liaison Subcommittee and the Memorial Ideas Input Subcommittee sought feedback from survivors, family members, and the community and beyond through meetings and surveys as to what they thought the memorial should achieve. A subcommittee charged with drafting a mission statement used this feedback to formulate the statement. Through weeks of meetings and input from the entire Memorial Task Force, the statement was revised and then unanimously adopted by the Advisory Committee of the task force on March 26, 1996. The mission statement became the “cornerstone document in shaping the meaning and guiding the design and development of the Memorial.” It read: “We come here to remember those who were killed, those who survived, and those changed forever. May all who leave here know the impact of violence. May this Memorial offer comfort, strength, peace, hope and serenity.” The full version of the mission statement included sections that provided guidance on the “priorities” and “themes” that would be used to develop the memorial. The priorities included six points: First, respect the work of the Families and Survivors Liaison Subcommittee and the Memorial Ideas Input Subcommittee and honor the priorities they identified; second, incorporate two resolutions passed by the Memorial Advisory Committee that concerned information on the victims and survivors to be assimilated into an information center and that the “Survivor Tree” be incorporated into the memorial; third, the general site for the Memorial Complex would include the Murrah Building block, the half block south of the Journal Record Building (which included the sites of the Oklahoma Water Resources Board Building and the Athenian Building, both under private ownership at this point), and that portion of Northwest 5th Street between the two blocks; fourth, recognition that the Memorial Complex—especially the site of the Murrah Building—was “sacred ground” with a preference that the Memorial be located completely or partially on the building’s former site and the information center be off the site of the Murrah Building but within or close to the Memorial Complex; fifth, the Memorial or the site of the Murrah Building incorporate the names of those who died (including the names of unborn children carried by any victims if the family so desired) as well as the names of survivors with the latter “distinct and apart” from the victims; and sixth, the completed Memorial and Memorial Complex “be designated as a National Monument to be operated and maintained by the National Parks [sic] Service . . . to ensure perpetual high-quality care for a Memorial Complex of national and historic significance.” The guiding themes dictated that the Memorial was to be a place of remembrance, peace, spirituality and hope, a special place for children (“cherished children”), comfort, recognition (for those who helped), and learning.³⁹

³⁷ Oklahoma City National Memorial Foundation, “Murrah Federal Building Memorial Task Force.” Courtesy Oklahoma City National Memorial, copy on file at OKSHPO.

³⁸ Oklahoma City National Memorial Foundation, “Memorial Mission Statement Adopted March 26, 1996,” p. 2. Courtesy Oklahoma City National Memorial, copy on file at OKSHPO.

³⁹ Ibid.

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One of the sensitive subjects the task force grappled with was defining who was a “survivor.” Obviously, those who escaped from the targeted Murrah Building were survivors. What about people who were in buildings across the street or in a building a mile away that was damaged as a result of the bomb? It was determined that those who were physically adjacent to the bombing site at 9:02 a.m. (and who had no objection to being included) were identified as survivors for the purpose of being recognized at the Memorial site and in the information center (what became known as the Memorial Museum). Buildings within this perimeter were St. Joseph Old Cathedral and its rectory, Central City Post Office, McDivitt and Casey Law Firm, Oklahoma Water Resources Board Building, the Athenian Building, Journal Record Building, the Kirkpatrick Building, AAA Loan Office, the YMCA, and First United Methodist Church. In addition, anyone who was hospitalized as a result of their injuries (not those treated and released) and who did not object to being included would be recognized as a survivor. People who worked in the designated buildings but were not present at the time of the blast were to be recognized as a survivor in the information center if they had no objection to being included.⁴⁰

It would take some time before all of the pieces of the Memorial’s land puzzle fell into place. An early obstacle was the closure of Northwest 5th Street between Robinson and Harvey Avenues. Opposition to the idea arose from business owners who feared that the permanent closure would jeopardize their livelihood. Others feared that closing it would interfere with the city’s rebuilding efforts and its ability to move forward. Some argued that closing it would be a victory for the terrorists and others preferred that things go back to the way they were before the bomb. Supporters of the closure argued that Northwest 5th Street was part of the “sacred ground” and that closing the street would preserve the serenity of the memorial site. The Oklahoma City Planning Commission supported the idea of closing the street by a 5-3 vote in September 1996. The Oklahoma City Council unanimously voted to close the street on October 22, 1996.⁴¹

When the mission statement was adopted, the south half of the block containing the Oklahoma Water Resources and Athenian buildings and what came to be known as the “Survivor Tree” were still under private ownership. The Oklahoma City Council negotiated with the owners to purchase the tracts. Money for their purchase came from Community Development Block Grants that had been approved by Congress following the bombing. Following acquisition, the two buildings were demolished in early September 1997. The following month, the Oklahoma City Council approved allocating \$12.5 million for the purchase and repair of the Journal Record Building. Two million dollars would be loaned to the Oklahoma City Cultural and Industrial Facilities Trust, a city agency, for the purchase of the building. It was intended that part of the building would be used as a museum and interpretive center for the proposed memorial while the remaining space would be made available to tenants. The purchase was made official in July 1998.⁴²

⁴⁰ *Oklahoma City National Memorial Dedication, April 19, 2000*, 16.

⁴¹ *Daily Oklahoman*, September 13, 1996 and October 23, 1996.

⁴² *Daily Oklahoman*, August 26, 1997, October 8, 1997, and June 10, 1998.

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The Oklahoma City National Memorial was officially created on October 9, 1997 when President Bill Clinton signed Public Law 105-58. Section 4 of the law stated that a National Memorial was being created as a unit of the National Park Service “for the benefit and inspiration of the people of the United States and the world.” However, the memorial was to be administered by the nine-member Oklahoma City National Memorial Trust, a separate government corporation created specifically for this purpose. Initially, officials with the National Park Service objected to control of the site being given over to another party, stating that there was no precedence for such action. However, the arrangement received the support of Congress and President Clinton and the Memorial became an affiliated unit of the National Park Service with the authority for its construction, operation, and maintenance given to the Oklahoma City National Memorial Trust. The bill specified that the Memorial area would be comprised of the lands, facilities, and structures depicted on an accompanying map—essentially the Murrah Building site, Northwest 5th Street, and the entire block to the north (see Map 3). The bill also authorized the allocation of \$5 million in federal funds for the Memorial under the stipulation that the amount be matched by other sources. By that time, the Oklahoma City National Memorial Foundation had \$3.5 million from private funds. The project was estimated to cost \$24 million.⁴³

The Oklahoma City National Memorial Trust was officially constituted on October 7, 1998. It was at that organizational meeting that the Trust’s board of directors authorized the board’s chair, Robert M. Johnson, to negotiate a deed with the General Services Administration for the acquisition of the Murrah Building’s footprint as well as an easement for the maintenance of the north wall of Murrah Building’s parking garage. When this was accomplished, all of the parcels for the memorial had been acquired either by the Trust or the Oklahoma City Cultural and Industrial Facilities Trust. The Murrah Building’s parking garage and plaza remained under federal ownership.⁴⁴

The Design Competition and the Chosen Design

As the task force was arguing for the closure of Northwest 5th Street and preparing to launch an international design competition, it officially became known as the Oklahoma City National Memorial Foundation in September 1996. On November 15, the foundation released the design invitation which asked that all design concepts adhere to the mission statement and “consider and portray” the entire memorial site (see Map 4); transitions between the memorial site, the Journal Record Building, and the Murrah Building plaza; a proposed entry to the Memorial Center located in the Journal Record Building; relationship to the abutting sidewalks and Robinson and Harvey Avenues and Northwest 6th Street; and “the ‘city builder’ role of the Memorial as portrayed in the Urban Design Strategy.” In addition, the invitation specifically stated that entrants were to avoid the physical representation of “any known person, living or dead.”⁴⁵

⁴³ Public Law 105-58; *Daily Oklahoman*, October 10, 1997.

⁴⁴ Minutes of Organizational Meeting of the Board of Directors of Oklahoma City National Memorial Trust, October 7, 1998. Original available at Oklahoma City National Memorial & Museum, copy available at OKSHPO.

⁴⁵ Oklahoma City National Memorial & Museum, “The Making of the Oklahoma City National Memorial & Museum,” Press Packet, October 2012; Oklahoma City National Memorial Foundation, “Oklahoma City Memorial: An International Design Competition,” 1996, 6-7.

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The design entries were due March 11, 1997. Six hundred twenty-four entries were received from all 50 states and 23 countries. After the submittals were viewed first by families and survivors and then the general public, the design evaluation panel reviewed the entries from March 25-26, 1997. The field of entries was narrowed to five and announced to the public on April 19, 1997. The five teams refined their designs and resubmitted them two months later. Following another round of review, the winning design was unanimously chosen by the selection panel and announced on July 1, 1997.⁴⁶

The winning design team was composed of Torrey Butzer, her husband, Hans-Ekkehard Butzer, and Sven Berg practicing under the name of Locus Bold Design. The team later changed the firm's name to Butzer Design Partnership. At the time of their selection, the firm was based in Berlin, Germany, and Austin, Texas. The *Daily Oklahoman* played up the fact that Torrey Butzer was an Oklahoma native although she had spent much of her youth in Wichita, Kansas. Ms. Butzer graduated with highest honors from the University of Texas at Austin (UT) with a bachelor of architecture in 1990. It was there that she met Hans Butzer who also received a bachelor of architecture with highest honor from UT the same year. Mr. Butzer grew up in the Chicago area and traveled frequently to Germany with his German-born parents. The couple moved to Berlin in 1992 because of the country's building boom following unification. The team entered the memorial design competition with the expectation that their design would not be chosen. Hans Butzer later stated that they felt it was important to participate in the competition "to know we were able to contribute something, even from that distance across the Atlantic Ocean, that might help."⁴⁷

Having their design selected was a life-altering experience for the Butzers. The couple relocated to Oklahoma and Hans Butzer enrolled in Harvard and received a master of architecture from the university in 1999. The Butzers equated their experience designing the Oklahoma City National Memorial to the Reflecting Pool, which Hans Butzer believed to be the heart of the memorial. He was quoted in the *Daily Oklahoman* saying "What we see in the reflecting pool is the way it speaks to the unpredictability of life and how we can't control everything . . . All we know is that somewhere out there, there is a plan, As long as we continue to work hard and try to do things right, then good things will come to us"⁴⁸

The Evaluation Panel's report summarized the meaning and the intended emotional and sensory responses to be conveyed by the diverse elements of the winning design in the following manner:

⁴⁶ Oklahoma City National Memorial Foundation, "Oklahoma City Memorial: An International Design Competition," 35; *Daily Oklahoman*, July 2, 1997.

⁴⁷ *Daily Oklahoman*, July 2, 1997, April 19, 2000 and December 27, 2000; "Torrey Butzer," Butzer Gardner Architects: Our Profile (<http://www.butzergardner.com/profiles.php?id=37>), accessed November 13, 2013 and "Hans E. Butzer," Butzer Gardner Architects: Our Profile (<http://www.butzergardner.com/profiles.php?id=22>), accessed November 13, 2013; "Symbols of Loss," People.com, August 18, 1997 (<http://www.people.compeople/article/0,,20122928,00html>) accessed November 19, 2013; and Suzette Grillott, Rebecca Cruise, and Brian Hardzinski. "Memorial Designer Reflects on Commemorating Tragedy Through Architecture." Transcript of radio interview with Hans Butzer, (<http://kgou.org/most/memorial-designer-reflects-commemorating-tragedy-through-architecture>) accessed November 13, 2013.

⁴⁸ *Daily Oklahoman*, April 19, 2000.

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Driving down 5th Street, a three-story gate comes to view. This stretch of 5th Street is closed to traffic. It is here where a moment on April 19, 1995 begins to tell its story.

Beneath the inscription “We come here to remember . . .” one is drawn through the gate’s narrow opening into the Memorial Complex. The footprint of the former Murrah building to the south is covered with soft green grass, sloping up towards the warmth of the sun. Under a canopy of trees, empty chairs remind us of those who died, providing a place for friends and family to leave behind tokens of their love. The survivor tree to the north commemorates those who survived, while terraces below provide a setting for thought and contemplation. Marching forth from the street’s edges to surround the survivor tree, an orchard of fruit [trees] pays tribute to those who provided help, strength and comfort.

The empty [chairs], the survivor tree and its terraces, and the orchard meet at the reflecting pool’s edge. Here, water soothingly heals the scars of that fateful moment between 9:01 and 9:03 am when lives were changed forever.

Those Who Helped

apple and peach tree orchards, the fruits of their labor harvested with the seasons.

Those Who Survived

low stone wall encircles the survivor tree, terraced seating reflects toward the pool and sloping field beyond

Those Changed Forever

reflective pool and peaceful sounds

Those Who Were Killed

168 empty chairs on a sloping field of grass protected by lowering evergreens

Absence

EMPTY CHAIRS of stone and glass remind us of those we miss. Adult or child victims are suggested through the nuance of sizes.

By daylight the chairs float above their transparent base. As night falls, names engraved in the blocks of glass shine into the darkness.

The Gates

A pair of black stone gateways STOP A STREET IN MOTION, asking for a moment of silence and contemplation.

The gates provide a powerful image for the Memorial Complex, defining and containing its urban energy. They serve as a transition from Oklahoma City grid

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to meditative landscape of soft edges and sounds. The inscribed words of the Mission Statement's introduction beckon passers-by to enter and witness the impact of a moment caught within it.

A Promontory

The survivor tree is a natural symbol for the survivors. Its location on high ground affords the creation of an INTIMATE NODE, a place for gathering and looking.

The selection panel appreciated the delineation of zones in the design and the resultant contrasts. Water separated the “chair slope” from the rest of the landscape. The chair slope represented a complementary contrast to the “park-like” terraces around the survivor tree. The panel thought that the use of water was an effective replacement for the former street that ran through the site. Panel members appreciated the placement of the 9:01 and 9:03 gates, serving as bookends and “a subtle reminder of the terror and destruction at 9:02.” Concern was expressed regarding the scale of the gates and the issues involved with determining the “placement, orientation and clustering” of the empty chairs and the integration of the entrance to the Journal Record Building with the overall design. Regardless of such concerns, the overall impression of the design was deemed “extremely elegant.”⁴⁹

As originally planned, the names of survivors were to be placed on the wall surrounding the Survivor Tree. Additional input resulted in the names being placed on granite panels to the east of the Field of Empty Chairs on a wall that had been part of the Murrah Building. The panels were salvaged from the building. It was later determined that fruit-bearing trees do not fare well in Oklahoma City's climate and were replaced with climate appropriate trees from Oklahoma, Texas, and Georgia. The trees selected were Oklahoma Redbud, Amur Maple, Chinese Pistache, and Bosque Elm.⁵⁰

Butzer Design Partnership selected internationally known Sasaki Associates, Inc. of Watertown Massachusetts to act as the prime consultant with the Oklahoma City National Memorial Foundation for documentation and construction phases. In particular, Sasaki Associates provided “project management, technical landscape design, and civil engineering design services.”⁵¹ Other

⁴⁹ Evaluation Panel Report, 3-4.

⁵⁰ See Edward Linenthal, *The Unfinished Bombing: Oklahoma City in American Memory* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2001), p. 290, footnote 57; Oklahoma City National Memorial & Museum, “Construction Elements from Near and Far,” Press Packet.

⁵¹ “Oklahoma City Memorial Complex,” Sasaki Associates, Inc. (<http://www.sasaki.com/project/106/oklahoma-city-memorial-complex/>) accessed November 13, 2013. Sasaki Associates origins date to 1953 when Hideo Sasaki (1919-2000), a landscape architect of Japanese descent, established a landscape architecture practice in Watertown, Massachusetts. Sasaki graduated from Reedley (California) Junior College in 1939. He then studied business administration with a minor in art at the University of California at Los Angeles. After developing an interest in city planning, he transferred to the University of California at Berkeley. His studies were interrupted with the outbreak of War World II and his detention in a Japanese internment camp at Poston, Arizona. He later attended the University of Illinois in Urbana where he received a bachelor of fine arts in landscape architecture in 1946. He received a master of landscape architecture from Harvard in 1948. He then worked in the New York and Chicago offices of Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM) and taught at the University of Illinois and at Harvard. He served as chairman of Harvard's department of landscape architecture from 1958 to 1968. Sasaki became known for his propensity to collaboration, both in his design work and as a teacher, and a focus on research and regional planning. Author

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parties involved in the design and construction of the memorial included The Benham Group, Oklahoma City, engineering (civil, structural, MEP); Lippert Brothers, Oklahoma City, general contractor; OESCO-Oklahoma Electrical Supply Co., Oklahoma City, electrical; Delta Fountains, Jacksonville, Florida, fountain design and equipment; Oakley's Landscaping Inc., Oklahoma City, site landscaping; Groom's Irrigation, Edmond, Oklahoma, site irrigation; Intrepid Enterprises, Inc., Harvey, Louisiana, stone-granite paver work; Georgia Fountain Company, Inc., Atlanta, Georgia, fountain consultants; and H.M. Brandston & Partners, New York, New York, lighting consultants.

Similar to the local, regional, and national response to the bombing, materials and their suppliers came from Oklahoma City, elsewhere in the state, and across the country. Some originated in other countries. Because of the size of the panels, the bronze cladding of the "Gates of Time" was milled in Japan and then finished in New Jersey. The black granite within the "Gates of Time" as well as that used for the Reflecting Pool was quarried in Quebec, Canada. The bronze backs of the Empty Chairs were cast near the Memorial at A.R.K. Ramos. The chairs' glass bases were made at John Lewis Studio in Oakland, California. The Massachusetts Institute of Technology worked with the studio to find a glass that could withstand Oklahoma City's temperature extremes. The mechanical and lighting systems within their bases were created by Chris Vesperman of Vespex, LLC in Kingstown, New Hampshire. Netafim USA of Fresno, California, designed a specialized irrigation system for the Survivor Tree.⁵²

Building the Outdoor Symbolic Memorial

A crowd estimated at 3,000 attended the groundbreaking for the Oklahoma City National Memorial (Outdoor Symbolic Memorial) on October 25, 1998. The number of participants in the ceremony was an indication of the wide impact the bombing had on area businesses, government agencies, churches, rescuers, and family members. The ceremony began with the posting of the colors followed by native Oklahoman Shawntel Smith, Miss America 1996, singing the National

Melanie Simo noted that Sasaki's legacy has included collaboration between people from different fields and "integration of land, buildings, and the larger environment. Another of Sasaki's ideals was the oasis—a designed landscape where the human spirit could be refreshed, especially in the city." Simo sites Greenacre Park in New York, Constitution Plaza in Hartford Connecticut, housing developments in New York and Chicago, and Christopher Columbus Park in Boston as examples of the oasis. Sasaki retired in 1980 but remained a consultant to the firm. Works completed by the firm before his death in 2000 include campus plans for the University of Colorado (1960-70) and the University of Illinois at Urbana/Champaign (1985-1990); urban designs for the Dallas (Texas) Arts District (1982-1983) and Taipei (Taiwan) Terminal (1990); new communities of Sea Pines Plantation and Harbortown (Hilton Head Island, South Carolina, 1964). For more information on Hideo Sasaki and Sasaki Associates, see Melanie Simo, "Biography of Hideo Sasaki," *The Cultural Landscape Foundation* (<http://tclf.org/pioneer/hideo-sasaki/biography-hideo-sasaki>), accessed December 16, 2013. See also Simo's entry, "Sasaki, Hideo (1919-2000)" in *Shaping the American Landscape*, edited by Charles A. Birnbaum and Stephanie S. Foell (Charlottesville Virginia: University of Virginia Press, 2009), 301-04, and Melanie Simo and David Dillon, *Sasaki Associates: Integrated Environments* (Washington, DC: Spacemaker Press, 1997).

⁵² *Oklahoma City National Memorial Dedication, April 19, 2000* (Dedication brochure, courtesy Oklahoma City National Memorial Museum, copy on file at OKSHPO), 13; "MIT Team Tests Glass for Chairs in Oklahoma City National Memorial," September 29, 1998 (<http://newsoffice.mit.edu/1998/oklahoma>), accessed May 20, 2014; "The Gates of Memory," Solutions by NETAFIM (<http://www.netafimusa.com/files/applications/landscapes/case-studies/solutions-by-netafim-oklahoma.pdf>), accessed May 19, 2014.

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Anthem. Next came a Moment of Silence and the reading of the Memorial's mission statement led by Arlene Blanchard, a survivor; Clint Seidl, son of bombing victim Kathy Seidl; and Gary Marrs, Chief, Oklahoma City Fire Department. The invocation was given by Rev. Nick Harris, First United Methodist Church (the church just to the east of the Murrah Building that was heavily damaged by the bomb), and the welcome was given by Robert M. Johnson of the Oklahoma City National Memorial Trust. Welcoming remarks were given by Oklahoma City Mayor Kirk Humphreys, Governor Frank Keating, and U.S. Senator Don Nickles. Robert Stanton, Director of the National Park Service, spoke of his agency's partnership with the Memorial. Addresses were then given by U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno, and former Oklahoma City Mayor Ron Norick. Vice President Albert Gore, Jr. gave the keynote address. Gore and other speakers reiterated that the victims, survivors, and those involved in the rescue and recovery would not be forgotten. Father Louis J. Lamb of St. Joseph Old Cathedral (located to the west of the Murrah Building and also severely damaged by the bomb) gave the benediction and blessed the site. Vice President Gore turned the first shovel-full of dirt and was followed by family members of the victims, survivors, representatives of the government agencies, institutions, and businesses affected by the bombing, rescuers, and dignitaries who took their turn at shovels. It was reported that some family members chose to turn the earth at the spot where their loved ones died.⁵³

The day after the groundbreaking ceremony, another ceremony was held to move the chain link fence that surrounded the bombing site. Almost as soon as it was erected, it became an outdoor shrine where family members, survivors, rescuers, and other visitors came to express their grief by leaving tokens or messages in memory of those killed or to show solidarity with the people of Oklahoma City. These items soon became artifacts as a decision was made early on to save them as a permanent collection. During the planning stages for the memorial, saving the fence became a priority for many and it was even suggested that perhaps the memorial should consist only of the fence. At one point, it was thought that approximately 90 feet of the fence would be saved but survivors and family members wanted more. So on October 26, several hundred people helped move approximately 200 feet of fence in sections to its new location along Harvey Avenue, marking the western boundary of the Memorial grounds.⁵⁴

Construction of the Outdoor Symbolic Memorial began in mid-November 1998. Among the first things accomplished was the leveling of the site in the area of the proposed reflecting pool to remove a dramatic change in grade from east to west. The ground to the east of the pool would be cut down approximately 10 feet in the vicinity of the 9:01 Gate whereas approximately five feet of fill dirt would be added to the west end in the vicinity of the 9:03 Gate. Ground to the north and south would slope toward the pool.⁵⁵

⁵³ Jack Money and Penny Owen, "Ceremony Brings Bomb Memorial Closer," *Daily Oklahoman*, October 26, 1998 and Barbara Hoberock, "Murrah Memories—Groundbreaking for OC Memorial Brings Out Stories of Victims, Events," *Tulsa World*, October 26, 1998.

⁵⁴ Penny Owen and Jack Money, "Murrah Building Fence Moved as Work Begins on Memorial," *Daily Oklahoman*, October 27, 1998.

⁵⁵ *Daily Oklahoman*, October 27, 1998.

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The Outdoor Symbolic Memorial opened to the public on April 19, 2000, which like the day of the bombing, was on a Wednesday. A private ceremony for family members of those killed, survivors, and rescue workers was held at 8:30 a.m. That ceremony included an observance of 168 seconds of silence and the reading of the names of the 168 victims. At 12:30 p.m., the Oklahoma City National Memorial Institute for the Prevention of Terrorism concluded a three-day conference on “Terrorism and Beyond . . . the 21st Century” with a luncheon and panel discussion on counter-terrorism policy. The keynote speaker was Prudence Bushnell, U.S. Ambassador to Guatemala. The Memorial’s public dedication was held at 5:00 p.m. President Bill Clinton gave the keynote address. Other speakers preceded the president. They included Jeannine Gist, a family member, Florence Rogers, a survivor, Gary Marrs, Oklahoma City Police Chief, representing rescue workers; Oklahoma City Mayor Kirk Humphreys, Oklahoma Governor Frank Keating, U.S. Senator Don Nickles, Robert Stanton, Director of the National Park Service, and U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno. Throughout the day, dignitaries spoke of the resiliency of the people of Oklahoma City. President Clinton referred to the site as sacred ground and told the audience ““We may never have all the answers about what happened here, but as we continue our journey towards understanding, one truth is clear: What was meant to break has made you stronger.”” Following 168 seconds of silence and a choral presentation of “To Remember,” a song written especially for the dedication, the Memorial was officially opened to the public.⁵⁶

The Memorial’s design was positively received in Oklahoma City and beyond. It garnered numerous awards and recognition from the design community and other entities. In late 2000, *Time* named the Memorial one of the ten best designs of the year.⁵⁷ The American Society of Landscape Architecture (ASLA) bestowed on it a Merit Award in 2001. In the ASLA’s press release announcing that year’s winners, it was noted that the Memorial was significant for a number of factors. They included the involvement of the community in the memorial process and “the formulation of a clear and legally binding Mission Statement [that] should be a model for other significant projects throughout the United States.” In addition, the partnership between the design team and the client brought about an “unparalleled cooperation on the job-site and led to an awarding-winning level of craft.” Dedication to the design brought solutions to unique challenges. Specifically mentioned were:

“[the] raised paving system around the 80+ year old American Elm (Survivor Tree) and hand-digging 66 of 80 of its support piers; hand-casting large pieces of glass for the chair bases for an outdoor application with tremendous climatic extremes; and designing and constructing a reflecting pool of exceptional design, size and tolerances. Compared to other National memorials of this scope and size,

⁵⁶ *Daily Oklahoman*, April 18, 2000; *Oklahoma City National Memorial Dedication, April 19, 2000* (Dedication brochure, courtesy Oklahoma City National Memorial Museum), 7-10. President Clinton’s quote was printed in numerous newspapers around the country including the *Fort Worth-Star Telegram* and the *Dallas Morning News*, April 20, 2000.

⁵⁷ “Best Design 2000,” *Time*, December 10, 2000 (<http://content.time.com/time/printout/0,8816,91439,00.html>), accessed May 5, 2014. The list included the Tate Modern in London, Het Oosten Pavilion in Amsterdam, the “Design Culture Now” exhibition at New York City’s Cooper-Hewitt Museum, and the Ducati Sports Bike MH900e.

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the construction budget was not only modest and fixed, but was not exceeded. Lastly the design remains devoted to a material palette (hard and softscape) inspired by the colors and patterns of the region so that the personal scale, familiarity and impact of the memorial's story can be conveyed by day or by night.⁵⁸

The Memorial also received Honor Awards from the Boston Society of Landscape Architects and the Boston Society of Architects.⁵⁹

Creating the Memorial's Museum

As mentioned previously, the second component of the Memorial was to be the creation of an information center. The center was to contain information regarding those killed, artifacts associated with the bombing, and to function as a disseminator of knowledge regarding the impact of violence. The Journal Record Building's proximity to the bombing site made it a prime candidate for such a facility. Federal grants and loans allowed the Oklahoma City Industrial and Cultural Facilities Trust to purchase the building in July 1998 from JRB Holding Co. for \$2.05 million and to invest millions more in the building's rehabilitation.⁶⁰ Approximately one-third of the building would house the Memorial's museum with other portions devoted to commercial use. Much work had to be accomplished to repair the damage caused by the bombing, including the replacement of the roof, structural repair to the south elevation and securing the remains of the fire escapes along that wall, removal of dropped ceilings, and the preservation of historic wainscoting, doors, and millwork. The repairs to the building took nearly three years to complete. G.H. Guernsey & Co. was the architect-engineer, White Engineering provided structural engineering services, Lippert Brothers, Inc. was the general contractor, and Howard Site Design was the landscape architect for the rehabilitation project.⁶¹

As with the Outdoor Symbolic Memorial, a design competition was held for the museum component of the Memorial Complex. On January 29, 1999, the *Daily Oklahoman* announced that the winning concept was submitted by Douglas-Gallagher and Hillman & Carr, both of Washington, DC, and G. H. Guernsey of Oklahoma City, acting as project architect-engineer. Douglas-Gallagher and Hillman & Carr had collaborated on exhibit designs for the Museum of Jewish Heritage in New York City, the Janet Annenberg Hooker Hall of Geology, Gems and Minerals at the Smithsonian Institution, and the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland. Work on the Memorial Museum was completed at a cost of approximately \$7 million and with much input from a committee of family members of the victims, survivors, and rescue workers.⁶²

⁵⁸ "Oklahoma City National Memorial, Oklahoma City, OK," *ASLA Online*, September 21, 2001 (www.asla.org/meetings/awards/awds01/oklahomacty.html), accessed November 13, 2013.

⁵⁹ "Oklahoma City Memorial Complex," Sasaki Associates, Inc. (<http://www.sasaki.com/project/106/oklahoma-city-memorial-complex>). The Boston awards were likely influenced by the fact that Sasaki Associates' U.S. office is located in the Boston metropolitan area.

⁶⁰ *Daily Oklahoman*, July 19, 1998.

⁶¹ *Daily Oklahoman*, January 13, 1999 and June 26, 2001.

⁶² *Daily Oklahoman*, January 29, 1999 and July 6, 2001.

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The Oklahoma City National Memorial Museum opened to the public on President's Day, February 19, 2001. In attendance were President George W. Bush and First Lady Laura Bush. It was the president's first official trip following his inauguration the month before. President and Mrs. Bush toured the museum before he addressed the public. It was noted in the *Daily Oklahoman* that the president became emotional when he recognized some of the photos of Secret Service agents who were killed in the bombing. In his address to the public, the president spoke of the ability of Oklahomans to come together and to assist one another. He said "The truth of Oklahoma City is the courage you found in one another. It began with the rescue, it continues with this memorial, it is recorded in this museum."⁶³

The museum occupied 30,000 square feet of the Journal Record Building, taking up three floors toward the west end of the building. Whereas the Outdoor Symbolic Memorial provided a peaceful environment to contemplate the events of April 19, 1995, the museum vividly portrayed the violence of the day and its painful aftermath. The exhibits were arranged chronologically and in chapters. Chapter 1 provided a history of terrorism in the United States. Chapter 2 provided details regarding the history of the site. For Chapter 3, visitors entered a room set up like a hearing room in the Oklahoma Water Resources Board Building north of the Murrah Building. There, they listened to a recording of a hearing that began at 9:00 a.m., April 19, 1995. Two minutes into the hearing the recording picked up the sound of a loud explosion as the truck bomb in front of the Murrah Building was detonated. From there, visitors entered a scene of chaos captured by still photographs, television news footage, and artifacts. Other chapters told the stories of survivors, rescue and recovery, world reaction, and the progression of the investigation during the first few days and through the following years. Also included was the Gallery of Honor, containing photographs of each of the 168 victims and an item chosen by loved ones that conveyed something about the individual. Other exhibits explored the impact of the loss of the victims as well as hopeful gestures from around the world. On the second floor, a portion of the Journal Record Building was left unrepaired so that museum visitors could see firsthand the damage that was wrought on April 19, 1995. The museum also contained the memorial's archives, a children's area and classroom, and museum store.⁶⁴

The Oklahoma City National Memorial after the Period of Significance

In 2002-2003, the Central Oklahoma Transportation and Parking Authority (COTPA) had a bus shelter constructed on the east side of Harvey Avenue and south of Northwest 5th Street. The design of this shelter, meant to be sensitive to its surroundings, is credited to Huitt-Zollars. The

⁶³ *Daily Oklahoman*, April 20, 2001.

⁶⁴ Information on exhibits and layout of the museum can be found in *A Museum Walking Tour* by Ann E. Clark (Oklahoma City National Memorial Foundation, April 2006). See also "The Oklahoma City National Memorial Center," *Daily Oklahoman*, February 18, 2001.

Other memorials were created to April 19, 1995 in Oklahoma City, across the nation, and in foreign countries. These included a memorial grove north of the Oklahoma State Capitol that was a gift of the state of Iowa. A new Federal Employee Credit Union building was constructed to replace its offices that were destroyed in the Murrah Building. Its grounds include a fountain built from granite from the Murrah Building. Thousands of Redbuds were planted along Turner Turnpike between Oklahoma City and Tulsa. Trees were planted on the grounds of the White House, in Hudsonville, Michigan, Tower Lake, Illinois, and elsewhere across the country. Thousands of trees were planted in Israel. See Linenthal, *The Unfinished Bombing*, 131-33, 143 and *Daily Oklahoman*, April 19, 2000.

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shelter was one of four constructed downtown between 1999 and 2003 for the city's "Oklahoma Spirit Trolley," a special bus service that used buses that resembled old street trolley cars. As a planner for COPTA explained, the name "Oklahoma Spirit Trolley" "is owed to and stands as a testament to the commonly-used reference to the tremendous spirit of unity and giving that typified local residents in the aftermath of the 1995 Murrah Bombing." The Oklahoma Spirit Trolley was in service until 2013 when the buses were retired and replaced with low-floor buses.⁶⁵

The Oklahoma City National Memorial Museum was the Journal Record Building's only tenant until 2004 when the Oklahoma City Memorial Institute for the Prevention of Terrorism and Violence moved its offices to the fourth and fifth floors.⁶⁶ The institute was the third component of the Memorial and was created with input from survivors, family members, and rescue workers who wanted to create a living memorial that could prevent similar tragedies in the future. It was up and running by April 2000 with a paid director on board. Its initial funding came from the Office of Science and Technology at the National Institute of Justice. The organization's major objectives included the coordination of antiterrorism research between local, state, and national agencies and to improve the efficiency and technological capabilities of first responders. Following the creation of the Department of Homeland Security, the institute was placed under the Office for Domestic Terrorism. Its focus switched from research to training in 2007, particularly the training of local law enforcement about counter-terrorism. The institute lost its funding from the Department of Homeland Security in September 2013 and was forced to cut its staff by 50 percent. It moved from the Journal Record Building and relocated to Rose State College in Midwest City, a suburb to the east of Oklahoma City.⁶⁷

On January 23, 2004, President George W. Bush signed the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2004 (Public Law 108-199) which included an amendment to the original bill creating the Memorial (Public Law 105-58). The new bill dissolved the Oklahoma City National Memorial Trust and transferred the Memorial over to the Oklahoma City National Memorial Foundation, the nonprofit originally organized to create, fund, and build the Memorial and Museum. The National Park Service was authorized to continue interpretive services at the Outdoor Symbolic Memorial.⁶⁸

Repairs and upgrades to the Outdoor Symbolic Memorial were undertaken in late 2013. This work, which was funded by a \$2 million gift from the City of Oklahoma City and private

⁶⁵ Larry J. Hopper, AICP, email correspondence with Susan Allen Kline, 25 March 2014 (copy on file at the Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office).

⁶⁶ *Daily Oklahoman*, October 18, 2003.

⁶⁷ *Daily Oklahoman*, April 14, 2000, August 7, 2009, and December 19, 2013.

⁶⁸ "Summary: 2004 Consolidated Appropriations Act, Public Law 108-199," (<http://www.doi/budget/appropriations/2004/04SumConsolidated.cfm?renderforprint=1&...>), accessed March 22, 2014; Oklahoma City National Memorial & Museum, "The Making of the Oklahoma City National Memorial & Museum."

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fundraising, included the replacement of the Bison Jacks beneath the concrete and granite structure of the reflecting pool and the redesign of the pump room under the 9:01 Gate.⁶⁹

On January 8, 2014, a wall-breaking ceremony was held at the Memorial Museum signifying the launch of a \$7 million renovation project. The work is expected to take eleven months to complete. The project will provide an opportunity to incorporate artifacts and oral histories that were not available when the museum opened in 2001. These include expanded stories of those who were killed that were provided by their families, as well as evidence from the two federal trials and from the state trial that began after the Museum opened in 2001. Work will include the addition of an elevator between the second and third floors, an enclosed overlook on the second floor of the south elevation, and a redesign of the archives division. The enhancements were designed by Gallagher & Associates of Washington, DC with input from Hillman & Carr (Washington, DC), Lippert Brothers Construction, architects and engineers from SAIC and Butzer Gardner Architects, and the Memorial's staff and Museum Working Committee.⁷⁰

Aftermath: Local

Statistics gathered after the bombing provide evidence of the wide impact the bombing had on everyday life in Oklahoma City. In addition to the 168 people who were killed (19 of whom were children), 850 people were injured, and 85 rescuers suffered minor injuries. The impact on children was notable as 30 were orphaned, and 219 lost at least one parent. Four hundred and sixty-two people were left homeless and 7,000 people lost their place of work. The number of volunteers and rescue workers who provided assistance during the rescue and recovery and support was 12,384. It was estimated that one-third of the city's population knew someone who was hurt or injured and 19% of the population attended funerals for the victims.⁷¹

More than 300 buildings were damaged or destroyed as a result of the Murrah bombing. Approximately 70 buildings within a 25-block area received structural damage. Many buildings that received no structural damage lost windows. According to one study, no glass within two-blocks of the blast epicenter survived intact and window glass in some building two miles to the north and at least five blocks to the east and west received damage. Of the 432 people injured as a result of the bomb, 80% were wounded as the result of flying glass.⁷²

Tenants of buildings were forced to relocate after the bombing. Some, such as the residents of the Regency Tower, a twenty-four-story apartment building one-half block west of the Murrah

⁶⁹ "Building on Our Mission: Memorial & Museum Enhancements Underway," *Memorial Minute* (electronic newsletter of the Oklahoma City National Memorial & Museum), November 20, 2013, (www.OklahomaCityNationalMemorial.org). Copy on file at OKSHPO.

⁷⁰ "Museum Enhancement Changes Developing," *Memorial Minute*, (electronic newsletter of the Oklahoma City National Memorial & Museum, (www.OklahomaCityNationalMemorial.org), June 11, 2013; "Wall Breaking Ceremony Starts Museum Enhancements," *Memorial Minute*, January 8, 2014.); "Gallery of Honor Move," "Phase I Preview," and "Phase I Opening," *Memorial Minute*, May 1, 2014. Copies available at OKSHPO.

⁷¹ Oklahoma City National Memorial & Museum, "Murrah Building Bombing—A Look at Numbers," Press Packet.

⁷² Tom Harpole, "A Safety Lesson from Oklahoma City," *Progressive Architecture* (July 1995): 65.

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Building, were able to return within a few months.⁷³ The Oklahoma City Federal Courthouse immediately south of the Murrah Building was quickly repaired. People who worked in the Center City Post Office, Water Resources Board Building, the Athenian Building, and the YMCA never returned to work in those buildings and they were demolished as a result of the damage they sustained. The Kirkpatrick Hotel, located across from the Journal Record Building on North Robinson Avenue was also demolished and another building, the Robinson Executive Building, was constructed on its site in 2000. State agencies housed in the Journal Record Building found temporary accommodations at Shepherd Mall on Northwest 23rd Street between Penn and Villa.

The damaged churches were all repaired and some incorporated the event into their rebuilding efforts. The stone cross at the top of St. Paul's (Episcopal) Cathedral, located three blocks north of the Murrah Building, was destroyed by the blast and its shattered pieces were used in a wrought iron gate to the cloisters. The Heartland Chapel, an outdoor interdenominational chapel, was completed in July 1995 north of the First United Methodist Church, located immediately east of the Murrah Building. The chapel sits to the east of the 9:01 Gate at North Robison Avenue and Northwest 5th Street. First United Methodist Church also constructed a new sanctuary and education building north of the historic church. St. Joseph Old Cathedral, located west of the Murrah Building, was repaired but the rectory behind it was demolished and a parking lot put in its place. The congregation installed a large white marble sculpture titled "And Jesus Wept" near the northeast corner of the lot, across from the 9:03 Gate.⁷⁴

Three days before the opening of the Outdoor Symbolic Memorial, the *Daily Oklahoman* reported on the transformation that had occurred downtown in the five years since the 1995 bombing. According to Dave Jones, redevelopment director for the Oklahoma City Urban Renewal Authority, studies conducted shortly after the blast by the National Endowment for the Arts and the Urban Planning Institute assisted property owners and city officials to not only recover from the blast but to also combat decades of neglect. The newly renovated Automobile Alley, a collection of historic buildings located to the east of the bombing site along Broadway Avenue, had attracted high tech tenants, loft dwellers, and banks, replacing pawn shops and predatory loan businesses formerly located in the area. Like many other structures downtown, these buildings had benefitted from federal loans and grants designated for the bomb-ravaged area.⁷⁵ The downtown was also energized as the MAPS (Metropolitan Area Projects) plan, a sales tax-funded development plan for downtown, began to see results.⁷⁶

Four years after the opening of the Outdoor Symbolic Memorial, the federal building that was constructed to replace the Murrah Building was completed. Prior to its opening, the agencies previously located in the Murrah building had been scattered across the city in leased spaces. The new building brought fourteen federal agencies back to downtown, reinvigorating the north end of the central business district. In addition, the building was the first new federal building to

⁷³ *Daily Oklahoman*, October 27, 1995.

⁷⁴ Linenthal, *The Unfinished Bombing*, 68-69; *Daily Oklahoman*, May 5, 1999 and November 3, 2007.

⁷⁵ *Daily Oklahoman*, April 16, 2000.

⁷⁶ Mark Alden Branch, "After the Blast, Oklahoma City Builds," *Progressive Architecture* (July 1995): 45-46. See also Louis Jacobson, "Many Projects Help Revive Downtown Oklahoma City," *Planning* 65 (March 1999): 22-23.

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incorporate federal design and security standards that were implemented in the aftermath of the Murrah bombing. More than \$6 million of concrete and \$2 million dollars of steel were used in the construction of the building (the entire cost of the building was \$33 million).⁷⁷

The greater Oklahoma City economy has also benefitted from the Memorial itself. The Oklahoma City National Memorial consistently ranks as one of the top tourist attractions in the state. Between its opening on April 19, 2000 and October 2012, 4.1 million people visited the Outdoor Symbolic Memorial. Since opening in 2001, the Memorial Museum experienced 1.5 million visitors as of October 2012.⁷⁸

Aftermath: Beyond Oklahoma City

Beyond the physical confines of downtown Oklahoma City and those personally touched by the loss or injury of loved ones, the bombing of the Murrah Building had a profound effect on many aspects of our society. Communities looked at the way Oklahoma City responded to the crisis and implemented procedures that would allow them to address similar situations if needed. Health care professionals, including mental health providers, studied the experiences of survivors and first responders to understand the physical and emotional impacts of such events. The federal government responded in a variety of ways including the passage of legislation, the adoption of security procedures at existing federal facilities, and designing new federal buildings that could withstand terrorist attacks. Such responses are described in more detail below.

One aspect of the bombing that many commented on was the country's collective "loss of innocence." In the days and weeks following the event, much was made of the fact that this horrendous act had occurred in the nation's heartland, not in one of the urban centers of the East or West Coast. It was also an uncomfortable realization that this was an example of "homegrown" or domestic terrorism. *Time* tapped into this sentiment in its issue of May 1, 1995 when its cover featured a profile photograph of a stern-faced Timothy McVeigh wearing the standard orange jailhouse coveralls as he was escorted from the Noble County Courthouse where he was first held following his arrest for transporting a loaded firearm and carrying a concealed weapon. Also included was a small inset photograph that for many came to symbolize the horror and senselessness of the bombing. It depicted Oklahoma City fireman Chris Fields cradling the body of little Bailey Almon, one of the children killed by the bomb. The cover was blazoned with the headline "The Face of Terror." In an article titled "Oklahoma City: Blow to the Heart," the magazine proclaimed:

The truck bomb in the heartland brought the terrible realization that America has bred its own sort of new political monster, one afflicted with hatred so malignant that only murder on a grand scale can satisfy it. Who really knows how many citizens—a dozen? a hundred?—feel so passionately that their government is the Great Satan that they would resort to such evil? This much is certain: the courage

⁷⁷ *Daily Oklahoman*, May 4, 2004.

⁷⁸ For example, see "Oklahoma Top 10 Attractions," Attractions of America (<http://www.attractionsofamerica.com/attractions/oklahoma.php>), accessed June 17, 2014; "The Making of the Oklahoma City National Memorial & Museum."

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of the bereaved and the heroism of the rescuers in Oklahoma City are the stuff of true patriotism.⁷⁹

One of the most far-reaching results of the bombing was the impact it had on the design and construction of new federal buildings and the retrofitting of existing federal buildings to provide better protection. If a less than 20-year old federal office building in Oklahoma City could be destroyed by a truck bomb, then federal buildings across the nation were also vulnerable to terrorist attacks. Just one day after the bombing, President Clinton directed the Department of Justice to assess the vulnerability of the country's federal office buildings. The study was conducted under the coordination of the United States Marshals Service. Two months later, the Department of Justice released the report *Vulnerability Assessment of Federal Facilities* (also known as *The Marshals Report*). Prior to the Oklahoma City bombing, the government had no comprehensive standards for security at federal facilities and no centralized database of security measures then in existence. The study established new minimum security standards and concluded that the typical federal facility lacked security elements that would allow them to meet the minimum standards. It was also recommended that each federal facility be brought up to the minimum standards where feasible. Recommended security standards dealt with issues such as parking, closed circuit television monitoring, lighting, physical barriers, receiving and shipping, access control, entrances and exits, employee and visitor identification, utilities, occupant emergency plans, day care centers, intelligence sharing, training, tenant assignment, administrative procedures, and construction and renovation.⁸⁰

The bombing had a significant impact on the operation of national monuments in Washington, DC and existing public buildings across the country. In the nation's capital, bollards and other barriers were placed around monuments near the National Mall. Sixteenth Street in front of the White House (arguably the most protected building in the country) was closed to automobile traffic. Parking spaces in front of federal buildings were removed and bollards were placed around building perimeters. Additional security cameras were installed outside and inside federal buildings around the nation. Some agencies, such as the Social Security Administration, assigned law enforcement personnel in their offices for the protection of employees and the public. The window glass in many buildings was replaced with shatter-resistant glass. More magnetometers were installed inside buildings. Even local government buildings such as the Wake County Courthouse in Raleigh, North Carolina, witnessed increased security measures that included the installation of concrete barricades to restrict vehicle access and eliminating public use of a parking garage.⁸¹

⁷⁹ See *Time*, May 1, 1995. Image of the cover and the referenced quote can be found at <http://content.time.com/time/covers/0,16641,19950501,00.html> [cover image] and <http://content.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,982866,00.html> [quote], accessed March 30, 2014.

⁸⁰ U.S. Department of Justice, United States Marshals Service, *Vulnerability Assessment of Federal Facilities*, June 28, 1995, pp. 1-1, B-2-B-9. Copy available at http://itlaw.wikia.com/wiki/Vulnerability_Assessment_of_Federal_Facilities, accessed May 27, 2014.

⁸¹ Benjamin Forgey, "The Force of Fear: A Decade after the Carnage in Oklahoma City, Washington Can Still Feel the Blast," *Landscape Architecture* (July 2005): 146; Anthony Kimery, "TSA Union Calls for Armed Officers at Airport Screening Areas," *Homeland Security Today*, March 29, 2014 (<http://hstoday.us/briefings/industry-news/single-article/tsa-union-calls-for-armed-officers-at-airport-screening-areas/60cb627a144ea817e705a65422088bc1.html>), accessed May 28, 2014; "Oklahoma City Bombing Changed the

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The design of the federal building that replaced the destroyed Murrah Building introduced the General Services Administration's new design standards and security guidelines for new construction. Designed by Ross Barney + Janlowski Architects and completed in 2004, the new building met the 50-foot setback requirement, incorporated blast-resistant concrete walls on the elevations that faced a street, and included shatterproof glass in the windows. The three-story building featured a protected elliptical courtyard surrounded by glass. Besides being welcoming to the general public, the new building had the added burden of providing an inviting and secure environment for federal employees, many of whom were survivors of the bombing.⁸²

The Oklahoma City bombing resulted in a wide array of publications, studies, and seminars that addressed diverse "lessons learned" in an effort to improve local, state, and national responses to similar tragedies. A small sampling includes medical (Sheryl R. McLain, MS, "The Oklahoma City Bombing: Lessons Learned by Hospitals" and "Lessons Learned from the Oklahoma City Bombing," program and panel discussion at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Injury Prevention Research Center Fall Seminar, December 7, 2001), the physical and emotional needs of victims of violence (U.S. Department of Justice's "Responding to Terrorism Victims: Oklahoma City and Beyond," October 2000), building design and materials (the American Society of Civil Engineers' *Lessons Learned from the Oklahoma City Bombing: Defensive Design Techniques*, 1997 and Tom Harpole "A Safety Lesson from Oklahoma City," *Progressive Architecture*, July 1995), and damage assessment of historic buildings (Eva Osborne, "Disaster Response for the Oklahoma City Bombing" in *Disaster Management Programs for Historic Sites*, 1998 [2004]).⁸³

The Oklahoma City National Memorial Museum and the organization's website also address "lessons learned." Through videotaped interviews with elected officials, community and business leaders, media representatives, survivors and family members, and ordinary citizens "changed forever," visitors to the website can discover the many "lessons learned" through the exploration of four major topic: Community Response, Justice, Impact of Violence and Terrorism, and

Way Courthouses are Guarded," WRAL Channel 5, Raleigh, Durham, Fayetteville, North Carolina, posted April 18, 1999 (<http://wral.com/news/local/story/1333697/>), accessed March 30, 2014.

⁸² "Oklahoma City Federal Building," U.S. General Services Administration, (<http://www.gsa.gov/portal/content/101562>), accessed February 7, 2014; "Oklahoma City Federal Building," Weidlinger Associates Inc., (<http://www.wai.com/project.aspx?id=1335&type=500>) accessed February 7, 2014.

⁸³ Sheryl R. McLain, MS, "The Oklahoma City Bombing: Lessons Learned by Hospitals," no date (copy available at <http://www.aha.org/content/00-10/OKCBombing.pdf>), accessed May 27, 2014; "Panel Discussion to follow 'Lessons Learned from Oklahoma City Bombing'" News Service, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, December 3, 2001—No. 621 (<http://www.unc.edu/news/archives/dec01/okla120301.htm>), accessed May 27, 2014; U.S. Department of Justice's "Responding to Terrorism Victims: Oklahoma City and Beyond," October 2000 (<http://ojp.gov/publications/infores/respterrorism/html>) accessed March 30 and May 24, 2014; Eve E. Hinman and David J. Hammond, *Lessons from the Oklahoma City Bombing: Defensive Design Techniques* (New York: ASCE Press, 1997); Tom Harpole "A Safety Lesson from Oklahoma City," *Progressive Architecture*, (July 1995): 65; Eva Osborne, "Disaster Response for the Oklahoma City Bombing," in *Disaster Management Programs for Historic Sites*, Dirk H.B. Spennemann and David W. Look, eds. (Association for Preservation Technology [Western Chapter] and The Johnstone Centre, Charles Sturt University, 1998 [2004]): 145-148.

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Memorialization.⁸⁴ As horrendous acts of violence have occurred elsewhere since April 19, 1995, the staff of the Oklahoma City National Memorial, as well as survivors, family members, and first responders, have put the “lessons learned” into use as they have reached out to those communities to offer assistance and support. With the assistance of the American Red Cross, the Memorial sent family members to New York to meet with family members of people killed in the attacks on the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001. From the inclusion of survivors, family members, and rescuers throughout the development process to the archives that was created to preserve and catalogue artifacts associated with the bombing, the Oklahoma City National Memorial & Museum has served as a model for the creation of the National September 11 Memorial (opened September 11, 2011) and Museum (opened to the public May 21, 2014). Following the mass shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut in December 2012, Oklahoma City National Memorial staff reached out to family members of those killed at the school. Two months after the shooting, the Oklahoma City National Memorial & Museum also hosted a workshop for school administrators, counselors, law enforcement personnel, and others regarding school safety and security and the effect of violence and trauma on children. The response to the event was so great that a second workshop was scheduled the following day.⁸⁵ These examples of outreach are just some of the ways the Oklahoma City National Memorial remains ever relevant.

The bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Building had a direct impact on the passage of legislation meant to ease the public’s fears and curb acts of terrorism. Among these was Public Law 104-132, also known as the Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act (AEDPA) of 1996. It was introduced into the Senate as S. 735 (or Comprehensive Terrorism Prevention Act of 1995) on April 27, 1995, just eight days following the bombing of the Murrah Building, by Senator Bob Dole (R-KS). It quickly passed the Senate then passed the House on March 14, 1996 and was signed into law on April 24, 1996 by President Clinton. The act made major changes to habeas corpus law by limiting “the procedural and substantive scope of the writ of habeas corpus. Procedurally, it bans successive petitions by the same person, requiring defendants to put all of their claims into one appeal. Substantively, it narrows the grounds on which successful habeas claims can be made, allowing claims only to succeed when convictions were contrary to ‘clearly established federal law’ or an ‘unreasonable determination of the facts in light of the evidence.’” As a way to counter successive appeals, the law created a one-year statute of limitations for filing habeas corpus proceedings, beginning from the time that the state court’s consideration of the case ended. The law’s significance for the Oklahoma City bombing was the fact that death penalty appeals by either McVeigh or Nichols would be greatly limited, thus allowing for

⁸⁴ “Lessons Learned,” Oklahoma City National Memorial & Museum—Official Website

(<http://www.oklahomacitynationalmemorial.org/secondary.php?section=1&catid=217>) accessed April 6, 2014.

⁸⁵ Since 2001, the *Daily Oklahoman* has published numerous articles regarding the similarities and cooperative exchanges between groups in Oklahoma City and New York (as well as Shanksville, Pennsylvania and Washington, DC) dealing with the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001. For example see David Zizzo, “9/11 Victims Feel Emotion at Memorial,” October 5, 2002 and Bryan Painter, “9/11 Response was Genuine, OKC Museum Director Says,” September 11, 2011; “Responding to Schools in Crisis: Considerations Following the Sandy Hook Tragedy,” Oklahoma City National Memorial & Museum—Official Website,

(<http://www.oklahomacitynationalmemorial.org/secondary.php?module=news§ion=15&catid=191&id=1287>) accessed May 15, 2014.

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quicker executions.⁸⁶ Section 235 of the act required trial courts to provide closed-circuit televising of proceedings to allow victims to view criminal court proceedings when the venue of a case has been moved out of the state where the case was originally brought or if the changed venue was more than 350 miles from where the trial would have occurred. This was a direct response to the change of venue for the McVeigh and Nichols trials from Oklahoma City to Denver.⁸⁷ The act also had provisions dealing with mandatory restitutions as well as provisions aimed at foreign terrorists that included a ban on fundraising in the United States that supported terrorist organizations, allowed for the deportation of terrorists without having to divulge classified information, prevented terrorists from entering the United States, and increased control over biological and chemical weapons.⁸⁸

The following year, President Clinton signed Public Law 105-6, the Victim Allocation Clarification Act on March 19, 1997. The legislation was an outgrowth of the victims' rights movement and in direct response to a ruling given by Judge Richard Matsch, the federal judge assigned to the McVeigh and Nichols trials. On June 26, 1996, during a pretrial hearing, Judge Matsch informed survivors and family members that they would not be allowed to watch the trial proceedings if they planned to offer impact statements during the sentencing phase should the pair be found guilty. Judge Matsch thought that viewing the trial might influence their testimony. They had the option of attending the trial or testifying at sentencing, but not both. A lawyer represented a group of survivors and family members through appeals of the decision but the Tenth Circuit Court upheld Matsch's ruling. This led to the quick passage of the Victim Allocation Clarification Act which prohibited "a U.S. district court from ordering any victim of an offense excluded from a trial of a defendant accused of an offense because the victim may, during the sentencing hearing, make a statement or present any information as to the effect of the offense on the victim and the victim's family." The law applied to any cases pending at the time of the legislation, thus making it applicable to the Oklahoma City bombing as McVeigh's trial was set to start March 31, 1997.⁸⁹

A New Type of Memorial

It has been noted the Oklahoma City National Memorial was a new type of memorial. Kim A. O'Connell wrote in the September 2000 issue of *Landscape Architecture* "This monument is altogether different—the model perhaps, for a new age of memorialization, the remembrance of

⁸⁶ "Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act of 1996," Wikipedia (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Antiterrorism_and_Effective_Death_Penalty_Act_of_1996), accessed March 30, 2014; "Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act of 1996 Law & Legal Definition," USLegal.com (<http://definitions.us.com/a/antiterrorism-and-effective-death-penalty-act-of-1996/>), accessed May 24, 2014.

⁸⁷ "Legislation Signed on Victim Allocation," The Third Branch, April 1997 (http://www.uscourts.gov/news/TheThirdBranch/97-04-01/Legislation_Signed_on_Victim_Allocation.aspx), accessed March 30, 2014.

⁸⁸ Charles Doyle, "Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act of 1996: A Summary" (<http://www.fas.org/irp/crs/96-499.htm>), accessed May 24, 2014; William J. Clinton, "[Statements of] April 24," Administration of William J. Clinton, 1996, (Government Printing Office), 630 (<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/PPP-1996-book1/pdf/ppp-1996-book1-doc-pg628.pdf>) accessed May 24, 2014

⁸⁹ Linenthal, *The Unfinished Bombing*, 104; "Legislation Signed on Victim Allocation."

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senseless violence and terror. Because the event had no soldiers (the heroic rescuers not withstanding) and no generals, no monolithic, statued memorial would do.”⁹⁰

In his book, *Sacred Ground: America’s Landscapes of Violence and Tragedy*, geographer Kenneth E. Foote identified four treatments given to sites associated with violence: sanctification, designation, rectification, and obliteration. He explained:

Sanctification occurs when events are seen to hold some lasting positive message that people wish to remember—a lesson in heroism or perhaps a sacrifice for community. A memorial or monument is the result. Obliteration results from particularly shameful events people would prefer to forget—for example, a mass murder or gangster killing. As a consequence all evidence is destroyed or effaced. Designation and rectification fall between these extremes. Designation, or the marking of the site, simply denotes that something “important” has happened there. Rectification involves removing the signs of violence and tragedy and returning a site to use, implying no lasting positive or negative meaning.⁹¹

In the revised edition to the book published in 2003, Foote reflected on the recent cultural changes in which American communities deal with traumatic events. He observed “Over the past two or three decades there appears to be a greater willingness on the part of many communities and individuals to acknowledge the pervasive role that violence plays in contemporary society. Until quite recently, events of mass murder, terrorism, and day-to-day violence led almost exclusively to obliteration and rectification.” One community’s memorialization of a violent event likely encourages other communities to follow suit, no matter the horrendous nature of the event. The Oklahoma City National Memorial, particularly its scale and the speed at which it was constructed, represented this trend. Foote predicted that the Oklahoma City memorialization process would influence the discussion on New York City’s memorialization of the site associated with 9/11. As Foote noted: “Those involved in the planning process in Oklahoma City clearly articulated the need to look beyond the notion of a single physical monument toward a broadly defined ‘living’ memorial. Explicit in the planning were efforts to *anchor* memory in a specific site, *interpret* the meaning in nearby exhibitions, *preserve* evidence of the trauma in archival collections, and *disseminate* knowledge of the event through the work of a public educational institute.” For Oklahoma City, these efforts culminated in the creation of the Outdoor Symbolic Memorial, the Oklahoma City National Memorial Museum and its library and archives, and the Oklahoma City National Memorial Institute for the Prevention of Terrorism.⁹²

Significance of the Oklahoma City National Memorial under Criterion A: Social History

The bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building on April 19, 1995 and its aftermath have shaped many aspects of American life. The fact that it happened in the country’s “heartland” and

⁹⁰ Kim A. O’Connell, “The Gates of Memory,” *Landscape Architecture*, 90 (September 2000): 69.

⁹¹ Kenneth E. Foote, *Shadowed Ground: America’s Landscapes of Violence and Tragedy*, rev. ed. (Austin, Texas: University of Texas Press, 2003), 7-8.

⁹² Foote, *Shadowed Ground: America’s Landscapes of Violence and Tragedy*, 337-41.

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was an example of domestic terrorism changed people's perceptions of their own vulnerability to acts of terrorism. It shaped the way local, state, and federal governments provide protection for existing government buildings and design new buildings that can withstand similar attacks. Federal legislation was passed that limited death penalty appeals and provided more rights to victims of crime. "Lessons learned" from Oklahoma City's response to the bombing have benefitted other government agencies and communities as they prepare for similar disasters, or unfortunately in some cases, respond to their own tragic events. The memorialization process that unfolded after the bombing has been a model for the memorialization of other acts of violence. The Oklahoma City National Memorial has come to represent these manifestations. As such it is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places at the national level of significance under Criterion A in the area of Social History.

Period of Significance

The period of significance is from 1995, the year the bombing occurred, to 2001 when the Oklahoma City National Memorial Museum opened to the public.

Criteria Consideration F

Although a commemorative property, the symbolic value of the Oklahoma City National Memorial has invested it with its own exceptional significance.

Criteria Consideration G

On October 7, 1997, President Bill Clinton signed Public Law 105-58, also known as the Oklahoma City National Memorial Act. The law acknowledged the national and international significance of the bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building on April 19, 1995 and created the Oklahoma City National Memorial. The Memorial included the former site of the Murrah Building and the block to the north. The act also designated the Memorial as a unit of the National Park Service. As a unit of the NPS, it was automatically listed on the National Register of Historic Places the day President Clinton signed the act. As a property achieving national significance within the past 50 years, the Oklahoma City National Memorial meets Criteria Consideration G.

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Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
 - Other State agency
 - Federal agency Greater Southwest Region, U.S. General Services Administration, Fort Worth, TX
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other
- Name of repository: Oklahoma City National Memorial & Museum, Oklahoma City, OK

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property Approximately 7.75 acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

A. Latitude: 35.473203°N

Longitude: -97.517037°W

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Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.) The nominated property is the area defined by Northwest 6th Street, North Robinson Avenue, Northwest 4th Street, and North Harvey Avenue.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.) These are the boundaries historically associated with the nominated property.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Susan Allen Kline, consultant
organization: Oklahoma City National Memorial & Museum
street & number: 620 N. Harvey Ave.
city or town: Oklahoma City state: Oklahoma zip code: 73102
e-mail: sskline@sbcglobal.net
telephone: 817-921-0127
date: September 10, 2014

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

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Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

PHOTO LOG

Name of Property	Oklahoma City National Memorial
City	Oklahoma City
County	Oklahoma County
State	Oklahoma
Name of Photographer	Susan Allen Kline
Date of Photographs	January 1-2, 2014 except as noted
Location of Original Digital Files	Original with photographer; copies located at Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office, 800 Nazih Zuhdi Drive, Oklahoma City, OK 73105
Number of Photographs	31

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

Photo 1 of 31: Memorial Museum/Journal Record Building. View northwest.

Photo 2 of 31: Memorial Museum/Journal Record Building. View southwest.

Photo 3 of 31: Memorial Museum/Journal Record Building, entrance to Center for Education & Outreach. View southeast.

Photo 4 of 31: Entrance to Memorial Museum and Children's Area. View east.

Photo 5 of 31: Memorial Museum/Journal Record Building, south elevation near Survivor Tree. View north/northwest.

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Photo 6 of 31: 9:01 Gate. View southwest.

Photo 7 of 31: Stairs between walls of 9:01 Gate. View northeast.

Photo 8 of 31: 9:01 Gate and Survivors Wall. View southeast.

Photo 9 of 31: Reflecting Pool and 9:03 Gate. Date of Photograph: November 2011. View west.

Photo 10 of 31: Reflecting Pool, Field of Empty Chairs, and 9:01 Gate. View southeast.

Photo 11 of 31: Field of Empty Chairs and A.P. Murrah Building Plaza Overlook. View southeast.

Photo 12 of 31: View from A.P. Murrah Federal Building Plaza Overlook toward Field of Empty Chairs, Reflecting Pool, and 9:03 Gate. Date of Photograph: November 2011. View northwest.

Photo 13 of 31: Field of Empty Chairs and A.P. Murrah Building Plaza Overlook. View southwest.

Photo 14 of 31: Survivor Wall. View northeast.

Photo 15 of 31: Rescuer's Orchard and Survivor Tree. View west/northwest.

Photo 16 of 31: Rescuer's Orchard and Survivor Tree. View southeast.

Photo 17 of 31: Survivor Tree. View west.

Photo 18 of 31: View toward Children's Area. View southwest.

Photo 19 of 31: View toward Children's Area and Rescuer's Orchard from across Northwest 6th Street. View south.

Photo 20 of 31: The Fence and 9:03 Gate. View north.

Photo 21 of 31: Rescuer's Orchard (terraces), Reflecting Pool, Field of Empty Chairs, and 9:03 Gate. View southwest.

Photo 22 of 31: Ramps between the walls of the 9:03 Gate. View south.

Photo 23 of 31: Alfred P. Murrah Building Plaza and Parking Garage, southwest corner at North Harvey Avenue. View northeast.

Photo 24 of 31: Alfred P. Murrah Building Plaza and Parking Garage, east elevation. View north.

Photo 25 of 31: Alfred P. Murrah Building Plaza and Parking Garage, fountain. View northwest.

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Photo 26 of 31: Alfred P. Murrah Building Plaza and Parking Garage, back of fountain and tenant logos on granite pavers. Date of Photograph: November 2011. View south.

Photo 27 of 31: Alfred P. Murrah Building Plaza and Parking Garage, raised planter beds. Date of Photograph: November 2011. View east.

Photo 28 of 31: Alfred P. Murrah Building Plaza and Parking Garage, GSA-made benches and sculpture *Vigil*. Date of Photograph: November 2011. View southeast.

Photo 29 of 31: Alfred P. Murrah Building Plaza and Parking Garage, Day Care Playground. View east/northeast.

Photo 30 of 31: Alfred P. Murrah Building Plaza and Parking Garage; parking garage entrance near North Harvey Avenue. View northeast.

Photo 31 of 31: Bus Shelter near North Harvey Avenue. View northeast.

FIGURE LOG

1. Map 1: Oklahoma City National Memorial (historic district).
2. Map 2: Site key.
3. Map 3: Map accompanying Public Law 105-58.
4. Map 4: Site plan from Memorial design competition manual.
5. Figure 1: Artist's rendering of Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building.
6. Figure 2: Night view of Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building and Plaza.
7. Figure 3: Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building north elevation.
8. Figure 4: Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building after bombing on April 19, 1995.
9. Figure 5: View from 3rd Floor of Journal Record Building, c. June 1995.
10. Figure 6: View looking northwest toward Fence, Oklahoma Water Resources Board Building, Athenian Building, Journal record Building, and Survivor Tree.
11. Figure 7: Site work in vicinity of 9:01 Gate, looking southeast.
12. Figure 8: Site work around Survivor Tree and promontory, looking southwest.
13. Figure 9: Site work, Oklahoma City National Memorial, looking east.
14. Figure 10: Site work at Reflecting Pool, looking east.
15. Figure 11: Site work at Oklahoma City National Memorial, looking southwest.
16. Figure 12: Oklahoma City National Memorial, looking southwest.
17. Figure 13: West end of Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building Plaza, looking north.
18. Figure 14: Center section of of Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building Plaza, looking north.
19. Figure 15: East end of Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building Plaza, looking north.
20. Figure 16: Overlook being constructed on south side of the museum, looking west.
21. Figure 17: Overlook being constructed on south side of the museum, looking northwest.
22. Figure 18: Photo key.

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