

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

**SELGEM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

ROSEDALE WORLD WAR I MEMORIAL ARCH

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

Mt. Marty Park, near Booth and Drexel

CITY, TOWN

Kansas City

VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

No. 3 Larry Winn

STATE

Kansas

CODE

20

COUNTY

Wyandotte

CODE

209

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: Memorial

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

City of Kansas City, Kansas

STREET & NUMBER

Municipal Building, One Civic Plaza

CITY, TOWN

Kansas City

VICINITY OF

STATE

Kansas 66101

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Register of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

Wyandotte County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Kansas City

STATE

Kansas

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Historic Sites Survey

DATE

1974

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Kansas State Historical Society

CITY, TOWN

Topeka

STATE

Kansas

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		DATE _____

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Rosedale Arch is located on the top of Mount Marty and holds a commanding view of the Kansas City skyline. Though the architect was influenced by his study of L'Arc de Triomphe in Paris, the proportions of the Rosedale Arch more closely resemble the Washington Square Arch in New York City. The arch was built of finely cut dressed stone and its opening has a north-south orientation. The arch appears at once severe because of its lack of ornamentation, and delicate because of its proportions, measuring 34' 6" high with piers that are only 6' wide. A band of simple molding encircles each pier at the impost line. The walls below this line are blank, though the original design called for the names of all Rosedale residents who had served in the war to be inscribed on this place. A simply molded arch with a keystone springs from the impost line. The spandrels have been ornately carved with shields and vegetative forms. The piers above the impost line have square recessed panels. A Tuscan entablature with dentils rests above the arched opening. The arch is crowned with a solid balustrade which has a projecting panel with an inscription above the opening.

Shortly after the completion of the arch, and over the objections of the architect, lights were installed that had long sheet metal shades hanging over the top of the arch and supported by fanlike iron grillwork protruding above the arch. These lights were finally removed and a sunken, circular plaza with indirect flood-lighting constructed around the arch in 1974.

CONFIDENTIAL

# **B SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1923, 1924

~~BUILDER~~/ARCHITECT John Leroy Marshall

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Rosedale World War I Memorial Arch was erected in 1923-1924 from plans prepared by John Leroy Marshall.

After the "Great War" ended, the civic organizations, veterans' groups and citizens of Rosedale wanted to express their gratitude to the men of their community who had served in the Rainbow Division and other units and in some way perpetuate their memory. Marshall, who was a resident of Rosedale and a member of the newly formed American Legion post, offered to prepare plans for the monument. He had been one of the first students of architecture at the University of Kansas, enrolling in 1912. Upon the U.S. entry into the war, he had dropped his studies to enlist. While serving in Europe, he had filled sketch pads with drawings of many structures, including the Arc de Triomphe, upon which the Rosedale arch was reportedly based.

The citizens of Rosedale voted approval of a \$25,000 bond issue on June 21, 1921 by a margin of 129 to 77, but before the bonds could be sold and the work begun, the city of Rosedale was annexed by Kansas City, Kansas. It was almost two years before the legality of the bond sale was settled; in February, 1923, the city of Kansas City, Kansas was authorized to sell the bonds.

Plans were made for a ground breaking ceremony to be held July 20, 1923. General Henri Gouraud, the famous one-armed commander of the Fourth French Army, was asked to be the guest of honor. On that day the dignitaries, including mayors and generals, marched through Rosedale past crowds estimated at 6,000 people to the top of Mount Marty where the ceremonies were held. After many speeches, General Gouraud turned the first earth with a gold spade.

A few days later workmen began digging to bedrock for the base of the monument. A stonecutter named Hill fit the cut stones into place. The faces of the pillars were left blank so that the names of the Rosedale residents who had served in the war could later be inscribed. That was never done and the faces are still blank.

The arch was dedicated on September 7, 1924 in ceremonies considerably less impressive than for the groundbreaking. The cost of the site was \$10,000, and of the arch \$12,179.

Marshall's plan had been that the arch would serve as a gateway to a recreational park and athletic field. Those plans never materialized. An athletic field was constructed for nearby Rosedale high school in the 1930's as a PWA project, but it was so located that it cut off the only entrance to the arch area. For the next

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

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8.

30 years the arch was virtually forgotten, unvisited, overgrown with weeds, grass and brush and slowly deteriorating.

In 1962 one of the World War I veterans remembered the arch; he raised the issue of its condition to city officials. The city, businesses and labor unions cooperated in cleaning up and repairing the arch and in preparing a new access road. The monument was rededicated to the veterans of all wars.

In 1972 the arch was included in the city parks improvement program. A plaza was constructed around the arch; lighting and landscaping were installed; and dedication ceremonies were held July 4, 1974, the fiftieth anniversary of the construction.

The Rosedale Arch has become an identifying landmark of a community which was swallowed up in urban expansion. Its simple but dignified form rises from Mount Marty, addressing and framing the Kansas City skyline.

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Harrington, Grant W., Historic Spots or Mile-Stones in the Progress of Wyandotte County, Kansas (Merriam, Kansas, The Mission Press, 1935), pp. 307-312.

Kansas City Kansan, July 3, 1974; August 3, 1976.

"Kansas City Pays Homage to 'Lion of Argonne,' Here for Rosedale's Memorial Ritual," Kansas City Kansan, July 20, 1923.

Kansas City Star, September 6, 1924; December 13, 1933.

Roots: Historic and Architectural Heritage of Kansas City, Kansas (Kansas City, Kansas, City of Kansas City, Kansas, 1976), pp. 146, 147.

"To Unveil Memorial Arch in Mt. Marty Park," Kansas City Kansan, September 7, 1924.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Dye, William E., "Interest Revived in Kansas Designer's Long-Lost War Memorial Arch," Skylines (Kansas City Chapter AIA), October, 1962.

"Early Days of Rosedale Recalled," Kansas City Kansan, April 23, 1972.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one

UTM REFERENCES

A	1, 5	3, 6, 0   2, 8, 0	4, 3   2, 4   8, 9, 5	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE	Richard Pankratz, Director, Historic Sites Survey Cornelia Wyma, Architectural Historian	DATE	October 5, 1976
ORGANIZATION	Kansas State Historical Society	TELEPHONE	913-296-3251
STREET & NUMBER	120 West Tenth	STATE	Kansas 66612
CITY OR TOWN	Topeka		

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL  STATE  LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*Nyle H. Miller*

TITLE Executive Director, Kansas State Historical Society DATE November 23, 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

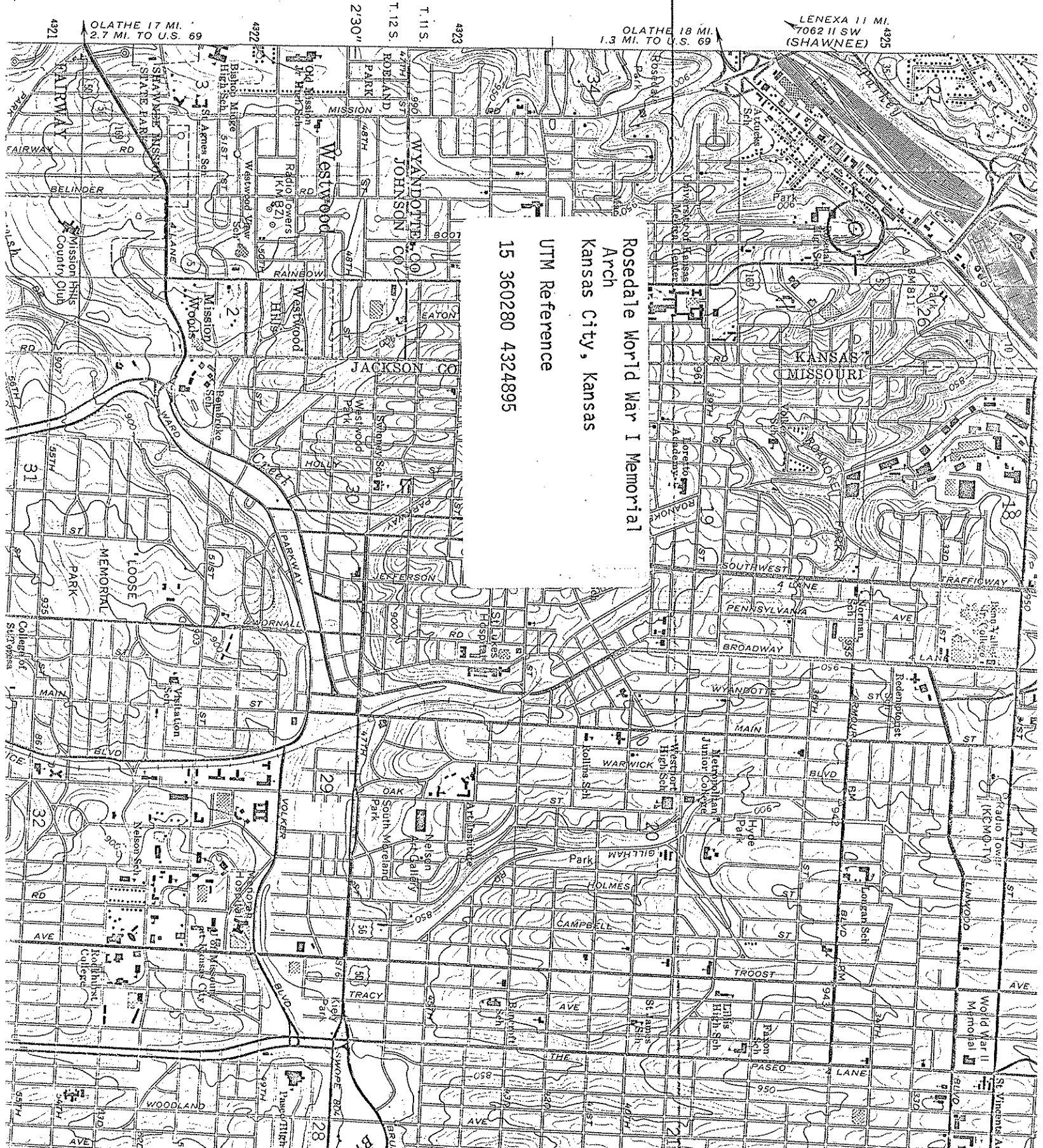
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

*Kansas City  
Quadrangle*



Rosedate World War I Memorial  
Arch  
Kansas City, Kansas  
UTM Reference  
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