

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JUL 22 1976

DATE ENTERED

approved 7/24/77

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC Perry's Victory and International Peace Memorial

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER None

CITY, TOWN

Put-in-Bay, South Bass Island VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Fifth

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Ohio

39

Ottawa

123

3 CLASSIFICATION**CATEGORY**☐ DISTRICT☐ BUILDING(S)☒ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT**OWNERSHIP**☒ PUBLIC☐ PRIVATE☐ BOTH**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED**STATUS**☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS**ACCESSIBLE**☒ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO**PRESENT USE**☐ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☒ PARK☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER:**4 AGENCY**

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)

Midwest Regional Office, National Park Service

STREET & NUMBER

1709 Jackson Street

CITY, TOWN

Omaha

VICINITY OF

STATE

Nebraska

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE.

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Midwest Regional Office, National Park Service

STREET & NUMBER

1709 Jackson Street

CITY, TOWN

Omaha

STATE

Nebraska

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

List of Classified Structures

DATE

1976

☒ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR

SURVEY RECORDS Midwest Regional Office, National Park Service

CITY, TOWN

Omaha

STATE

Nebraska

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT
☐ GOOD
☒ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☒ UNALTERED
☐ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Perry's Victory and International Peace Memorial is located at the eastern edge of the town of Put-in-Bay, on South Bass Island in western Lake Erie, four miles from the Ohio mainland. The Memorial, which opened to the public on June 13, 1915, stands on a narrow isthmus between the two main portions of South Bass Island and is bounded on both the north and south by Lake Erie. The Memorial Column was built on swampland and the surrounding area is composed of fill material brought in to establish lawns. It was just above existing lake levels at the time of construction and through the years has settled to several feet below current lake levels. State Route 357 runs through the property along the north sea wall separating a narrow strip of lawn from the main grounds area. The southwest corner of the area abuts the only public sand beach on the island. Visitors using the beach, at times, extend their activities onto the adjacent Memorial lawns. The park covers more than 25 acres, 21.44 acres of which are considered essential to the Memorial and are included in this nomination.

The Memorial is constructed of pink Milford, Massachusetts, granite. In large mass, this stone gives the appearance of purest white. The shaft, built of 78 courses of granite, is a Greek Doric fluted column 352 feet high and 45 feet in diameter at its base. Its cap, reached by elevator, serves as an observation platform. Above this is a bronze urn, 23 feet high, 18 feet wide, and weighing 11 tons. When floodlit at night, the column presents a brilliant spectacle to both yachtsman and landsman. One of the world's largest battle monuments, the Memorial is the most massive Doric column ever built.

The Memorial Column was re-pointed in 1952 and again in 1963. No major rehabilitation has been undertaken since its construction and its long-term neglect is reflected in its present condition.

The rotunda in the column's base is made of Tennessee and Italian marble, Indiana limestone, and granite. Carved on the walls are the names of the American vessels and the dead and wounded of the Battle of Lake Erie. Beneath the floor, in a crypt, lie the remains of the three American and three British officers killed in the action. (The enlisted men were buried at sea.) For a century the officers had lain where they were interred on the shore of Put-in-Bay after the battle. They were removed and reinterred in the Memorial with impressive services on September 11, 1913. In the west doorway of the rotunda is a bronze tablet containing the 150-word Rush-Bagot Agreement of 1817.

A broad terrace with granite steps 67 feet wide surrounds the Memorial Column and leads down to a lower terrace which forms the approach to the Memorial. Because of uneven settlement in the sandstone and brick paving, both terraces are badly deteriorated.

Public restrooms, the boiler room and the transformer vault are housed in the base of the Memorial, below the upper terrace.

(See Continuation Sheet, Page 1)

8 SIGNIFICANCE

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

SPECIFIC DATES 1913, 1915, 1926, 1931 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Freedlander and Seymour

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Perry's Victory and International Peace Memorial overlooks the scene and commemorates the action and results of the Battle of Lake Erie, between British and American naval forces on September 10, 1813. Its primary feature is the largest free-standing column in existence, one of the most substantial monuments to a military action ever built. It marks and commemorates an area that became a focus of conflict during the War of 1812 and that was the scene of activity that produced far-reaching effects in military and diplomatic history.

In the Battle of Lake Erie, Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry won a decisive victory over a British naval squadron commanded by Captain Robert H. Barclay, which prompted the famous statement by Perry, "We have met the enemy and they are ours." The action had significant effects on the war and the future of the United States, because it gave the Americans control of Lake Erie and made possible a successful advance into Canada by an American army under the command of General William Henry Harrison. In the negotiations that produced the Treaty of Ghent, the American success in Lake Erie and Upper Canada countered the effects of the generally more successful conduct of the war by the British. American negotiators were able to stave off a British bid to limit American rights to the country north of the Ohio River, and ultimately to conclude a treaty that called for a return to the status quo ante bellum. United States boundaries today along Lake Erie and westward are, in part, the product of Perry's victory.

The Memorial is vitally associated with these events. Not only is the scene of the naval action best viewed from the top of the Memorial Column, but Put-in-Bay was Perry's base before the battle, and it was to that harbor that he returned afterward to bury the British and American dead. Additionally, the Memorial commemorates the Rush-Bagot Agreement of 1817, which was the first step toward permanent disarmament of the border between the United States and Canada, the longest unfortified international boundary in the world. Thus, the Memorial is not only an appropriate commemorative tribute to a naval action and its aftermath, but it is unique in combining the enshrinement of an act of war and the continuing effects of peace.

The Memorial is the result of the work of the Perry Monument Association and later the Perry's Victory Centennial Commission, which originally had proposed a monument on Gibraltar Island. Work on that proposal was begun and the cornerstone laid on Gibraltar in 1859. That monument was never

(See Continuation Sheet, Page 2)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Barry, James P., The Battle of Lake Erie, Franklin Watts, Inc., 1970.
Mongin, Alfred, A Construction History of the Perry's Victory and International Peace Memorial, Department of Interior, National Park Service, August, 1961.
The Perry's Victory Memorial - Official Souvenir, The National Board of Memorial Commissioners.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 12.1

UTM REFERENCES

E 17 3 4 9 0 2 0 4 6 1 2 7 6 0

A 17 3491810 4612790
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B 17 3491320 4612790
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C 17 3491210 4612610

D 17 3491030 4612610

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at a point one-hundred sixty feet east of the intersection of Chapman Avenue and Delaware Avenue, the nominated boundaries of Perry's Victory and International Peace Memorial runs due east for approximately 340 feet to the south shoreline of Lake Erie. From this point the property runs northeast along the south shoreline for a distance of (See Continuation Sheet, Page 3)

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

Thomas P. Busch, Historical Architect

ORGANIZATION

National Park Service

STREET & NUMBER

1709 Jackson Street

CITY OR TOWN

Omaha

DATE

May 28, 1976

TELEPHONE

402-221-3423

STATE

Nebraska

12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES _____ NO _____ NONE _____

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Historic Preservation Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The evaluated level of significance is X National _____ State _____ Local.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

Jennie J. Grubbs

TITLE

SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF INTERIOR

DATE

7/14/76

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Charles Adams

DATE

12-79

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST

William H. Brabham

7-25-79

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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PAGE 1

Investigations are underway preparatory to the rehabilitation of the Memorial.

Seawalls on both the north and south boundaries of the park were constructed to protect the Memorial and the grounds against erosion by Lake Erie. Severe storms in 1972 and 1973 destroyed most of the 1000-foot south seawall and flooded the grounds. Much of the lawn area has reverted to marsh with cattails and other swamp grasses in evidence. Rehabilitation of the seawalls is scheduled to begin in 1977.

Non-historic structures which exist within the nominated area are as follow:

A temporary prefabricated metal building, 24' by 16', is located at the base of the Memorial near the lower terrace. This building, built in 1971, serves as an information station and sales facility. Construction of this building generated much antagonism on the part of the island residents and visitors. It was, however, the only answer to a pressing need for space and local resentment was moderated only by assurances that it was temporary and would be replaced by a suitable facility when land acquisition and funds allowed.

The administration building and an adjoining garage are located near the southwest boundary of the nominated area. The administration building, which was built as public restrooms in 1925, serves as a "temporary" office for the Park Manager, Clerk Typist, and Park Rangers.

Structures outside the nominated area but within the park boundaries are as follow:

A temporary prefabricated metal maintenance storage building, 24' by 30', with a concrete slab base was erected in 1965. The building is used as a garage for park equipment necessary for maintenance and repair.

As part of the land acquisition program, some of the former summer cottages have been acquired and are, at present, used as seasonal quarters and storage.

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completed and today is marked only with a bronze plaque.

The design for the Memorial Column was selected by the largest architectural competition ever conducted in this country or in Europe up to that time. The criteria imposed on the competition, however, were quite restrictive. The winning design included a museum and colonnade on either flank of the Memorial Column and a ceremonial canal through the isthmus. Only the column and its immediate terrace, however, were built with the available funds and the construction remains unaltered since that time. Construction began on the memorial in December 1912, with cornerstone ceremonies on July 4 and centenary ceremonies September 10-11, 1913. The column was finished in 1915; the paving of the terraces was completed in 1926, and the Memorial was dedicated in ceremonies held on July 31, 1931.

The design was the exceedingly ambitious product of Joseph H. Freedlander and A. D. Seymour of New York. The landscaping was designed by Wadley and Smythe of New York. The Memorial is an overpowering and considerably overdone example of architecture. Although it does not draw much significance from artistic merit, it is significant because of its scale and because of the remarkable (for 1913-1915) engineering achievement of its construction. Its primary significance, however, is due to its commemoration of, and relation to, the important aspects of history to which it pays tribute. Certainly, there have been few other memorial constructions in this country conceived and executed on such a grand scale.

Esthetically, the Memorial is perhaps more effective for not having the appurtenances (museum, colonnade, canal) built. The column on its terraces now rises dramatically from the surrounding lawns, and its integrity would be diminished seriously by any intrusion upon those grounds. It is thus essential to the protection of the property's significance and integrity that the grounds included within this nomination remain free of future construction and that any new structures within its proximity either be appropriately screened with vegetation or be so placed and designed as to blend into the low visual wall formed by the town. The present temporary information station and temporary office and garage represent such intrusions now, but their eventual removal has been proposed.

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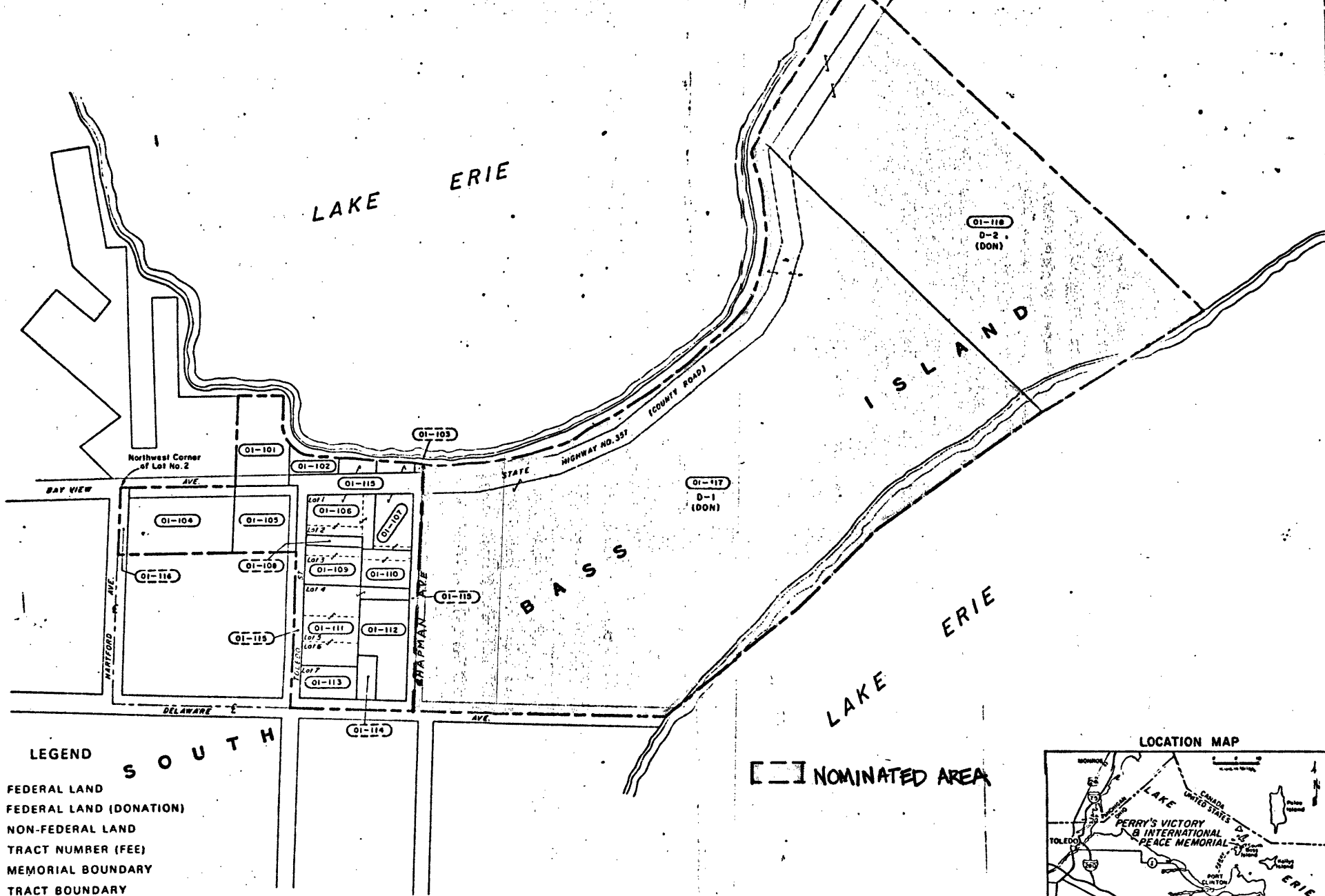
RECEIVED JUL 22 1976

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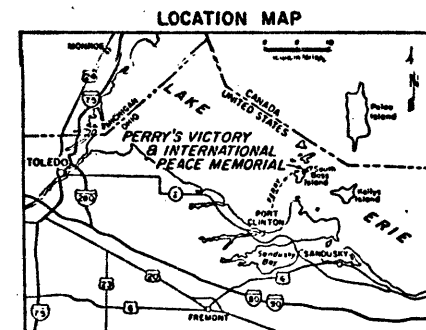
CONTINUATION SHEET

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approximately 1,000 feet. Here the boundary runs inland (across the isthmus) in a northwest direction for a distance of 720 feet to the north shoreline of Lake Erie. The nominated property then follows the north shoreline for approximately 1,020 feet to a point 160 feet due east of Chapman Avenue. From this point the property runs south along Chapman Avenue a distance of 480 feet to the point of beginning.



[] NOMINATED AREA



ESTABLISHED: JULY 6, 1936
BOUNDARY CHANGE: OCTOBER 26, 1972

DATE: DECEMBER 1972

DENVER SERVICE CENTER, COLORADO



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
DIVISION OF LAND ACQUISITION

LAND STATUS MAP 01

DN. BY E.S. CR. BY A.P.
APPR. BY R.D. 1-1-B-72
REGION NE
DRAWING NO. 370
92.000

SHEET 1 OF 1

PERRY'S VICTORY
AND INTERNATIONAL
PEACE MEMORIAL

OTTAWA COUNTY
OHIO



#1
PERRY'S VICTORY AND INTERNATIONAL
PEACE MEMORIAL

PUT-IN-BAY, SOUTH BASS ISLAND, OTTAWA,
OHIO

PHOTOGRAPHER: NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
UNKNOWN

NEGATIVE: MIDWEST REGIONAL OFFICE
1709 JACKSON STREET
OMAHA, NE 68102

VIEW OF THE MEMORIAL COLUMN LOOKING
NORTHEAST