

37MI1

6

# SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN CIVIL WAR MEMORIAL ASSESSMENT FORM

**PLEASE:**

- Type or print, using a ball-point pen when filling out this form. Legibility is critical.
- Do not guess at the information. An answer of, "Unknown," is more helpful.
- Include a **BLACK & WHITE** photograph of each viewable side and label it with name & direction of view.

- Thank You.

**Type of Memorial**

Monument *with* Sculpture  
 Monument *without* Sculpture

Monument with *Cannon*  
 Historical Marker

Plaque ON VERY LARGE BOULDER

**Affiliation**

G.A.R. (Post Name & No. \_\_\_\_\_)  M.O.L.L.U.S.  
 W.R.C. (Corps Name & No. \_\_\_\_\_)  Other Allied Order  
 SUVCW (Camp Name & No. \_\_\_\_\_) Which? \_\_\_\_\_  
 DUVCW (Tent Name & No. \_\_\_\_\_) Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**Dedication Date** 4 JUNE 1910\* Please consult any/all newspaper archives for a local paper's article that would have information on the dedication ceremony and/or other facts on the memorial. Please submit a copy of your findings with full identification of the paper & date of publication. Thank you.

\* DEDICATED BY PRESIDENT WILLIAM HOWARD TAFT

**Location**

The Memorial is *currently* located at: THE NORTH WEST CORNER OF WEST FRANKLIN & SECOND ST.  
 Street/Road address or site location \_\_\_\_\_  
 City/Village JACKSON Township \_\_\_\_\_ County JACKSON

The front of the Memorial faces:  North  South  <sup>SOUTH</sup> East  West

**Government Body, Agency, or Individual Owner** (of private cemetery that Memorial is located in)....  
 Name CITY OF JACKSON Dept./Div. PARKS & RECREATION  
 Street Address 161 W. MICHIGAN  
 City JACKSON State (if not Michigan) MI Zip Code 49201  
 Contact Person DOUG RITTENGER telephone (517) 788-4040

If Memorial has been moved, please list former location(s)...

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Physical Details**

Material of Monument or base under a Sculpture or Cannon =  Stone  Concrete  Metal  Undetermined  
 If known, name specific material (color of granite, marble, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

Material of the Sculpture = \_\_\_ Stone \_\_\_ Concrete \_\_\_ Metal \_\_\_ Undetermined  
If known, name specific material (color of granite, marble, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_  
If the Sculpture is of metal, is it solid cast or "hollow?" \_\_\_\_\_

Material of Plaque or Historical Marker / Tablet = BRONZE

Material of Cannon = \_\_\_ Bronze \_\_\_ Iron - Consult known Ordnance Listing to confirm  
Markings on muzzle = \_\_\_\_\_  
Markings on Left Trunion \_\_\_\_\_ Right Trunion \_\_\_\_\_  
Is inert ammunition a part of the Memorial? \_\_\_ If so, describe \_\_\_\_\_

**Approximate Dimensions** (indicate unit of measure) - taken from tallest / widest points

~~CONCRETE~~ Monument or Base: Height 8" Width 6' Depth 4' or Diameter \_\_\_\_\_  
~~STONE~~ Sculpture: Height 52" Width 64" Depth 3' or Diameter \_\_\_\_\_

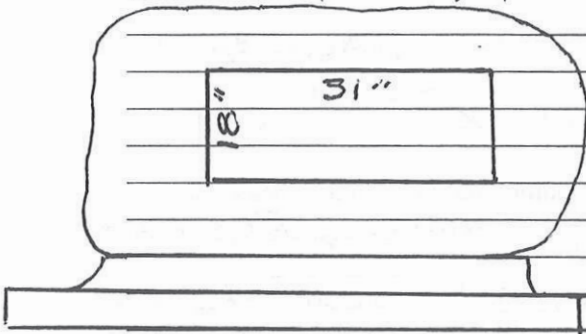
For Memorials with multiple Sculptures, please record this information on a separate sheet of paper for each statue and attach to this form. Please describe the "pose" of each statue and any weapons/implements involved (in case your photos become separated from this form). Thank you!

**Markings/Inscriptions** (on stone-work / metal-work of monument, base, sculpture)

Maker or Fabricator mark / name? If so, give name & location found \_\_\_\_\_

The "Dedication Text" is formed: \_\_\_ cut into material  raised up from material face

Record the text (indicate any separation if on different sides...) Please use additional sheet if necessary.



HERE UNDER THE OAKS, JULY  
6TH, 1854, WAS BORN THE  
REPUBLICAN PARTY, DESTINED  
IN THE THROES OF CIVIL WAR  
TO ABOLISH SLAVERY,  
VINDICATE DEMOCRACY,  
AND PERPETUATE THE UNION.

**Environmental Setting**

(The general vicinity and immediate locale surrounding a memorial can play a major role in its overall condition.)

**Type of Location**

- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cemetery           | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park (SMALL) | <input type="checkbox"/> Plaza/Courtyard |
| <input type="checkbox"/> "Town Square"      | <input type="checkbox"/> Post Office             | <input type="checkbox"/> School          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Municipal Building | <input type="checkbox"/> State Capitol           | Other: _____                             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Courthouse         | <input type="checkbox"/> College Campus          | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Traffic Circle     | <input type="checkbox"/> Library                 | _____                                    |

**General Vicinity**

Rural (low population, open land)

Suburban (residential, near city)

Town/*CITY*

Urban / Metropolitan

**Immediate Locale** (check as many as may apply)

Industrial

Commercial

Street/Roadside within 20 feet

Tree Covered (overhanging branches)

Protected from the elements (canopy or enclosure, indoors)

Protected from the public (fence or other barrier)

*RESIDENTIAL*

Any other significant environmental factor \_\_\_\_\_

**Condition Information**

**Structural Condition** (check as many as may apply)

The following section applies to Monuments *with* Sculpture, and Monuments without Sculpture - including the base for Monuments with *Cannon*. Instability in the sculpture and its base can be detected by a number of factors. Indicators may be obvious or subtle. Visually examine the sculpture and its base.

	<b>Sculpture</b>	<b>Base</b>
If hollow, is the internal support unstable/exposed? (look for signs of exterior rust)	_____	_____
Any evidence of structural instability? (look for cracked joints, missing mortar or caulking or plant growth)	_____	_____
Any broken or missing parts? (look for elements (i.e., sword, musket, hands, arms, etc. - missing due to vandalism, fluctuating weather conditions, etc.)	_____	_____
Any cracks, splits, breaks or holes? (also look for signs of uneven stress & weakness in the material)	_____	_____

**Surface Appearance** (check as many as may apply)

	<b>Sculpture</b>	<b>Base</b>
Black crusting	_____	_____
White crusting	_____	_____
Etched, pitted, or otherwise corroded (on metal)	_____	_____
Metallic staining (run-off from copper, iron, etc.)	_____	_____
Organic growth (moss, algae, lichen or vines)	_____	_____
Chalky or powdery stone	_____	_____
Granular eroding of stone	_____	_____
Spalling of stone (surface splitting off)	_____	_____
Droppings (bird, animal, insect remains)	_____	_____
Other (e.g., spray paint graffiti) - Please describe...	_____	_____

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Does water collect in recessed areas of the Memorial?  Yes  No  Unable to tell

**Surface Coating**

Does there appear to be a coating?  Yes  No  Unable to determine  
If known, identify type of coating.

Gilded  Painted  Varnished  Waxed  Unable to determine  
Is the coating in good condition?  Yes  No  Unable to determine

**Basic Surface Condition Assessment** (check one)

In your opinion, what is the general appearance or condition of the Memorial?

Well maintained  Would benefit from treatment  In urgent need of treatment  Unable to determine

**Overall Description**

Briefly describe the Memorial (affiliation / overall condition & any concern not already touched on).

THE STONE DOES NOT REQUIRE MAINTAINANCE,  
DUE TO GRAFFITI THE STONE &  
PLAQUE WERE CLEANED IN THE FALL  
OF 1996

**Supplemental Background Information**

In addition to your on-site survey, any additional information you can provide on the described Memorial will be welcomed. Please label each account with its source (author, title, publisher, date, pages). Topics include any reference to the points listed on this questionnaire, plus any previous conservation treatments - or efforts to raise money for treatment. Thank you.

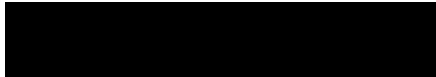
PHOTO OF MICHIGAN HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
MARKER #15, FEB 18, 1956; 1972  
INCLUDED

**Inspector Identification**

Date of On-site Survey 3/20/97

Your Name GARY WOODMAN/MAX MILLER

Address 1511 KENSINGTON DR City JACKSON

State (If Non-Michigan Resident) MICH Zip Code 49203 Telephone 

Please send this completed form to:

William R. Morris  
10324 W. Stanley Rd.  
Flushing, MI 48433-9247

Thank you for your help, and attention to detail.

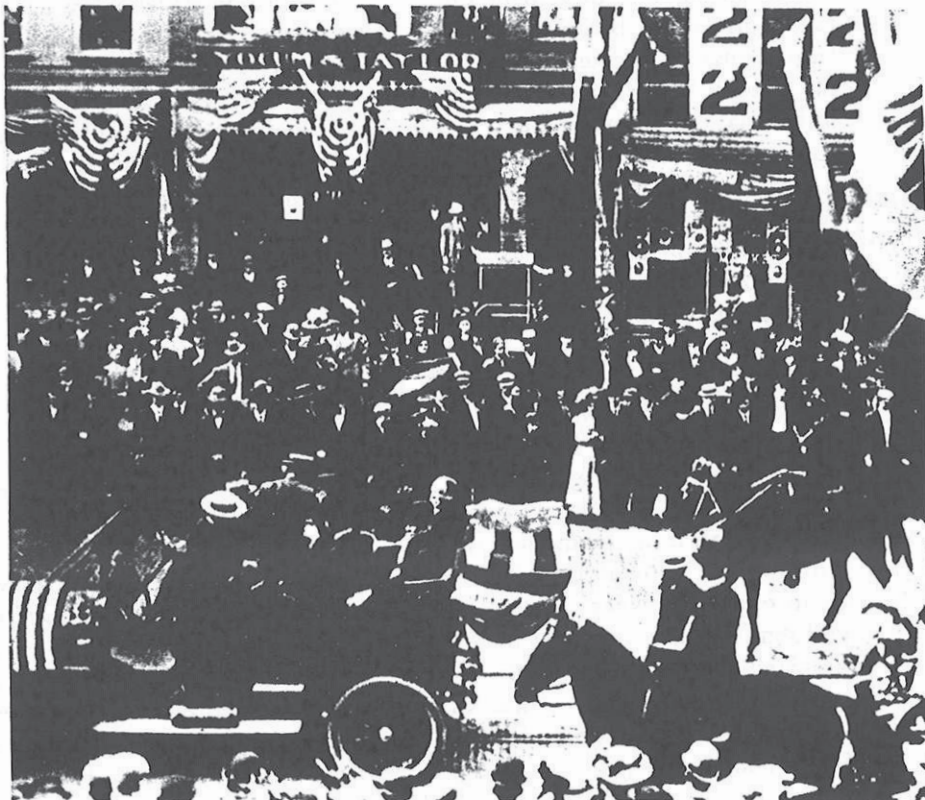
Kent Armstrong, Chair  
Memorials Subcommittee - Department of Michigan

## THE FIRST REPUBLICAN CONVENTION

The issue of slavery gripped the nation in the mid-19th century as no issue has done before or since. While most in Jackson did little, some felt the moral obligation to help fugitive slaves. In Jackson there were at least three agents of the underground railroad, the clandestine system set up by abolitionists to spirit away fugitive slaves from the South through the North and into Canada. Two of the Jackson agents were Lonson Wilcox and Norman Allen. The "station," where fugitives were brought for rest, meals, or hiding on their way through, was a house on the

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Below: *President Taft paraded through Jackson on June 4, 1910, on his way to dedicate the boulder that marks the birthplace of the Republican Party at Franklin and Second streets. Taft rode in merchant L.H. Field's Pierce-Arrow for the occasion. The Republican monument became a favorite stumping place for Republican politicians through the years. (MHC, BHL, UM)*



southeast corner of Cortland Street and Blackstone Street.

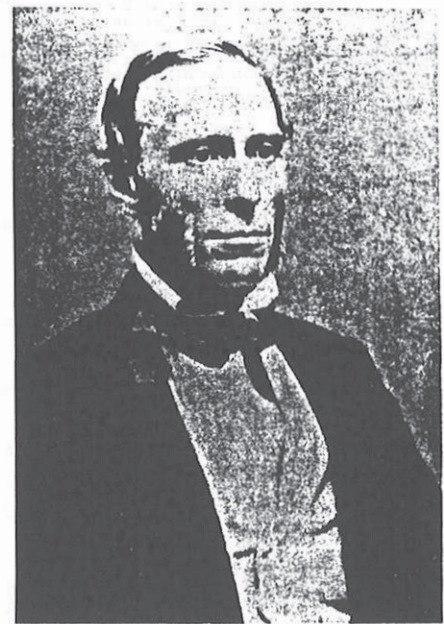
Jackson, however, seems to have been less fervently anti-slavery than many of its Michigan neighbors. People in Kalamazoo and Battle Creek were more active in the underground railroad. People in Grand Rapids actually elected a mayor, Wilder D. Foster, primarily on the issue of checking the spread of slavery to new territories.

Jackson became the focal point of the issue in the state mainly because of its geography and the influence of a few local leaders. It became the birthplace of the Republican Party because it was in Michigan that the ferment of political unrest happening everywhere in the North was first manifested in the form of a new political organization.

The Kansas-Nebraska Bill was the catalyst that made the formation of a new political party inevitable. The bill said that people in new states

would decide for themselves whether slavery would be permitted or banned. Many in the North saw the passage of the Kansas-Nebraska Bill as a great defeat for the North because it gave the South an opportunity to extend slavery into many states and shift the delicate political balance in the nation in favor of the South and slavery sympathizers.

Debate over the pending bill stirred local, state and national leaders of the foundering Whig Party and various minor parties to coalesce. In Michigan, prominent Whig newspaper editors including Charles DeLand of the *Jackson Citizen* met with Free Soil leaders at the state convention of the Free Soil Party at the Marion House in Jackson. Their purpose was to feel out interest in a fusion party. A



Above: *Austin Blair, a participant at the first Republican convention, served as a state legislator, U.S. congressman, and governor. As a legislator he favored removing "white" from the constitution as a qualification for suffrage and was subsequently voted out of office. As governor, he presided over Michigan's war effort and made Jackson the state's military headquarters during the Civil War. Courtesy, Ella Sharp Museum*



Above: The 100th anniversary of the founding of the Republican Party brought Vice President Richard M. Nixon to Jackson. The July 1954 Freedom Festival was marked by parades, speeches, dances, a beard-growing contest, the selection of a Miss Freedom Queen, and a program at the fairgrounds titled "These Truths are Self Evident" with a cast of 1,500. Courtesy, Jackson Citizen Patriot

subsequent meeting in Kalamazoo produced a call for a state convention on July 6 in Jackson. The appeal for the convention, drawn by a committee including Austin Blair and M.A. McNaughton of Jackson, read: *A great wrong has been perpetrated. The slave power of the country has triumphed. Liberty is trampled underfoot. The Missouri compromise, a solemn compact entered into by our fathers, has been violated, and a vast territory, dedicated to freedom, has been opened to slavery . . . We invite all our fellow-citizens, without reference to political associations, who think that the time has arrived for a convention at the North to protect liberty from being overthrown and downtrodden, to assemble in MASS*

*CONVENTION on Thursday, the 6th of July next, at 1 o'clock p.m., AT JACKSON There to take such measure as shall be thought best to concentrate the popular sentiment of this state against the aggression of the slave power.*

Jackson made a convenient site for a convention because it was the largest town in the central part of the state. It was also home to several influential organizers of the convention. DeLand, in particular, was responsible for much of the behind-the-scenes work in getting the convention organized.

The town prepared several weeks for the convention, its purpose seeming ever more urgent with the formal passing of the Kansas-Nebraska Act on May 22. At least 3,000 and as many as 5,000 came to Jackson.

Bronson Hall was plainly not large enough to accommodate the crowd so the convention adjourned to an oak grove where a platform and temporary seating had been prepared. The area was on the western outskirts of town near what became the intersection of Second Street and Washington Avenue. Wrote a historian on the fiftieth

anniversary of the occasion:

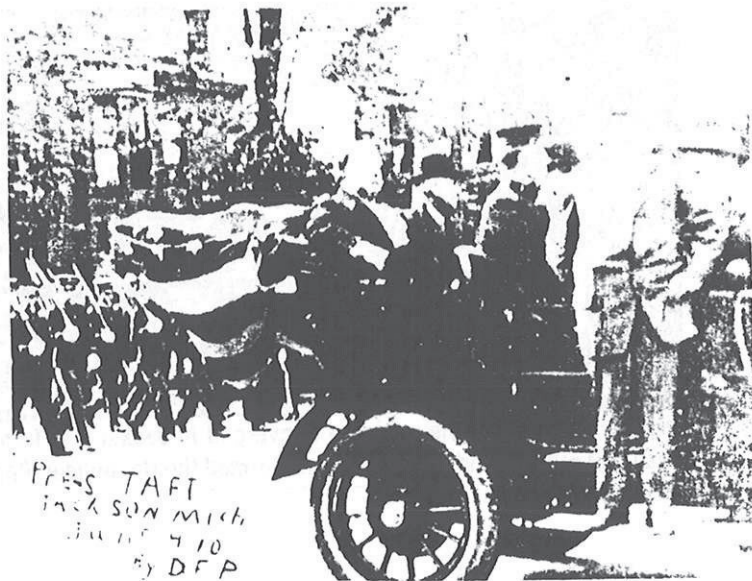
*The scene, as the crowd moved toward the grove was an inspiring one. As far back as the eye could reach was a procession of men, with many women, also. The grove itself was a beautiful piece of woods, situated on what was known as "Morgan's Forty," situated between the village and the race course. The scene there was an animated one, suggesting a huge picnic, the Jackson brass band enlivening the occasion with patriotic airs.*

The real work of the convention was done nearby in a clump of oaks near what became the intersection of Franklin and Second streets. A 16-member committee was assigned to prepare a platform for the convention. The platform demanded the repeal of the Fugitive Slave Law, which required that fugitive slaves captured in the North be returned to the South. The platform promised that the North would defend non-slaveholders against slaveholders in the territories. And, of course, it called for the repeal of the Kansas-Nebraska Act.

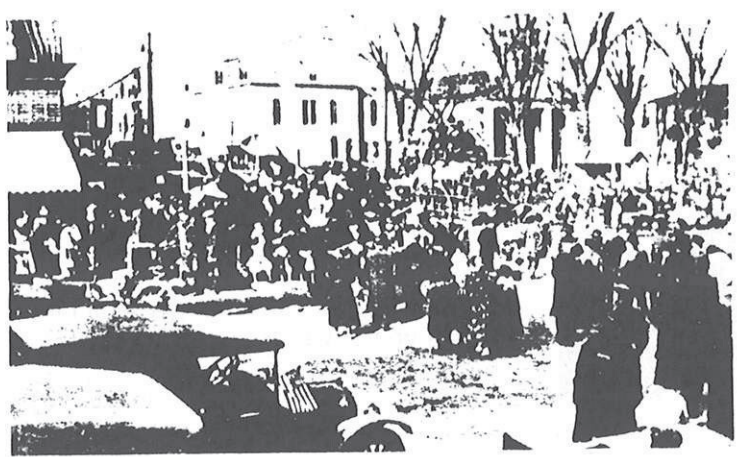
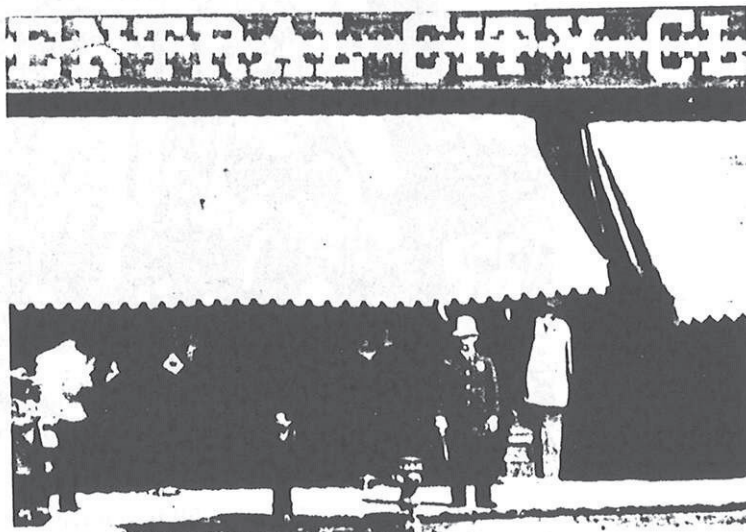
The convention did not call for the abolition of slavery. These people, the majority at least, were not abolitionists. Their main aim was to contain slavery, which they saw as an economic and political threat to the North.

DeLand, writing years later, credited Zephaniah B. Knight, editor of the *Pontiac Gazette*, for coining the name Republican. The convention embraced the name in the following resolution: *That in view of the necessity of battling for the first principles of republican government, and against the schemes of aristocracy the most revolting and oppressive with which the earth was ever cursed, or men debased, we will co-operate and be known as REPUBLICANS until the contest be terminated.*

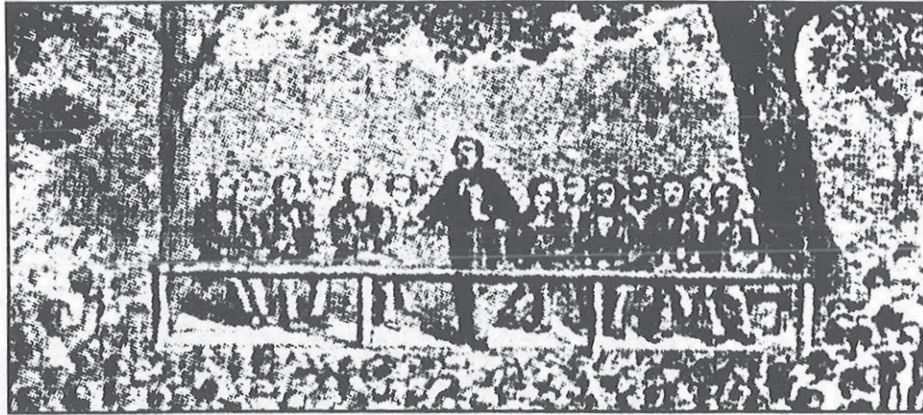
"A PICTURE HISTORY OF JACKSON MICHIGAN" E. DAVID RAY & JON ZEKSKI  
PUBLISHED 1977



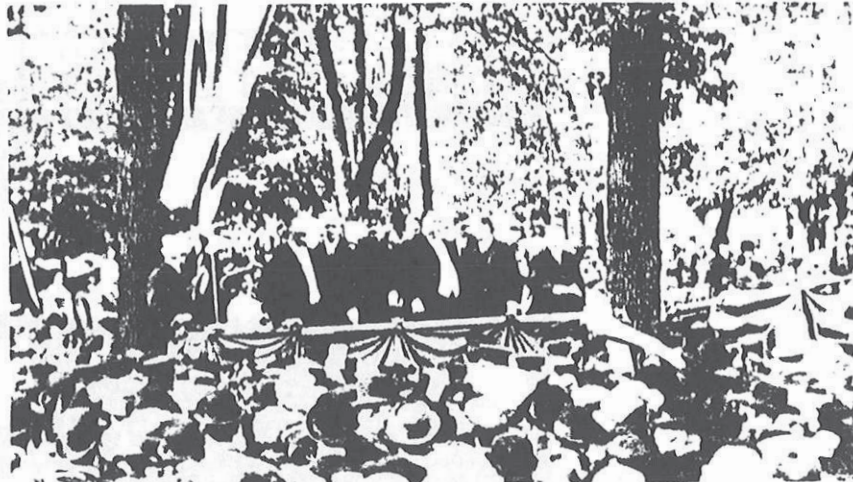
Taft was guarded by men like this 1905 policeman.  
Photo—Vaira



Taft supposedly rode in a 1904 Jackson when he traveled from "the oaks" to Keeley Park.  
Photo—Jackson Historical Society

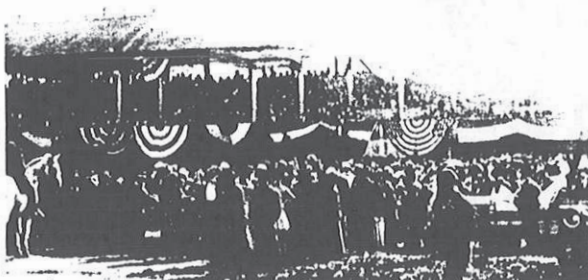


On July 6, 1854, antislavery men converged in Jackson to form a new political party. They met outside under oak trees and formed the Republican Party. (*Under the Oaks*)



President Taft attended the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Republican Party in June of 1904.

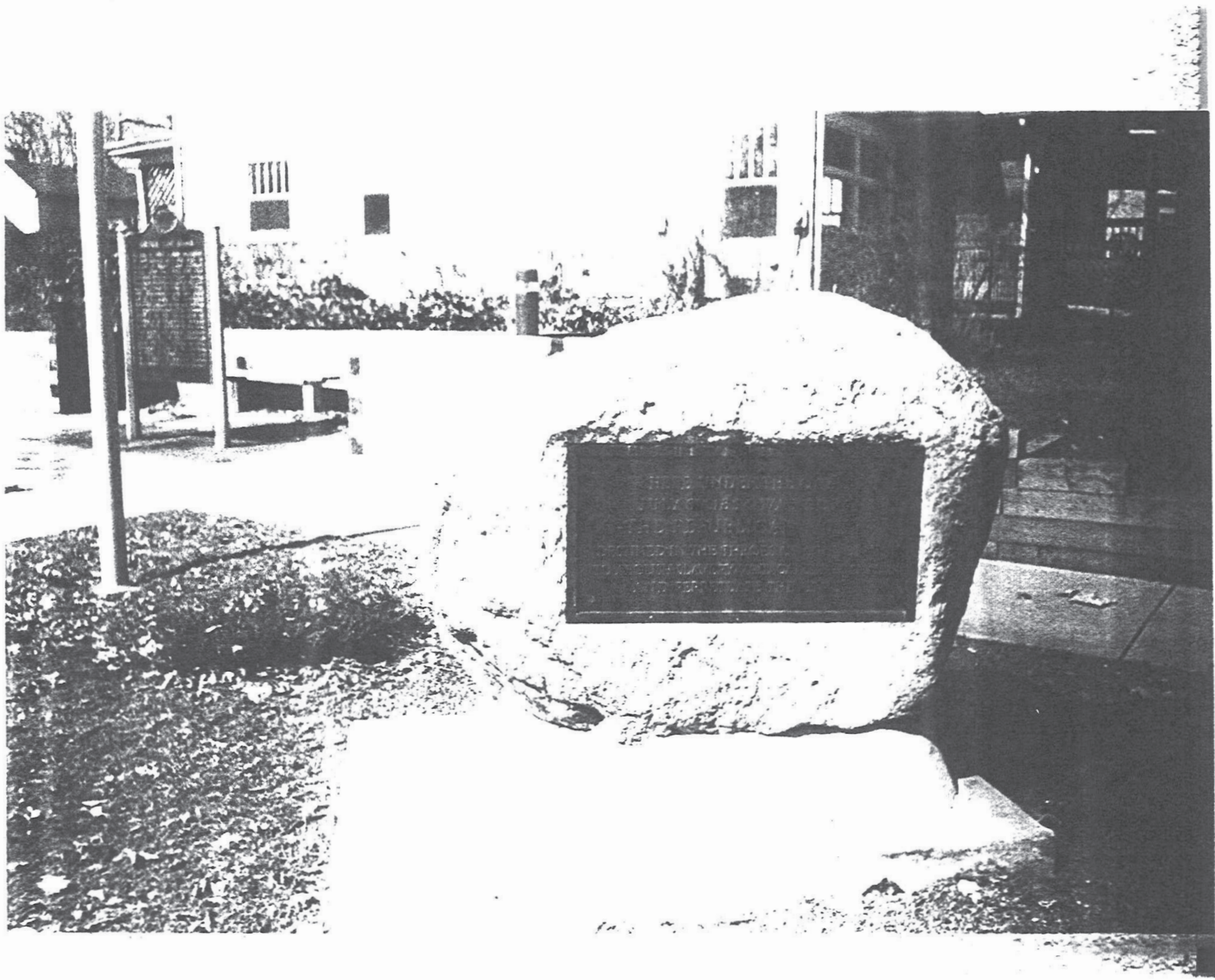
Photo—City Library



Taft gave a well-attended speech at the Fairgrounds, which was then called Keeley Park.

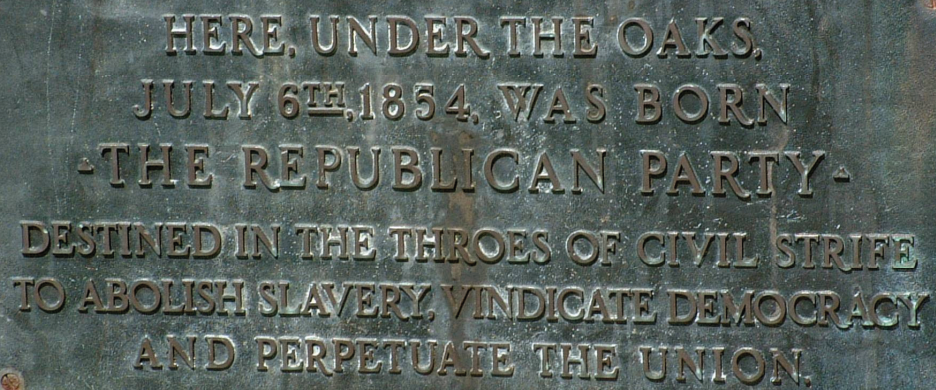
Photo—City Library





HERE, UNDER THE OAKS,  
JULY 6<sup>TH</sup>, 1854, WAS BORN  
-THE REPUBLICAN PARTY-  
DESTINED IN THE THROES OF CIVIL STRIFE  
TO ABOLISH SLAVERY, VINDICATE DEMOCRACY  
AND PERPETUATE THE UNION.

party, which was then the only  
published two years earlier, calling  
increased resistance against slavery,  
and the Kansas-Nebraska Act of May,  
1854, succeeded to make slave states  
out of previously free territories.  
Since the convention day was hot and  
the large crowd could not be accommo-  
dated in the hall, the meeting ad-  
journed to an oak grove on "North  
Liberty" on the outskirts of town.  
Here a state-wide party  
was selected,  
party  
with



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