

Making the Start Westward Monument

By Wesley Clarke

In a town that was the location for many significant events in the development of the Northwest Territory and state of Ohio, the later commemorations of this early history have themselves over time become important episodes in Marietta's historical narrative and role as a principal custodian of the region's early historic legacy. No place or object is more representative of this dual status as heritage site and caretaker of historic memory than the large sculptural installation in East Muskingum Park (Figure 1), known commonly as the "Start Westward Monument," but originally termed the "Memorial to the Start Westward of the United States" (Meyers N.D.; Smithsonian 2016). As the final report of the Northwest Territory Celebration Commission noted in 1938 with regard to the Start Westward monument:

In building the program for [the] Northwest Territory



Figure 1. Postcard photo showing details of the "new monument in city park."
(Author's collection.)

Celebration the desire was to not only serve the present generation, but to

create something of value to those yet to come; to do permanent works as well as those ephemeral activities necessary and common to such programs.

Dedicated by President Franklin D. Roosevelt on July 8, 1938, the monument was in many respects the climax of the elaborate sesquicentennial celebration of the founding of the Northwest Territory, a sequence of events that spanned the years 1937-38.

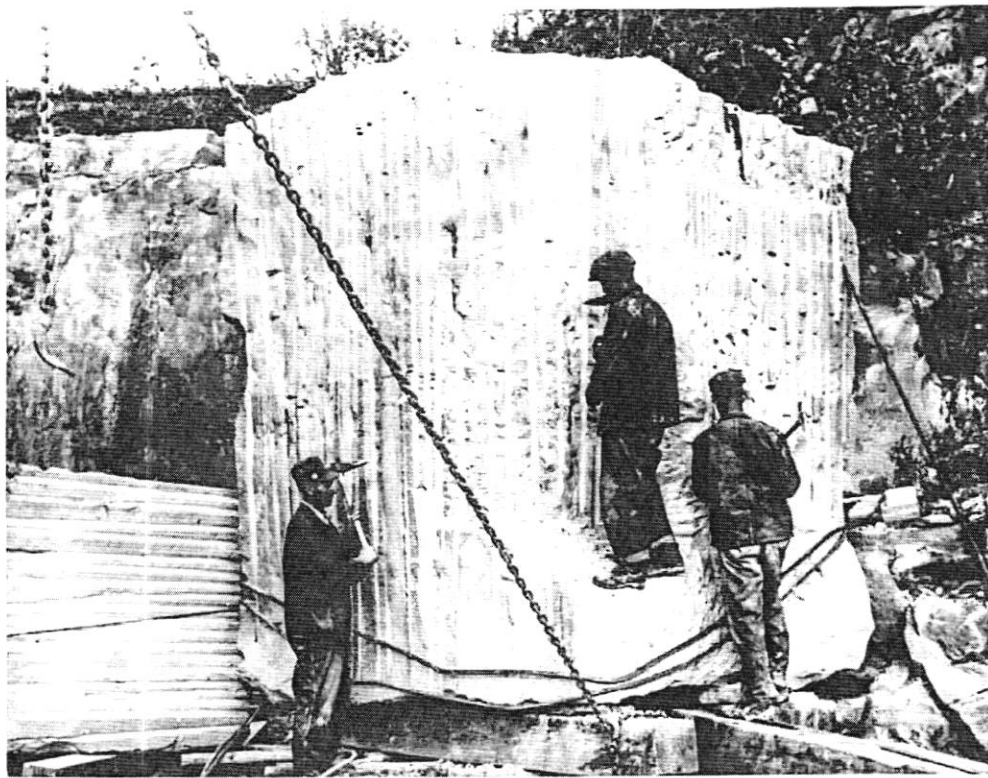


Figure 2. View of the massive 80-ton sandstone block quarried near Constitution, Ohio, for creation of the Start Westward monument, February 1938. (Washington County Historical Society.)

This celebration involved a longer period of organization-building, legislative and budgetary preparation, and general planning. In the years since 1938, the sesquicentennial events have received substantial attention in published and

unpublished accounts. Less attention, it would appear, has been paid to the technical process of creating and installing the Start Westward monument.

Recently, the mayor-appointed Start Westward Monument & East Muskingum Park Restoration Committee has been formed to address the deterioration of the monument as part of a larger plan to restore and upgrade the East Muskingum Park commons facilities, necessitating research on the

legal status and material composition of the monument. This official focus on the monument, as well as images and information located by the author and Linda Showalter of Marietta College's Special Collections, provides the impetus for the current article, which however does not purport to be a

comprehensive account of the Start Westward monument's creation.

The Marietta Daily Times (henceforth, *TMDT*) for November 18, 1936, included a front page announcement that a "celebration memorial" would be erected

on "the spot in Marietta on which civil government was instituted . . . a place hallowed in American history." The memorial layout was projected to be 100 feet long and 10 feet high, with artistic elements by "world-famed sculptor" Gutzon Borglum, even then working on his massive project at Mount Rushmore. The memorial was anticipated to be "an allegorical group of statuary including a number of action figures 7.5 to 10 feet in height" (*TMDT* November 18), including "men, women and children . . . and leaders . . . shown mapping the course . . . to all parts of the world" (*TMDT* December 8, 1936). Twenty thousand dollars was budgeted by the federal Northwest Territory Celebration Commission for this purpose, of which \$15,000 would be paid to Borglum as a "nominal figure" that would result in a monument valued at \$150,000.

Borglum would start work on the model for the monument during the coming winter at his studio in San Antonio, Texas (*TMDT* December 8, 1936). After completion, the sculptural model would be brought to Marietta in early 1937 for evaluation by the Northwest Territory commissioners, who could "suggest possible changes or additions" at that time. Given the differences between the subject content of the sculpture projected in 1936 and the content of the final work, it raises a question as to whether commission feedback caused changes in Borglum's design that may have

necessitated a re-working of the model. No definitive information on this possibility, however, has been encountered by the present research.

There is a persistent legend that Borglum considered the local sandstone to be an unsatisfactory material for the monument, predicting that deterioration would be inevitable. All known published indications, however, are that the artist was satisfied with the available stone. At the start, Borglum is reported to have pronounced the local sandstone "admirable for the purpose" and similar to the stone used for the Sphinx in Egypt (*TMDT* November 18, 1936). Nearby quarries, exploited by early

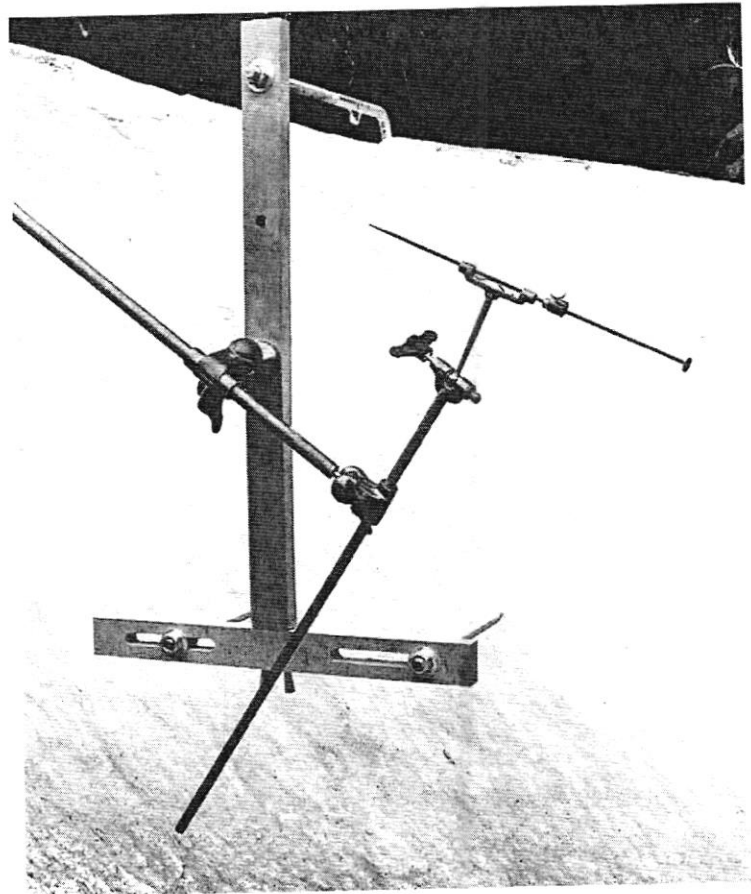


Figure 3. Example of a pointing apparatus attached to a stone block. (Wikimedia Commons contributor Satrughna. File: Pointing machine.jpg [Internet].)

settlers on commons ground skirting Harmar Hill north of Lancaster Street, were projected to be the likely source, with federal Works Progress Administration (WPA) employees providing the labor for the stone quarrying, cutting, and setting (*TMDT* November 18 and December 7, 1936). It appears that most or all of these laborers, about 50 in number, were hired by the WPA from local “practical stone men” with experience in the grindstone industry of Washington County (Northwest Territory Celebration Commission 1938; Bauer 1988).

On a one-day visit in early December of 1936, Borglum began searching the quarries west of Marietta for suitable

lithic material, accompanied by “men who are familiar with the stone deposits.” Ultimately, a quarry source was selected further west at a location close to Constitution, providing “a perfect ledge of sandstone with a blue cast that is regular in every way” (Bauer 1983).

During this brief December visit, Borglum also evaluated the engineering findings obtained from a group of “soundings” (core samples) made at the monument site under supervision of the city engineer (*TMDT* December 7, 1936; *Times Recorder* [Zanesville], December 8, 1936). Such documentation of the underlying natural stratigraphy was necessary to determine a foundation design adequate to support the large and heavy monument. On this trip, Borglum also met with State Architect John P. Schooley, who had responsibility for designing the base and approaches to the memorial (*TMDT* December 8, 1936). Marietta resident and former Ohio Governor George White, chairman of the Northwest Territory Celebration Commission, declared that Borglum was overseeing the project with “fervor”, and predicted that the final artistic creation would be outstanding (*TMDT* December 8).

The use of workers and materials paid for with federal and state money required that the Start Westward facility be national property. Such a transfer from local to federal ownership was complicated by the fact that the memorial location was on ground that had both “commons” (local public) and “Ministerial tract” (dedicated to the

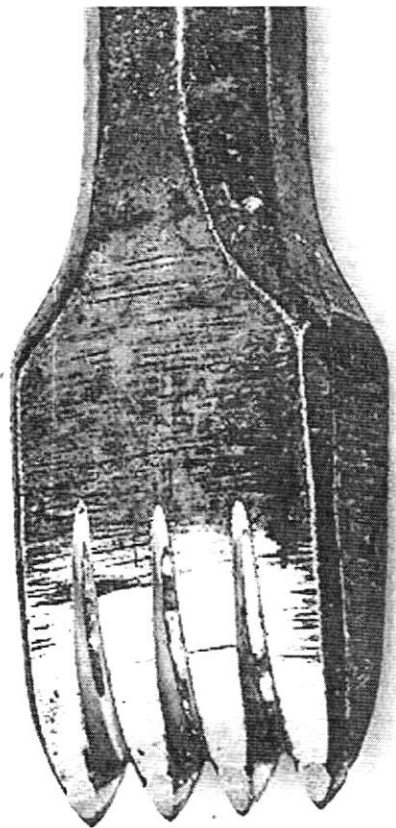


Figure 4. Example of a toothed chisel. (Wikimedia Commons contributor Satrughna. File: Tandijzer.jpg [Internet].)

support of religious institutions) status. In the late 1930s, the Ministerial land still technically permitted no private deeds, and a "governor's deed" was required for the transfer. It was thus necessary to obtain legislation by both Marietta City Council and the Ohio State General Assembly to convey the monument grounds to federal ownership (Northwest Territory Celebration Commission 1938; House of Representatives 1936, p. 839).

The sculpting of the Start Westward monument is readily attributed in all sources to Gutzon Borglum, who had been selected for the task after consultation with "the best known artists in America" (Northwest Territory Celebration Commission 1938). What is perhaps less well understood is the "workshop" process by which

the Marietta sculpture was formed, a common system of monumental production that involved the work of multiple artisans in addition to the hand of the artist designer. Indeed, a front page notice in the *Zanesville Signal* (June 1938) describes the process in this way: "Gutzon Borglum designed the



Figure 5. The Start Westward monument being completed in East Muskingum Park. At front left is Peter S. Rovegno, WPA project engineer; to the right, Emerson M. Hawes, executive director of the federal Northwest Territory Celebration Commission. (Washington County Historical Society.)

model for the monument and WPA artisans used pneumatic tools to carve the figures from a large block of stone." While this is an over-simplification of the sculptural process, it reflects the fact that most of the shaping on the Start Westward monument was not done by Borglum personally, just as the sculptural efforts at Mount Rushmore, still on-going to this day long after Borglum's death, have been carried out by many worker-artisans. Use of this process is reflected in the relatively infrequent and short visits to Marietta by master sculptor Borglum, who had multiple projects concurrently underway, and by his contract with the Northwest Territory Celebration Commission (1938) "to model the group and render supervisor's service."

By February of 1938 a single block of sandstone weighing 80 tons, said to be "the largest ever quarried in southern Ohio" (Northwest Territory Commission 1938), was extracted at the Constitution location 10 miles distant (Figure 2), and placed at a "quarry-studio" at Briggs Station for most of the preliminary shaping (Bauer 1983; Bauer 1988; *Times Recorder* 1938). This permitted a reduction of the sculptural block by more than two-thirds before transport to the East Muskingum Park site for final shaping. Based on Borglum's plaster model, the stone-workers used a "pointing" system to rough out the preliminary forms on the huge stone block (Reilley 1938; Borglum 1937). This "indirect" method of sculpting uses a combination of adjustable pointing needles and rods to fix and transfer

points from the model to the block (Figure 3), providing a means for skilled labor to complete most of the material reduction before the master sculptor creates the final forms and surface finishes. Indeed, this method allowed the stone-workers to shape the Start Westward forms to within 1.5 inches or less of the final surface (Borglum 1938).

In Borglum's absence, "Matty" (Matthew) Reilley supervised most of the stone work. As Borglum (1937) reported to the celebration committee:

In my place I am leaving Matty Reilley, who has been with me at Mount Rushmore. He is highly trained in the art of pointing and is fully trust worthy in the superintendence of the work I leave in his charge.

He went on to warn that nobody should attempt to manage Reilley and the other supervisors. "Give them tools, coal, and men," he said, "and the work will not slack a bit."

Reilley made a report to Borglum in early April of 1938 regarding progress at the quarry-studio. "The figures are looking very good," he noted, and certain features were "beginning to show up swell." Reilley also noted, however, that construction of the monument base in Muskingum Park was proceeding "very slow and poor," contradicting Borglum's prediction regarding the pace of work.

At this point several months before the unveiling, much of the sculptural surface was in a "tooth finish" (Reilley 1938). Such a finish occurs

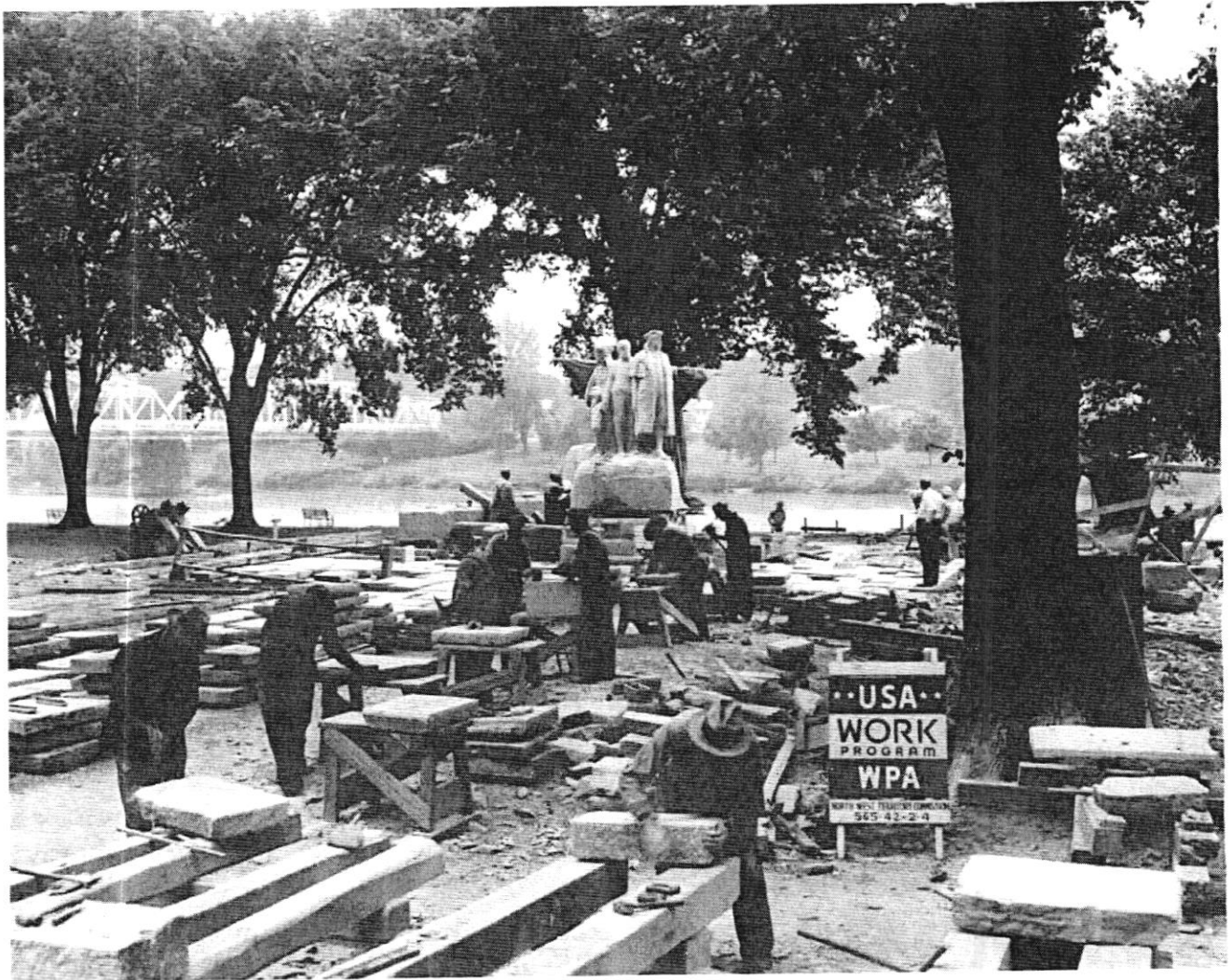


Figure 6. View of finishing work on the Start Westward monument, probably June 1938. (Washington County Historical Society.)

intermediate to the “roughing out” and “finishing” stages of shaping, and utilizes chisels with a “toothed” cutting edge (Figure 4) to remove the preliminary rough tool marks. Toothed chisels are also used to create final textured surfaces, some of which are apparent on the Start Westward monument.

A photograph included in the Celebration Commission’s final report (1938) shows the sculptural block being transported from the quarry-studio to Marietta. At that time the sculptural forms were quite distinct, but lacked

details and clearly required much additional reduction. The practical difficulties of moving the circa 25-ton sculptural work 10 miles from the field studio at Briggs Station to the east Muskingum River bank site were substantial. The Ohio State Highway Department donated equipment and personnel for the move, including a sixteen-wheel trailer pulled by a Mack truck (Northwest Territory Celebration Commission 1938; Bauer 1988).

Moving was delayed until well into summer, when temperatures had

“thoroughly dried the road [presumably dirt and gravel] and settled its foundations,” and in June 1938 delivery to the East Muskingum commons was undertaken. As Ted Bauer related in a bicentennial column (1988), “. . . there was no Fort Harmar Drive, Washington Street Bridge, or Skyline Drive. Ohio 7 was a two-lane highway that hugged the bank of the Ohio River.” The heavy load had to follow a circuitous route that avoided the railroad overpass at Mile Run, which was too low for the sculptural block to pass. Going instead via Stage’s Hill, Watertown Road, and Maple Street, with men walking in front of the slow-moving load to scout for holes and bumps, the memorial transit finally had to negotiate the Putnam Street steel truss bridge with only nine inches of overhead clearance (Bauer 1988). It is said that this was possibly the heaviest load that ever crossed that bridge.

The trailer and cargo were parked on jacks at East Muskingum Park, and the next day protective wooden planks were laid across the sidewalk and the sculptural block was moved to its final location on solid steel rollers (Bauer 1988). Here the next few weeks would be spent by the workmen, and finally Borglum himself, creating the finished work of art (Figure 5), during which time the monument weight was reduced several more tons (*Zanesville Signal* 1938). A news photo in the park (Figure 6), at best just weeks before the monument dedication by President Roosevelt, shows workmen “rushing completion” of the obviously substantial amount of work that remained. The

view in this scene indicates that most installation of the monument base and approaches had to wait until after the arrival of the central sculpture. After the sculpture’s delivery, the incomplete memorial is said to have been visited by up to 4,000 people per day (Northwest Territory Celebration Commission 1938).

A budget provided by Matty Reilley (1938) indicates that all basic tasks were paid at the rate of \$1.45 an hour (approximately \$26 in 2019 dollars), and projected that stonework expenditures for the monument facility would total over \$7,700 by mid-June of 1938. That would appear to be a cost overrun from the \$5,000 allotted by the celebration commission after paying Gutzon Borglum’s fee, but perhaps funds were raised from other sources.

President Roosevelt’s visit to Marietta on July 8 was scheduled to be less than two hours in duration, with the primary objective being the dedication of the Start Westward monument (*Zanesville Signal*, July 1938). Arriving by train that morning, his trip to the Start Westward memorial would take him past Campus Martius and the Ohio Company land office, led through town by costumed descendants of the pioneers and “surveyors using Rufus Putnam’s transit.” At East Muskingum Park, the President mounted a platform draped with the seals and flags of the states created out of the Northwest Territory, and faced the “Start Westward of the United States” monument that was not only Gutzon Borglum’s conception, but the product of many skilled laborers and artisans. □

Acknowledgement

The author wishes to thank Linda Showalter, of Marietta College Special Collections, for her indispensable help with the research for this article.

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The Marietta Daily Times [TMDT]:

November 18, 1936 – page 1.

December 7, 1936 – page 1.

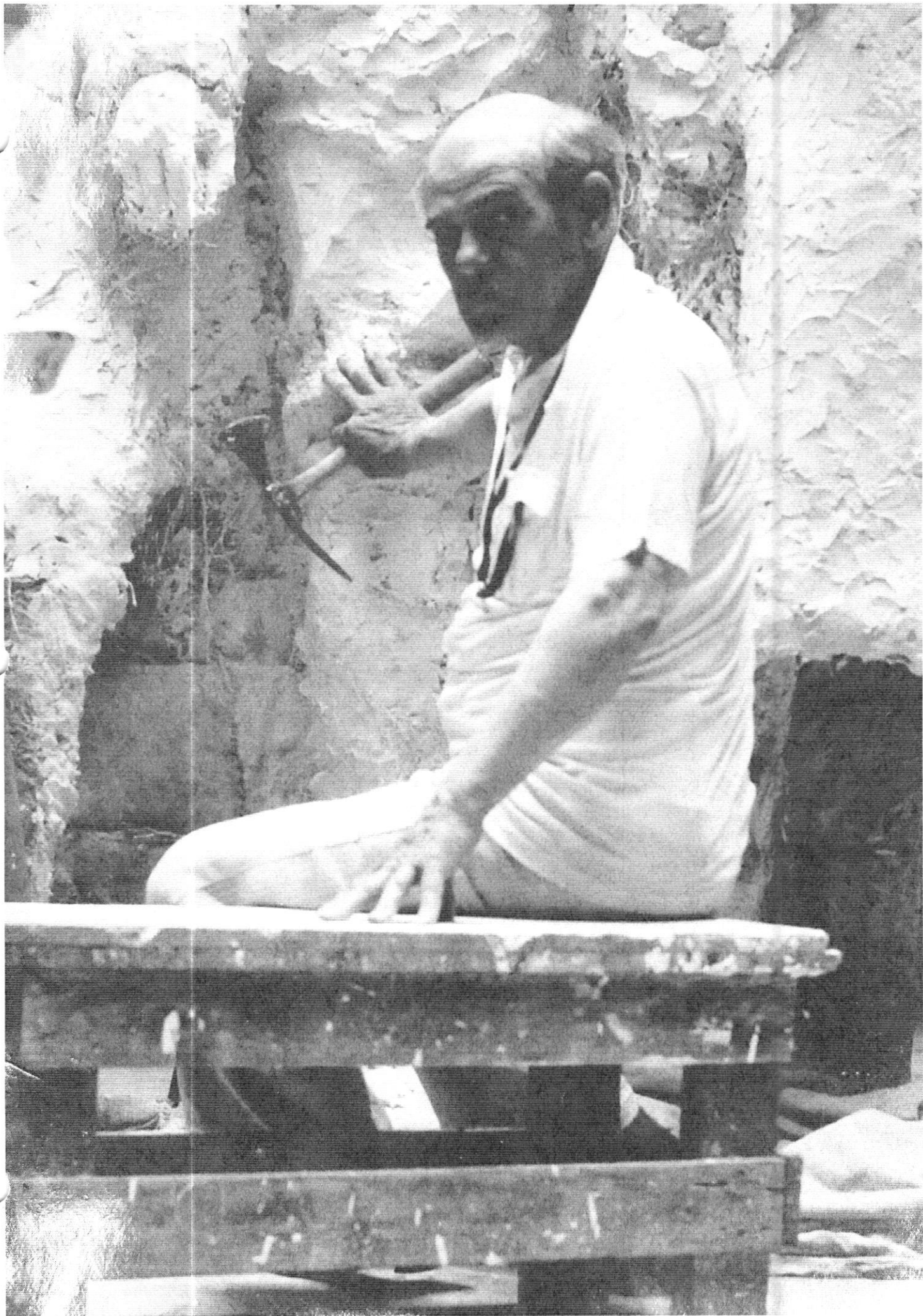
December 8, 1936 – pages 1 and 12.

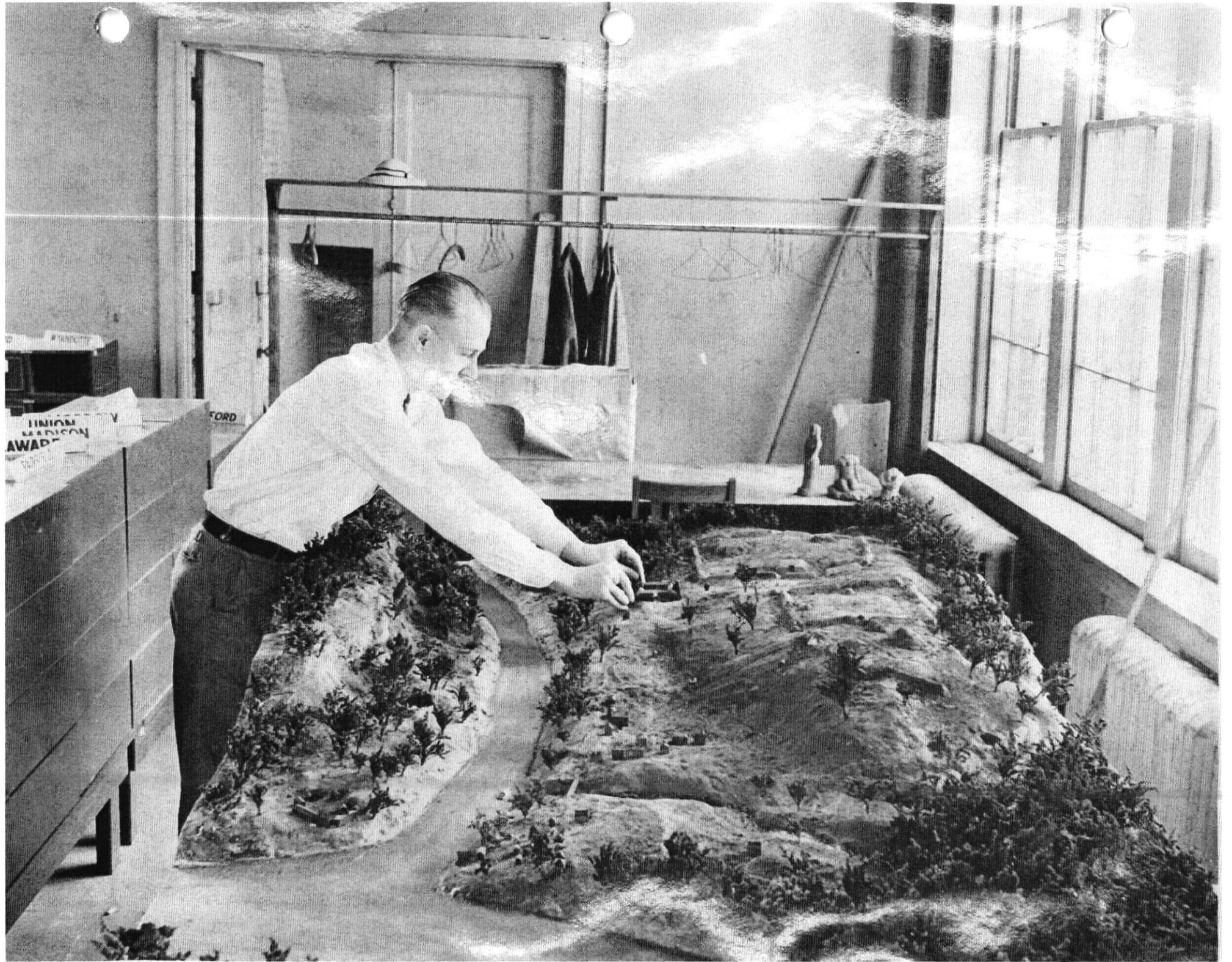
Times Recorder (Zanesville), December 8, 1936 – page 12.

Zanesville Signal

June 28, 1938 – page 1.

July 5, 1938 – page 1.





Date: Wed, 18 Dec 2002 18:48:45 -0500 (EST)
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YOUR NAME: Linda Showalter

E-MAIL ADDRESS: showaltl@marietta.edu

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301 Davis Avenue

-
Marietta, OH
45750
United States

PHONE: -
FAX: -

YOU ASKED A QUESTION:

QUESTION TOPIC:
Records created by Federal non-military agencies

QUESTION TEXT:
Are finding aids available for Federal Record Group 148, Records of Exposition, Anniversary, and Memorial Commissions? Specifically, I am interested in RG 148.4, Records of the Northwest Territory Celebration Commission 1935-39. Where are these textual records located?

orstatus@nara.gov

Asked status via email

8-26-03



National Archives and Records Administration

700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20408-0001

September 3, 2003

Linda Showalter
301 Davis Avenue
Marietta, OH 45750

Dear Ms. Showalter:

This is in reply to your e-mail of August 26, 2003, regarding your initial e-mail of December 18, 2002, for a copy of the preliminary checklist of the records of the Northwest Territory Celebration Commission, 1935-1939.

Enclosed is a copy of the checklist. It would appear that our office never received your initial request, even though you received an acknowledgement that the agency had indeed received the e-mail. I very much regret the inconvenience our inaction has caused you.

Sincerely,

Rodney A. Ross

RODNEY A. ROSS
Center for Legislative Archives

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December 18, 2002

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This list is arranged sequentially by record group number.

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NWCT2	Textual Archives Services Division—Archives II
NWCS-C	Cartographic and Architectural Records
NWCS-M	Motion Picture, Sound, and Video Records
NWCS-S	Still Picture Records
NWL	Center for Legislative Archives
NWC	Access Programs
NWME	Center for Electronic Records

Units of the Office of Regional Records Services

NRAB	National Archives and Records Administration - Northeast Region (Boston)
NRAN	National Archives and Records Administration - Northeast Region (New York City)
NRBPM	National Archives and Records Administration - Mid Atlantic Region (Center City Philadelphia)
NRCA	National Archives and Records Administration - Southeast Region
NRDC	National Archives and Records Administration - Great Lakes Region (Chicago)
NREK	National Archives and Records Administration - Central Plains Region (Kansas City)
NRFF	National Archives and Records Administration - Southwest Region
NRGD	National Archives and Records Administration - Rocky Mountain Region
NRHL	National Archives and Records Administration - Pacific Region (Laguna Niguel)

NRHS National Archives and Records Administration - Pacific Region (San Francisco)
NRIA National Archives and Records Administration - Pacific Alaska Region (Anchorage)
NRIS National Archives and Records Administration - Pacific Alaska Region (Seattle)
NR Office of Regional Records Services

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NLCP Clinton Presidential Materials Project
NLDDE Dwight D. Eisenhower Library
NLFDR Franklin D. Roosevelt Library
NLGB George Bush Presidential Library
NLGRF Gerald R. Ford Library
NLHH Herbert Hoover Library
NLHST Harry S. Truman Library
NLJC Jimmy Carter Library
NLJFK John F. Kennedy Library
NLLBJ Lyndon B. Johnson Library
NLNS Nixon Presidential Materials Staff
NLMS Presidential Materials Staff
NLRR Ronald Reagan Library

Affiliated Archives

USMA U.S. Military Academy, West Point
USNA U.S. Naval Academy, Annapolis

Other Abbreviations

RG record group
U.S. United States

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December 18, 2002

Records of Exposition, Anniversary, and Memorial Commissions


(Record Group 148)

1928-70

195 cu. ft.

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148.1 ADMINISTRATIVE HISTORY

Finding Aids: Photographic records only in National Archives microfiche edition of preliminary inventories.

Related Records: Records of other anniversary and memorial commissions in RG 79, Records of the National Park Service; RG 42, Records of the Office of Public Buildings and Public Parks of the National Capital; and RG 368, Records of the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

Records of U.S. participation in expositions and world's fairs held outside the United States in RG 43, Records of International Conferences, Commissions, and Expositions.

Records of commissions other than anniversary, exposition, or memorial in RG 220, Records of Temporary Committees, Commissions, and Boards.

RECORDS

RECORD TYPES	RECORD LOCATIONS	QUANTITIES
Textual Records	Washington Area	188 cu. ft.
Maps and Charts	College Park	72 items

Arch/engrg Plans	College Park	52 items
Sound Recordings	College Park	35 items
Still Pictures	College Park	2,192 images

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148.2 RECORDS OF THE GEORGE WASHINGTON BICENTENNIAL COMMISSION
1928-32
18 lin. ft.

History: Established by Joint Resolution 38 (43 Stat. 671), December 2, 1924. Terminated by December 31, 1934.

Textual Records: Records, consisting of correspondence, working papers, and other records created or collected by the commission; correspondence and comments on the validity and interpretation of the data relating to the life of George Washington; research material relating to the history of Washington, DC, and environs; and Commission and miscellaneous publications relating to Washington, 1928-32.

Microfilm Publication: T271.

Maps (50 items): Atlas relating to Washington's career, published by the commission, 1932. SEE ALSO 148.15.

Photographs (1,500 images): Collected or taken by the commission, 1931-32, of artworks portraying Washington and other leaders in the movement for American independence and of bicentennial pageantry at Mount Vernon (GW). SEE ALSO 148.17.

Finding Aids: Index (name/place/subject) to photographic series GW.

Related Records: Related photographs in RG 66, series G; and RG 111, series SC. Record copies of publications of the George Washington Bicentennial Commission in RG 287, Publications of the U.S. Government.

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148.3 RECORDS OF THE GEORGE ROGERS CLARK SESQUICENTENNIAL COMMISSION
1928-40
16 lin. ft.

History: Established by Joint Resolution 51 (45 Stat. 723), May 23, 1928. Placed under administration of Department of the Interior, effective August 10, 1933, by EO 6166, June 10, 1933. Terminated June 30, 1939.

Textual Records: Reports, proceedings, correspondence, contracts, and accounting papers, 1928-40.

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148.4 RECORDS OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORY CELEBRATION COMMISSION
1935-39
22 lin. ft.

History: Established by Joint Resolution 41 (49 Stat. 511), August 2, 1935. Exact termination date unknown.

Textual Records: Records, consisting of reports, correspondence, and miscellaneous records of the Executive Director; correspondence and other records of the publicity director; correspondence, payrolls, vouchers, ledgers, and other records relating to disbursement of funds, 1935-39.

Related Records: Record copies of publications of the Northwest Territory Celebration Commission in RG 287, Publications of the U.S. Government.

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148.5 RECORDS OF THE GOETHALS MEMORIAL COMMISSION
1935-55
2 lin. ft.

History: Established by act of August 4, 1935 (49 Stat. 743). Placed under the War Department, effective July 1, 1939, by EO 8191, July 5, 1939.

Textual Records: Minutes, 1937-38. Correspondence of the secretary, 1935-39, 1947-55. Reports of architect P.P. Cret, relating to a memorial in the Canal Zone to George W. Goethals for his work in the construction of the Panama Canal, 1937.

Architectural and Engineering Plans (52 items): Prepared by architect P.P. Cret to accompany his reports, 1937. SEE ALSO 148.15.

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148.6 RECORDS OF THE U.S. CONSTITUTION SESQUICENTENNIAL COMMISSION
1937-40
9 lin. ft.

History: Established by Joint Resolution 59 (49 Stat. 735), August 23, 1935. Terminated by December 31, 1939.

Textual Records: Correspondence of the portrait committee; galley proofs of the commission's final report, History of the Formation of the Union under the Constitution, by Representative Sol Bloom, Commission Chairman; and draft speeches and memorandums, 1937-40.

Maps (22 items): Set of facsimiles of maps of the United States and the thirteen original colonies dating from the time of the ratification of the Constitution, 1937-40. SEE ALSO 148.15.

Photographic Prints and Negatives (630 images): Collected or taken by the commission, of artworks of the signers and the signing of the Declaration of Independence (CD, 115 images); artworks of signers and signing of the Constitution and the deputies to the Constitutional Convention and their families, and of memorabilia relating to the Constitution (CP, 228 images); portraits of signatory and nonsignatory delegates to the Constitutional Convention (CC, 85 images); and famous Revolutionary-era buildings and artworks of individuals of the Revolutionary and Confederation periods (CCD, 202 images), 1937-39. SEE ALSO 148.17.

Finding Aids: Index (name/place/subject) for photographic series CCD; name lists for photographic series CC and CD.

Related Records: Related photographs in RG 30, series N; and RG 66, series G. Record copies of publications of the U.S. Constitution Sesquicentennial Commission in RG 287, Publications of the U.S. Government.

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148.7 RECORDS OF THE U.S. NEW YORK WORLD'S FAIR COMMISSION
1937-41
38 lin. ft.

History: Established by Joint Resolution 53 (50 Stat. 493), July 9, 1937. Terminated August 31, 1941.

Textual Records: Correspondence, minutes, accounting records, agreements, publicity files, and other records, 1937-41.

▲ TOP OF PAGE

**148.8 RECORDS OF THE U.S. GOLDEN GATE INTERNATIONAL EXPOSITION
COMMISSION 1937-41
29 lin. ft.**

History: Established by Joint Resolution 52 (50 Stat. 488), July 9, 1937. Terminated March 29, 1941.

Textual Records: Correspondence, contracts, reference material, and fiscal and personnel records, 1937-41.

▲ TOP OF PAGE

**148.9 RECORDS OF THE THOMAS JEFFERSON BICENTENNIAL COMMISSION
1940-44
4 lin. ft.**

History: Established by Joint Resolution 100 (54 Stat. 960), September 24, 1940. Terminated, 1944. Records transferred to the National Archives, April 11, 1944.

Textual Records: Reports, correspondence, and financial records, 1940-44.

▲ TOP OF PAGE

**148.10 RECORDS OF THE NATIONAL CAPITAL SESQUICENTENNIAL
COMMISSION
1947-52
52 lin. ft.**

History: Established by Joint Resolution 129 (61 Stat. 396), July 18, 1947. Terminated by December 31, 1952.

Textual Records: Reports, correspondence, and working papers, 1947-52.

▲ TOP OF PAGE

**148.11 RECORDS OF THE ALEXANDER HAMILTON BICENTENNIAL COMMISSION
1954-58
14 lin. ft.**

History: Established by Joint Resolution 140 (68 Stat. 746), August 20, 1954. Terminated April 30, 1958.

Textual Records: Correspondence, historical data files, publications, and fiscal records, 1954-58.

▲ TOP OF PAGE

**148.12 RECORDS OF THE LINCOLN SESQUICENTENNIAL COMMISSION
1957-60
16 lin. ft.**

History: Established by Joint Resolution 351 (71 Stat. 587), September 2, 1957. Terminated May 1, 1960.

Textual Records: Minutes, correspondence, press releases, charts, and fiscal records, 1957-60.

Sound Recordings (10 items): Master audio tapes made by various persons and organizations, representing different aspects of the celebration, 1959. SEE ALSO 148.16.

Related Records: Record copies of publications of the Lincoln Sesquicentennial Commission in RG 287, Publications of the U.S. Government.

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**148.13 RECORDS OF THE GOLDEN SPIKE CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION
COMMISSION
1967-70
1 lin. ft.**

History: Established by Joint Resolution 510 (81 Stat. 172), August 21, 1967. Submitted official report, August 4, 1970.

Textual Records: Commission's report, historical publications, and printed souvenirs, 1967-70.

 TOP OF PAGE

**148.14 RECORDS OF THE PRESIDENT'S COMMISSION FOR THE OBSERVANCE
OF HUMAN RIGHTS YEAR 1968
1968-69
1 lin. ft.**

History: Established by EO 11394, January 30, 1968, following resolutions by the United Nations General Assembly declaring 1968 as the International Year for Human Rights. Submitted final report and was terminated, January 30, 1969.

Textual Records: Minutes, correspondence, reports, and other records of conferences to promote the observance of the 20th anniversary of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1968-69.

Sound recordings (25 items): Conferences and radio broadcasts, 1968-69. SEE ALSO 148.16.

Photographs (62 items): Conferences, 1968-69. SEE ALSO 148.17.

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148.15 CARTOGRAPHIC RECORDS (GENERAL)

SEE Maps UNDER 148.2 and 148.6. SEE Architectural and Engineering Plans UNDER 148.5.

 TOP OF PAGE

148.16 SOUND RECORDINGS (GENERAL)

SEE UNDER 148.12 and 148.14.

 TOP OF PAGE

148.17 STILL PICTURES (GENERAL)

SEE Photographs UNDER 148.2 and 148.14. SEE Photographic Prints and Negatives UNDER 148.6.

Bibliographic note: Web version based on *Guide to Federal Records in the National Archives of the United States*. Compiled by Robert B. Matchette et al. Washington, DC: National Archives and Records Administration, 1995. 3 volumes, 2428 pages.

[Ordering information](#)

This Web version is updated from time to time to include records processed since 1995.

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Page URL: http://www.archives.gov/research_room/federal_records_guide/exposition_anniversary_and_memorial_rg148.html

U.S. National Archives & Records Administration
700 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20408 • 1-86-NARA-NARA • 1-866-272-6272

7E4/17/11/11

PC 46-40 (646-37)

The National Archives

April 1946

RECORD GROUP NO. 148: RECORDS OF EXPOSITION, ANNIVERSARY, AND MEMORIAL
COMMISSIONS OF CONGRESS

PRELIMINARY CHECKLIST

OF THE

RECORDS OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORY CELEBRATION COMMISSION

1935-1939

Compiled by

Thayer M. Boardman
Division of Legislative Archives

INTRODUCTION

The Northwest Territory Celebration Commission was created by House Joint Resolution 208 (Pub. Res. No. 41), 74th Congress, first session, agreed to on August 2, 1935, which provided that:

There is hereby established a commission to be known as the "Northwest Territory Celebration Commission" (hereinafter referred to as the "Commission") and to be composed of fourteen commissioners as follows: The President of the United States; two members of the Senate, one from each of the two major parties, to be appointed by the President of the Senate; two members of the House of Representatives, one from each of the two major parties, to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives; the Regent of the State chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution of each of the six States formed from the Northwest Territory, namely, Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, Illinois, Wisconsin, and Minnesota; and three individuals from private life, to be appointed by the President of the United States. The Commissioners shall serve without compensation and shall select a chairman from among their number.

The resolution also provided that:

It shall be the duty of the Commission to prepare and carry out a comprehensive plan for the observance and celebration of the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the adoption of the Ordinance of 1787 and the settlement of the Northwest Territory. In the preparation of such plan, the Commission shall cooperate, insofar as is possible, with the several States and particularly with the States of Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, Illinois, Wisconsin, and Minnesota, and shall take such steps as may be necessary in the coordination and correlation of plans prepared by State Commissioners, by agencies appointed by the Governors of the several States, and by representative civic organizations.

The resolution further provided that the Commission should cease to exist within six months after the date of the expiration of the celebration. The sum of \$100,000 was authorized to be appropriated to carry out the purposes of the joint resolution.

The Commission consisted of the following members: The President of the United States; George White, of Ohio, Chairman; Robert T. Secrest, Representative from Ohio, Treasurer; Rev. Joseph E. Hanz, of Wisconsin, Secretary; Arthur H. Vandenberg, Senator from Michigan; Frederick Van Nuys, Senator from Indiana; Thomas A. Jenkins, Representative from Ohio; Paul V. McNutt, of Indiana; Mrs. John F. Heaume, of Ohio; Mrs. George Baxter Averill, Jr., of Wisconsin; Mrs. George D. Schermerhorn, of Michigan; Mrs.

Carl Thayer, of Minnesota; Mrs. Samuel James Campbell, of Illinois; and Miss Bonnie Farwell, of Indiana.

The records of the Commission were received in the National Archives as Accession 796 and amount to 14 cubic feet.

CHECKLIST

THE CARAVAN," CORRESPONDENCE AND MEMORANDA. 1937-39. 3 ft. 1
Correspondence, enclosures, pamphlets, news releases, and other in-
formational material and memoranda pertaining to the journey of the
pioneer caravan that followed the trail of the original pioneers to the
Old Northwest Territory. Included are materials relating to supplies
and equipment needed for the journey; itineraries; special features, such as
personnel for the trek; clothing and costumes; the securing of per-
sonnel in the communities visited, and radio and newspaper publicity;
and financial matters, including contracts, costs and expenditures, pay-
roll matters, and general business transactions relating to the caravan
feature of the celebration. Unarranged.

NEW YORK SHOW, CORRESPONDENCE AND MEMORANDA. 1937. 3 in. 2
Letters, pamphlets, invitations and replies thereto, general public-
ity materials, newspaper releases, and the like pertaining to the North-
west Territory Celebration and pageant in New York City on July 13, 1937.
Unarranged.

MARIETTA CELEBRATION. 1938. 5 in. 3
Letters, special pamphlets, other printed materials, and invitations
and replies thereto pertaining to the Northwest Territory Celebration at
Marietta, Ohio, July 8-15, 1938, including correspondence concerning
special features and events of the program and news releases and radio
broadcast items. Unarranged.

CARTOGRAPHIC RECORDS. 1936-39. 5 in. 4
Correspondence and informational material relative to the furnishing
of maps for distribution by the Commission; drawings, specifications,
bids, price quotations, and copy for maps; and requests for and acknowl-
edgment of receipt of maps issued by the Commission. Unarranged.

MEMORIALS, CORRESPONDENCE AND MEMORANDA. 1936-39. 7½ in. 5
Letters, illustrations, price quotations, and related materials per-
tinent to the building of various memorials in the six States of the Old
Northwest Territory, with particular regard to a national memorial at
Marietta, Ohio, commemorating the settlement and establishment of a gov-
ernment in the Old Northwest Territory; correspondence relative to
designs for bronze and other type memorial tablets for the States in the
Northwest Territory; and memoranda pertaining to the participation of
WPA and the Federal Art Project in the erection of memorials. Unarranged.

CONTESTS, SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES. 1936-39. 1 ft. 8 in. 6
Letters and informational items relating to the several contests
sponsored by the Commission for students in the six States of the Old
Northwest Territory, ranging from elementary through college level, in-
cluding essay contests, illustration and art contests, and school annual
competitions, on the general theme of the Ordinance of 1787 and the en-
suing settlement of the Old Northwest Territory. The materials include
copies of essays submitted by contestants; drawings and illustrations;

inquiries from students, parents, and school officials on various phases of the contest project, such as correspondence in regard to the trip to Washington, D. C., for certain winning contestants; letters concerning the award of college scholarships to high school contest winners; and other similar correspondence. Unarranged.

CONTEST, ADULT SCHOLARS. 1936-39. 2 in. 7

Announcements, correspondence, and other memoranda pertaining to the Adult Scholars Contest, sponsored by the Commission, for the best historical treatise or new standard work on the Old Northwest Territory period and the Ordinance of 1787. Unarranged.

HISTORY TEXTBOOK PROJECT. 1936-39. 7 in. 8

Letters and memoranda relative to the writing, publication, shipment, and distribution of a supplemental textbook on the Ordinance of 1787 and the Old Northwest Territory; and requests for and acknowledgments of receipt of the textbook. Unarranged.

HISTORICAL NOVEL PROJECT. 1936-38. 3 in. 9

Letters, news releases, personal correspondence of the author, and other informational material in regard to the writing and distribution of a historical novel covering the settlement of the Old Northwest Territory; and lists of several other subsequent nonfiction books dealing with this period. Unarranged.

BIBLIOGRAPHY. 1937-38. 1½ in. 10

Copies of two bibliographies prepared by Commission personnel covering most of the available material pertinent to the history of the Northwest Territory, including authors, book titles, and dates of publication; correspondence concerning the preparation of the bibliography; and supplemental lists of other works on the Northwest Territory. Unarranged.

SPECIAL PUBLICITY PROJECTS. 1936-38. 7 in. 11

Correspondence, illustrations, and questionnaires and replies thereto regarding various special publicity projects for the celebration, such as special automobile license plates for 1938 in the States of the original Northwest Territory, a special commemorative postage stamp issue, China sets and dishware advertising the celebration, special paper doilies, commemorative coins, special calendars, school posters, and special window displays advertising the celebration; and other miscellaneous publicity items promoted by the Commission. Unarranged.

PARTICIPATION OF RADIO IN THE CELEBRATION. 1936-38. 1 ft. 3 in. 12

Mimeographed series of radio scripts prepared by Commission script writers for broadcasting purposes; and correspondence with radio stations regarding broadcasts, costs, time on the air, and other such matters. Unarranged.

PARTICIPATION OF NEWSPAPERS, MAGAZINES, AND LIBRARIES. 1937-38.
10 in. 13

Copies of releases by the Commission for newspaper publication; correspondence with editors of newspapers and magazines mostly relative to

the publication of articles dealing with the celebration; lists of newspapers with the amount of space given by each to the celebration; correspondence with libraries and similar institutions concerning requests for and the distribution of informational materials on the Northwest Territory; and library information booklets, lists of libraries, and information blanks issued by the Commission for library participation in the celebration. Unarranged.

PARTICIPATION OF MOTION PICTURE COMPANIES. 1936-38. 1 in. 14

Correspondence with certain motion-picture studios in regard to the possible production of a feature film dealing with historical and publicity aspects of the Northwest Territory Celebration; and correspondence with news reel companies relative to news reel coverage of special features of the program. Unarranged.

PARTICIPATION OF CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS. 1936-38. 7 in. 15

Correspondence, requests for information, and other materials pertaining to the participation in the celebration of clubs, organizations, and societies, including churches, Boy Scout and Girl Scout organizations, service clubs, women's clubs, historical societies, civic organizations, and others. Unarranged.

PARTICIPATION OF STATE COMMISSIONERS. 1936-38. 11 in. 16

Memoranda and correspondence, mostly with the Commissions of the six States mainly involved in the celebration, including materials relating to numerous features and projects of the program, particularly the itinerary of the caravan and community festivities in conjunction with caravan visits. Arranged alphabetically by name of State, thereunder unarranged.

COMMISSION MEETINGS, MINUTES AND REPORTS. 1936-38. 3 in. 17

Copies of minutes of the meetings of the Northwest Territory Celebration Commission, including an index and recommendations for various projects and features of the celebration program; also copies of the final report of the Commission, outlining in some detail the undertakings and accomplishments of the Commission program, including expenditure figures and financial reports. Unarranged.

FINANCIAL RECORDS. 1936-39. 6 ft. 18

Business and financial correspondence with various and sundry private firms, corporations, and Governmental agencies, including the General Accounting Office and the Bureau of the Budget; and numerous other materials, such as schedules of disbursements, public vouchers for purchases, journal vouchers, pay roll for personal service forms, bills of lading, purchase orders, lists of miscellaneous back orders, financial reports and statements, schedules of balances, bids, short form contracts, distribution ledgers, freight bills, and summary of collection forms. Unarranged.

CORRESPONDENCE WITH MISCELLANEOUS INDIVIDUALS. 1936-39. 9 in. 19

Individual folders containing correspondence and memoranda of miscellaneous persons, including Members of Congress, relative to various phases of the celebration. Unarranged.

MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE AND MEMORANDA. 1936-39. 1 ft. 4 in. 20

Miscellaneous and mostly unrelated materials and correspondence, including that with Federal Writers Project personnel, concerning different features of the celebration. Included are such items as illustrations, copies of state historical journals and magazines, pamphlets, book catalogs, maps, and visitors' registers. Unarranged.



COPY

Manufactured in the United States of America

and safety of the inhabitants of the state of Ohio. The necessity therefore lies in the fact that, because of the anticipated delay in the collection of taxes authorized for deposit in the state public school fund insufficient funds will be available for paying teachers and other employees of the public schools in such districts during the first half of the year 1937; and, that, if funds are not immediately provided, many of such schools will be compelled to close, thus depriving the youth of our state of the education guaranteed to them by our constitution and laws enacted thereunder.

J. FREER BITTINGER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

HAROLD G. MOSIER,
President of the Senate.

Passed December 22, 1936.

Approved December 30, 1936.

MARTIN L. DAVEY,
Governor.

This act is not of a general and permanent nature, and requires no sectional number.

JOHN W. BRICKER,
Attorney General.

Filed in the office of the Secretary of State at Columbus, Ohio, on the 4th day of January A. D. 1937.

WILLIAM J. KENNEDY,
Secretary of State.

File No. 116.

(House Bill No. 704)

AN ACT

To authorize the conveyance to the United States of America of certain lands in Washington county, Ohio, as a site for the erection of a memorial to the first settlement in Ohio—the first step westward of the United States.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Ohio:

Governor authorized to convey certain land in Washington county to the United States; purpose; description.

SECTION 1. That the governor of the state of Ohio is hereby authorized and empowered on behalf of the state of Ohio to convey to the

United States of America as a site for the construction under the auspices of the Northwest Territory Celebration Commission of a memorial to the first step westward of the United States, the following described tract and parcel of land, to-wit:

Being Section 29 T2 R8—Marietta City, 25 feet square in Muskingum Park, East bank, 1020 feet southerly of the northerly line of the Park, and 83 feet westerly and parallel to the westerly street line of Front Street and the bearing on the westerly line of Front Street is N 40° 30' W.

Jurisdiction.

SECTION 2. The jurisdiction of the land so conveyed, together with the appurtenances thereunto belonging is hereby ceded to the United States of America.

Tax exemption.

SECTION 3. The land above described with the appurtenances that may be erected thereon, shall hereafter be exempted from all state, county, municipal and other local taxation and assessments of what ever kind, so long as the same shall remain the property of the United States of America.

J. FREER BITTINGER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

HAROLD G. MOSIER,
President of the Senate.

Passed December 22, 1936.

Approved December 30, 1936:

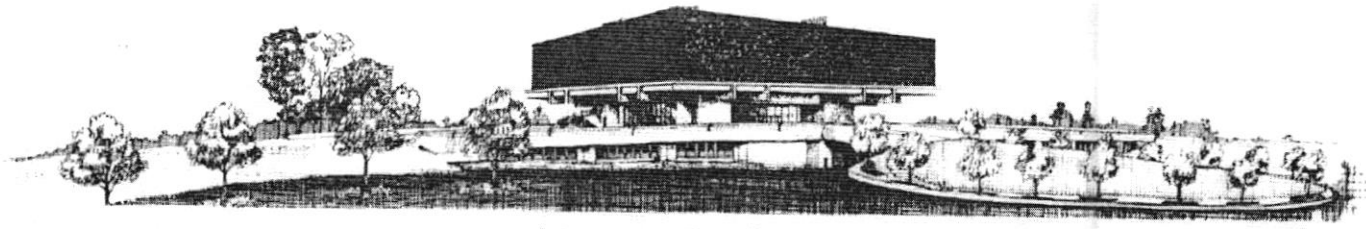
MARTIN L. DAVEY,
Governor.

This act is not of a general and permanent nature, and requires no sectional number.

JOHN W. BRICKER,
Attorney General.

Filed in the office of the Secretary of State at Columbus, Ohio, on the 4th day of January A. D. 1937.

WILLIAM J. KENNEDY,
Secretary of State.



Interstate 71 and 17th Avenue

the ohio historical society / ohio historical center / columbus, ohio 43211 / telephone (614) 469-4663

June 25, 1973

MEMO TO: Mrs. Catherine Remley, Campus Martius
FROM : Mr. Charles C. Pratt, Assistant Director
SUBJECT: Start Westward Monument

We have checked our files and have come up with no more information than what you sent from your files on the Start Westward Monument. I assume that some place in our files there are still the actual materials designating the transfer and the limits of the ground area transfer. However, in accordance with the note which you had sent me dated January 11, 1962, if the area in which the Federal Government was involved was only 25' x 25', then that is all that could have been transferred over to us for maintenance. The rest would have to belong to the city and at this point, I can make no other assumption than that our responsibility is limited to the 25' square section on which the Monument rests.

CCP:ds
Encl.

The Ohio Historical Society

INTER-DEPARTMENT COMMUNICATION

TO Charles Pratt Date January 11, 1962

From Catherine Remley

Subject _____

Mr. Harry Petit, Recorder of Washington County, at the Court House here, can find no conveyance of land for the monument.

However, in the Laws of Ohio, No. 116, Part II, 1935-1936, Page 358, House bill No. 704 is an act to authorize the Governor to convey to the U. S. Government, a tract of land in Washington County, Sec. 29, Township 2, Range 8, Marietta, 25 feet by 25 feet, for the monument. It was dated December 22, 1936, and passed December 30, 1936 by Gov. Davey (approved).

Mr. Petit thinks that Mr. Charles Martin in Mr. Rhodes office would know if and when a deed had been made, but they have no record here, since this was on original tax free land.

Mrs. Reiter thinks that at the time Mr. Zepp did the landscaping that legal action had been taken, but that it was several years after the celebration. Mr. Fred Kuntz, who served on the Celebration Committee, is checking with Mr. Ed Hawes, who was in charge.

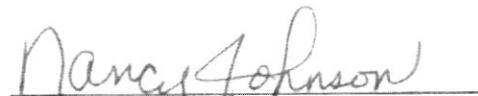
Marietta City Council

308 Putnam St. • Marietta, Ohio 45750

740-374-5501

December 15, 2017

I, Nancy Johnson, Clerk of the Council of the City of Marietta, Ohio, certify that this is an exact copy of Ordinance No 89 adopted at the regular meeting of the said Council on January 11, 1937.


Clerk of Council

Recorded in Council Minutes Book #10, page 96, January 11, 1937.

Recorded in Council Ordinance Book #10, page 27, January 11, 1937.

AN ORDINANCE

No. 89

Relating to the City of Portland, Oregon, and providing for the establishment of a Public Market in the City of Portland, Oregon, and for the establishment of a Public Market in the City of Portland, Oregon, and for the establishment of a Public Market in the City of Portland, Oregon.

First Reading 1 - 11 - 37

Second Reading " " "

Third Reading " " "

Passed " " "

Published

Page 96 Minute Book

RAY M. BEAGLE, President of Council
L. N. HARNISS, Clerk of Council
ERNEST E. ERB, City Solicitor

ORDINANCE NO. 89

An Ordinance granting to the United States of America, the right and authority to erect, under the auspices of the Northwest Territory Celebration Commission, and to maintain a Memorial and Pylons commemorating the settlement in Marietta and the establishment of a permanent government in the Northwest Territory.

WHEREAS, the Northwest Territory Celebration Commission, under authority granted to it by the United States of America, contemplates the erection in Muskingum Park, Marietta, Ohio, of a Memorial suitably commemorating the settlement of Marietta and the establishment of a Permanent Government in the Northwest Territory; and

WHEREAS, said Memorial is to be supplemented by the erection of four Pylons on Front Street in the City of Marietta, Ohio, between Putnam Street and Webster Street, at such locations outside of the paved streets and sidewalks as the architect and the Sculptor employed by said Commission shall determine; and,

WHEREAS, it is requested that the City of Marietta grant the necessary permission and authority for the erection of said Memorial and Pylons;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the City of Marietta, and State of Ohio:

Sec. 1. That there be, and hereby is, granted to the United States of America, the right and authority to erect and maintain in Muskingum Park, in the City of Marietta, Ohio, a Memorial of such construction and design as shall be determined by said Commission, suitably commemorating the settlement of Marietta and the establishment of a permanent government in the Northwest Territory; said Memorial to be erected on the following described real estate, to-wit:

MUSKINGUM

Site in the City of Marietta, Washington County, Ohio, beginning at a point in Muskingum Park on the easterly bank of the ~~Ohio~~ River one thousand and twenty (1020) feet easterly of the northerly line of said park, and eighty-three (83) feet westerly and parallel to the westerly line of Front Street, which line bears north 30 degrees 30' west; thence in a westerly direction at right angles to Front Street a distance of twenty-five (25) feet; thence in a southerly direction parallel with the westerly line of Front Street a distance of twenty-five (25) feet; thence in an easterly direction at right angles to Front Street a distance of twenty-five (25) feet; thence northerly parallel with the westerly line of Front Street a distance of twenty-five (25) feet to the line of beginning.

Sec. 2. That there be, and hereby is, granted to said United States of America, the right and authority, under the auspices of said Northwest Territory Celebration Commission, to erect and maintain four Pylons, each being approximately three and one-half feet square at the base and fourteen feet in height; said Pylons to be erected on Front Street and outside of the improved sidewalk sidewalks at such locations as shall be determined by the architect and the sculptor employed by said Commission.

Sec. 3. That the Mayor and Director of Service of the City of Marietta, Ohio, and the Mayor of Marietta, Ohio, be and they are directed to execute and deliver to said United States of America the necessary letters, orders or instruments in writing evidencing the same herewith foreseen.

Ord. 1. This Ordinance shall take effect and be in force from and after the date of its passage allowed by law.

Passed January 11, 1937.

L. N. Harness
Clerk of Council

Ray M. Beagle
President

J. Morton Harper

CERTIFICATE

I, L. N. Harness, Clerk of the Council of the City of Lorain, Ohio, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of an Ordinance passed by Council at an adjourned meeting held January 11, 1937.

L. N. Harness, Clerk of Council

"September 21, 1939.

"Members present: Messrs. Johnson, Miller, Eagleson,
together with Messrs. Shatrone, Zepp and Lindley.

"In the absence of the chairman, Mr. H.P. Wolfe,
Mr. Johnson presided.

"The first matter considered was that of accepting
the custodianship of the monument, "The Start Westward in
the United States," which was erected by the Northwest Terri-
tory Celebration Commission and has been under the control
of the United States Department of the Interior. This depart-
ment had proposed that the custodianship of this monument
be transferred to the Ohio State Archaeological and Historical
Society, particularly in view of the fact that the Society
already had property in Marietta. On motion of Mr. Eagleson,
second by Mr. Miller, the Executive Committee gave its
approval to this proposition.

FROM: PROCEEDINGS
OHIO STATE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Harlow Lindley
Secretary
1939

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON

September 17, 1940.

Mr. J.R. Lawwill,
The Ohio State Archeological and
Historical Society,
Ohio State Museum,
Columbus, Ohio.

Dear Mr. Lawwill:

Reference is made to your recent discussions with representatives of this service concerning the monument "Start Westward of the United States" located in Muskingum Park, Marietta, Ohio.

During 1938-39 this Service carried on some correspondence concerning the final disposal of the memorial. It is our understanding that on September 21, 1939, the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees of the Ohio State Archeological and Historical Society agreed to assume the custodianship of the monument. On October 13, 1939, this Service recommended to Mr. E.M. Hawes, Executive Director of the Northwest Territory Celebration Commission that jurisdiction of the monument be transferred to the Ohio State Archeological and Historical Society.

If you have not already done so, it is suggested that you communicate directly with Mr. Hawes concerning the memorial.

Sincerely yours,

A.E. Demaray,
Acting Director.

Ownership of Start Westward Monument, Dept. of Interior

Email notes from Ohio History Connection & Jean Yost

Karen Hassel <khassel@ohiohistory.org> Wed, Jan 17, 6:55 PM

to me, Jackie, Maggie, Campus

Jean,

I wanted to forward this to you concerning the Start Westward Monument and to remind you of our priorities in Marietta. Our State Historic Preservation Office is working to find out who the owner is.

Karen

From: Jackie Barton

Sent: Wednesday, January 17, 2018 5:03 PM

Subject: Andy Thompson response

In Marietta regarding the Ohio River Museum and Campus Martius, we have a few things moving forward that feel pretty meaningful:

- Start Westward or Westward Ho! Monument may be owned by GSA. The NPS is working on determining the ownership issues here. We do not see any paperwork indicating that it is ours. We have been acting as a guardian since 1940, shortly after its construction.
- Our State Historic Preservation Office will need to review and approve the project before it can be modified.
- We just completed the fundraising for the W.P. Snyder's Centennial anniversary. A total of \$3,050,000 was raised and will be expended by the time the restoration is completed for the anniversary this year.

- The Ohio River Museum is expanding to add a public library local history collection addition at over \$1.1 million in investment. This will include some property acquisition for a parking area expansion.
- We are planning exhibit upgrades for Campus Martius and Ohio River Museum. MLS is leading this work.

Jackie Barton | Director, Historic Sites & Facilities

Ohio History Connection | 800 E. 17th Avenue, Columbus, Ohio 43211

p. 614.297.2228 | jbarton@ohiohistory.org

Jean Yost <jean.yost@gmail.com> Jan 23, 2018, 11:20 AM

to Karen, Jackie, Maggie, Todd

1937 Marietta City Council Resolution per request of the Federal Commission, grants to the United States of America the right to erect and maintain. (attached)

On page 48 of NW Territory Commission Final Report, (attached) states Ohio Legislation to provide a Governors Deed. I do not know if such legislation was passed or if a governor's deed was prepared.

I have a copy of paperwork transferring custody to the Ohio Historical Society, and OHS accepting said custody.

I appreciate all your work to locate all the proper documents to preserve the monument and look forward to the needed results.

The preservation of the monument and proper covering is the top priority of Marietta Mayor Matthews and the Committee.
Thanks

Karen Hassel <khassel@ohiohistory.org> Thu, Mar 22, 2018 1:58 PM

to me, Lisa, Maggie

Jean,

In our updates, we have said that SHPO has checked with the National Park Service, General Service Administration, regional office in Chicago as well as their Fine Arts division. No one is claiming that they have any information about federal ownership. It has been recommended as a last option to consult the records of the NW Territory division at the National Archives, which will require a trip to D.C.

Our current thinking is that it might be possible to request that one of these agencies could be asked to document that they have no ownership of the monument, formally. At that point, OHC could provide document that transfers any interest we might have to the city. We have not yet asked legal counsel about this idea, but you might be able to get information from the city to see if this might achieve our goals.

Please let us know if you'd like us to pursue this option after you've talked to the city.

Karen

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Joseph E. Grimm

From: Jean Yost <jean.yost@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, August 31, 2018 2:48 PM
To: Joseph E. Grimm; Paul Bertram III, Marietta Law Director
Cc: Andy Coleman; Tony Durm; matt.evans@pebo.com
Subject: 1937 Start Westward Monument ownership
Attachments: 1937 Ownership Start Westward Monument, Marietta Ordinance.pdf; OHSminutes_DOIconveyance Dept of Interior OHC.pdf; NWTerritoryCommissionCelebration_FinalReport.pdf; state_fed_landtransfer conveyance Dept of Interior OHC.pdf; Ownership SWM Dept of Interior.docx

Paul

Per our conversation, I attach documents relating to the ownership of the Start Westward Monument.

The state_fed doc shows Ohio House Bill 704, on Dec. 22, 1937 authorizing the Gov to convey property to US Govt. and the bill was signed on Dec. 30 by Gov Davey. The House Bill is online through google. There is no record found at the state that any Governors Deed was prepared.

The 1937 Ownership doc is Marietta City Council Ord. 89, dated Jan. 11, 1937 authorizing National Commission the authority to construct and maintain the monument.

The OHSminutes doc. shows Dept. of Interior requesting Ohio History to take custody (not ownership) and acknowledgement copy OHS minutes accepting custody.

The Northwest Territory Commission report on page 48 discusses ownership.

The Ownership SWM doc is my emails with Ohio History Connection (OHC).

Over the years, OHS now OHC, and the City of Marietta has corresponded with the US Park Service for direction on maintenance of the structures. We would like an official letter from you, the Marietta Law Director, outlining the information you have in regards to ownership. Next we would like to meet with you to review letter and discuss proper steps forward.

Joe Grimm has worked on the restoration process for decades, and he has made good contacts within the Park Service. In the paperwork, there are some legal words that can have more than one meaning and we must be clear as we move forward.

The exacting legal brief from you can assist greatly in obtaining proper assistance from the Fed.

Thanks for your continued support in this matter.

Jean