



POSTAL NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Aug. 10, 2021

National: Sara Martin
(C) 202-603-6675
sara.a.martin@usps.gov

Local: Mark Inglett
(C) 816 374-9111
mark.m.inglett@usps.gov
usps.com/news



Bollinger's Mill and Burfordville Covered Bridge Featured on Missouri Statehood Stamp *Commemorating Missouri's Bicentennial*

JEFFERSON CITY, MO — On Aug. 10, 1821, Missouri was admitted as the 24th state in the Union. The U.S. Postal Service celebrates the state's bicentennial with a new stamp dedicated at the State Capitol in Jefferson City during a ceremony held today as a part of the Missouri 2021 Bicentennial celebration.

"The Missouri Statehood stamp was designed from a photograph taken at Bollinger Mill State Historic Site. It features two treasured structures that date to the American Civil War era," said dedicating official Peter Pastre, vice president, Government Relations and Public Policy, USPS. "Landscape photographer Charles Gurche, who took this picture, began his photography career in Missouri."

Bollinger's Mill was built along the Whitewater River shoreline in the early 1800s. Spanning 140 feet across the river, the Howe truss framework of the Burfordville Covered Bridge began in 1858. Both structures were completed in 1868. The Burfordville Covered Bridge is Missouri's oldest covered bridge — one of just four remaining in the state.

Located near the center of the contiguous United States, Missouri is bordered by more states than any other except Tennessee. The Missouri River bisects the state, forming its border from the northwest corner to Kansas City, then flowing east to just above St. Louis, where it joins the Mississippi, which forms the entire eastern border. Jefferson City, located on the river in the middle of the state, is the capital.

Humans have inhabited the area for several thousand years. When French settlers from the east bank of the Mississippi began crossing the river for furs and mining, they called the people up the big river to the

west the Missouri, from which both the river and state take their names. Their first permanent settlement was founded along the river at Ste. Genevieve in the early 1700s, first on the east bank and later on the west side of the Mississippi. St. Louis was founded in 1764. As the 19th century began, most settlers were still French, but after the Louisiana Purchase in 1803, Americans from the east, particularly Virginia, Kentucky and Tennessee, began flooding the area in search of land.

Missouri was the muster point for the famed Lewis and Clark Expedition, which began an exploration up the Missouri in 1804 to the territories acquired in the Louisiana Purchase. The lure of land and opportunities made the state of Missouri — the westernmost state when it entered the Union in 1821 — a natural hub for settlers and explorers to obtain provisions before continuing westward.

Many chose to stay, and the 1904 Louisiana Purchase Exposition — also known as the St. Louis World's Fair — brought attention to the growth of the city and state. Today, Missouri is the 18th most populous state.

Show-Me State

Missouri is a geographically diverse state blessed with many natural assets. North of the Missouri River, the landscape features gently rolling hills, open plains and prairie country. South of the river, a large part of the state lies in the Ozark Mountains. The land is rough and hilly, with deep, narrow valleys, numerous caves and extraordinarily large natural springs. The far southeastern area of Missouri is in the alluvial plain of the Mississippi River, with elevations of less than 500 feet.

The state emblems highlight some of Missouri's flora and fauna. The white hawthorn blossom is the state flower and the flowering dogwood its state tree. The native bluebird is the state bird.

With 91 state parks and historical sites and hundreds of conservation areas, Missouri has an abundance of places to enjoy hiking, camping, fishing and other activities. Homes of famous Missourians, Civil War battlefields, historical mills and covered bridges, beautiful and wild natural areas, and more await those wishing to sample the state's bounty.

The state also offers almost endless opportunities for those who are interested in other pursuits. There are many public gardens, including the world-renowned Missouri Botanical Garden, and museums such as the Missouri History Museum, the National Blues Museum, and the Saint Louis Art Museum. Professional sports abound — baseball from the Kansas City Royals and St. Louis Cardinals; ice hockey from the St. Louis Blues; football from the Kansas City Chiefs; and soccer from the Saint Louis FC.

Missouri is home to great food and great music. Some of the country's best blues music is performed in concerts and clubs across the state. Whether it is Kansas City or St. Louis-style, Missouri is famous for its barbecue.

Visitors can learn about American history at the Harry S. Truman Library and Museum, the Mark Twain Birthplace State Historic Site, the Arabia Steamboat Museum, and the Laura Ingalls Wilder Home and Museum. An eastern terminus for many of the routes that enabled westward expansion, Missouri boasts several National Historic Trails, including the Lewis and Clark, the Santa Fe, the Trail of Tears, the Oregon and California, and the Pony Express. The Gateway Arch National Park reflects the history of the movement into the western territories.

The people of Missouri are said to be stalwart and noncredulous, unswayed by eloquent speeches and unconvinced without adequate evidence, hence the state nickname: The Show-Me State.

Stamp artwork

Artwork for the Missouri Statehood stamp features the multistory Bollinger's Mill and Burfordville Covered Bridge, created from an existing photograph by Charles Gurche.

Art director Greg Breeding designed the stamp.

Missouri Statehood is being issued as a Forever stamp, sold in panes of 20. This Forever stamp will always be equal in value to the current First-Class Mail 1-ounce price.

Postal Products

The Missouri Statehood stamp is available now at Post Office locations nationwide and online at usps.com/missouristatehood. News of the Missouri Statehood stamp is being shared with the hashtag **#MissouriStatehood**, **#MissouriStatehoodStamp** and **#StatehoodStamps**.

Customers may purchase stamps and other philatelic products through the [Postal Store](#) at usps.com/shopstamps, by calling 844-737-7826, by mail through [USA Philatelic](#), or at Post Office locations nationwide.

A video of the ceremony will be available on facebook.com/usps. Information for ordering first-day-of-issue postmarks and covers is at usps.com/shop.

The Postal Service generally receives no tax dollars for operating expenses and relies on the sale of postage, products and services to fund its operations.

#

Please Note: For U.S. Postal Service media resources, including broadcast-quality video and audio and photo stills, visit the [USPS Newsroom](#). Follow us on [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), [Pinterest](#) and [LinkedIn](#). Subscribe to the [USPS YouTube channel](#), like us on [Facebook](#) and enjoy our [Postal Posts blog](#). For more information about the Postal Service, visit usps.com and facts.usps.com.