

NATIONAL ORGANIZATION
SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR
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 photograph of each viewable side and label it with name & direction of view.

- Thank You.

Type of Memorial

Monument *with* Sculpture ___ Monument with Cannon
 ___ Monument *without* Sculpture ___ Historical Marker ___ Plaque

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. _____) (Please describe below)
 ___ DUVCW (Tent Name & No. _____)
 Other: Blair Monument Association

Original Dedication Date 21 May 1885 Please consult any/all newspaper archives for a local paper's article that would have information on the *first* 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.

Location

The Memorial is *currently* located at:
 Street/Road address or site location South of Lindell near Kingsway (W90°15'56" N38°38'39")
 City/Village St. Louis Township _____ County St. Louis City

The front of the Memorial faces: ___ North ___ South East ___ West

Government Body, Agency, or Individual Owner (of private cemetery that Memorial is located in)...

Name St. Louis City Parks Dept Dept./Div. Forest Park
 Street Address 5600 Clayton Rd
 City St Louis State MO Zip Code 63110
 Contact Person _____ Telephone (314) 289-5300

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

Originally in traffic island in middle of Lindell and Kingshighway, but moved off to southwest corner when the roads were rerouted.

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.) Granite

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

Material of Plaque or Historical Marker / Tablet = N/A

Material of Cannon = ___ Bronze ___ Iron - Consult known Ordnance Listing to confirm
 Markings on muzzle = N/A

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
 Monument or Base: Height 11 feet Width est 5 feet Depth est 5 feet or Diameter _____
 Sculpture: Height 9 feet Width est 3 feet Depth est 3 feet 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 Wellington W. Garner

(South Side Foot of Bronze: W.W. Gardner, Sculpt.)

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.

EAST FACE: FRANK P. BLAIR, JR. BORN February 19, 1821 DIED: July 8, 1875

WEST SIDE: This monument is raised to commemorate the indomitable free-soil leader of the west; the herald and standard bearer of freedom in Missouri; the creator of the first volunteer Union army in the South; the savior of the state from secession; the patriotic citizen-soldier, who fought from the beginning to the end of the war; the magnanimous statesman, who, as soon as the war was over, breasted the torrent of proscription to restore to citizenship the disfranchised Southern people, and finally, the incorruptible public servant.

South Side Foot of Bronze: W.W. Gardner, Sculpt.

Environmental Setting

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

Type of Location

___ Cemetery Park ___ Plaza/Courtyard
 ___ "Town Square" ___ Post Office ___ School
 ___ Municipal Building ___ State Capitol Other: _____
 ___ Courthouse ___ College Campus _____
 Traffic Circle ___ Library _____

General Vicinity

- Rural (low population, open land) Suburban (residential, near city)
 Town 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)
 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.

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

Surface Appearance (check as many as may apply)

	Sculpture	Base
Black crusting	___	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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... <small>Kept in very good shape.</small>	___	___

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).

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.

Inspector Identification

Date of On-site Survey 25 July 2006

Your Name Walter E. Busch (US GRANT CAMP 68)

Please send this completed form to:

Todd A. Shillington, PDC

Thank you for your help, and attention to detail.

SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR
 National Civil War Memorials Committee

4. Francis Blair Statue

Leave the Confederate Memorial and head west. Turn right (north) immediately at Confederate, which leads back to Lindell. Turn right (east) on Lindell, heading back toward Kingshighway Boulevard. The Blair statue is in a large island on the right. Unfortunately, access to the Blair statue is limited by the lack of parking at this corner of Forest Park.

Francis Preston Blair, Jr., was honored with this statue for his life of service as a member of the United States House of Representatives, a major general and corps commander in the Union army, and a United States senator.

Blair arrived in St. Louis in 1842 at the age of twenty-one to practice law with his brother, Montgomery. Their father, Francis Preston Blair, Sr., was the editor of a powerful Democratic newspaper, Washington D.C.'s *Congressional Globe*, from 1830-1854 and was a close friend of Andrew Jackson. Though a slaveowner himself, the elder Blair believed the Union took precedence over sectional interests. Convinced that the Democratic Party had betrayed the principles of "Jacksonian Democracy," Blair and his sons wholeheartedly endorsed the emerging Republican Party in the late 1850s.¹⁵

Francis "Frank" Blair, Jr., was elected to the U.S. Congress from Missouri's First District (St. Louis) in 1856 and in 1860. Concerned about the intentions of Missouri's state leaders, Blair took an active role in recruiting the Home Guards to counter the secessionist Minute Men of St. Louis. A colonel at the time of the capture of Camp Jackson in May 1861, Blair led the 1st Regiment of U.S. Volunteers. In August 1862 he was rewarded with a promotion to brigadier general of volunteers for his efforts in successfully organizing seven regiments for the Union and, later that year, was promoted to major general. His brother, Montgomery, had earlier been rewarded for the family's support of Lincoln by appointment as postmaster general in Lincoln's cabinet.¹⁶

Blair's active military service began as a brigade commander in the early stages of Grant's campaign for Vicksburg. In his

memoirs, Grant recalled his concern about the politician-general:

General F. P. Blair joined me at Milliken's Bend a full-fledged general, without ever having served in a lower grade. He commanded a division in the campaign. I had known Blair in Missouri, where I had voted against him in 1858 when he ran for Congress. I knew him as a frank, positive and generous man, true to his friends even to a fault, but always a leader. I dreaded his coming; I knew from experience that it was more difficult to command two generals desiring to be leaders than it was to command one army officered intelligently and with subordination. It affords me the greatest pleasure to record now my agreeable disappointment in respect to his character. There was no man braver than he, nor was there any who obeyed all orders of his superior in rank with more unquestioning alacrity. He was one man as a soldier, another as a politician.¹⁷

After Vicksburg, Blair served briefly as the commander of the Union XV Corps before leading the XVII Corps under Sherman in the march through Georgia. He resigned from the military in November 1865 and, after a brief experiment as a Mississippi cotton planter, returned to Missouri to enter politics. He was nominated twice for appointments by resident Andrew Johnson, but he was too moderate for the Radical Republicans controlling the U.S. Senate. In 1868 he was a candidate for vice president but was unsuccessful largely because of his lenient position on restoring the former Confederate states to the Union. Missouri Democrats and several Republicans united in 1871 to elect Blair to fill an unexpired term in the United States Senate. Senator Blair worked to minimize voting restrictions on former Confederate officers and officials. In failing health, he retired just two years before his death in 1875. He is buried in Bellefontaine cemetery.¹⁸

The Blair monument was begun by William W. Gardner in 1880. Gardner worked on the statue in the studio of Howard Schultz, then a teacher at Washington University. In 1881 Gardner won first prize at the Agricultural and Mechanical Exposition for his bust of President Garfield. The next year he won the competition for the Blair monument. The statue, made of bronze and standing nine feet tall, was donated by the Blair Monument Association, and the granite

pedestal, eleven feet tall, was paid for by the city. The arm gesture captured by the sculptor was praised by Blair's acquaintances as characteristic.¹⁹

An inscription on the front (east) side of the pedestal gives Blair's dates of birth (February 19, 1821) and death (July 8, 1875). On the west side is the following inscription:

This monument is raised to commemorate the indomitable free-soil leader of the west; the herald and standard bearer of freedom in Missouri; the creator of the first volunteer Union army in the South; the saviour of the state from secession; the patriotic citizen-soldier, who fought from the beginning to the end of the war; the magnanimous statesman, who, as soon as the war was over, breasted the torrent of proscription, to restore to citizenship the disfranchised Southern people, and finally, the incorruptible public servant.

Late in the afternoon of May 21, 1888, some fifteen thousand people assembled at the Lindell Avenue entrance of Forest Park to watch Mrs. Christine Graham, Blair's daughter, unveil the statue. A violent rainstorm caused the elaborate ceremonies to be shortened, including the cancellation of the principal oration, but at least one of the dignitaries was undaunted by the uncooperative weather, as General William T. Sherman stepped to the podium to give praise to Francis P. Blair, Jr. "I have been with Frank Blair when the thunder of artillery would make the storm which has swept over us seem as the rumbling of distant wagons," he told the crowd. "I assure you," he continued, "that he was worthy of the honor you do his memory in the heroic statue which stands before us at this moment." Sherman, who as a civilian had been a personal witness to Blair's work in St. Louis in the earliest days of the war, defined Blair's place in history when he concluded that Frank Blair "did more than any single man to hold this great central city of our Union to her faithful allegiance to the General Government, so necessary to the perpetuity of the Union."²⁰

Missouri's "Man of the Hour" by John A. Bush

[Information about Frank Blair Monument starting at the bottom of page six and continuing on page 7]

The unveiling of the Blair Memorial Statue, which is now located at the northeast corner of Forest Park in St. Louis, Missouri, took place at 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 21, 1885. (The statue had been erected on May 10, 1885.) It was an imposing ceremony to which 15,000 people were spectators. The weather was not favorable for the event because of thunderstorm activity the entire day. The crowd was not as great as it was thought it would be, but it was nevertheless large enough to amount to a grand demonstration. The Union Depot, from noon until the departure of the last train for the park, at four p.m., was crowded. Nearly every vehicle in the city had been brought into use to convey spectators to the park. Among the speakers were St. Louis



Mayor David R. Francis, General William Tecumseh Sherman, Missouri Governor [and former Confederate Major-General John Sappington] Marmaduke, Illinois Governor Koerner, Major James F. Rollins, and Colonel T.T. Gantt. At the close of Mayor Francis' address, the statue was unveiled by Mrs. Christine Graham, the eldest daughter of Frank Blair, Jr., who, with one pull, set free the flag with which the monument had been draped. The statue, the work of a young St. Louis artist Wellington W. Gardner, cost \$10,000. The original location was in the middle of the road at the intersection of Kingshighway and Lindell Boulevard, but when the road was redesigned, the statue was moved to its present location.

Small souvenir medals were sold at the dedication ceremony for twenty-five cents. The large bronze souvenir medallions have the inscription from the monument and the Missouri Seal. The inscription from the monument reads: "The Herald and Standard Bearer of Freedom in Missouri;" "The Creator of the First Volunteer Union Army of the South;" "The Indomitable Free Soil Leader of the Great West;" "The Patriotic Citizen Soldier & Incorruptible Public Servant."

PHOTO: Souvenir Medal from Monument Dedication

SOURCES

Guitar, Sarah. "Monuments and Memorials in Missouri," *Missouri Historical Review*. XiX:4, July, 1925. pp. 594; 596-597.
"Honors to a Hero," *St. Louis Globe-Democrat*, 10:364, May 22, 1885, pp.4-5.
"A Patriot Honored," *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, XXXIII: 283, May 21, 1885, p.3.

Frank Blair Jr Monument Commemorative Medallion

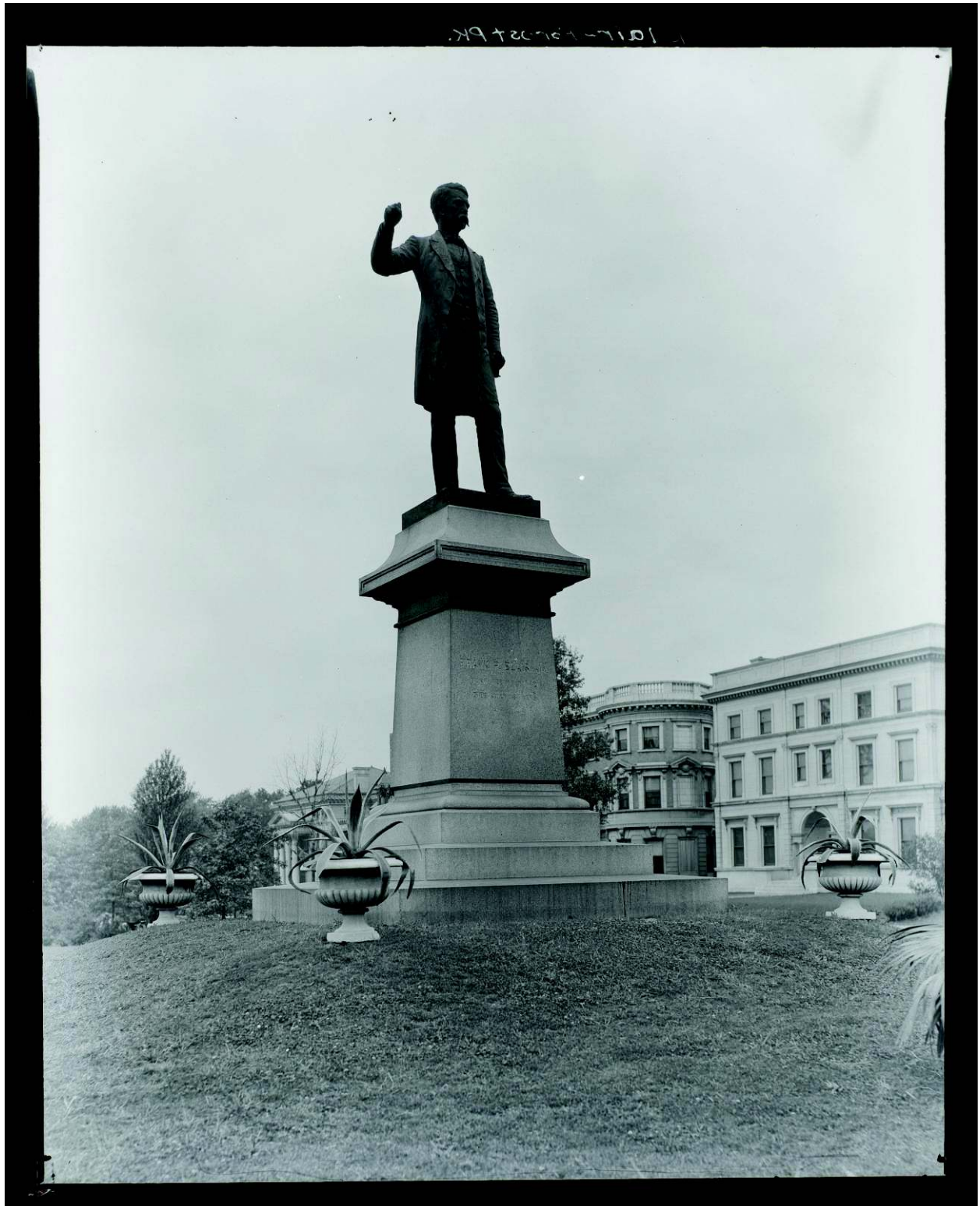








Groganchrome Postcard 1950s Frank Blair Jr at Forest Park



3 Pictures of Frank Blair Monument after the move. Probably 1930s



LINDELL BOUL'D ENTRANCE TO FOREST PARK





1906 Blair Monument