

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. Abraham Lincoln(Post 4) Lt. Wise) 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: _____

Original Dedication Date 1888 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 5201 Brighton Blvd.
City/Village Denver Township _____ County Denver

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 Fairmount Dept./Div. _____

Street Address 430 S. Quebec St.

City Denver State CO. Zip Code 80247

Contact Person Nancy Niero Telephone (303) 322-3895

If the 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.) Zinc
If the Sculpture is of metal, is it solid cast or "hollow?" Hollow

Material of Plaque or Historical Marker / Tablet = Zinc

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
Monument or Base: Height @8' Width 42" Depth 42" or Diameter _____
Sculpture: Height 6' Width _____ Depth _____ 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: _____
Western White Bronze Co Des Moines Iowa(see photo) Upper tier of the lower base

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.
See photos of all 4 plaques

Environmental Setting

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

Type of Location

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

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).

Please see accompanying material

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 Various

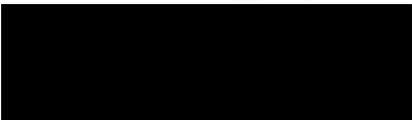
Your Name Charles Counts

Address 5076 S. Genoa St. City Centennial

State CO. Zip Code 80015 Telephone (303) 

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

February 8, 2006

Todd Shillington, PDC
15 Park Place
Holley, NY 14470-1022

Brother Shillington:

Please find enclosed material relating to the assessment of the Wise Memorial, located in Riverside, Denver's Historic Pioneer Cemetery. I have included an extensive amount of material which I hope will cover all aspects of the assessment, and restoration project for this unique historical monument. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. My contact information is listed below.

Yours in F.C. & L,



Charles Counts, PDC
Centennial Camp 100
Department of Colorado and Wyoming SUVCW

Charles Counts
5076 S. Genoa St.
Centennial, CO 80015



Jensen

Conservation Services, Inc.

13515 C Street

Omaha, NE 68144



George Cheyenne WISE – CONSERVATION TREATMENT PROPOSAL



Jensen Conservation Services, Inc.

*13515 C Street
Omaha, NE 68144*

SCULPTURE CONSERVATION TREATMENT PROPOSAL

CLIENT: Fairmont Heritage Foundation.
430 South Quebec
Denver, CO 80247

PROJECT: George Cheyenne Wise Memorial
Zinc

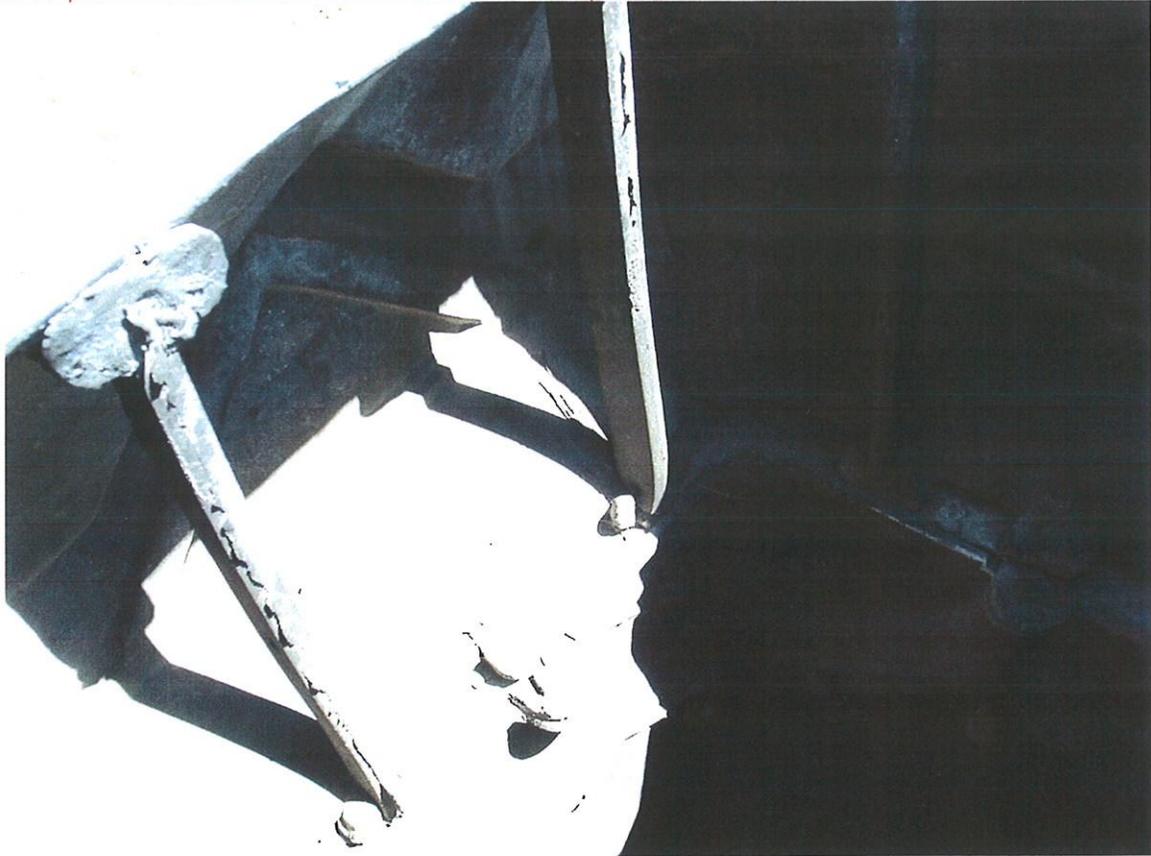
REPORT DATE: June 09, 2005

DESCRIPTION:

The zinc memorial commemorates the life of George Cheyenne Wise who died in 1887. It portrays the young man as a Civil War Union Soldier. The statue was supported on a columnar plinth that was itself created in three sections.

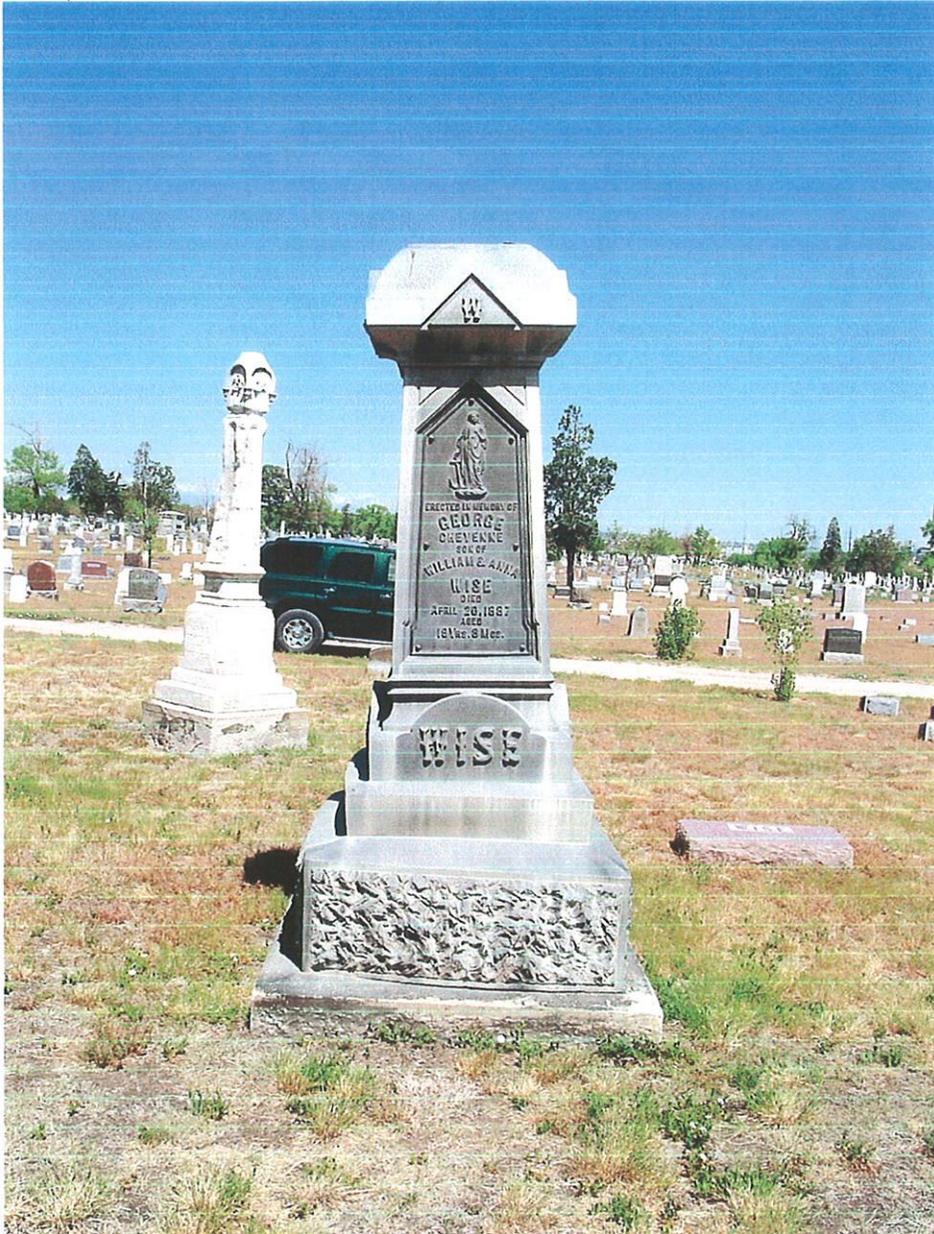
Internally, the zinc sections were joined with bolts. On the tallest of the three supporting sections, four individual panels were installed, also bolted to the internal ribs of the zinc. This long section was braced through the center with rods attached to corners. The top section was supported vertically on the interior with rods attached to top and bottom ribs.

Fairmont Heritage Foundation
George Cheyenne Wise Zinc Memorial
Sculpture Conservation Treatment Proposal



An interior photograph illustrates zinc ribs placed vertically inside the uppermost section of the column. Even these zinc ribs appear distorted and compressed from age and weight. Because they are joined to the Memorial, they did not transfer weight from the statue above to the footing, as our proposed internal armature will. Rather, these zinc bars served as spacers, trying to maintain the shape and dimensions of the top section. Over time, the rods have distorted and apparently the section of the column has distorted as well.

Fairmont Heritage
George Cheyenne Wise Zinc Memorial
Sculpture Conservation Treatment Proposal



CONDITION:

At some prior date, the Civil War Union Soldier was cut from the supporting column of the Wise memorial. The statue is located in storage and has a break through the barrel of the rifle. The column, therefore, is open at the top. The lowest of the three sections of the support column is visibly distorted, bulging from collapse of the zinc after years of supporting the weight of the memorial. Some distortions were also noted in the middle and uppermost sections of the memorial, though they were less severe.

Fairmont Heritage Foundation
George Cheyenne Wise Zinc Memorial
Sculpture Conservation Treatment Proposal



Because it is zinc, the metal of the memorial appears chemically sound; it has not corroded. Lettering remains clearly legible. The sculpture has produced a self-protective patina.

Fairmont Heritage Foundation
George Cheyenne Wise Zinc Memorial
Sculpture Conservation Treatment Proposal

Color variations on the face of the Soldier are notable and indicate age and weathering, however, they are not greatly disfiguring.



Indoors, the statue has been separated from the columnar portion of the Wise Memorial. There is a break in the rifle barrel, located an inch below the right hand.

Fairmont Heritage Foundation
George Cheyenne Wise Zinc Memorial
Sculpture Conservation Treatment Proposal
PROPOSED CONSERVATION TREATMENT:

It is vital to the continued longevity of the Wise memorial to create a support for the aging Zinc castings. It is proposed the metal sections of the Memorial be supported from an internal armature to be made of Type A 304 stainless steel. The steel is recommended for its resistance to corrosion and its strength. Because steel differs in composition from the zinc metal of the Memorial, the support and memorial will be isolated from direct contact by placement of electrical isolators.

The armature would be engineered to support weight from each of the three sections and the statue independently from one another. In order to support each section independently, the memorial sections would be separated at the horizontal joints by removing the bolts. The stainless steel armature would be erected, and leveled on site and each historic zinc section would be attached, level and directly to the armature, not to each other. This plan provides each aging zinc section with internal support and eliminates the need for the zinc to support itself. Metal shims may need to be inserted to level the sections of the Memorial as it is reassembled.



The interior view illustrates bolts securing sections across cast joints. The "X" is a pair of tie rods placed inside the tall center section to aid in keeping the Memorial square.

Fairmont Heritage Foundation
George Cheyenne Wise Zinc Memorial
Sculpture Conservation Treatment Proposal

Repairs would be made to the statue and plinth sections while the Memorial in sections. The rifle barrel would be soldered and the repair dressed down. The top section and soldier would be re-joined by soldering where they have been cut apart. Distortions in the zinc metal would be reshaped and eliminated as much as possible. The aged metal has some memory of the new, distorted form, so a full re-alignment is not anticipated.



The statue of the Civil War Union Soldier has been cut away from the lower elevation of the Wise Memorial. In this detail photograph some staining and accretions are visible.

Although there is no significant corrosion of the zinc metal exterior, some cleaning will be affected while the sections are separated. Cleaning tests will be conducted prior to full scale cleaning operations being undertaken. Among the arsenal of available cleaning means we recommend testing the use of a pressure washer at limited settings, metal stain removers, ammoniated cleaners, mechanical cleaning methods, and organic solvents (aliphatic as well as aromatic). The purpose of the

Fairmont Heritage Foundation
George Cheyenne Wise Zinc Memorial
Sculpture Conservation Treatment Proposal

cleaning is to remove accretions and accumulated soil and unify the color of the weathered exterior. Cleaning would stop well short of stripping the metal to a bright "like new" appearance. The indicators of age would be preserved through cleaning, but the process would mitigate the irregularities of finish. Gaps between sections of the straightened cleaned and reassembled zinc would be filled with two-part architectural epoxy, toned gray in color to readily disappear from view in the final assembly.

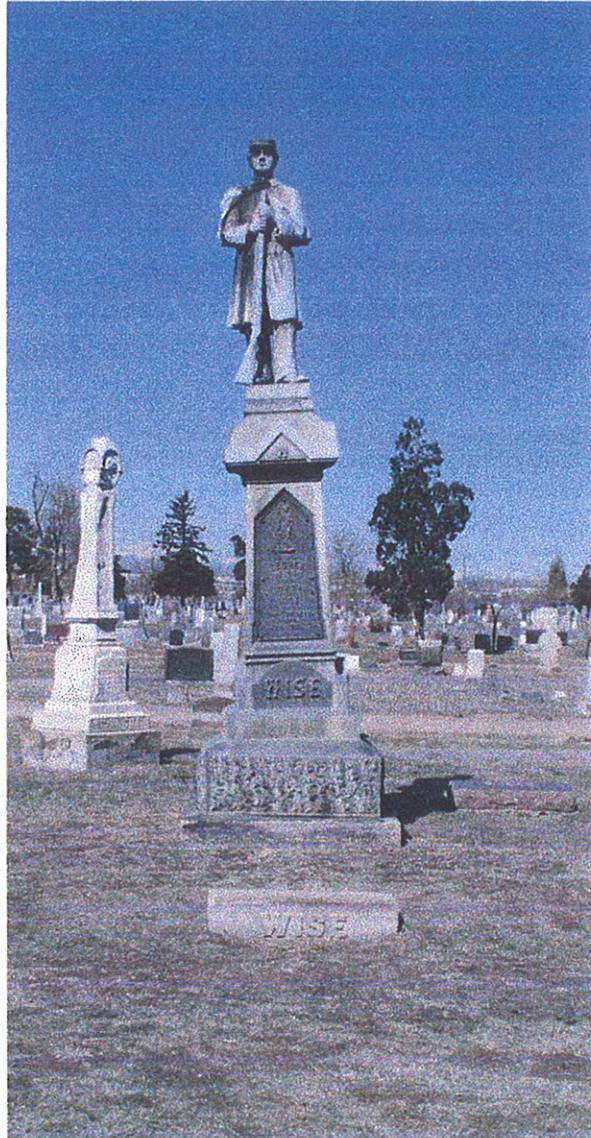
PROPOSED MAINTENANCE:

After the conservation treatment is completed, maintenance of the sculpture should require no more than hand washing on an annual basis. The use of Proctor and Gamble Orvus detergent in city water is recommended for gentle cleaning. Thorough rinsing and towel drying concludes a hand washing maintenance program.

COST ESTIMATE:

An estimated fee schedule for this program of conservation is \$27,000.00 to \$31,000.00.

WISE MONUMENT RESTORATION



**RIVERSIDE
DENVER'S PIONEER CEMETERY**

WISE MONUMENT/FAMILY FACT SHEET

The monument was placed in 1888 by William Wise, in memory of his eldest son, George Sebold Wise, who had died in April of 1887. Because of the time needed to complete the monument, it was impossible to be placed at the time of the Funeral. The monument also marks the burial of William and Anna Wise(George's mother).

The manufacturer was the Western White Bronze Company of Des Moines Iowa. The monument was a catalogue item titled: American Soldier . The statue was made of sheet zinc. The catalogue listing was as such:

No. 220, *Statue of American Soldier*, 6ft. 1&1/2in. \$450, " when used as a family monument, and photos of the deceased soldier can be furnished, we will model a new head in true likeness of said deceased, thus bringing out a complete portrait statue, and the extra cost will be but \$150, thus giving to the public full life-sized portrait soldier statues at a cost of only \$600."

William opted for the personalized version at the \$600 cost. The monument also has an optional taller base, increasing the total cost to @ \$1.000. Because of this, the monument is unique in two ways.

- 1.) No photo of George Wise as a young man is known at this time, therefore, this is the only likeness of George, at about the time of his death.
- 2.) Carol Grissom of the Smithsonian stated this is the only known American Soldier statue with the likeness of the deceased.

We are fortunate to have two American Soldier monuments at Riverside. The other one is dedicated in the memory of Jacob C. E. Cummings of the 2nd NJ Volunteer Infantry. His monument is the standard \$450 version, and was dedicated in 1890. For some reason, the Cummings monument has not suffered the same catastrophic structural failure as the Wise monument.

The Wise monument was in imminent danger of toppling, and the Fairmount Heritage Foundation is coordinating the effort to stabilize and restore the monument. The first phase; separating the statue from the base, was completed in March of 2004. This phase has effectively saved the monument so that the evaluation and eventual stabilization and restoration can be completed under a less urgent time schedule.

George Wise was born in Cheyenne WY. in 1868(August?). George was the first white male child born in the new railroad town of Cheyenne. His

with two-part architectural epoxy, toned to match the patina of the metal, so as to blend in after final assembly. The strengthening armature will be replaced by one made of stainless steel, and be isolated from the zinc to prevent a "bimetal" reaction. The base will be placed on a new pad, and the statue will be reattached. The total cost of stabilization and restoration will be @ \$30,000. This figure is well within the range of similar projects done elsewhere.

The Fairmount Heritage Foundation, which has partnered with Centennial Camp 100 SUCVW, in this project, welcomes contributions from those who wish to be a part of the effort to restore this unique historic treasure. Contributions can be made out to the Fairmount Heritage Foundation, a tax exempt 501-C3 organization. Please note "for the Wise Monument" with the contribution.

All who participate in this worthy endeavor can feel satisfaction in knowing that this memorial to George, Lt. William, and Anna Wise, a true Colorado Pioneer family, will be preserved for generations to come.

For further information, please call the Fairmount Heritage Foundation at: 303 322-3895.



West side of monument



East side of monument



South side of monument



North side of monument

WESTERN WHITE BRONZE CO.
DES MOINES IOWA.

