

Patee House Hotel
South 12th and Penn Streets
St. Joseph
Buchanan County
Missouri

HABS No. MO-1850

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15-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, DC 20013-7127

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

PATEE HOUSE HOTEL

HABS No. MO-1850

Location: South 12th and Penn Streets, St. Joseph, Buchanan County, Missouri

Present Owner: Pony Express Historical Association

Present Occupant: Patee House Museum

Present Use: Museum

Significance: The Patee House served as the eastern terminus and headquarters for Russell, Majors, and Waddell, the owners of the Pony Express. It also played a significant local role in St. Joseph as a luxurious hotel in a frontier town.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

The Patee House Hotel, constructed during the years 1856 to 1858, served as the headquarters and eastern terminus of the Pony Express. On the local level, the building represents the unsuccessful attempt by entrepreneur John Patee to attract the business center of St. Joseph to "Patee Town," in the Hannibal and St. Joseph Railroad terminal area.

As a hotel, the building did not achieve notable financial success. The hotel closed in 1865, and a variety of other organizations and businesses used the structure. From 1865 to 1869, a Methodist girls' academy occupied the building. Then from 1869 to 1877, Patee again used the building as a hotel. From 1877 to 1881, a Baptist girls' academy was established in the former hotel. From 1886 to 1957, the building housed a clothing factory. It stood vacant until 1964, when the Patee House Museum moved in.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

The building is a four story brick structure. Although the primary facades of the exterior reportedly exist in a condition close to the original, the building has undergone many interior alterations. At first U-shaped, the central part of the building was enclosed and interior partitions removed to convert the building to factory use in 1885.

While the Patee House Museum has redone the exterior to conform with precedent from the area and known details on the original Patee House, there are no plans to attempt any restoration of the original interior. Almost no documentation exists which shows the original floor plan. Currently the building has been remodelled to serve as an exhibit space for a disparate collection of historical memorabilia.

- Sources: National Historic Landmark file, compiled by Stephen Lissandrello, December 23, 1975.
- Telephone conversation with representative of the Patee House Museum, July 5, 1988
- Historian: Robert Buerglener, HABS historian, July 5, 1988.

ADDENDUM TO
PATEE HOUSE HOTEL
South Twelfth and Penn Streets
Saint Joseph
Buchanan County
Missouri

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