



### 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.) Local sand stone and granite

#### SUVCW -- CIVIL WAR

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

Material of Plaque or Historical Marker / Tablet = Brown Sand Stone

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

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

Monument or Base: Height 20 Feet Width 4 Feet Depth 4 Feet or Diameter \_\_\_\_\_  
Sculpture: Height \_\_\_\_\_ 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 \_\_\_\_\_

The base has inscription on each of the four sides.

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.

South side: Kit Carson Died May 23, 1868

North side: Pioneer Pathfinder Soldier

West side: He Led the Way

East side: Erected by the Comrades of the G.A.R.

### 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 type="checkbox"/> Park           | <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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Courthouse | <input type="checkbox"/> College Campus | <small>Federal Plaza</small>             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Traffic Circle        | <input type="checkbox"/> 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) .

Reference the attached brief history of the Kit Carson monument. The monument has been repaired and maintained by the General

Services Administration (GSA), reference an attached 1997 conservation report and a separate 2001 restoration report. With the recent

protests ,the City of Santa Fe has requested that GSA remove the monument due to Kit Carson's controversial history with Native Americans.

The monument is currently covered and protected with a plywood box while GSA addresses the community's concerns.

**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 June 2020

Your Name Hugo A. Gardea

Address 819 Taylor Street

City Fort Worth

State TX Zip Code 76102

Telephone (   ) 817-978-4229

What Order or Organization is submitter a member of? GSA Employee

Please send this completed form to

Walt Busch, PDC, Chair



Thank you for your help, and attention to detail. SONS OF UNION V

CIVIL WAR VETERANS OF THE National Civil War Memorials Committee

## **Kit Carson Monument (Santa Fe, New Mexico)**

in front of the U.S. Courthouse in downtown Santa Fe, New Mexico. The obelisk was erected in 1884 by the Grand Army of the Republic. It honors Christopher "Kit" Carson - a veteran of the Mexican-American War and the Civil War. The monument is included in the Santa Fe U. S. Courthouse listings on the New Mexico State Register of Cultural Properties (HPD 874) and on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP No. 73001152).

### **Page 2 Info**

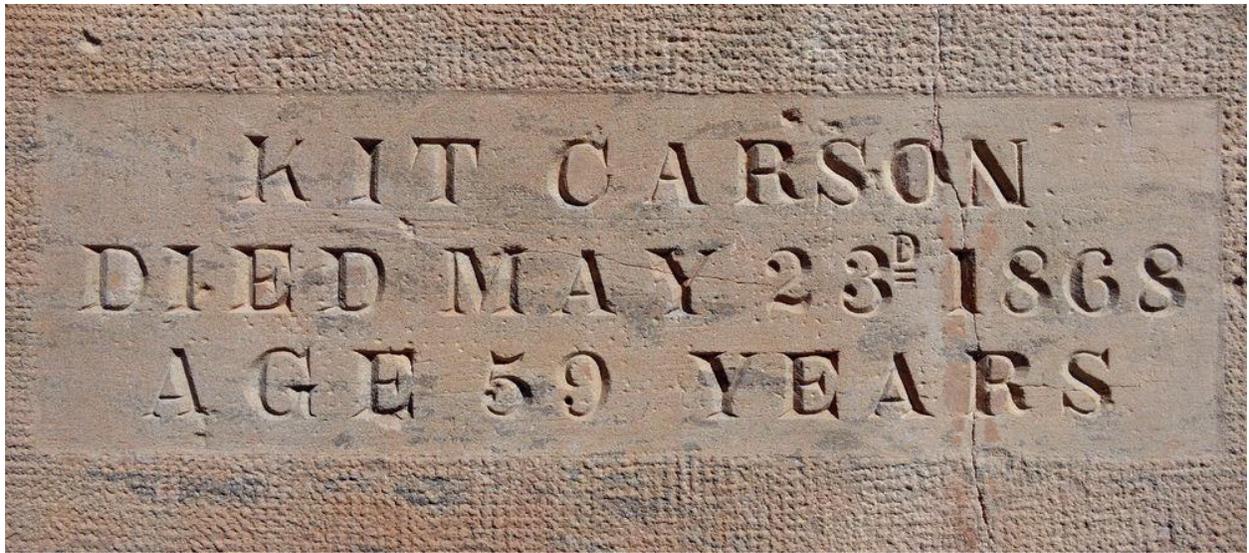
**Negative Number 057034**

<b>Title</b>	<b>"The Monument of Kit Carson", Santa Fe Plaza, New Mexico</b>
<b>Creator</b>	<b>Chase, Dana B.</b>
<b>Date</b>	<b>1884 - 1892?</b>
<b>Subject File</b>	<b>Towns-Santa Fe-Monuments</b>
<b>Notes</b>	<b>Original is 4 1/2" x 7"</b>
<b>Subject</b>	<b><a href="#">Monuments</a></b>
<b>Type</b>	<b>Still Image</b>
<b>Date Digital</b>	<b>2012 - 04</b>
<b>Repository</b>	<b>Palace of the Governors Photo Archives, New Mexico History Museum, Santa Fe, New Mexico</b>
<b>Rights</b>	<b>Use information available at <a href="http://www.palaceofthegovernors.org/photo_request.html">http://www.palaceofthegovernors.org/photo_request.html</a></b>



p. 134. The Monument of Kit Carson, D. B. Chase, Photographer, Santa Fe, N. M.





VANDALIZED JULY 2020







## Kit Carson Monument, Santa Fe, New Mexico

Victoria Green Clow - 7PC [REDACTED] >

Tue 6/23/2020 5:56 PM

To: webusch@[REDACTED]

Cc: Hugo Gardea <[REDACTED]>; Dennis Miller - 7PC [REDACTED]

 2 attachments (5 MB)

01 Jun 1885, 4 - Page.pdf; Clow 2019 Pic.JPG;

Good Afternoon:

I am looking for information on the ownership of the Kit Carson monument erected in 1885 by the GAR in Santa Fe, NM (see attached article). The monument was built on government property in front of what is now the **Santiago E. Campos United States Courthouse located** 106 S. Federal Pl. (see attached photograph of the monument taken last year).

I understand from the Deed of Conveyance to the SUVCW that many monuments are now under your organization's purview. I have also made a request to the New Mexico State Archives for their GAR files.

Do you have records of this monument in your existing inventory?

Thank you for your assistance,

Victoria

Victoria Green Clow  
Historic Preservation/Fine Arts Specialist

U.S. General Services Administration | Public Building Service

Greater Southwest Region (R7) | Design & Construction Division  
819 Taylor Street, Room 12A-508 | Fort Worth, TX 76102

O: (817) 978-0199 [REDACTED]

**Re: Kit Carson Monument, Santa Fe, New Mexico**

Walter Busch <[REDACTED]>

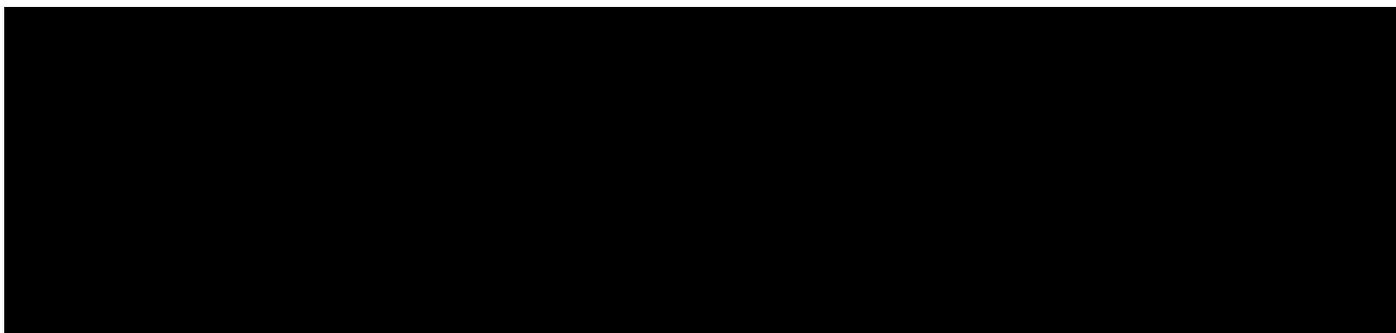
Tue 6/23/2020 7:40 PM

To: Victoria Green Clow - 7PC [REDACTED]

There is nothing in our files about it. That doesn't mean we don't own it. There are many around that have never been deeded over to other groups. Most have been deeded over to cities, counties, the American Legion or other organizations. A local researcher is the person who would have to provide the answer to it. I will keep the information you sent on it in our files.

Thank you.

Walter Busch, Past Department Commander  
Missouri Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War



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**From:** Victoria Green Clow - 7PC [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Tuesday, June 23, 2020 5:55 PM

**To:** webusc [REDACTED]

**Cc:** Hugo Gardea [REDACTED]; Dennis Miller - 7PC [REDACTED]

**Subject:** Kit Carson Monument, Santa Fe, New Mexico

Good Afternoon:

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819 Taylor Street, Room 12A-508 | Fort Worth, TX 76102  
O: (817) 978-0199 [REDACTED]

# PIÑON POST

## Santa Fe Mayor Webber's attempts to remove Kit Carson obelisk hit wall

By [John Block](#) / October 22, 2020 / [New Mexico](#), [News](#), [Politics](#)



For months, Santa Fe's Mayor Alan Webber has been trying to rip down historical landmarks in his city to placate far-left anti-Hispanic hate groups like The Red Nation and Three Sisters Collective, which have [applauded](#) the vandalism and destruction of age-old monuments in the Capital City.

On October 12, violent anarchists [toppled](#) the 152-year-old obelisk in the heart of the Santa Fe Plaza, while under Mayor Webber's directive, Police stood by and [watched](#) it happen. Police Chief Andrew Padilla defended the Department's inaction, saying, "The monument, yes, it's historical, but it's an object."

Now, Mayor Webber has hit a wall with his longtime plans to remove the centuries-old monuments that have become a prominent piece of Northern New Mexico cultures and history.

The 1883 monument to honor Kit Carson erected in front of the Federal Courthouse in Santa Fe is the latest subject of Webber's path of destruction. However, the Federally owned monument will take more than just Webber's words to remove.

In 1973, the Carson statue and the Downtown obelisk were added to the National Register of Historic Places, and are under the protection of the Historic Preservation Act.

“Due to the historic status of the obelisk and its control by a federal agency, what is called the ‘Section 106’ process would apply to a modification/removal of that obelisk,” said Kristine Mihelcic, a spokesperson for the mayor’s office.

According to [KRQE 13](#):

The Section 106 process is administered by the National Parks Administration. “Our Attorney is scheduling time with the federal representatives to discuss what the City’s role can be in engaging the Section 106 process,” said Mihelcic.

It is not clear how long the removal process would take or if it will happen at all.

The restrictions protect the Kit Carson monument. However, violent domestic terrorists may strike once again, this time at the monument sitting in front of the Federal Courthouse.

It is unclear if the Mayor’s Police Chief has an officer watching the monument, or if he will stand back and allow lawless criminals to once again deface or topple it, as they did with the Plaza obelisk.

A Spanish cultural group is currently [considering](#) launching a recall petition to take out Mayor Webber for his dereliction of duty.



*GSA Public Buildings Service  
Greater Southwest Region*

July 31, 2020

Walt Busch, PDC, Chair  
National Organization, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Memorials Committee

Re: Kit Carson Monument  
Grounds of the Santiago E. Campos U.S. Courthouse  
Santa Fe, NM

Dear Mr. Busch,

The General Services Administration (GSA) is reviewing and researching the history of the Christopher Kit Carson Monument in Santa Fe, NM and is reaching out to your organization, The Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW) for input. GSA is seeking to address two issues regarding the monument; ownership and community concerns.

Based on the history of the monument, reference the attached Supplemental Background Information, GSA discovered the monument was organized and erected by the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) and is now owned by the SUVCW as a result of the property deed of conveyance to the SUVCW. Please confirm this is your opinion.

Secondly, the City of Santa Fe has requested GSA remove the monument due to Kit Carson's treatment of Native Americans in the 19th century. We request your thoughts about removal, relocation or preservation of the monument. We understand a SUVCW Camp is being established in Albuquerque, please relay this request to the local camp or the national organization who can address this concern.

The GSA is interested in resolving the community's concerns as soon as possible, please share with us your thoughts and comments regarding the monument by August 15, 2020 so that we may coordinate with GSA's response. If you would like to discuss via conference call, please do not hesitate to contact me at 817.978.4229 or [hugo.gardea@gsa.gov](mailto:hugo.gardea@gsa.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Hugo A. Gardea".

Hugo A. Gardea, Architect  
Regional Historic Preservation and Fine Arts Officer  
Region 7, Public Buildings Service (7PCD)

Enclosures: Supplemental Information, Memorial Form, Newspaper Articles and Reports

**U.S. General Services Administration (7PCD)**  
819 Taylor Street, Room 12A  
Fort Worth, TX 76102  
[www.gsa.gov](http://www.gsa.gov)

## **SUPPLEMENTAL BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

### **CHRISTOPHER “KIT” CARSON MONUMENT SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO**

#### Introduction

The information below is intended to accompany a Civil War Memorial Assessment Form for the National Organization of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW) requesting their thoughts and opinions about the monument and the local requests to remove it from the property. The SUVCW is the successor organization of the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) which organized and erected the Kit Carson monument.

The Kit Carson monument is comprised of a sand stone obelisk, pedestal and base sitting atop granite steps. The monument is located on the grounds of the Santiago E. Campos U.S. Courthouse which is physically within the federal plaza & oval in Santa Fe, NM. The federal oval is a historic landscape within the City of Santa Fe and is owned and managed by the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA).



2019 photo of the monument in front of the courthouse.

#### A Brief History of the Kit Carson Monument

Based on newspaper articles and documents obtained from the New Mexico Archives

The GAR (Santa Fe Chapter, Carelton Post Number 003) first discussed creating a monument to Christopher “Kit” Carson on February 22, 1884. During their meeting on February 29, 1884,

they drafted General Orders No 2. in order to adopt a resolution creating a committee for erecting the monument.

The committee created several circulars for the purpose of generating interest in the monument and the raising of funds. It was decided funds would be requested from GAR posts in the NM Territory in addition to Missouri, where he was born, and Washington, DC where the GAR post was named after him.

In the summer of 1884, the County of Taos wrote to the committee requesting they locate the monument in Taos, where Kit Carson is buried. During the months of July through September, there was communication and discussion regarding the location of the monument. Las Vegas thought the monument should be placed in its plaza due to the fact that Kit Carson lived just outside the city for many years. For various reasons (fundraising and balloting) it was decided in the committee's meeting on October 1, 1884 to locate the monument in Santa Fe and a separate tablet would be erected at Kit Carson's grave.



Earliest known photograph, ca. 1886, prior to construction of the stone wall around the oval.

According to newspaper articles, the committee obtained permission through its Territorial Governor Lionel A. Sheldon and Territorial Secretary Samuel A. Losch from the then Secretary of the Interior, Henry M. Teller, to locate the monument on the federal grounds. The governor participated in a site visit when it was announced that the location of the monument would be in Santa Fe. We could not locate official correspondence (or real property records) for this action but rely on newspaper accounts. At the time of its unveiling, the federal building and courthouse had not yet been completed so the committee located the marker at the end of Lincoln Avenue immediately in front of the courthouse (then territorial capitol) facing the center of the street leading from the plaza.

It is believed the foundation for the marker was prepared, and ready for the monument, in late 1884 or early 1885. Because there was difficulty in raising the necessary funds, Former Arkansas Senator Stephen W. Dorsey, also a member of the GAR and owner of nearby Mountain Springs Ranch, supplied the obelisk for the monument if the fundraising could supply the foundation. In letters, he requested that the donation of the obelisk be kept confidential. The monument base and obelisk, constructed using regional sandstone, were completed in May 1885 and unveiled during a dedication ceremony on Memorial Day, May 30, 1885.

When the federal government restarted construction of the courthouse (1888), F.H. Brigham, Superintendent in charge of construction, wrote to the GAR requesting they relocate the monument so work on the grounds could begin. This was met with immediate and publicized resistance from the GAR who stated in news articles that they had permission from the Secretary of the (Department of) Interior to locate the monument on the federal grounds. The superintendent wrote an editorial to clarify that he had received no orders to move the monument and shall see that the grade of the wall be at a grade that shows the monument in the best possible advantage.

### General Services Administration

In 1949, the U.S. Government established the General Services Administration to streamline the administrative work of the federal government. GSA consolidated the National Archives Establishment, the Federal Works Agency, and the Public Buildings Administration; the Bureau of Federal Supply and the Office of Contract Settlement; and the War Assets Administration into one federal agency tasked with administering supplies and providing workplaces for federal employees.

Today, through its two largest offices, the Public Buildings Service and the Federal Acquisition Service, GSA provides workspace to more than 1 million federal civilian workers, oversees the preservation of more than 500 historic buildings, and facilitates the federal government's purchase of high-quality, low-cost goods and services from quality commercial vendors.

As a part of its responsibilities within the Public Buildings Service, the GSA operates and manages the Santiago E. Campos U.S. Courthouse and Grounds.

### Monument Ownership

The monument was erected and funded by the efforts of the local GAR (Carleton Post, No. 003) and not the GSA. In 1954, through a Deed of Conveyance of Property, the GAR conveyed to SUVCW, any and all property owned by the GAR, including the Kit Carson monument.

As such, the GAR, through its successor organization, the SUVCW owns the monument as provided for in the deed. GSA does not have a fee ownership in the monument. Since the GAR received permission from the Secretary of the (Department of the) Interior to locate the monument on federal grounds, the GSA's responsibilities include a fiduciary duty to maintain

and protect the monument. This includes protection to prevent destruction of veteran's memorials under 18 USC 1369.

#### Kit Carson Monument Recent Past and Today

Because the monument's obelisk, pedestal and base are constructed using regional sandstone, a sedimentary stone, it is fragile and has experienced some deterioration. The GSA has previously procured an assessment report (1997) and restored portions of the monument (2001). Both reports are appended to this supplemental information.

According to the background research, the monument has been controversial in Santa Fe throughout its history. In addition to the requested move referenced above in the history segment, the city requested its removal in 1973. As part of the protests that have enveloped the country during the 2020 summer months, the City of Santa Fe has reached out to the GSA to inquire about the removal of the monument.

The monument commemorates a former soldier and frontiersman that fought in the Indian Wars and has been associated with the mistreatment of Native Americans in forced marches. These marches, also collectively known as the Long Walk, began in 1864 and forced many of the Navajo and Mescalero Apache to march 400 miles from their traditional homelands in northeastern Arizona to the Bosque Redondo near Fort Sumner in eastern New Mexico. Thousands of the Navajo and Mescalero Apache Nations perished in the Long Walk.

As a result of the summer protests, the monument had graffiti sprayed onto the base. To avoid further damage to the monument, the GSA sought to protect the monument and created a physical barrier around the monument. The barrier is intended to remain in place pending a resolution with the city and other stakeholders.

The City of Santa Fe has requested the monument be removed from the federal grounds due to its tribute to Kit Carson, a noted soldier and frontiersman associated with forcing Native Americans to relocate from their traditional homelands, many of which died during the forced marches.



Monument with graffiti.



Plywood barrier around the monument.

Headquarters Department of New Mexico  
Grand Army of the Republic  
Santa Fe N.M. February 29<sup>th</sup> 1887

General orders. }  
no 2 }

In accordance with a resolution adopted at the annual encampment G.A.R. held at Las Vegas. February 22<sup>d</sup>, each post of the Department of New Mexico will at once select a comrade to serve on a committee <sup>who will</sup> take the necessary measures to erect a monument over the grave of General Rich Carson at Las Vegas. Post commanders will ~~at~~ notify these headquarters of the names <sup>of the comrade</sup> selected and suggestions will be received as to the manner in which we may best honor the memory of a gallant soldier whose loyalty should be remembered.

By Command of  
E. W. Wynkoop  
Department Commander.

W. S. Fletcher  
Assistant Adjutant General.  
Exhibit no 1

**KIT THE PIONEER.**

The G. A. R. Monument to be Located  
in Front of the New Territorial  
Capital.

Col. Robt. G. Ingersoll to officiate at  
the Unveiling the latter Part  
of November.

A special meeting of the Santa Fe Board of Trade, for the purpose of taking final action in the matter of locating in Santa Fe the Kit Carson monument, was held last Saturday afternoon.

Present: Sol Spangberg, Arthur H. Bates, J. S. Harrison, F. P. Herlihy, S. W. Bear, J. G. Schumann, Julius H. Hildebrand, F. Donaghy, Wm. M. Berger, C. M. Cooney, E. L. Bartlett, C. H. Wickens; present by special invitation Col. E. W. Wyckoff and Col. W. S. Foster.

In the absence of the president, General E. L. Bartlett was called to the chair. The secretary stated the object of the meeting, and Colonel Wyckoff said it had been, unofficially decided, on behalf of the Kit Carson committee of the G. A. R., to locate the monument in Santa Fe. The committee of name of the board reported that in the conference held some days ago they, on behalf of the board, had agreed to build the monument and erect the pedestal without regard to the cost of same. It was

**Resolved,** That the Santa Fe Board of Trade undertake, on behalf of the committee created by the agreement to erect the monument in Santa Fe, such steps as may be selected by joint committees of a committee of the board as appointed to superintend the work. Wm. M. Berger, C. M. Cooney and Spangberg, S. W. Bear and J. S. Harrison.

It was the sense of the board that the monument be located, if possible, within the capital grounds. A committee of five was named to arrange for the site as follows: C. M. Cooney, F. P. Herlihy, J. G. Schumann, F. Donaghy and Julius H. Hildebrand.

Secretary Bates suggested that exact measurements and specifications should be furnished at once to Mr. Berger, chairman of the erection committee, so that they might have them the earliest possible date. Col. Wyckoff stated he would supply this information as early as possible.

Just prior to adjourning the board passed a hearty vote of thanks to Department Commander Wyckoff and other members of the G. A. R. for the part they had displayed in this matter on behalf of the capital city of New Mexico.

**Location of the Monument.**

The committee appointed by the Board of Trade Saturday evening consisting of Messrs. C. M. Cooney, F. P. Herlihy, F. Donaghy, J. H. Hildebrand, and J. G. Schumann, visited the ground this morning accompanied by Col. E. W. Wyckoff and Col. W. S. Foster of the erection committee, when the site of the Kit Carson monument was definitely fixed at the head of Lincoln avenue within the capital grounds. The monument will be ready for shipment by November 15th, and it is proposed to have it ready on unloading during the last week in November when Col. Robert G. Ingersoll will deliver the address.

The exact date will be announced in general orders issued by Department Commander Wyckoff within a day or two. The railroads will make a greatly reduced rate, and the unveiling ceremonies to be given that the monument that ever took place under the auspices of the G. A. R., department of New Mexico.

The monument committee have also perfected arrangements for the shipment of a tablet to Paris to be erected in the cemetery at that place over the remains of Kit Carson and wife which will be dedicated with proper ceremonies.

By the way, while the committee and the governor were visiting the grounds this morning the executive suggested that the street crossing Lincoln avenue and running in front of the building grounds between Washington and Grand streets be hereafter known and named Kit Carson avenue.

Clipped By:



In view of the fact that the Kit Carson monument had been assigned to place in Santa Fe, we deemed it unwise to agitate such a sacred subject, upon the grounds of place preference or even upon the peculiar methods whereby Santa Fe received preference over Las Vegas, and would not now comment upon the matter only to put the issues squarely before the people and correct certain insinuations thrown out by the Optic on several occasions and repeated last night. About a year ago it was determined by the Grand Army of the Republic to solicit contributions, both from members of the organization and outsiders, for the erecting of a suitable monument to Kit Carson. To make a long story short, the scheme failed, so far as general contributions were concerned. This fact coming to the ears of Hon. S. W. Dorsey, he very generously and under the solemn pledge that his name should not be used in the transaction, offered to contribute the monument to the G. A. R., to be by them erected as their donation. This proposition was accepted and the work commenced. As the time of its completion neared, the question—heretofore not seriously considered— as to where the monument should be located arose. A committee was appointed of one from each post in the Territory, and this committee subsequently delegated five of its members to act. By methods which we do not care to enter into, Santa Fe was selected as the site upon the payment of a sufficient sum of money to secure the foundation and base for the shaft, and was given a stipulated time in which to raise the amount. In the meantime, by request of intimate friends and relatives of the deceased hero, the committee was requested to reconvene and select Las Vegas as the most appropriate location for the monument. Santa Fe was still adhered to, through the manipulations of Colonels Wynkoop and Fletcher, notwithstanding the strong pressure brought to bear in favor of this city. Senator Dorsey was petitioned and importuned time and again to use his influence, as the donor, to have the monument located in Las Vegas, and while always affirming that the matter was not in his hands but those of the G. A. R. committee, did say that in view of the overwhelming wishes of others he thought Las Vegas was the proper place to locate the tribute to Carson. By some means or other the matter was finally referred to Raton post, from which the donation was to come, and the commander, T. W. Collier was delegated to settle the issue. This he did in favor of Santa Fe. We know that Senator Dorsey favored this place, and only the day before the decision was rendered by Mr. Collier had expressed in a letter to him this sentiment. We have gone

## Carson Monument 11 Nov 1884

Clipped By:



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over the entire correspondence and know whereof we speak. In said package of letters are some which lead us to believe that Mr. Fitzgerrell, very active in having the monument located here, incurred the ill-will of Mr. Collier and this may have influenced the latter's action in deciding in favor of Santa Fe. Certain it is Senator Dorsey, the donor—and it is useless to keep the matter a secret now, much as he desired it—has acted in a very commendable manner throughout, being placed as he was in a most embarrassing position. This we know from a perusal of the letters pertaining to the matter. It is no uncertain question that Las Vegas may yet get the monument, as sleepy old Santa Fe will never raise the amount necessary for the base. We understand she will do nothing till spring any way, while this city would have the entire pile pointing to that haven of rest, where its honored subject dwells, in less time than it takes to write about it. Give Las Vegas the monument, and praise rather than censure generous Dorsey.

WE are in receipt of a copy of Copp's

## Carson Monument 2 11 Nov 1884

Clipped By:

**CARLETON POST.**  
New Officers Elected at Last Night's Meeting.

At the regular annual meeting of Carleton post last night for election of officers the following were chosen to serve for the ensuing year:

H. Crockett, Commander.  
E. Woods, Senior Vice Commander.  
W. C. Burton, Junior Vice Commander.  
V. Hartson, Quarter Master.  
C. W. Kinsaid, Chaplain.  
W. H. Kinsaid, Secretary.  
D. M. Martin, Officer of the Day.  
F. Bywaters, Officer of the Guard.

For adjutant in the next annual encampment, at Kingston, J. T. Forester, W. H. Venable, and W. C. Fincher were selected, and C. Hartson, H. Barker and H. Snyder as alternates.

The re-election of Post Commander Crockett and Quartermaster Valentine Hartson was a deserved compliment to those capable and loyal officers.

**SEE CANTON SURVEY.**

The post received a letter from F. H. Brigham, superintendent in charge of the federal building and grounds, dated Nov. 12, '88, wherein it stated that work upon the grounds would begin at an early day; that the Elx Cannon monument will have to be removed from its present site, and requesting to know what disposition it is desired should be made of it.

This inquiry brought out the following report by the committee, which was adopted by the post:

SANTA FE, N. M., Dec. 5, 1888.—We the undersigned members of the present committee known as the committee on the Elx Cannon monument, duly appointed by Carleton post to which we are in absolute obedience, in view of the fact that at the last regular meeting, your committee made an examination of the present condition of said monument, in view of its proposed removal from its present site, as contemplated by F. H. Brigham, adjutant, federal establishment, Santa Fe, N. M., and with his letter addressed to A. A. G. Dept. of New Mexico, U. S. A., a copy of which letter is herewith annexed and made a part of this report.

Your committee find that the stone of which said monument was made is of coarse, brittle heavy sand stone, which is particularly liable to be broken if handled; that now the base is fractured on three sides, and the pedestal is fractured in the same manner on three sides; the shaft, consisting of three pieces, is also fractured on three sides.

It is the opinion of your committee that if it is attempted to move said monument it will result in its destruction, and will be the end of the monument.

Your committee is advised that at the time of the locating of said monument the committee on the Elx Cannon monument obtained through the then governor of New Mexico, Samuel A. Stinson, and the secretary, Samuel A. Leach, from the secretary of the interior, the authority or permission to locate said monument on the federal grounds, where there has been erected, or rather constructed, the present federal building.

That at the time of locating of said monument, the walls of the present building were then standing; the then committee in locating said monument took into consideration the probability of the completion of said building, and selected the present site of the monument, as being in the most prominent, eligible and proper; that said monument as it now stands is about 35 feet from the rear main building and about twenty feet from the front steps of the front entry, and about the same distance from the street; it stands facing the corner of the street leading from the plaza to said building.

Your committee concur in the action of the former committee in the selection of the present site, and will believe that the monument is situated in a commanding and eligible position, and do not see why it should not remain in its present position, as believed by the resolutions and associations of the memorable ceremony of its dedication. We therefore recommend that Carleton Post, on behalf of the command of this department, do solemnly protest against any removal of said monument, and that a copy of this report be fully forwarded hereto, and with the approval of the department commander be our dissent in compliance with the request that he present the same to the honorable secretary of the interior.

Jas. H. Pezart,  
Major, Down.

Clipped By:



**PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS.**  
That Pavement Provision—New Street—  
Kit Carson Monument.

Much to the gratification of the south side residents the capital commissioners to-day directed the contractor to place the stone and iron fence eight feet back from the street line in order to provide for a pavement. This was certainly the sensible thing to do, and it was done with a view to establishing a precedent, so that when the property beyond is improved it will be laid out to conform with this width of street and "pave" the way for a continuation of the pavement.

The matter of running a straight new street south on the east side of the capitol grounds is also making hospital progress to-day. Messrs. Juan Sandoval and Nestor Montoya have agreed to accept \$1,000 for the property which abstracts the new street, and it seems to be the generally expressed wish of everybody having business at the capitol or living on the south side that the capitol commission and those mostly interested can get together and settle the affair once and for good.

At the federal building grounds a force of men and teams are at work on the new contract, and a large force is at work in the Cerrillos quarries getting out stone for the fence. The following on the Kit Carson monument matter was received to-day:

To the Editor of the New Mexican.

Please allow me to make the following brief statement in reference to the removal of the Kit Carson monument:

The letter referred to in your report of the G. A. R. meeting was written by myself and addressed to James H. Furdy, assistant adjutant general, and chairman of the Kit Carson monument committee, in compliance with his request, he having called at my office in company with Mr. H. C. Burnett for this purpose. When I made the survey of the grounds surrounding the federal building I indicated on my drawings the exact location of the monument, and simply recommended its removal to the center of the semi-circle at the western extremity of the grounds, believing this to be a much better location, surrounded, as it would be, by walks and grass plats. My action in the matter was simply approved by the supervising architect.

I have, however, received no orders from the department in regard to the removal of the monument, and I have no idea that the monument will ever be removed from its present site, unless it is done at the expense and under the supervision of the Grand Army of the Republic, in whose custody the monument is. When the improvement of the grounds surrounding the building is completed, the monument will stand entirely outside of the inclosure and in the street. If it remains where it is, I shall see that the grade of the surrounding wall is established at a level that will make the monument appear to the best possible advantage.

F. H. BURNETT,  
Superintendent in Charge.

Clipped By:



## **History of Kit Carson Monument at U.S. Courthouse, Santa Fe, NM**

From *First Phase Technical Study of Condition and Conservation Needs* by Bettina Raphael, Conservator, June 1997 and the *Historic Building Preservation Plan: U.S. Courthouse- Santa Fe, New Mexico*, Ratio Architects, Inc. for GSA.

The land that the Kit Carson Monument and U.S. Courthouse were built on was originally Mexican government public property acquired by the United States under the 1848 Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo. The building was originally designed to be a capitol building for the Territory of New Mexico. Construction on the basement began in 1851 but took over three decades to complete due to lack of funding, lack of equipment, and competent workmen to cut the stone for the building. It wasn't until 1883 when grounds around the building were selected as the site of Santa Fe's "Tertio-Millennial" celebration, that the half-built structure received some attention. A year later the over twenty foot high Kit Carson monument was in the works. The building was finally completed in 1889. The structure was individually listed on the National Register in 1973 with significance in the area of architecture and government.

The monument erected to honor the famous soldier and adventurer, Kit Carson, was dedicated on Memorial Day in 1885. It was conceived by army officers Col. William Craig, Capt. Smith Simpson, and W.S. Fletcher and funded by the Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R.), the organization of Union veterans from the Civil War. The Santa Fe Board of Trade, led by Judge Willi Spiegelberg, was also directly involved in gathering support for the monument. The well-known local senator, Stephen E. Dorsey, provided the buff-orange colored sandstone quarried on or near the Dorsey Ranch in northeastern New Mexico. The Santa Fe Railroad shipped the stone to the site gratis.

The designer of the monument is not known, but an early drawing of the Carson Monument appeared in the publication *Illustrated New Mexico* by William G. Ritch in 1885. Three years later, three grey stone steps, which now support the monument, were installed. Over the years no other significant additions or changes appear to have been made to the monument except for the addition of two iron or steel bands near the top, which were apparently used to hold a flag.

The monument site, with the U.S. Courthouse located directly behind it, is one of the most significant in New Mexico. The obelisk design represents a common form for military monuments in the later portion of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The historic landscape of the building includes a park-like setting enclosed by a stone wall and iron fence dating back to 1889. Other features besides the monument include two sandstone fountains, cast iron light standards, a flagpole, and mature plantings and trees. This area known as the Federal Plaza has significance dating back to the 1848 Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo and is maintained by General Services Administration as a preservation zone, meaning that the natural and man-made elements of the site should be maintained and preserved. In trying to meet that goal, a conservation plan was started in 1997 resulting in the historical restoration of the monument.

# KIT CARSON MONUMENT SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

## FIRST PHASE TECHNICAL STUDY OF CONDITION AND CONSERVATION NEEDS

Prepared by Bettina Raphael, Conservator  
June 1997

### I. INTRODUCTION

The stone monument honoring Kit Carson was examined on-site in Santa Fe, New Mexico at the end of May 1997 at the request of Mr. Keith Andreucci of the General Services Administration, Region 7 in Fort Worth, Texas. The purpose of the examination was: 1) to describe and evaluate the condition of the stone base and obelisk; 2) to recommend methods for stabilizing the monument's deterioration and for improving its preservation in the future, including conservation treatment and maintenance measures; and 3) to estimate possible costs for such preservation work.

Even from the first viewing of the Kit Carson monument, it was obvious that it has suffered extensive deterioration and damage over the 110 years since its installation. Its current condition is extremely unstable due to the inherent nature of the sedimentary stone composing it with the extensive cracking, delamination, vandalism, and inappropriate repairs which have occurred in the past. A major conservation effort will be needed to stop the ongoing deterioration and to repair at least some of the most obvious damages and losses that have impaired the visual appearance and physical integrity of the memorial. During this first study, a number of local individuals have expressed their concern about the critical condition of the monument, which they value as one of the most significant historic markers in the city.

The evaluation project turned out to be more complex than anticipated due to the age, material construction, and size of the piece. Since no documents were readily available from the GSA or local archival sources on the construction details or past maintenance of the monument, the conservator had to start from scratch. Over several days, the physical condition of the monument was examined and photographed and a little time was spent reviewing some historic documents and photographs and discussing the preservation concerns with several local historians and stone specialists. However, time did not permit a thorough researching of all past records nor did it allow for a closer inspection of the over 20 foot high obelisk at close range.

Thus, the following report of observations and basic preservation recommendations is submitted as a preliminary evaluation or First Phase Study. Further research and testing are needed in order to provide the GSA with a thorough diagnosis of the preservation problems, to assess more accurately the degree of deterioration of the sandstone, to determine the extent of stabilization and repair work required, and to develop realistic cost estimates for proposed conservation treatment options. For this reason, a Second Phase Conservation Study is proposed at the end of this report.

This initial inspection did reveal one particularly urgent concern relating to the immediate safety of the monument and of the public pedestrians who pass near the monument daily. It was found that significant cracks have occurred near the top point of the obelisk and a number of stone fragments appear to be loose here. This situation may warrant immediate action to prevent possible injury to the public from falling fragments of the sculpture. This damage has resulted probably from weathering and freezing of the stone over the years along with stresses set up by two iron bands which encircle the top of the obelisk at this point. Since it was not possible to use a lift or scaffolding to view the top portion more closely, a top portion of the monument more closely, it is difficult to say how critical the damage is and whether this section of the obelisk can in fact be repaired in-situ or if it will need to be removed for safety and restored or replaced. A detailed inspection of the monument's obelisk, preferably from a "bucket lift", is urgently needed in order to assess the risk and to propose the next step for stabilization.

## II. A BRIEF HISTORY

Although Kit Carson died in 1868 and was buried in Taos, NM, this monument in the shape of an obelisk was not dedicated until Memorial Day in 1885. The idea of erecting a memorial to the famous soldier and adventurer was first conceived of by three army officers (Col. William Craig, Capt. Smith Simpson, and Col. W.S. Fletcher) and the monument was later commissioned with funds raised by the Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R.), the organization of Union veterans from the Civil War (see article "Kit Carson Memorial Recalls a Distant Time" in the Journal North, June 1, 1985). The Santa Fe Board of Trade, whose President was Judge Willi Spiegelberg, was also directly involved in gathering support for the monument. The well-known local Senator, Stephen E. Dorsey, provided the sandstone and offered to have it "chiselled into shape at his Colfax County quarry". Since the quarry was located in northeastern New Mexico, the stone was apparently brought to Santa Fe by train and "the Santa Fe Railroad underwrote the freight costs". (The Senator's home, the Dorsey Mansion, is still

preserved today in Colfax County and it is partially constructed of a similar sandstone.)

No further information has been found thus far on who actually designed or executed the monument, but an early drawing of the Carson Monument appeared in Illustrated New Mexico by William G. Ritch in 1885 and is signed "Mills Eng. Co." in the lower proper right corner (see Illustration A at the end of this report found in the Photo Archives of the Museum of New Mexico). This may have been an artist's rendering for the design of the sculpture which was executed or installed by the engineering company. This seems possible, since the illustration is not an accurate drawing of the finished monument, because some details of construction are different from the actual monument (such as the inscription size and the sandstone blocks below) and because it shows the three-stepped base which was not added until 1888.

Although the obelisk along with its square pedestal bearing the dedication inscription and the scored sandstone blocks which form the base were erected and unveiled on May 31, 1885, the three grey stone steps which now support the monument were not installed until late May 1888. According to an article in The Santa Fe New Mexican Review of June 1, 1888: "Six weeks ago the Santa Fe Board of Trade raised \$250 and expended it in constructing an enduring stone foundation for the monument on the site of the head of Lincoln Avenue which had been selected by proper committees representing the G.A.R. and the Santa Fe Board of Trade. ... on Wednesday last it was put in place by Contractor R.D. Silver..."

Over the years no other significant additions or changes appear to have been made directly to the monument itself (besides some maintenance and repairs), except for the addition of two iron or steel bands near the top of the obelisk. These two bands, each about 2" wide, have a loop on the back or north side of the obelisk which probably was intended to hold a flag. The bands are severely rusted and have stained the stone in addition to contributing to major structural damages at the top section of the obelisk. The bands should be a major focus of concern in a second phase of examination since their removal may be necessary. The Photographic Archives of the Museum of New Mexico has a number of historic photographs of the monument which show that the bands were not present before about 1900 and thus these obtrusive and damaging metal fixtures are not original to the sculpture.

#### PHYSICAL SETTING AND ALTERATIONS

As stated in the 1888 article, the memorial to Kit Carson was located at the top of Lincoln Avenue and its present position is fairly well centered on this north-south street with the front of the monument facing roughly south. However, the monument was also positioned about 25 feet in front of the steps of a major historic

building, now the Federal Courthouse. According to Richard Rudicel of the Photo Archives, this imposing stone structure had been begun sometime in the late 1850's and was intended to be the capital building. However, it had not been totally completed until the late 1880's, when it was reallocated for use as the Courthouse.

Because of the prominence of the building and the proximity of the monument to it, it is curious that the obelisk and the facade of the courthouse are not aligned. The monument is about 4 or 5 feet off centered (on the proper right side) from the front entrance doors and steps. It may be that the committee or contractor responsible for installing the monument chose to align it with Lincoln Avenue rather than with the front of the building. However, another explanation for the off center placement might be that when the monument was reinstalled in 1888 on its new stone foundation, it was moved slightly to the proper right.

During the 110 years since its installation, the surrounding streets, grounds and landscaping have changed many times, as can be seen in some of the old photographs. Currently, a busy street, South Federal Place, runs directly in front of the memorial and cars park at meters only about 8 feet from the base of the monument. The sidewalk passing directly next to the monument is heavily used by visitors to the Courthouse and to the nearby Post Office and downtown businesses. There are no plants touching or overhanging the sandstone sculpture, but nearby trees, particularly on the east or proper left side, do shade it from early morning sun.

The monument sits slightly off-center in a semi-circular concrete patio or walkway which itself is surround by a horse-shoe shaped plant bed. The curb containing the plant bed behind the monument is again only about 4 feet from the base. Both the concrete walkway and the plant bed were recently renovated, perhaps with little concern for the well-being of the sculpture. Apparently a small bulldozer was used to dig up the earth in the planter which would have caused significant vibration near the historic memorial. The newly installed sprinkler system appears to be leaking, causing the earth to collapse around sprinkler heads and allowing water and mud to accumulate on the sidewalk near the front of the sculpture. Furthermore, during these renovations, cement has been splashed on the stone base as well as on the upper portions of the monument. Part of the Second Phase Conservation Study for the sculpture should include an evaluation of these renovations to determine if they are harmful to the safety of the monument, whether adequate drainage is present for the protection of the sculpture, and what guidelines are needed for future renovations, parking restrictions, and maintenance procedures.

Over the years, the bottom step of the three-stepped granite(?) base has become reduced by about one-half its height. Early photographs (see Illustration A and C) show this bottom step

to be roughly equal in height to the top two steps (each ca. 11-12" high). However, with changes in the surrounding landscape and walkways and perhaps some settling of the monument on the ground, only about 6" of the bottom step is now visible above the concrete patio. The degree of settling should be examined and if the GSA undertakes preservation of the monument, it may wish to consider uncovering this lower step to restore the original appearance to the base.

### III. CONDITION OF STONE BASE (approx. 6'W x 6'D x 2 1/2' H)

The stone base that was installed in 1888 consists of three steps made of a hard dark-grey stone (possibly granite). The large blocks have a rough chiselled surface texture and, for the most part, are in much better condition than the upper sandstone parts of the memorial.

One small block on the front of the second step may be a replacement where the original stone had been damaged. It is clearly visible in the photographs by A. Taylor from about 1977 (see Illustration E) and its presence might be tracked in earlier photographs and records to determine when and why it may have been added.

Many original joints appear to have been repointed with a hard concrete-based mortar which extends around the joint covering much of the stone in places, often along the bottom edge of a step. Other patches of concrete may have been added to cover cracks or wear in the stone. Some of the mortar has become weak and loose and there are gaps along some joints which allow water to enter and damage the stone (e.g. horizontal joint on the east or proper left side). A flexible silicone-like filler has been used to seal the joint between the bottom step and the surrounding concrete patio and this seam appears to be in good condition and water tight.

There are a few places where both horizontal and vertical cracks appear in the stone. Some small chips have been lost apparently due to some impact, while surface wear on the stone is more common, particularly on the top of the lowest step.

The surface appearance of the steps has been most noticeably altered recently by light-grey deposits splashed on the base when the concrete patio surrounding it was recently refinished. There are various other stains and deposits on the stone blocks, including some small lumps of a black tar-like material.

#### IV. CONDITION OF SANDSTONE MONUMENT

The monument itself is made of a buff-orange colored sandstone which we know was quarried and carved in northeastern New Mexico, probably on or near the Dorsey Ranch. It is a total of 18 to 21 feet tall (without the stepped stone base) and was constructed in three distinct parts: a) a rectangular base made of unornamented blocks of sandstone; b) a more square pedestal with panels bearing the inscription dedicating the monument and a cornice ledge along its top; and c) the simple obelisk, which was apparently a common form for military monuments in the later portion of the 19th century. The condition of each of these sections varies considerably, however, although the degree of damage and loss is different, the basic forms of damage and deterioration found tend to be consistent and reflect the basic vulnerability of the sedimentary stone which is present in all the sections:

Erosion: Loss of surface compactness and detail which may be largely due to loss of binding material in the sandstone from the effects of rainwater, wind and freeze-thaw cycles.

Scaling and Exfoliation: Scaling is the detachment of successive thin layers of stone while exfoliation is the delamination of the layered sedimentary sandstone along the natural bedding planes.

Compression Cracks: Some cracks and detached fragments have occurred at angles to the bedding plane as a result of weight or other stress on the stone. This may be the cause of some of most critical damages on the obelisk around its base and near the iron bands at the top.

Spalled Stone and Losses: The monument has lost or spalled sections of the surface stone, leaving gaps which have been patched in the past or which still remain as lacunae, particularly on the top edge of the sandstone base and the vertical edges of the obelisk.

In addition to these more natural occurring forms of deterioration, one can find evidence of damage or alterations that have occurred under the guise of well-intentioned repairs and protection. Much of the sandstone monument now has a patchy surface appearance which in part is due to a rather grainy textured coating, which is close to the color of the stone. This apparently is the remains of a plaster coat which was applied to all three sandstone sections of the monument probably in an attempt to cover up old cracks, small losses and blemishes and to give the structure an even surface appearance. It seems to be present in the ca. 1977 photos of the monument (see Illustration E), although it already showed a streakiness on the surface, particularly of the obelisk. This use of a colored plaster coat is a typical approach to repairing local structures around Santa Fe, whether they are made

of adobe, concrete or stone. Much of the coating has become worn off and only traces remain in recesses and textured surfaces of the two lower portions of the monument while it appears to remain as a pattern of swirls and patches on the smooth sides of the obelisk. There are also signs of concrete having been used for repairs to losses and resurfacing of eroded areas. Patches of a buff colored paint also appear on the sandstone base.

Vandalism also has taken its toll over the years. There are a number of incised graffiti on all three sections of the monument, some of which appear to be fairly recent. As a prominent local structure, the Kit Carson memorial has also had a long history of painted graffiti and, presumably, an equal number of maintenance projects to remove or cover these inscriptions using paint, cleaners, solvents, etc. Some of the dark, patchy areas on the base, the inscription panels and on the obelisk are places where traces remain of these graffiti or their cleaning process.

This preliminary examination is, however, unable to answer the following questions:

- 1) How extensive is the erosion or weakening of the surface stone and how extensive is its need for consolidation? To answer this, it will be necessary to carry out technical analysis of the sandstone's strength and porosity; such tests can be provided by the analytical services division of the ProSoCo company.
- 2) How extensive are the cracking, exfoliation, and scaling of the stone and exactly what agents are most actively contributing to this deterioration (i.e. salts, freezing, temperature changes, inherent weaknesses in the sandstone)? A closer, hands-on examination of the all parts of the monument is necessary including a lift or scaffolding to gain access to the upper parts of the obelisk.
- 3) How are these three sections anchored to each other and to their stone base: by metal dowels, rods or other joining mechanisms; and are these joints or their lack contributing in anyway to the deterioration of the monument? Part of the Second Phase Study of the monument should search out further documentation through drawings or records on how the sandstone sections were originally joined.

A. SANDSTONE BASE (approximately 51"W x 51"D x 29 1/2"H)

The base is formed of large rectangular blocks of sandstone (perhaps as few as 4 blocks, each ca. 50"L x 15"H x 25"D). The surface of each block has been worked to produce a scored texture on the face with a border of ridged lines. These blocks are very severely eroded and broken and have been extensively repaired in the past. The primary cause of damage probably has related to

moisture and the migration of salts and/or freezing. These blocks may have been exposed to more moisture if they were in contact with the ground during the three years before the stepped base was installed. Furthermore, the cornice of the sandstone section above this one may cause rain and snow melt to drip onto the top ledge of these blocks of sandstone and may have accelerated all forms of erosion and exfoliation here. In addition, the easy accessibility of the public to this section has also contributed to a greater degree of vandalism on the base than to the higher sections of the memorial.

Portions of the face of some blocks have been worn almost smooth by weathering and erosion. All sides of the base have suffered cracks deep into the sandstone blocks but these cracks tend to be most extensive on the front (south) and proper left (east) side where the cracks and water erosion must have so damaged the top ledge of the blocks that these sections have been resurfaced with concrete at some time in the past. Some of these concrete patches are up to about 3/4" thick. New cracks have developed even in these concrete caps so that fragments of sandstone and concrete are coming loose and water continues to penetrate causing on-going damage. Some of the mortar joints have been repointed with a concrete mixture while others appear to be fine lines of a softer grey mortar which may be original. Some of the chiselled details on the stone are covered by the plaster coating and traces of buff-colored paint. A dark, waxy stain is especially noticeable on the front of this section at the top center, where someone may have placed a candle which has melted into the stone.

One of the most conspicuous damages to this section has occurred on the top ledge at the front. A large section of stone has been lost here almost 16" long by 3" at its widest by 2" deep. According to a local historian, this is a fairly recent loss from the last couple of years. The original gap here probably was once filled with cement as are the adjacent top ledges of the base, but the gap surely has grown as the weakened sandstone has been exposed to the elements and public handling. Fragments of sandstone in this damaged area are loose and the surface is particularly soft, "sugary", and vulnerable to on-going erosion.

**B. SQUARE PEDESTAL WITH INSCRIPTION (approx. 38 1/2"W x 38 1/2"D x 37"H)**

The central section of the monument is roughly square in shape and has a cornice at the top which angles out to form a ledge on which the obelisk stands. This section is also constructed of large blocks of sandstone, but here the stone is more crisply sculpted and ornamental. Each face has a recessed panel bearing part of the incised inscription of the dedication to Kit Carson:

Front (south): "Kit Carson died May d 1868 Age 59 Years"

Proper right (west): "He led the way"  
Back (north): "Pioneer, pathfinder, soldier"  
Proper left (east): "Erected by comrades of the G.A.R."

For the most part, this central section is fairly well preserved and intact. It shows less abrasion and severe cracking than the sandstone base below it. Only one side, the north face, shows serious erosion on the surface where the letters of the inscription are particularly worn. There are numerous fine vertical and horizontal cracks, one of which is particularly disfiguring because it runs vertically across the main inscription panel on the front of the monument and has associated stains and water damage. For the most part, many of the cracks, however, do not appear to be as structurally threatening as those on the base or the obelisk. They are, nevertheless, destructive because through them moisture can more easily penetrate the stone carrying salts, pollutants and forming ice crystals in winter, all of which weaken and stain the stone.

Traces of the grainy plaster coating and a lighter colored paint remain on the faces of this section. These cosmetic repairs along with old residues of paint graffiti(?) and scratched graffiti inscriptions (especially on the back side) contribute to the mottled and irregular surface appearance of this portion of the monument. There are also recent spatters of grey concrete particularly on the west face and a series of grey and whitish raised dots on the east (proper left) side which may be lichen growth.

The cornice is formed of a separate piece of sandstone which has developed major horizontal separations or exfoliation cracks along the bedding planes. This delamination is particularly pronounced on the west or proper right side where the crack in the cornice ledge has opened almost 1/8" and the sections of sandstone are movable and very unstable. The vertical joint adjacent to this cornice section has lost much of its mortar leaving an empty gap. Many of the mortar joints are fine and appear to have an early, if not original, fairly soft grey grout in place. Some joints show losses and gaps in the mortar where moisture can enter.

#### C. OBELISK (approx. 25"W x 25"D x 13'-16'H)

The obelisk was examined from the ground and from standing on the grey stone base. Thus, many details of its construction and condition could not be clearly seen and a more extensive inspection from a lift or scaffolding is necessary to fully assess its degree of deterioration and the extent of treatment required.

The obelisk is the dominant form of the monument and is a simple four-sided structure with smooth, unornamented sides, and a pyramidal top which comes to a gentle point. The column is

constructed of five blocks of sandstone which diminish in size as they ascend, so that while the bottom block may be about 3 1/2' tall, the smallest block at the top with the point is only about 1' tall. These blocks are stacked on top of each other with fairly narrow horizontal mortar joints between them. Some of these joints look worn and mortar is particularly cracked and loose around the bottom joint between the column and the cornice of the square pedestal.

One would expect some form of internal support such as metal dowels to help secure the blocks together but so far we have no information on this. Some dark marks on the stone along the southeast edge of the third block from the bottom might be iron stains which may indicate vertical iron pins are present near the corners of the blocks.

The surface appearance of the obelisk is very streaked and irregular. To a large extent, this seems to be due to the grainy remains of the plaster coating on the stone. In addition, there appear to be natural grey inclusions in the stone which are readily visible from the ground on the surface of the bottom block. Further patchiness is created by other grey or blackish deposits which are very noticeable on the front and the back of this bottom block and may be places where painted graffiti have been cleaned off or covered up. Graffiti in the form of scratched initials are also visible on the third block up on the west (proper right) side of the obelisk. One of the most noticeable blemishes on the surface of the obelisk, however, is the dark red-brown iron staining around the top of the monument where the metal bands have corroded.

The structure of the obelisk has been critically weakened over the years by cracks of various kinds and spalled losses. Most cracks run vertically or at vertical angles and many are concentrated along the angled edges of the structure. Some of the worst cracks are at the bottom southeast and northeast corners of the obelisk where the first block joins the cornice or ledge of the square pedestal below. The angled nature of these series of cracks and the way the sections of stone seem to be buckling outward here suggests that these may be compression cracks caused by the weight of the obelisk. At these corners, fragments of stone are coming loose and, if not stabilized, will be lost in the near future. It should also be noted that rain and snow tend to splash and accumulate on this 12" deep ledge around the base of the obelisk and the moisture can be accelerating damage to the stone here.

Similar diagonal cracks, loose fragments and some noticeable losses are also found higher up the column, such as at the southeast and northeast corners of the third block from the bottom, and at the northwest corner of the second block from the bottom. Several other chips are missing along the corners of the column, ranging from about 1/2" to 2" in size. Some of these cracks and

- Remove as much of the old plaster coating as possible by mechanical and/or chemical treatment and clean the surface of general soiling using a non-ionic detergent solution and low pressure water rinsing.

- Remove old paint coatings, graffiti residues, tar and wax deposits using combinations of chemical agents and/or solvents. These treatments may require use of poultices, low pressure water rinsing, and a neutralizing chemical rinse.

- Remove mechanically by hand old concrete patches and coatings which have become cracked and unstable. With the owner, consider removal of those concrete repairs which may be stable but are unaesthetic or inappropriate for the long-term preservation of the monument.

- Remove the iron bands at the top and do not replace them. Removal or reduction of the iron stains on the obelisk will be attempted through chemical treatment, but many not be totally successful.

## 2. REPOINTING OF JOINTS

- Mechanically remove weak, loose, or otherwise unstable mortar from joints and repoint with a mortar of appropriate physical properties and appearance.

## 3. STABILIZATION OF CRACKS AND EXFOLIATION

- With a syringe, inject small to medium size cracks with an appropriate adhesive that will stop the cracks from growing and will seal them against water penetration. Larger cracks may have to be filled with a specially formulated grout and may require the drilling of small holes along the crackline to improve penetration of the adhesive and prevent air-pockets.

- Stabilize exfoliating layers and nearly detached fragments of sandstone using an appropriate synthetic grout. Where possible inject the grout into gaps and along the cracklines, using small drilled holes when necessary to provide access to interior delaminations.

## 4. PATCHING AND FILLING OF SURFACE LOSSES

- Fill cracklines, small surface losses, drill holes, and scratched graffiti with a stone patching compound based on Portland cement lime and an aggregate toned to blend with the surface appearance of the original stone.

- Larger areas which have been badly eroded or where extensive cracking and previous patching with concrete are present, may need more extensive repairs, such as on the front of the front and

proper left faces of the sandstone base and at buckling surfaces at corners of the obelisk. Here the deteriorated surface stone or old patching material may have to be removed and the stone resurfaced perhaps through the use of a "composite patch" built up out of layers of a lime/cement compound.

#### 5. REPLACEMENT OF MISSING OR EXCESSIVELY DAMAGED PORTIONS

- Some large losses, such as the 16" long section of stone at the top front of the sandstone base, will probably be best treated with a partial replacement or "Dutchman" repair. This would involve a stone carver recarving a new block of sandstone to fit the contours of the loss. Ideally this could be done using matching sandstone from the original quarry in northeastern New Mexico. This sort of repair may also be needed to replace portions of sandstone blocks which are found to be too weakened with cracks and delamination to withstand local patching.

- If the final block at the pointed top on the obelisk is found to be too badly cracked to be easily stabilized, it may be necessary to consider replacing this entire section with a newly carved block of stone or cast stone.

#### 6. CONSOLIDATION OF ERODED SURFACES AND SEALING AGAINST WATER

- The surface of the sandstone appears to need consolidation with a deep-penetrating stone strengthener and water repellent to prevent further erosion and deterioration related to moisture. A chemical stone consolidant based on ethyl silicate would probably be recommended to replace the natural binding materials that have been lost due to weathering, however, the exact type and quantity of product required will depend on technical analysis of the stone which is proposed in the Second Phase Study (see below).

#### 7. STRUCTURAL SUPPORT AND PROTECTION

Until further examination and study, it is not possible to know if some sort of additional treatment measures will be needed to give added support to the sandstone structure or to prevent further settling of the entire monument at ground level. This might involve some of the following measures:

- Excavation around the base of the monument to reveal the bottom step, reinforce the foundation, and/or improve drainage.
- Improve nearby sprinkler system and its drainage.
- Restrict parking directly in front of the monument.
- Redesign the walkway around the monument and/or develop signage to discourage the public from climbing on or vandalizing the sculpture.

#### 8. MAINTENANCE PLAN

- Prepare a long-term plan of guidelines and procedures for

maintaining the monument in the future.

## VI. SECOND PHASE OF CONSERVATION STUDY

The current preliminary evaluation will not attempt to offer an accurate cost estimate for the above list of recommended treatments because, without further information, the best one could do is to make a very broad guess which would not be that useful to the GSA in approaching this preservation project. Instead, it is recommended that a Second Phase of examination and study be undertaken in the next couple of months to gather the detailed information necessary for developing a more specific proposal of treatment options and a realistic cost estimate.

The following activities would be carried out in this Second Phase Conservation Study:

1. Conduct a thorough search of GSA records and local historic archives for documents and photographs which would give more insight to how the monument was erected and how it has been repaired or maintained over the years: whether it has internal metal pins or other supports; whether it was moved when the monument was re-installed on its grey stone base; when exactly were the iron bands added at the top of the obelisk; when and how were concrete repairs made, plaster and paint coatings added, and painted graffiti removed in the past. In addition to checking the libraries and record offices, some effort would be made to track the history of the monument and its repairs with maintenance staff, historians and individuals working at the Courthouse.
2. Hire an experienced stone-testing laboratory to conduct a technical analysis of the sandstone to assess its porosity and degree of deterioration and, based on this study, to propose the appropriate type and quantity of chemical consolidant that should be applied to the surface of the monument.
3. With assistance from an specialist in architectural preservation with considerable experience in the treatment of sandstone structures, carry out a more detailed hands-on technical examination of the monument using a "bucket lift" so that the condition of the obelisk and particularly the top cracked portions could be studied. Based on this examination, a more realistic evaluation could be made of the degree of risk it poses to public safety, and recommendations would be developed regarding what action was needed to stabilize this immediate problem. During this on-site exam, some tests could also be made of proposed cleaning and other treatment methods to determine their effectiveness and time requirements.

4. Assess the degree of vibration to the monument being caused by traffic and other nearby activities and make recommendations about the proximity of vehicle parking and the future use of heavy equipment.

5. From historic records and an examination of the foundation and surrounding water drainage, try to assess how much the monument may have settled on the site and propose appropriate changes to the surrounding landscaping to prevent threats to the structure.

6. Determine if the original quarry for the sandstone is still in operation or whether there is another source for similar stone in the event that stone inserts or replacements would have to be made.

7. Prepare a detailed step-by-step treatment proposal for the monument and a cost estimate.

**Estimated cost for this Second Phase Study:     \$10,000 - \$12,000.**

*Bettina Raphael 6/4/97*  
Bettina Raphael, Conservator  
Southwest Conservation Laboratory

ILLUSTRATION A



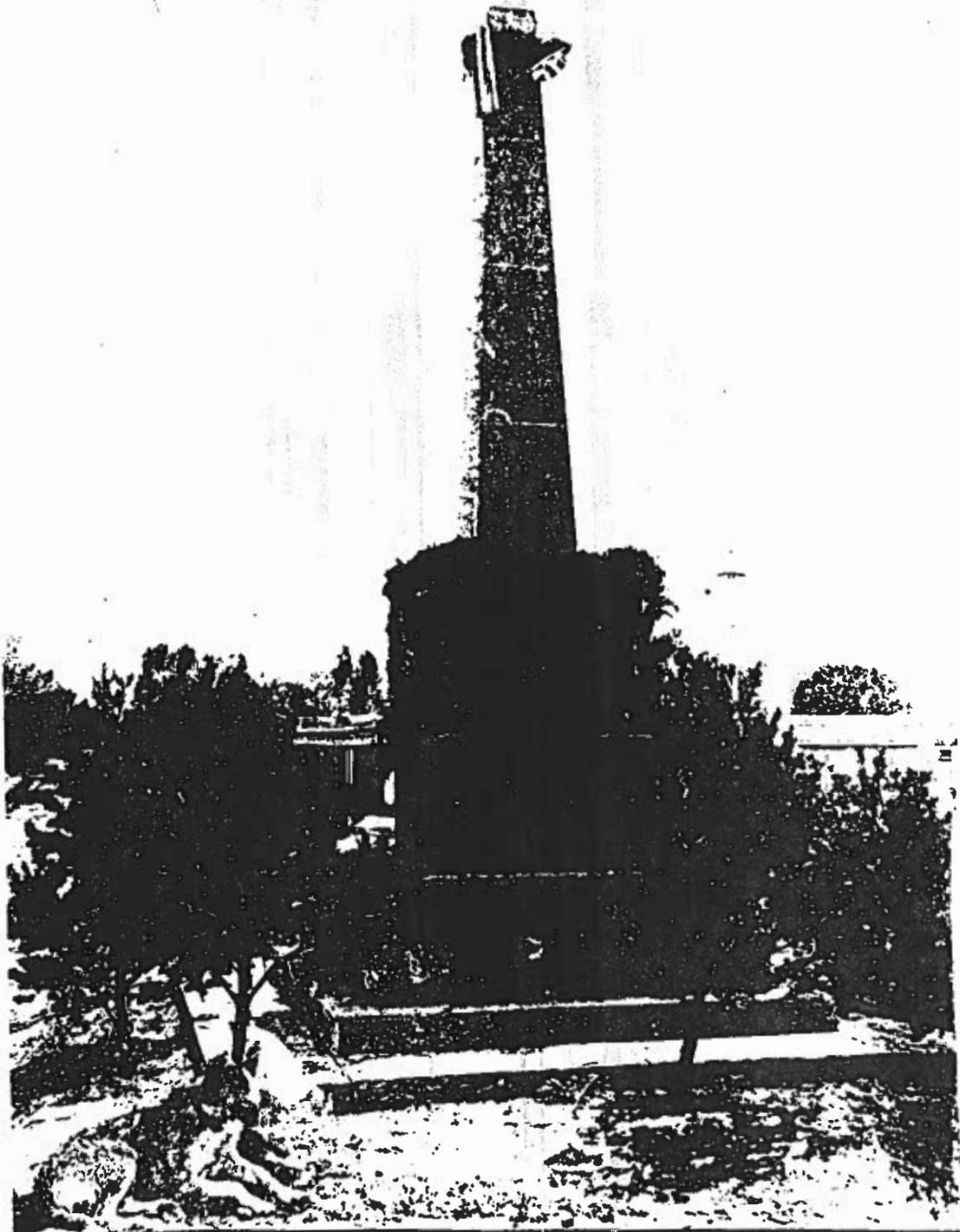
CARSON MONUMENT, SANTA FE.  
ERECTED BY THE GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC,  
DEPARTMENT OF NEW MEXICO, 1885.

New Mexico Photo Archive # 87434

Published in

Illustrated New Mexico 1885 by Wm. G. Ritch (p. 20)

ILLUSTRATION B

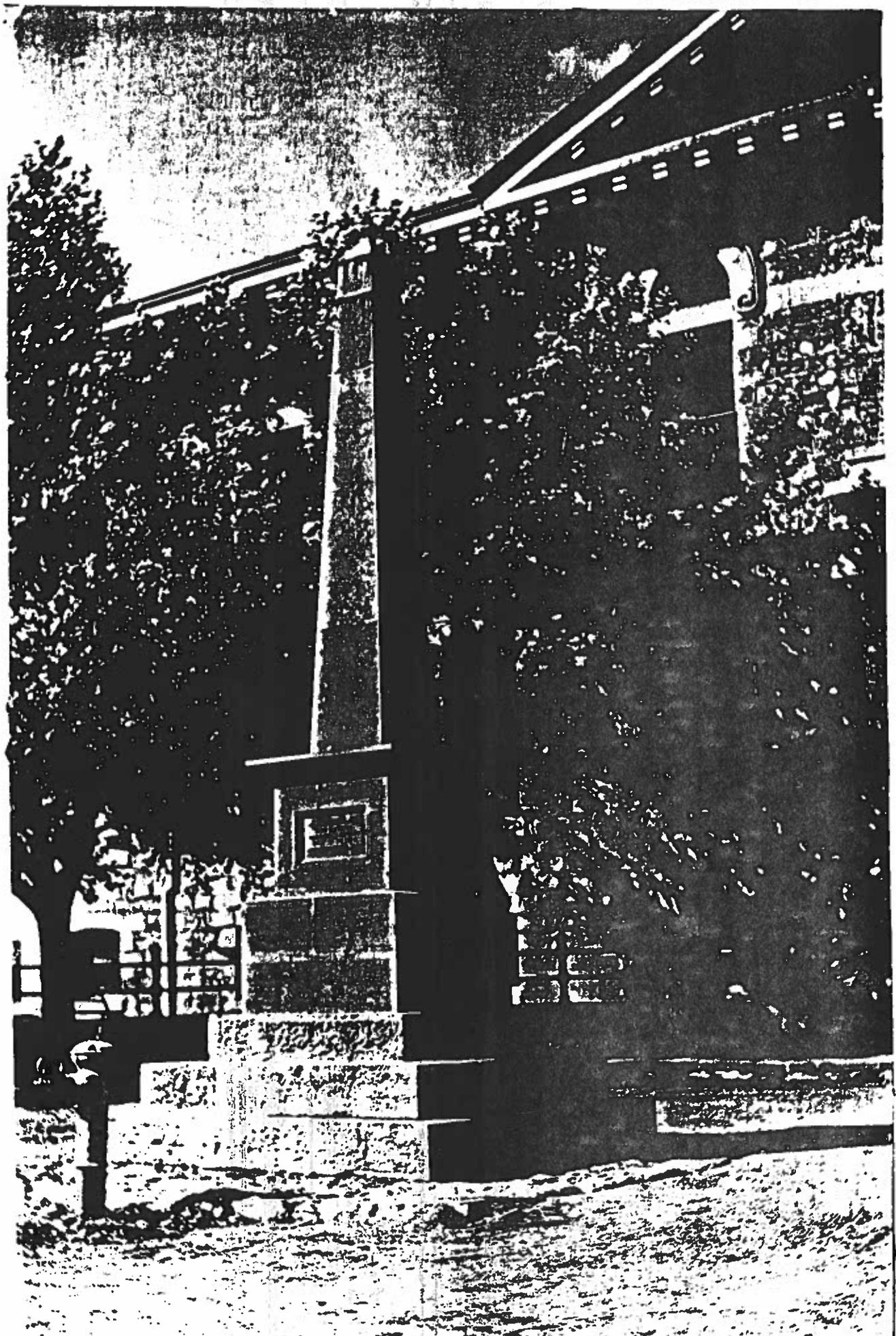


134. The Monument of Kit Carson. D. B. Chase, Photographer, Santa Fe, N. M.

Photo by Dana B. Chase  
NM Photo Archives # 5703f

Ca. 1890

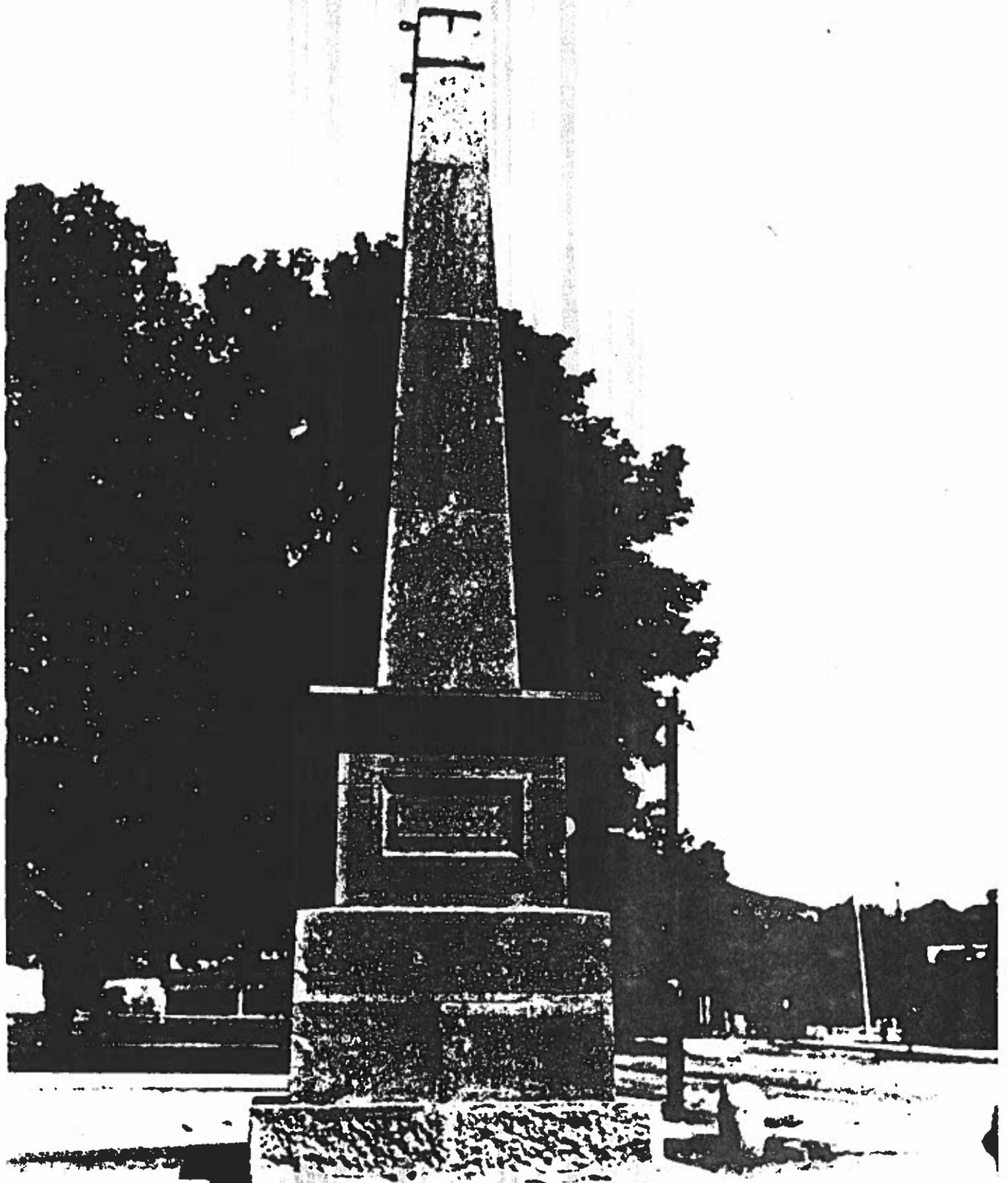
ILLUSTRATION C



NM Photo Archives #51876

ca. 1915-20?

ILLUSTRATION D



NM Photo Archives #78392

ca. 1917

ILLUSTRATION E

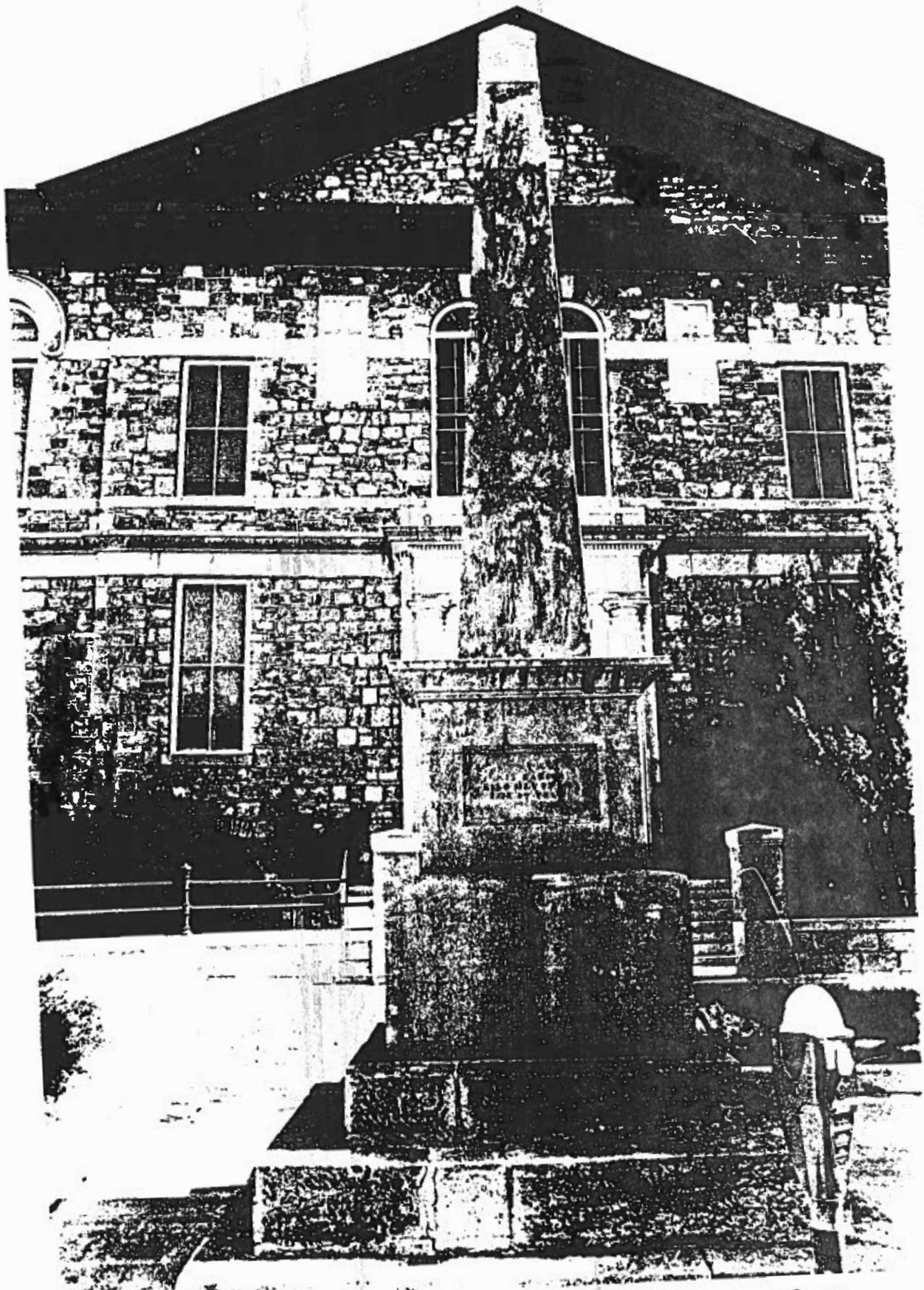


Photo by Arthur Taylor  
NM Photo Archives #11870

ca. 1977



# The Maintenance and Repair of Architectural Sandstone

Prepared for the New York Landmarks Conservancy by 1982

Michael F. Lynch

William J. Higgins

1. History and Use
2. Looking at Sandstone
2. Decay of Sandstone
3. Protection and Maintenance
4. Mechanical Repair
5. Composite Patching
6. Cutting and Resurfacing
7. Replacement
7. Manufacturers and Suppliers
8. Funding Credits

## HISTORY AND USE

Sandstone, particularly in its dark-colored brownstone form, is a significant material in the history of American building. "Brownstone" is the common name for the entire range of brown, red, purple, and pink sandstones widely used as building materials from the 1840's until the early 20th century. Most of the stone was quarried in Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania. Readily available and easily worked, brownstone found use as a building material as early as the 17th century in the northeastern United States. By the mid-19th century, writers such as Henry David Thoreau, painters such as Thomas Cole, and architects such as A.J. Davis were leading popular taste toward a romantic return to nature. Natural shapes, colors, and materials became especially valued in architecture; and brownstone, with its variety of surface textures and its rich, earth-toned color, emerged as a dominant American building material.

Thousands of urban row houses, as well as public and commercial buildings, churches, and mansions, were built with brownstone through the height of the material's popularity after the Civil War. As architectural taste turned toward

the Classical style at the end of the 19th century, brownstone gave way to lighter colored materials. While sandstones like the cream-colored Ohio stone continued to be used into the 1920's, their use never approached the levels of the brownstone period, and sandstone today is virtually unavailable as a new material.

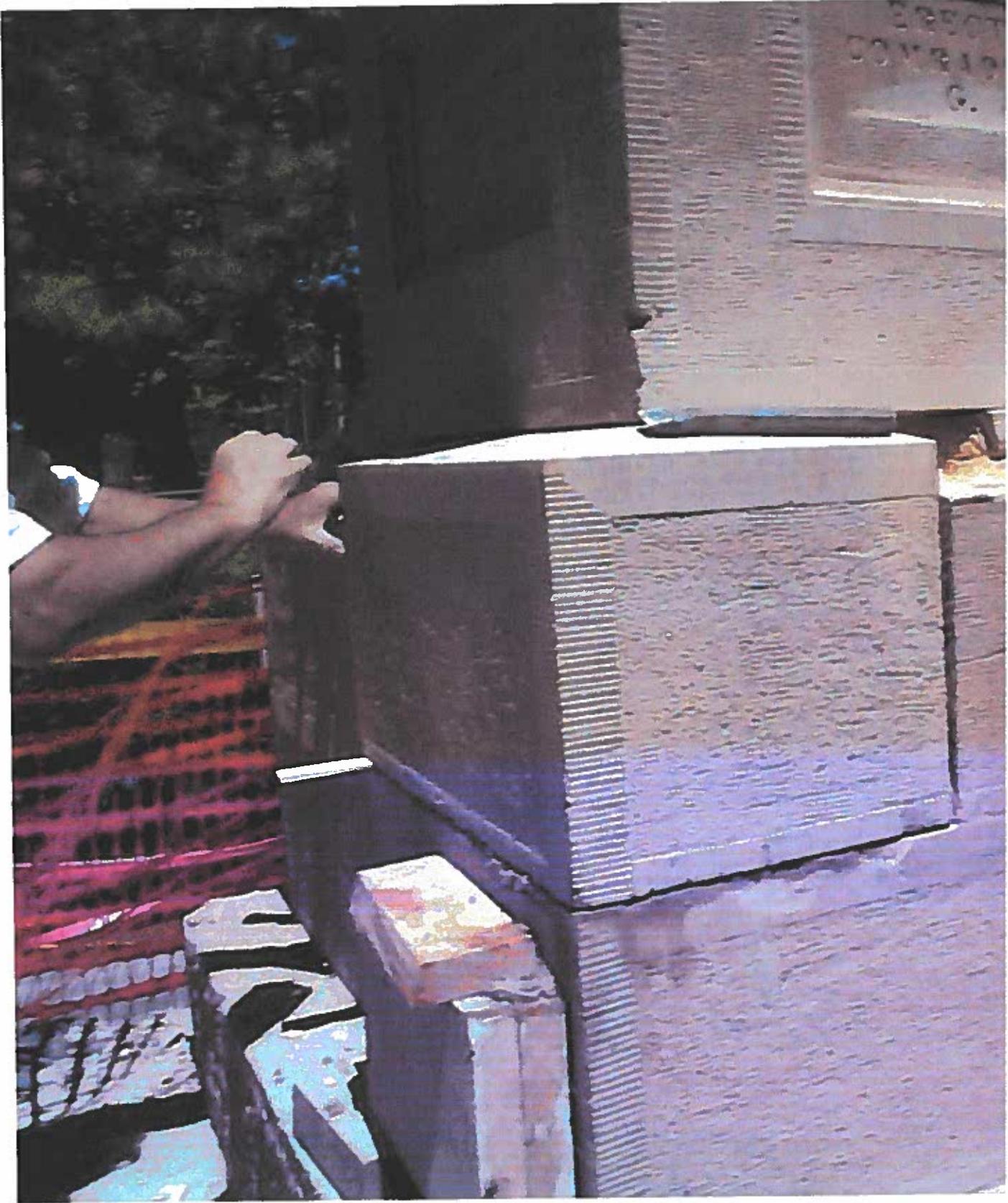
Almost as soon as sandstone became prominent as a building material in the mid-19th century, it also became notorious for its tendency to decay. Now, more than one hundred years later, brownstone row houses and other sandstone buildings are popular again, and a new generation of owners faces the problem of sandstone decay. The New York Landmarks Conservancy recognized this problem and in 1979 undertook a significant new study of sandstone repair techniques. Under the direction of Norman R. Weiss, Assistant Professor of Architecture and Planning, Columbia University, the study team produced the extensive technical report which is the basis for this leaflet.

*The Maintenance and Repair of Architectural Sandstone* is a practical guide intended for use by building owners, architects, and contractors. Owners will find information for evaluating the work of architects, contractors and other professionals concerned with sandstone repairs, as well as guidance on maintenance and do-it-yourself repairs; architects will find information useful in preparing contract documents and inspecting repair work; and contractors can use the recommended materials and techniques to execute satisfactory repairs. The contents of the leaflet are organized in a logical, step-by-step format to guide the user through the process of planning and executing successful sandstone conservation. There are four main sections, one for each step in the process:

- I. Looking at Sandstone: how to gain a basic understanding of its structure, appearance and use.
- II. Decay of Sandstone: how to recognize the signs and causes of its deterioration.
- III. Protection and Maintenance: how to establish a maintenance program to protect sandstone and to arrest decay until repairs can be made.
- IV. Repair: how to select methods and execute repairs, starting with techniques that retain the old stone and proceeding through to its replacement with new materials, when nothing else is feasible.



Typical 19th century "brownstones." Urban rowhouses in Mt. Morris Park Historic District, New York City. (photo by New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission)



***As-Built Document  
Historical Restoration  
Kit Carson Memorial  
Santa Fe, New Mexico  
BPLW Project Number: 96052.032  
May 9, 2001***

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*As-Built Document  
Historical Restoration  
Kit Carson Memorial  
Santa Fe, New Mexico  
BPLW Project Number: 96052.032  
May 9, 2001*

This document describes the condition of the monument before this project and the restoration work completed in this project. The monument has been broken down into sections to better define the area of discussion. Refer to the drawings at the end of this document for the section references. Also, see attached photographs.

For additional information outside the scope of this project, refer to Conservator Bettina Raphael's *First Phase Technical Study of Condition and Conservation Needs, June 1997*, and the report from the conservation firm of Kronkright Center for Cultural Materials on the removal of spray-painted graffiti from the monument and the subsequent anti-graffiti coating of the monument.

### **General Work**

#### History of Project:

This project originated in 1998 by GSA. GSA asked BPLW to look at the monument to determine whether the deterioration posed a threat to the public; the monument was determined to be structurally sound but the cracking was evidence of continuing water damage. The result of this observation was a contract to BPLW to outline a scope of work for renovation and repairs. During this process R.P. Connerty & Son was contracted with by GSA to execute the work on the monument. Connerty began its work in late 1999 finished in fall 2000.

#### The project team was:

Steve Kline	GSA, Ft. Worth, Regional Preservation Officer
Lisa Smith	GSA, Ft. Worth, Contracting Officer
Waldo Griego	GSA, Albuquerque, Property Manager
Dorothy Victor	NM State Historic Preservation Office, Deputy Director
Richard Connerty	R.P. Connerty & Son Construction Co., Contractor
Dale Zinn	Consultant to R.P. Connerty & Son, Architect
Tomas Lipps	Contractor to R.P. Connerty & Son, Stone Carver
Bruce Schneider	BPLW Architects & Engineers, Structural Engineer
Cara McCulloch	BPLW Architects & Engineers, Architect

#### **Sections A, B, and C:**

A reddish/brown cement plaster coating remained on part of the sandstone structure (some time after the monument was erected the entire sandstone structure was coated).

The plaster coating had infilled many of the inscriptions and interior corners. Remnants of old paint coatings, graffiti residues, tar, and wax were also evident on the monument.

### **A, B, and C**

- 1) The surface of the monument was cleaned with a non-ionic detergent and water solution applied with a natural bristle scrub brush with a low-pressure water rinse (standard city water pressure). The black streaking inherent in the stone, the old scratched-in graffiti, and the minor scratches in the stone remain.

(See Photo 1.)

### **Section A – Obelisk**

The obelisk is a simple four-sided structure with smooth unornamented sides and a pyramidal top that comes to a gentle point. It is constructed of four blocks of sandstone which diminish in size as they ascend. Below the pyramidal top were two narrow iron bands that wrapped the obelisk.

#### **A1**

The top stone, A1, had a number of major cracks and loose fragments of stone. Some fragments had spalled off and the two existing iron bands (installed to support flags) prevented the remaining fragments from falling. The expansion and contraction of the metal bands contributed to the fracturing of the stone. Over the monument's life, moisture had seeped into the stone and when it froze, cracking resulted.

- 1) After the general cleaning of the stone (described above), section A1 was removed completely and replaced with one piece of new cut sandstone the same size and profile as the original stone. The new sandstone was from the original quarry. The new stone has vertical bedding.
- 2) In the existing mortar bed were two flat iron bars, one 5/8" wide x 3-1/2" long, the other 5/8" wide x 3-3/4" long, both with lengths running east-west. The bars are approximately 2-1/2" from the north and south edges of the stone and the bar lengths are approximately centered in the stone at those inset locations. The bars were left in situ and the new stone A1 was installed over them.
- 3) The two iron-band flag supports wrapping the stone were removed and given to GSA for display.

(See photos 2-4.)

## A2

In Stone A2 minor cracks, mostly vertical, ran up all four surfaces. Larger diagonal cracks and loose fragments approximately 4 to 6 inches in length were located in the bottom southeast and northeast corners.

- 1) Approximately 6 inches of cracked sandstone was cut from the bottom southeast and northeast corners. The area was patched with a custom patching compound of 1 part Portland cement, 1 part Type S lime, 2 parts white silica sand, and pigments to match the color of the stone. The patch was textured to match the adjacent stone.

(See photo 4.)

## A3

Stone A3 is in good condition except for a major vertical crack on the east side and a diagonal crack about midway on the south side.

The cracks were found to be relatively superficial and were filled with *Custom Jahn M-70, custom blend #244, SS-1*. The grout was dry-rubbed into the cracks and then wet with a fine water spray to set the grout. GSA will continue to monitor these cracks. If they open further, grouted stainless steel pins can be drilled into the stone and the pin holes can be patched.

(See photo 5.)

## A4

Stone A4 was in fairly good condition. There were minor cracks running vertically on all four surfaces. A large diagonal crack and loose fragment approximately 2 to 4 inches in length was located in the bottom southeast corner and a minor crack developed in the bottom northeast corner of the stone.

- 1) A 6 inch piece was cut and removed from the bottom southeast corner and was patched with the Portland patching compound previously described. The cracks were filled with the *Custom Jahn M-70* (previously described).

(See photo 6.)

## **Section B – Cornice & Square Pedestal with Inscriptions**

The cornice, Stone B1, was in good condition except for one stone on the west side. The west stone had a major horizontal delamination in the 1-inch high vertical edge. The mortar joints on the top horizontal surface of the cornice had become loose and gaps existed where water could enter.

### **B1**

- 1) The mortar joints were repointed with a grout from *U.S. Heritage Group, Lime Putty Mortar, custom 1872-1931 Butterjoint*.

(See photo 7.)

### **B2 and B3**

The inscription stones, B2 and B3, showed less abrasion and cracking than other parts of the monument. The field of the stone has a light bush hammer texture. The edges at the corners and around the recessed inscription area consist of a band of incised straight lines known as “margining”. There were several fine vertical and horizontal cracks. One crack was located on the south face and ran vertically through the inscription. The other noticeable crack was located on the north face at the upper right hand corner. The inscriptions were partially filled with the plaster coating earlier described. Mortar had fallen out of the mortar joints and gaps existed in the joints.

- 1) The fine cracks were filled with the *Custom Jahn M-70* and the inscriptions were cleaned as part of the general work. The mortar joints were left as is because they were not seen as vulnerable to water penetration.

(See photos 8-11.)

## **Section C – Sandstone Base**

The base is constructed of 4 large rectangular blocks of sandstone. The two lower stones are laid in the east-west direction. The two upper stones are laid in the north-south direction. The field of the stone has a light bush hammer texture. The edges at the corners consist of a band of incised straight lines known as “margining”. The top edges of the top blocks are sloped away from the obelisk and were very severely eroded and had broken away. The top ledge of the upper east stone, including the most eastern end on the south and north sides, had eroded away, and was patched with concrete. Exfoliation has occurred in the lower left-hand side on the west face. All sides of the base had deep cracks. The most severe cracks occurred in the southeast corner of the upper east stone and the lower northwest corner.

### **C1 and C2**

- 1) The concrete patch on the East Side and the portion at the south and north sides was removed. The sandstone block of the southeast corner of Stone C1 was removed fourteen inches back on the east face from the joint on the south face (see attached Drawing D3). It was replaced with a new stone matching the color and texture of the original
- 2) The damaged stone ledge on the south side was removed to the bottom of the top horizontal margining. The base of the square pedestal was undercut to a depth of 1 ½" and the new sandstone dutchman repair was installed underneath the square pedestal. It is the same size, profile, and texture of the original stone. (See attached drawing.)
- 3) At the north corner of the west face the portion of damaged stone was replaced with a new patch of the same size and profile of the original stone. The texture/tooling and margining in the patch matches that of the original stone. The patching compound is the custom Portland mixture previously described.
- 4) The portion of the damaged sandstone block on the lower northwest corner wrapping around the west face was removed and replaced with a patch of the Portland patching compound. The color and texture/tooling matches that of the original stone.

(See photos 12-15.)

### **Section D – Gray Stone Steps**

There are three levels of steps at the base of the monument made of hard dark gray limestone. The stone is in good condition. Several of the mortar joints were loose and had gaps. The bottom riser was coated with a light gray film of cement paste from the concrete sidewalk replacement.

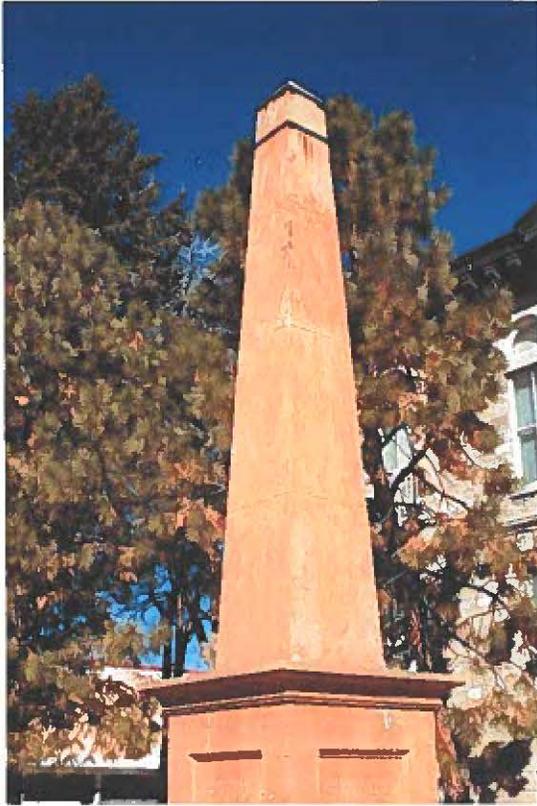
#### **D**

- 1) Loose mortar and was removed and repointed with a standard 50:50 mix of Portland cement and #8 sand.
- 2) Some of the cement paste from the bottom riser was removed. The remaining paste cannot be removed without damaging the original stone.

(See photo 16.)



1. After – South Elevation



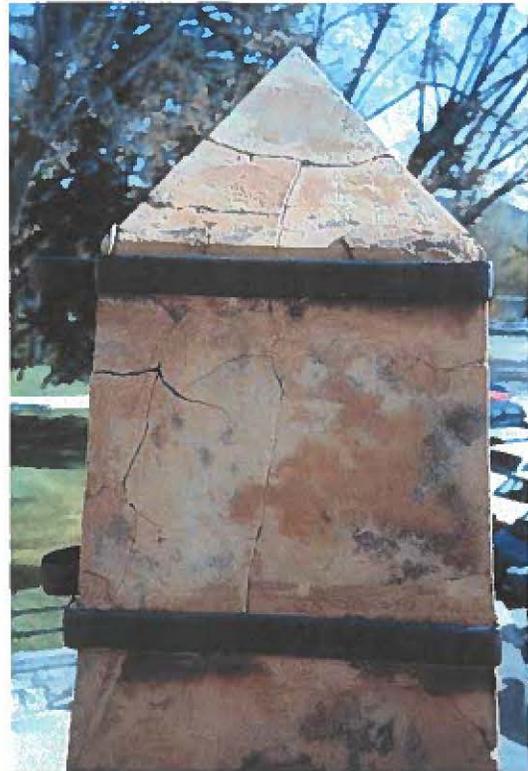
2. Before – Southeast View



2. After – Southeast View



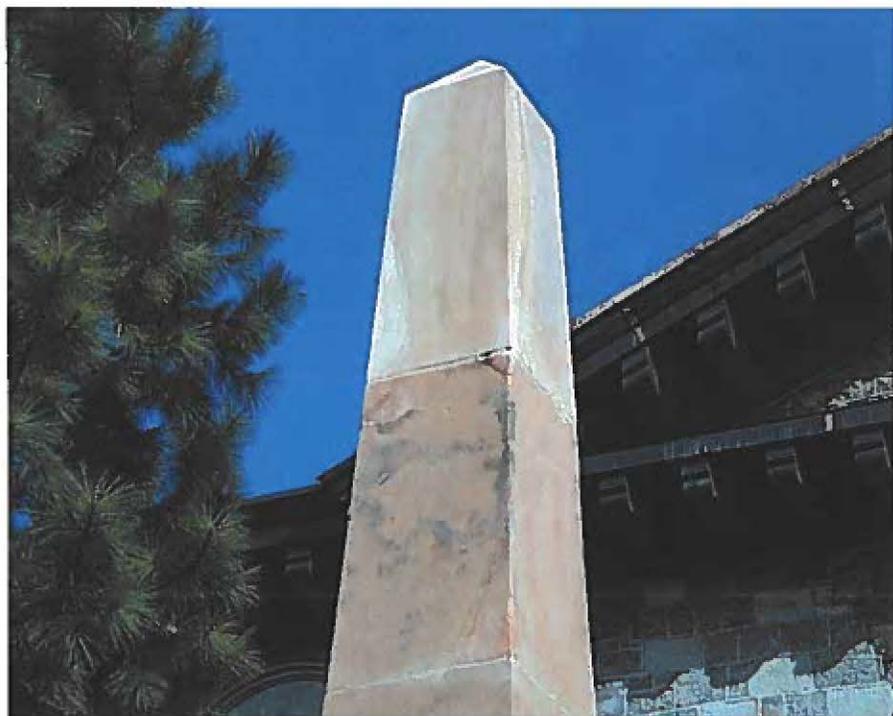
3. Before - A1



3. Before - A1



4. During – Mortar Bed of A1 with Iron



4. After – Southeast view of A1 and A2.



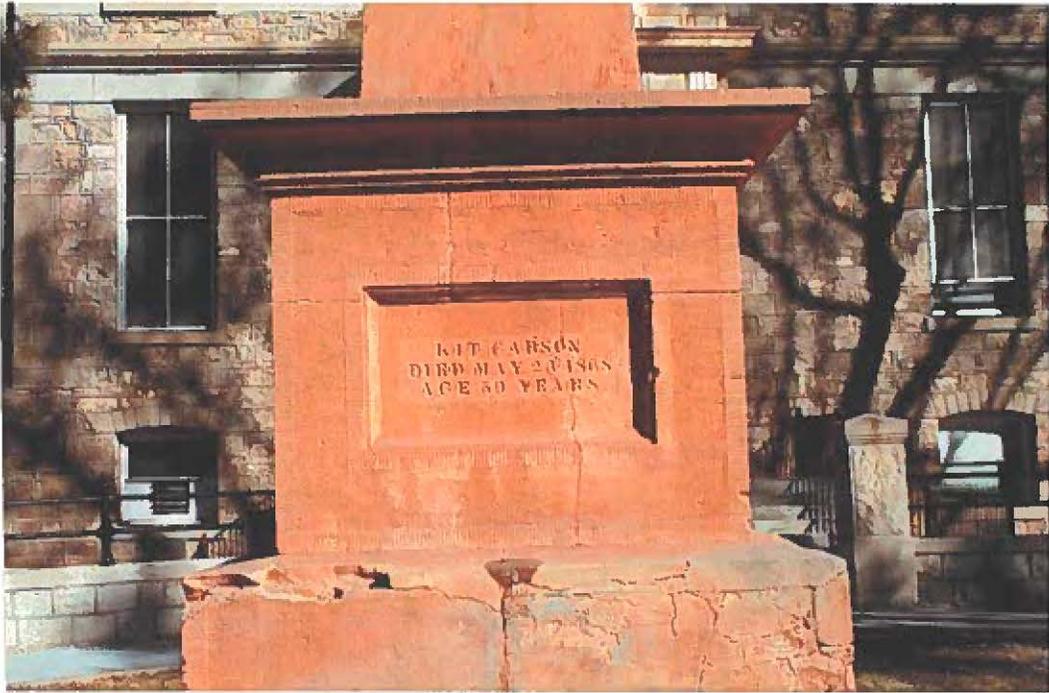
5. Before – A3, south side



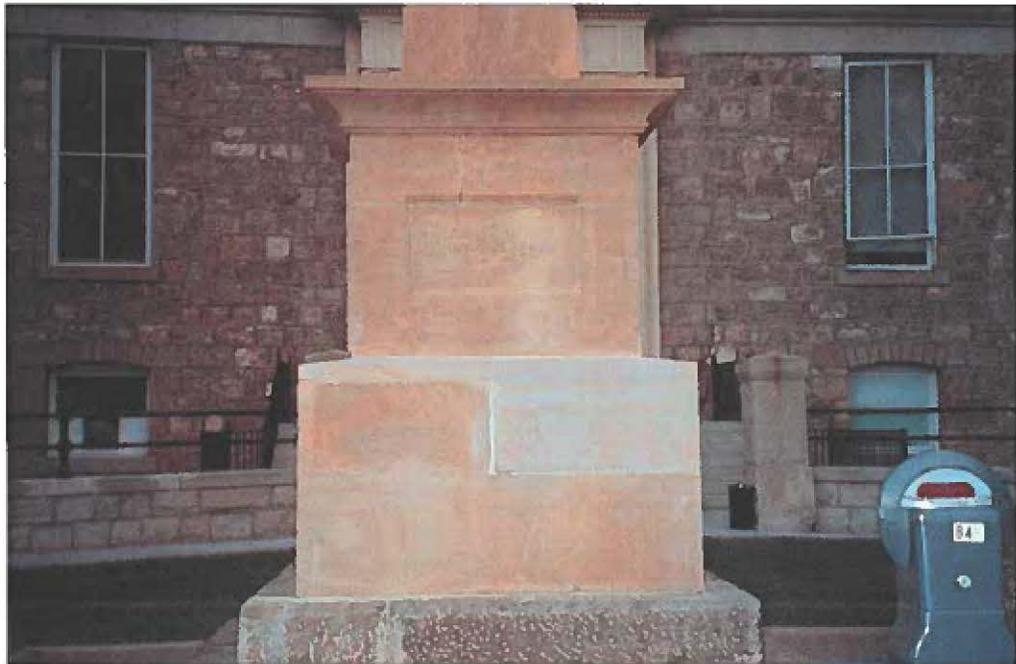
6. Before – A4, east side



7. Before repointing – Cornice B1, west side.



8. Before – B2 and B3, south side.



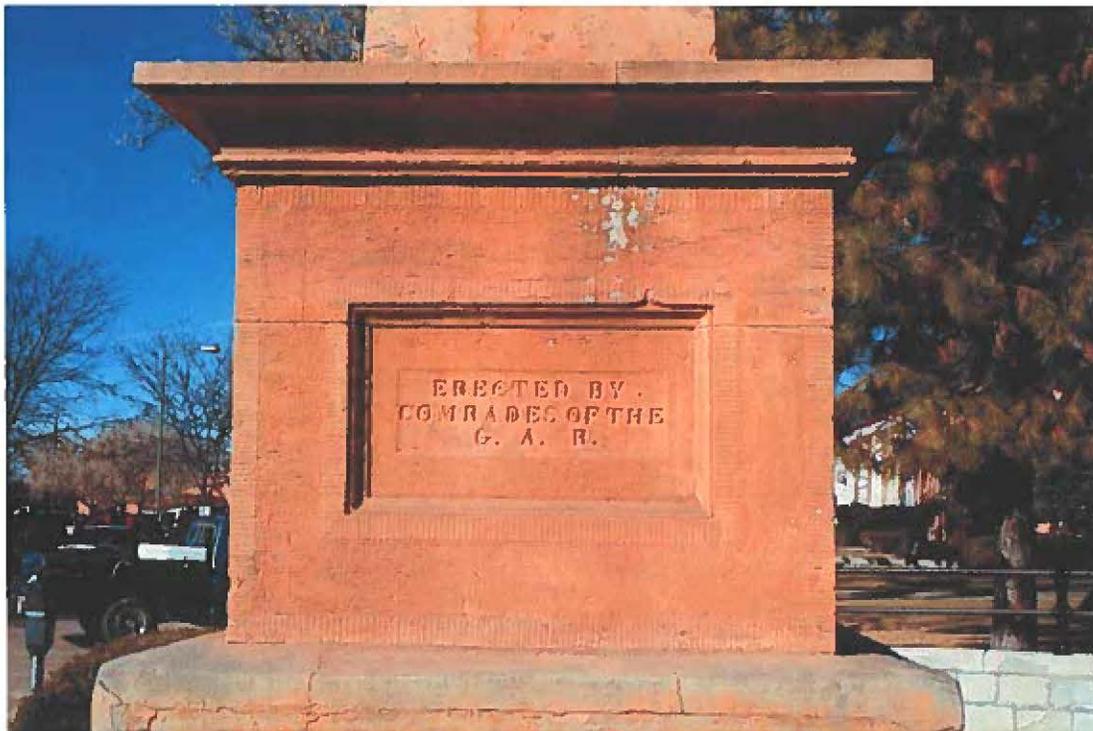
8. After – B2 and B3, south side.



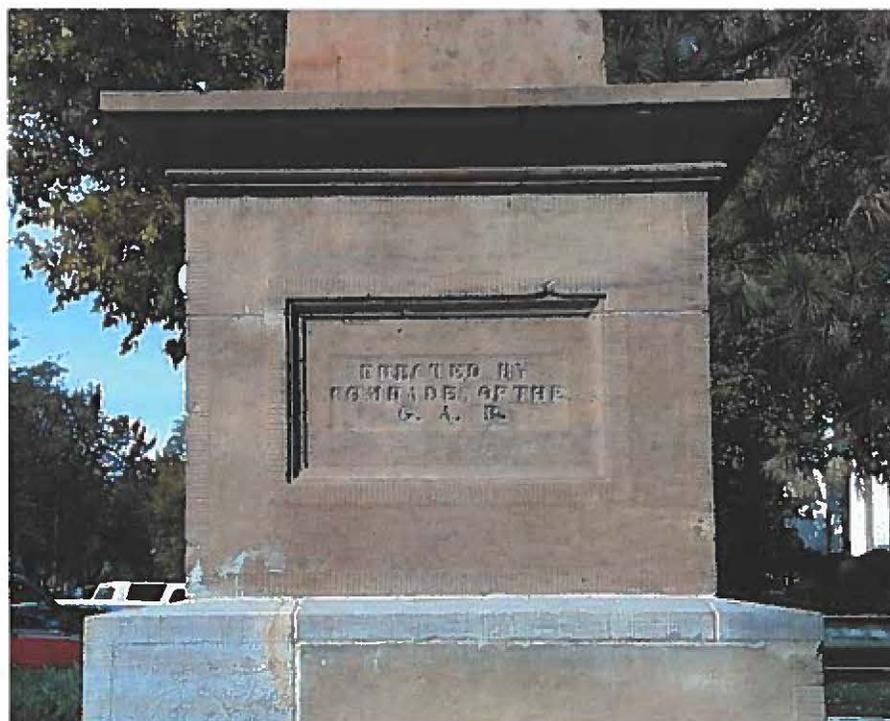
9. Before – B2 and B3, north side.



9. After – B2 and B3, north side.



10. Before – B2 and B3, east side.



10. After – B2 and B3, east side



11. Before – B2 and B3, west side



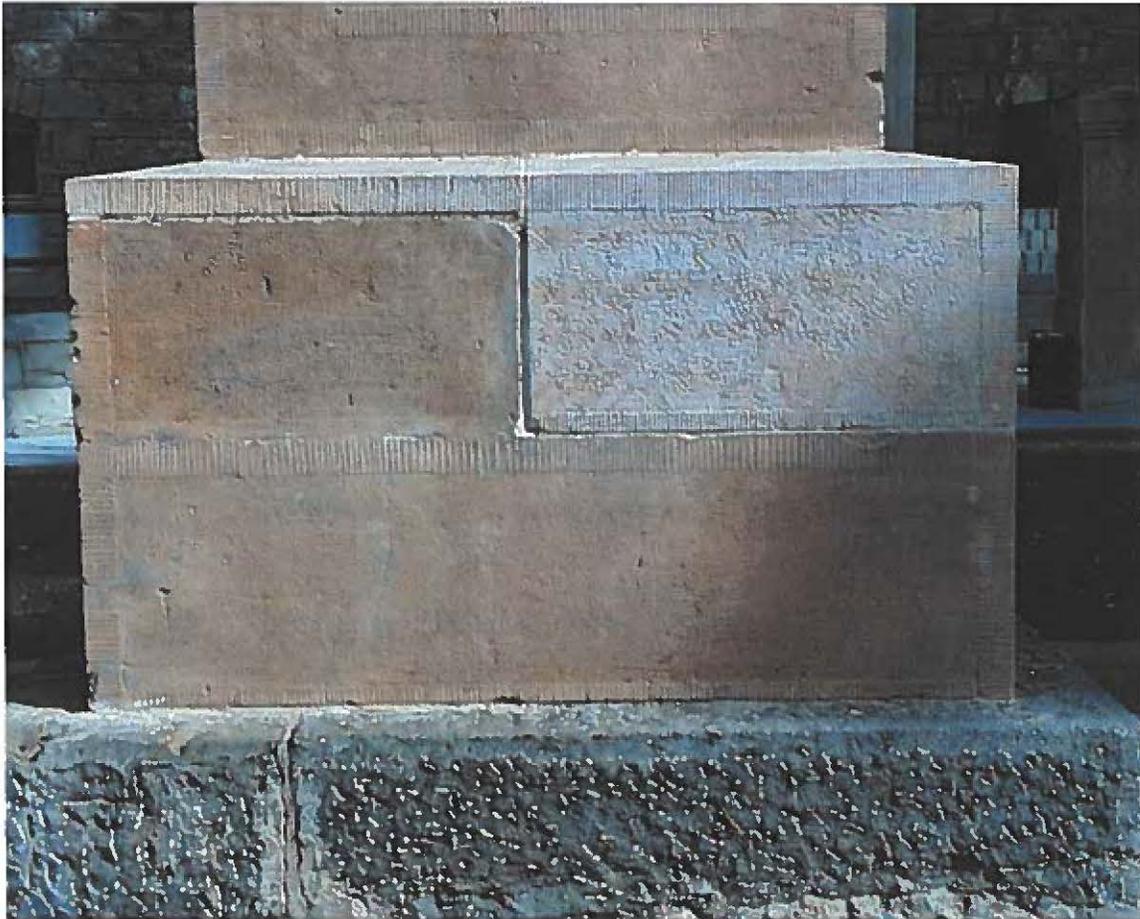
11. After – B2 and B3, west side



12. Before – C1 and C2, south side.



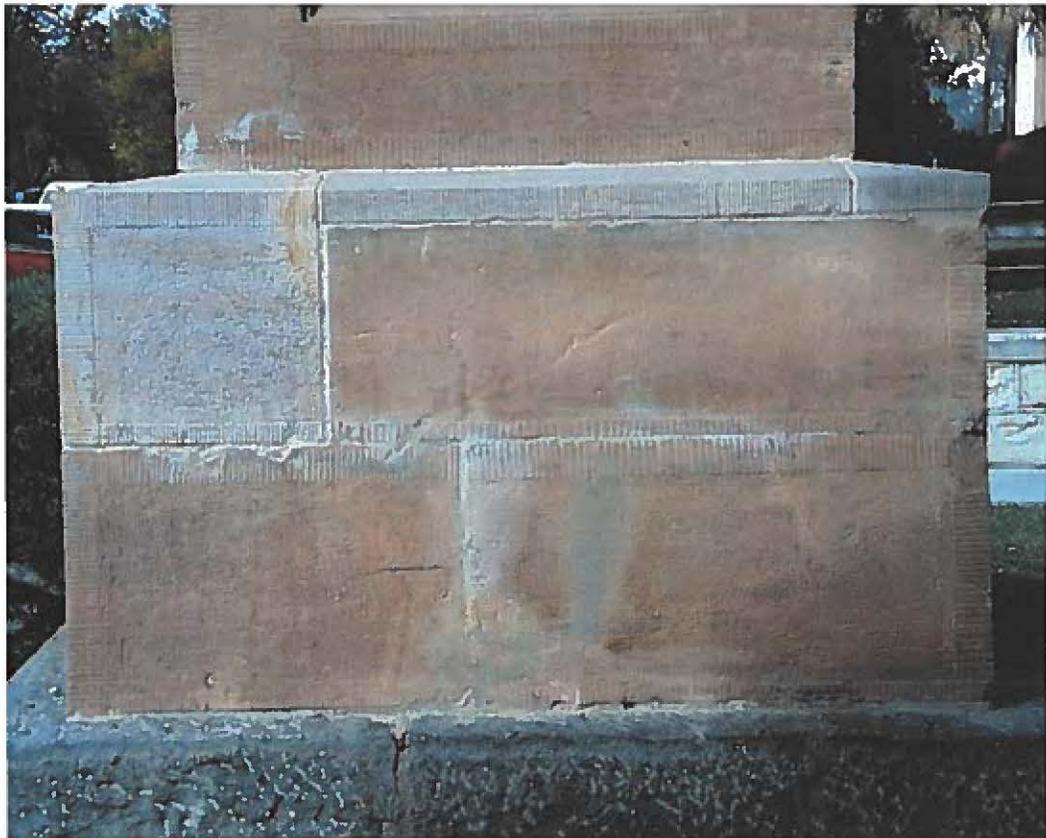
12. During – C1 and C2, removed southeast corner.



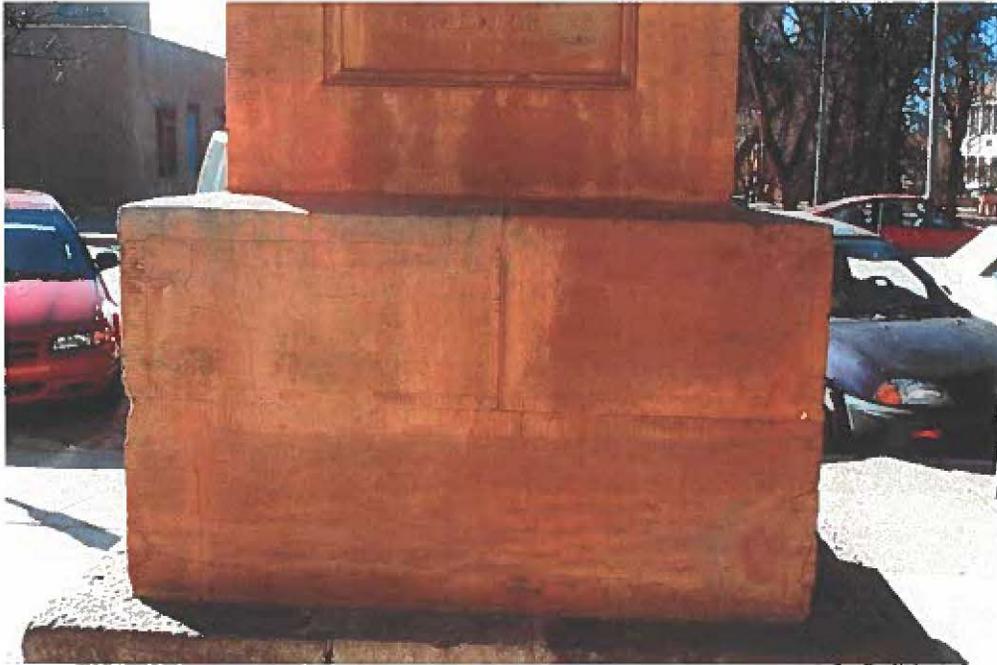
12. After - C1 and C2, south side



13. Before – C1 and C2, east side.



13. After – C1 and C2, east side



14. Before - C1 and C2, north side.



14. After - C1 and C2, north side



15. Before – C1 and C2, west side.



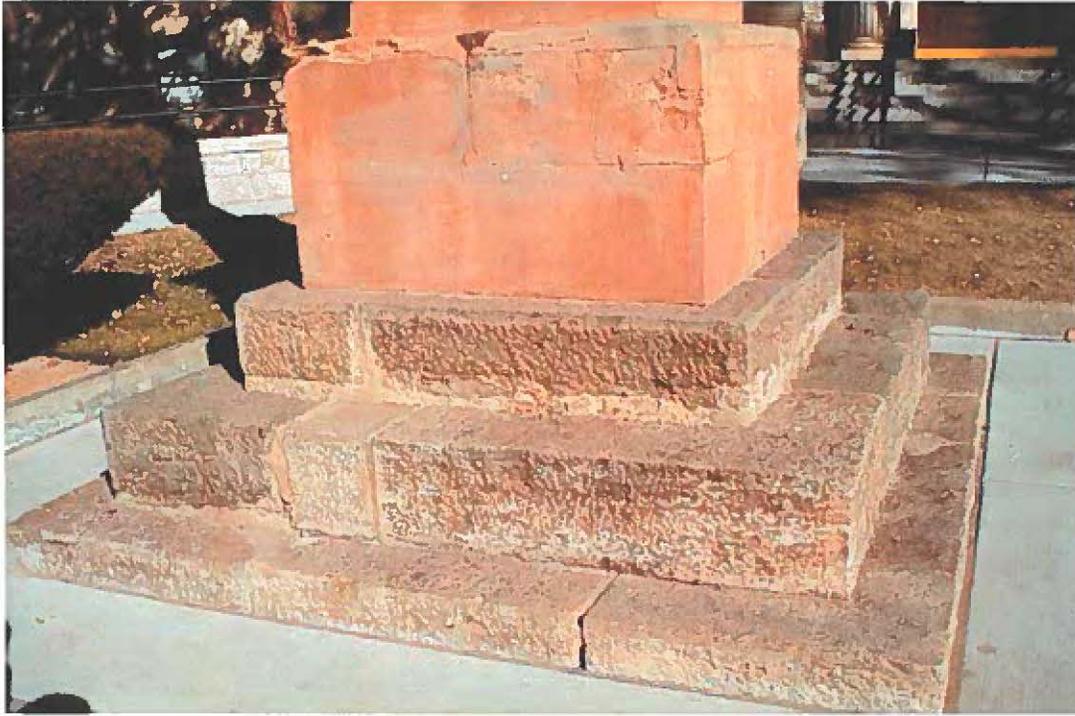
15. During – C2 at north corner, west side



15. After – C2 at north corner, west side.



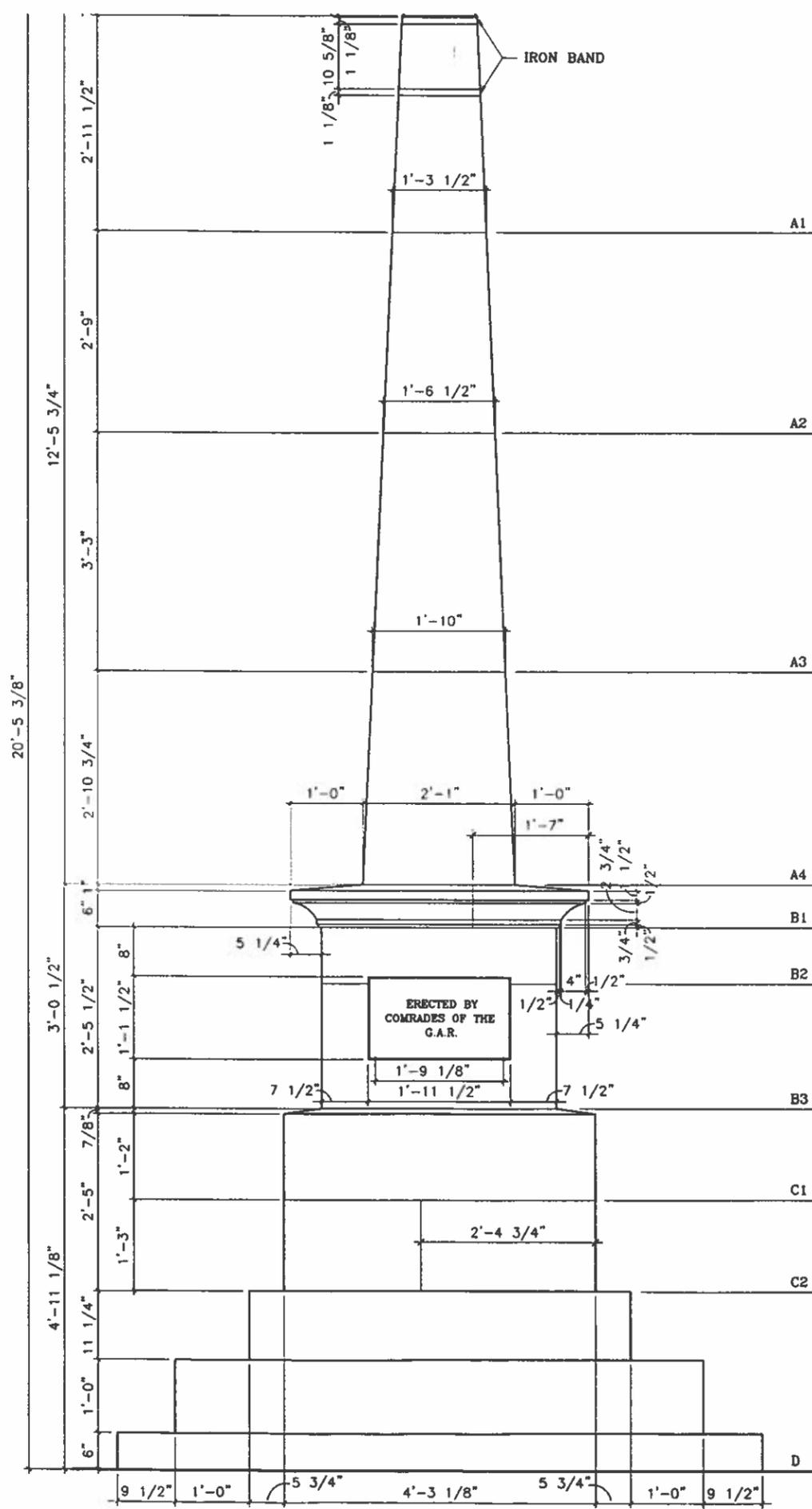
15. After – C1 replaced stone ledge at south corner, west side.



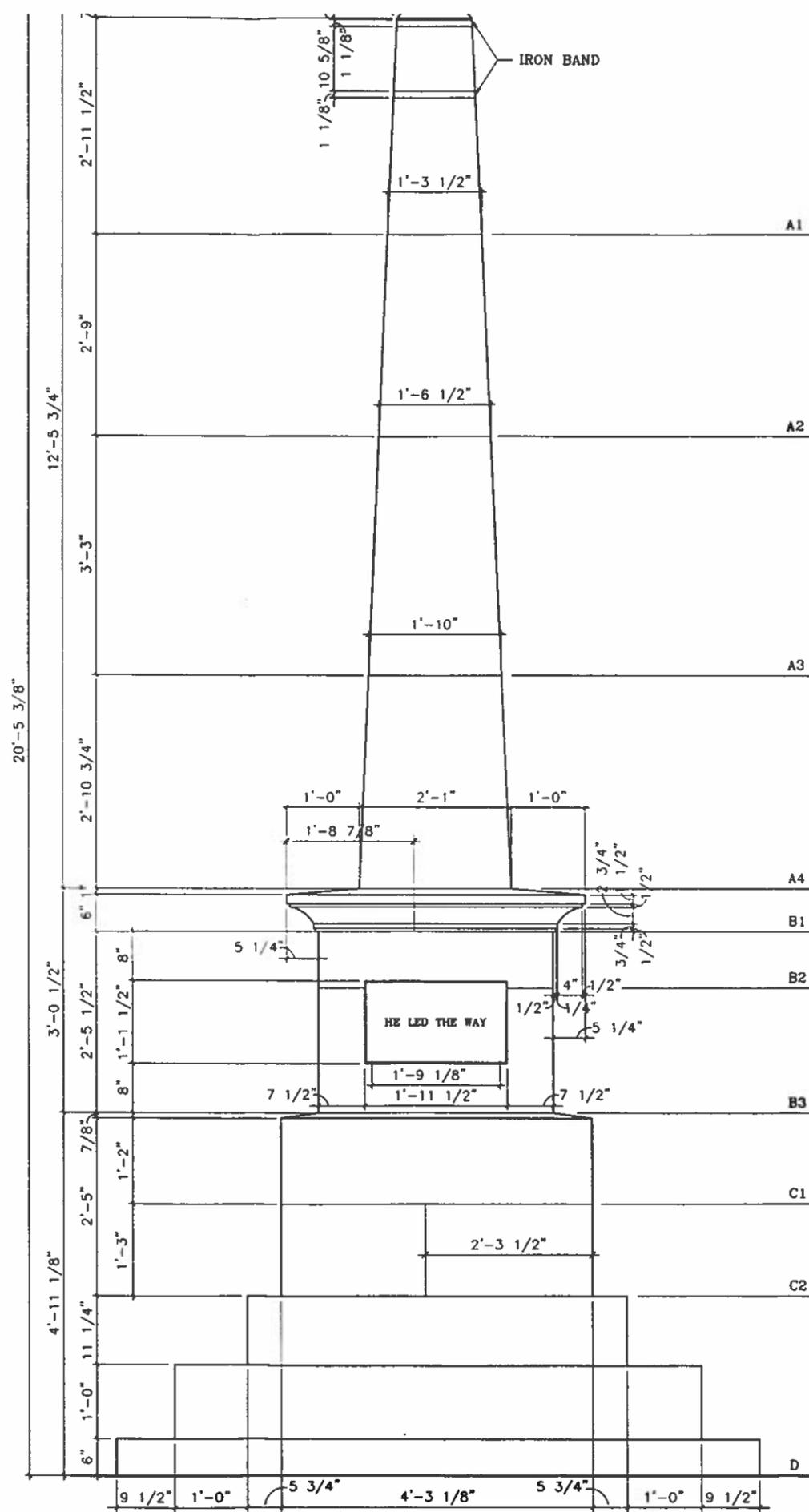
16. Before – Section D, southeast corner



16. After – Section D, southeast corner

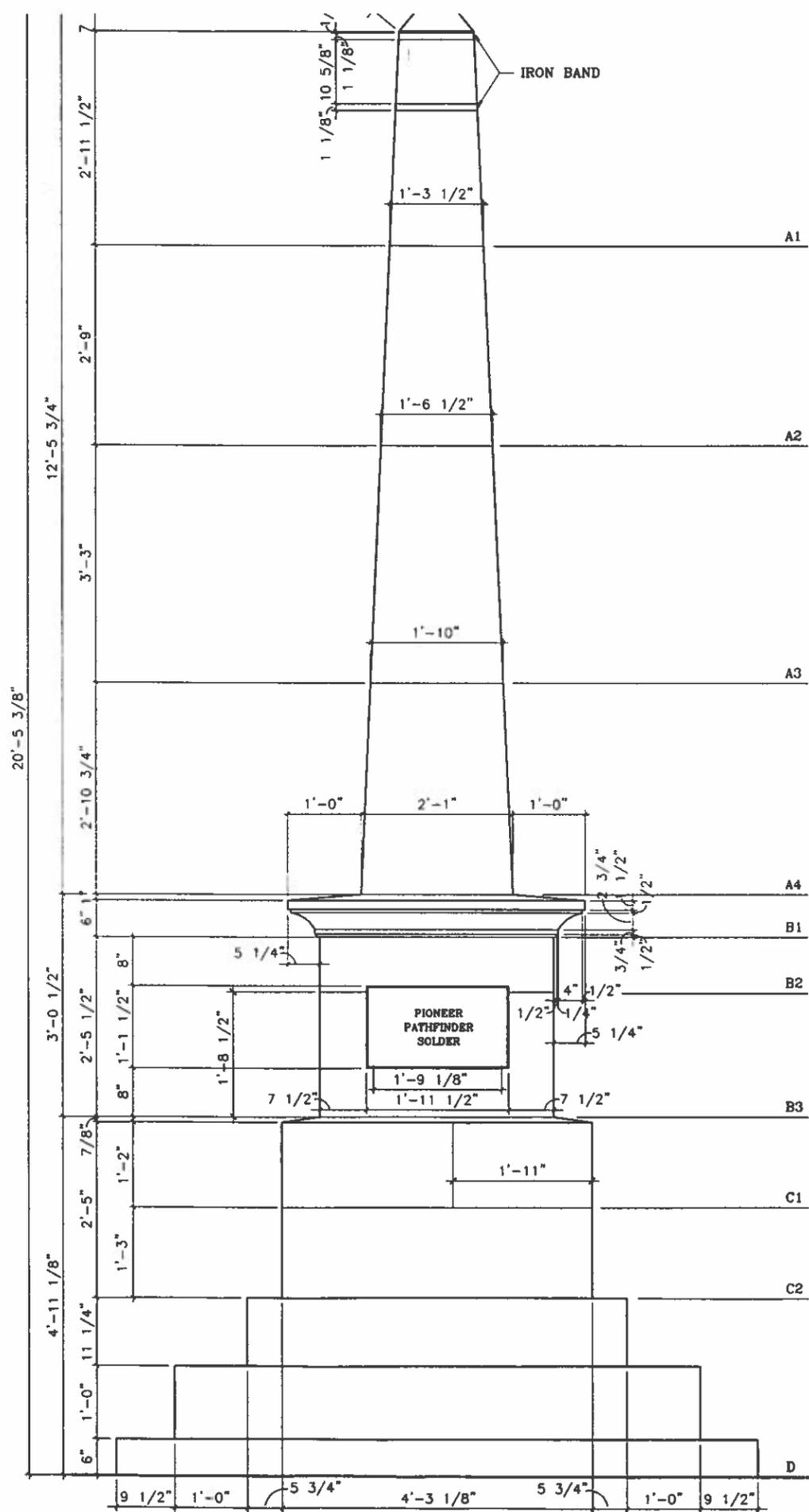


ELEVATION - EAST SIDE  
SCALE: 1/2" = 1'-0"

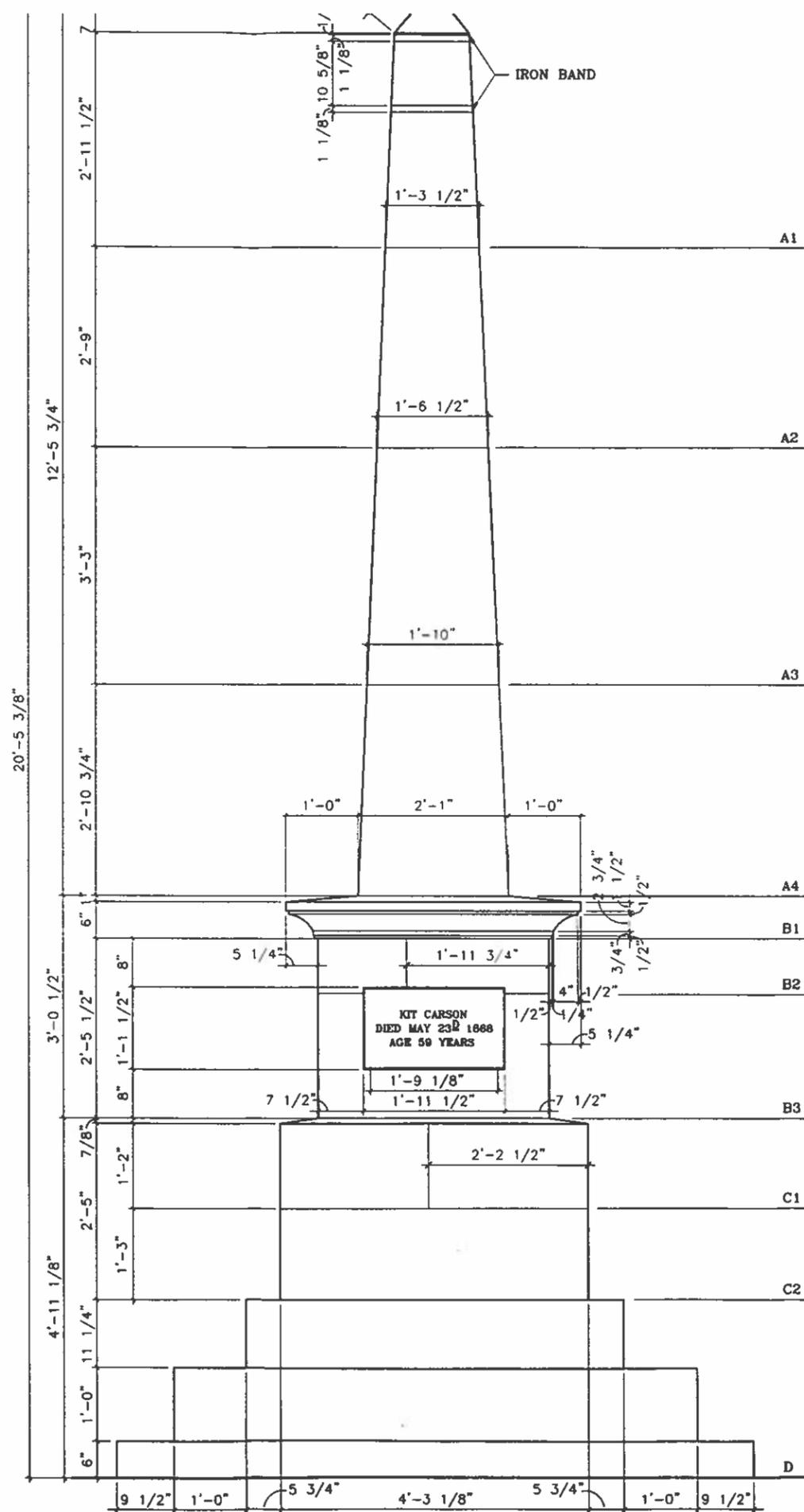


ELEVATION - WEST SIDE  
SCALE: 1/2" = 1'-0"

<b>BPLW</b> Architects & Engineers, Inc. 6200 Lyman Blvd., Suite 402 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110		(205) 861-271
APPROVED	ARCHITECTURAL	STRUCTURAL
	MEDICAL	ELECTRICAL
<b>GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION</b>		
PUBLIC BUILDING SERVICE		
BUILDING	NAME	US COURTHOUSE
	ADDRESS	STREET 120 FEDERAL PL CITY SANTA FE, NM STATE
	NUMBER	NM 0015ZZ
PROJECT	DESCRIPTION	KIT CARSON MONUMENT HISTORICAL RESTORATION
	NUMBER	GS-07P-98-HUD-0047
DRAWING	DRAWN BY	CKD. BY DATE 4-14-
	TITLE	ELEVATIONS
NUMBER	D1	1 of 3
	TYPE	SERIES SEQUENCE
A-E	CONTRACT NUMBER	X
CONSTRUCTION		GS-



**ELEVATION - NORTH SIDE**  
SCALE: 1/2" = 1'-0"



**ELEVATION - SOUTH SIDE**  
SCALE: 1/2" = 1'-0"

<b>BPLW</b> Architects & Engineers, Inc. 8200 Union Blvd. NE, Suite 400 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110 (505) 881-275				
APPROVED	ARCHITECTURAL	STRUCTURAL	MEDICAL	ELECTRICAL
<b>GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION</b> PUBLIC BUILDING SERVICE				
BUILDING	NAME	US COURTHOUSE		
	ADDRESS	120 SOUTH FEDERAL PL SANTA FE, NM		
	NUMBER	NM 0015ZZ		
PROJECT	DESCRIPTION	KIT CARSON MONUMENT HISTORICAL RESTORATION		
	NUMBER	GS-07P-96-HUD-0047		
DRAWING	DRAWN BY	CKD. BY	DATE	4-14-96
	TITLE	ELEVATIONS		
DRAWING	NUMBER	D2	2 of 3	
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A-E	CONTRACT	X		

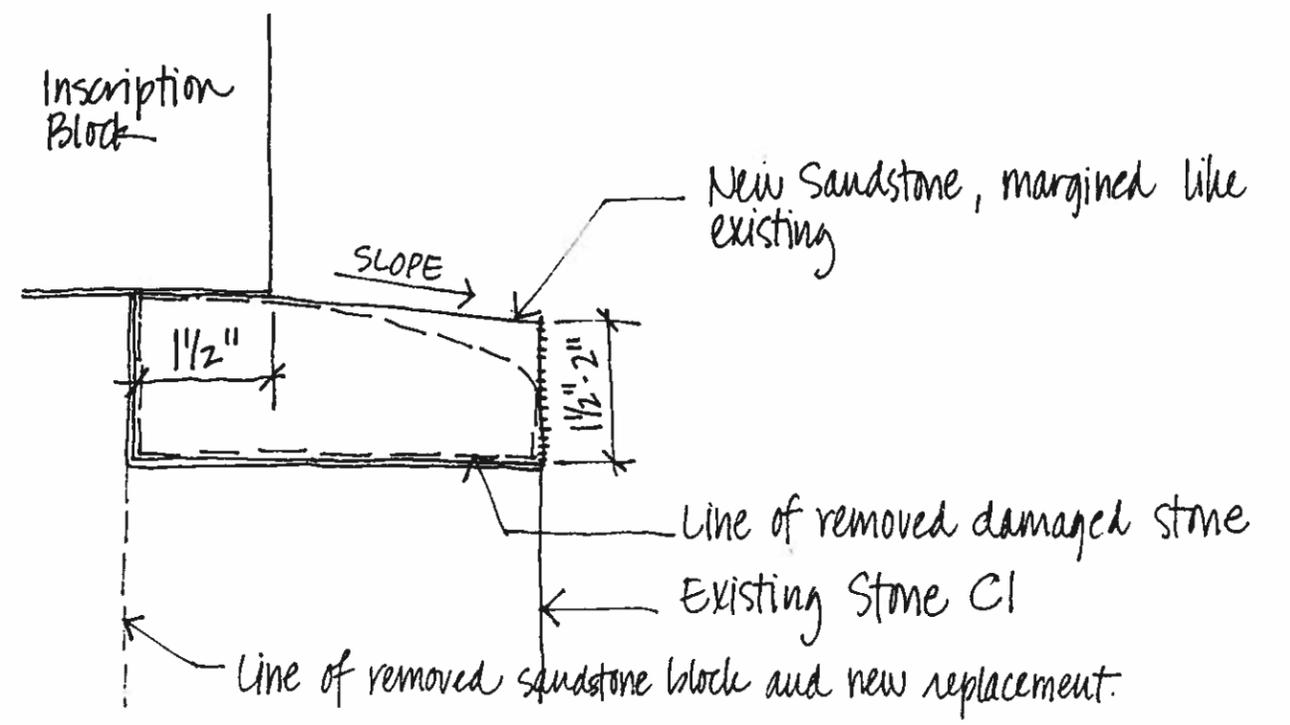
# BPLW

Architects & Engineers, Inc.

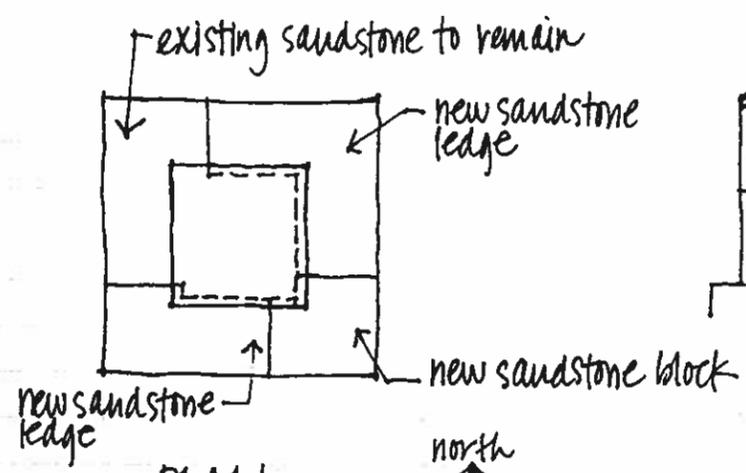
6200 Uptown Blvd. NE Suite 400 Albuquerque, NM 87110 (505) 881-2759  
49 West First Street Suite 100 Mesa, AZ 85201 (602) 827-2759  
Martin Building, Suite 501 215 North Stanton Street El Paso, TX 79901 (915) 545-1665

Project Kit Carson Monument  
Subject Replacement of Stone CI  
Project # 96052.032 Date 7/19/99 By \_\_\_\_\_

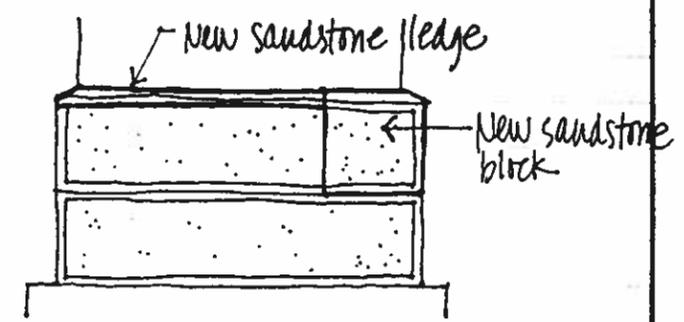
- Memorandum
- Telephone Record
- Note to the File
- Minutes of Meeting
- To be Typed



SECTION  
not to scale



PLAN  
not to scale



SOUTH ELEVATION  
not to scale

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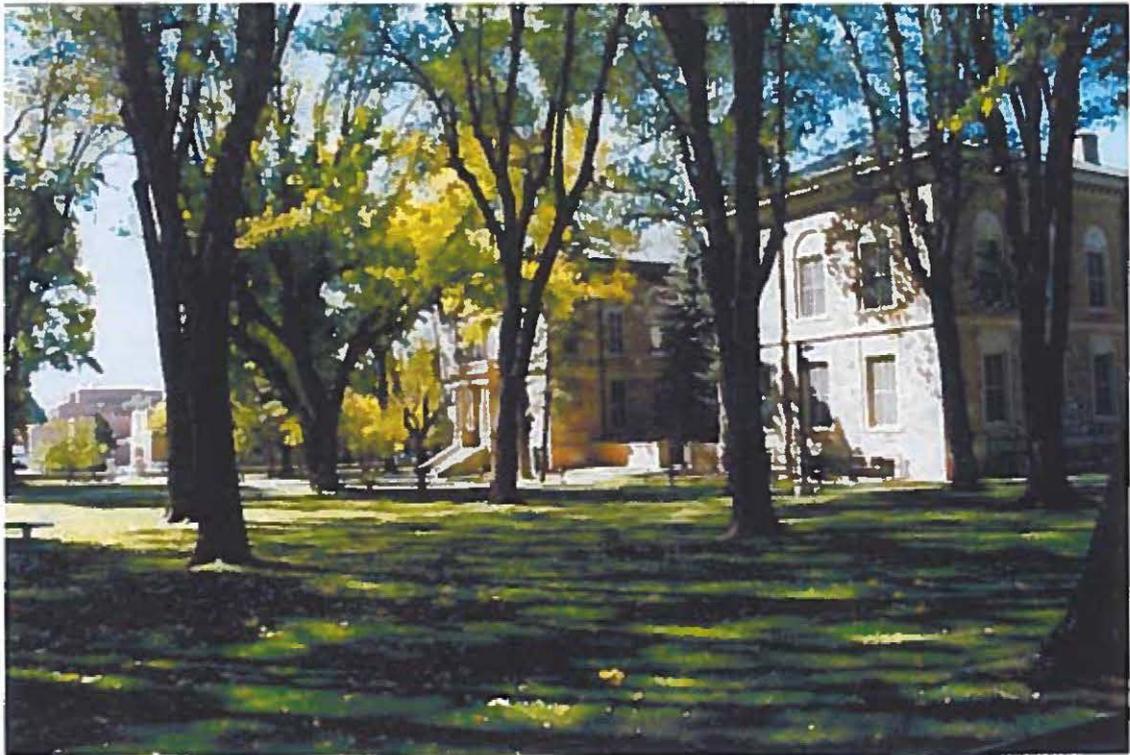
Dec. 1993

Drawing D3  
*Designing to Shape the Future*



**CULTURAL LANDSCAPE REPORT  
FOR THE  
FEDERAL OVAL  
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO**

**JUNE 2003**



East entrance of the U.S. Courthouse, Federal Oval grounds, Santa Fe, New Mexico, 1997.

Prepared for ASCG, Inc., and the General Services Administration by--



**MORROW REARDON WILKINSON,  
LTD.**

210 La Veta NE  
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87108  
(505) 268-2266 [mrw@mrwnm.com](mailto:mrw@mrwnm.com)

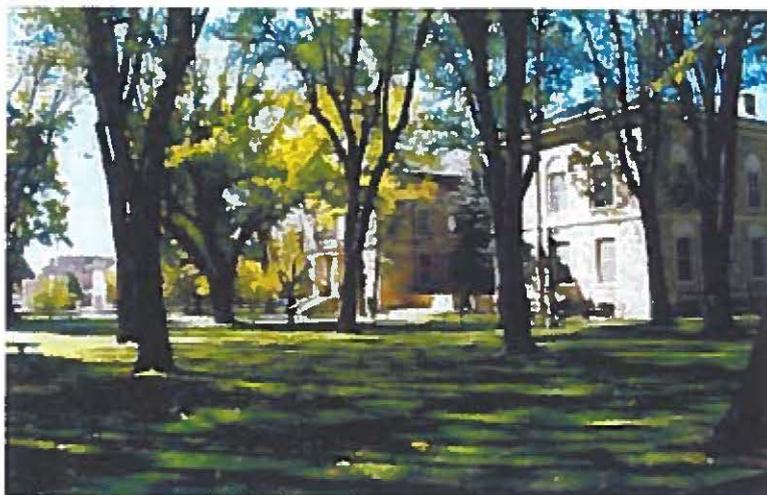
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# CULTURAL LANDSCAPE REPORT FOR THE FEDERAL OVAL SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO



## LANDSCAPE DESCRIPTION

**Overview:** This historic landscape report covers the grounds within the bounds of the Federal Oval in Santa Fe, New Mexico. The Federal Oval incorporates the historic U.S. Courthouse, as well as the U.S. Post Office building. The grounds contain an historic landscape from the Territorial and New Deal Eras. The information presented in this report was collected by Judy Kowalski in 1997 and supplemented by a site visit in 2003.

**Significance criteria:** The Federal Oval landscape is significant under National Register Criteria C and D.

**Condition assessment:** Fair

**Level of Impact Severity:** Severe

**National Register Status:** This historic landscape report finds the cultural landscape features of the Federal Oval landscape to be eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

**Period of significance:** 1848 to 1953

## LOCATION MAP

The Federal Oval grounds are located on the north side of Santa Fe, south of Paseo de Peralta between Washington St. on the east and Grant St. on the west. The site measures about 120,000 square feet in area and is located at 35 degrees, 41 minutes, 27 seconds north latitude, and 105 degrees, 56 minutes, 13 seconds west longitude. (see Figures 1 and 2).

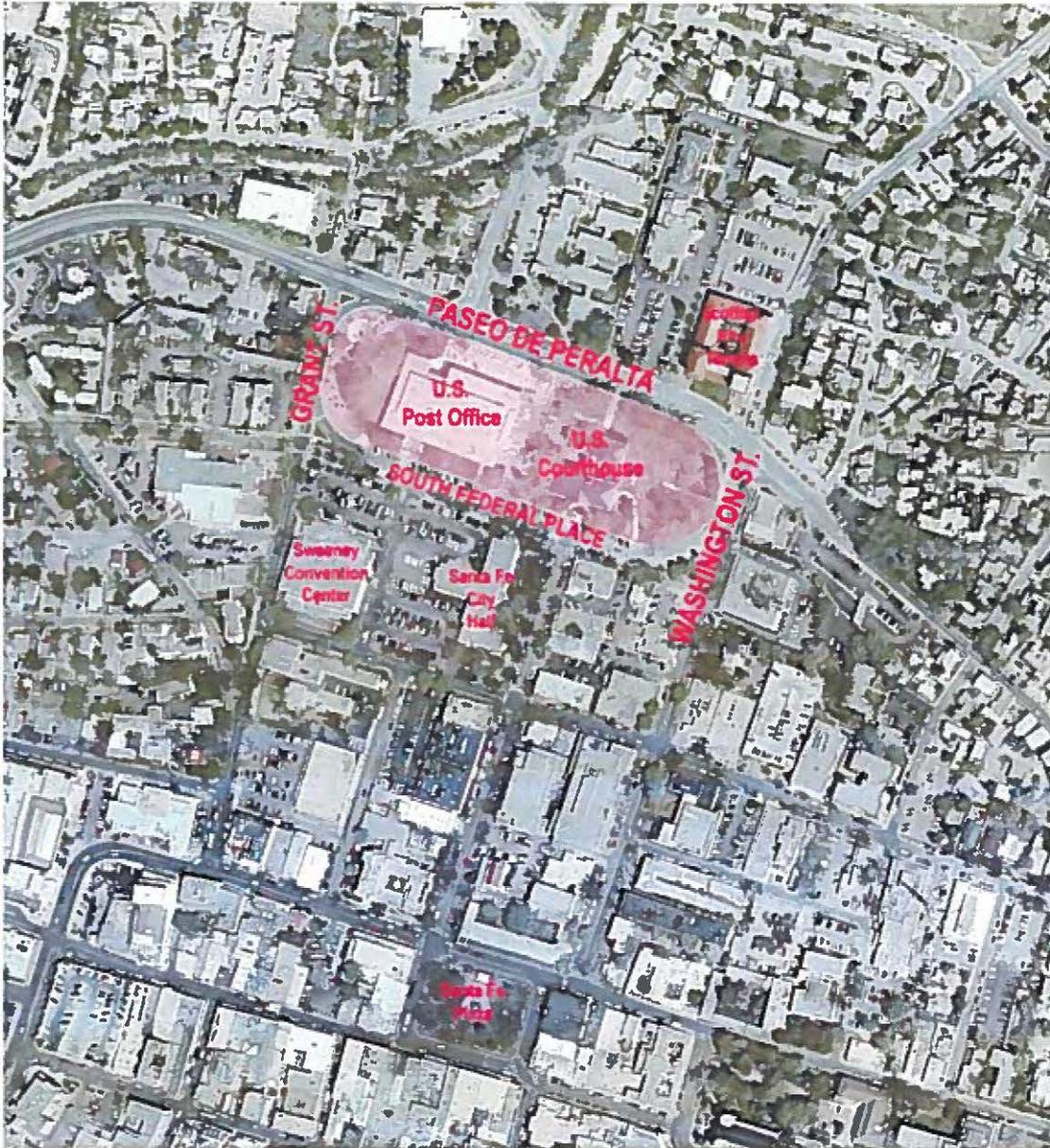


Figure 1. Location of the Federal Oval in relation to the Santa Fe Plaza. Aerial photo (2001) courtesy of Santa Fe County GIS.



Figure 2. Location of Santa Fe within the State of New Mexico. Map courtesy of NM Dept. of Tourism web page, 2003.

## REGIONAL CONTEXT

**Cultural context:** Based on the small amount of historic evidence available, the site of the Federal Oval, prior to its acquisition by the Federal government, was open land at the settlement's outskirts and accessible to the area residents. Archaeological inventories suggest that the area did not contain housing, but rather was adjacent to such areas (Hannaford, 1997). Early Spanish residents of Santa Fe used the site for agriculture, as evidenced by the "irrigating canal" that appears on historic maps of Santa Fe. An 1846-47 map shows the property to be part of the public grounds associated with the Fort Marcy military complex north of the plaza (see Figure 3). The first recorded, organized public use of the site was for the so-called "Tertio-Millennial" celebration in 1883, when the grounds

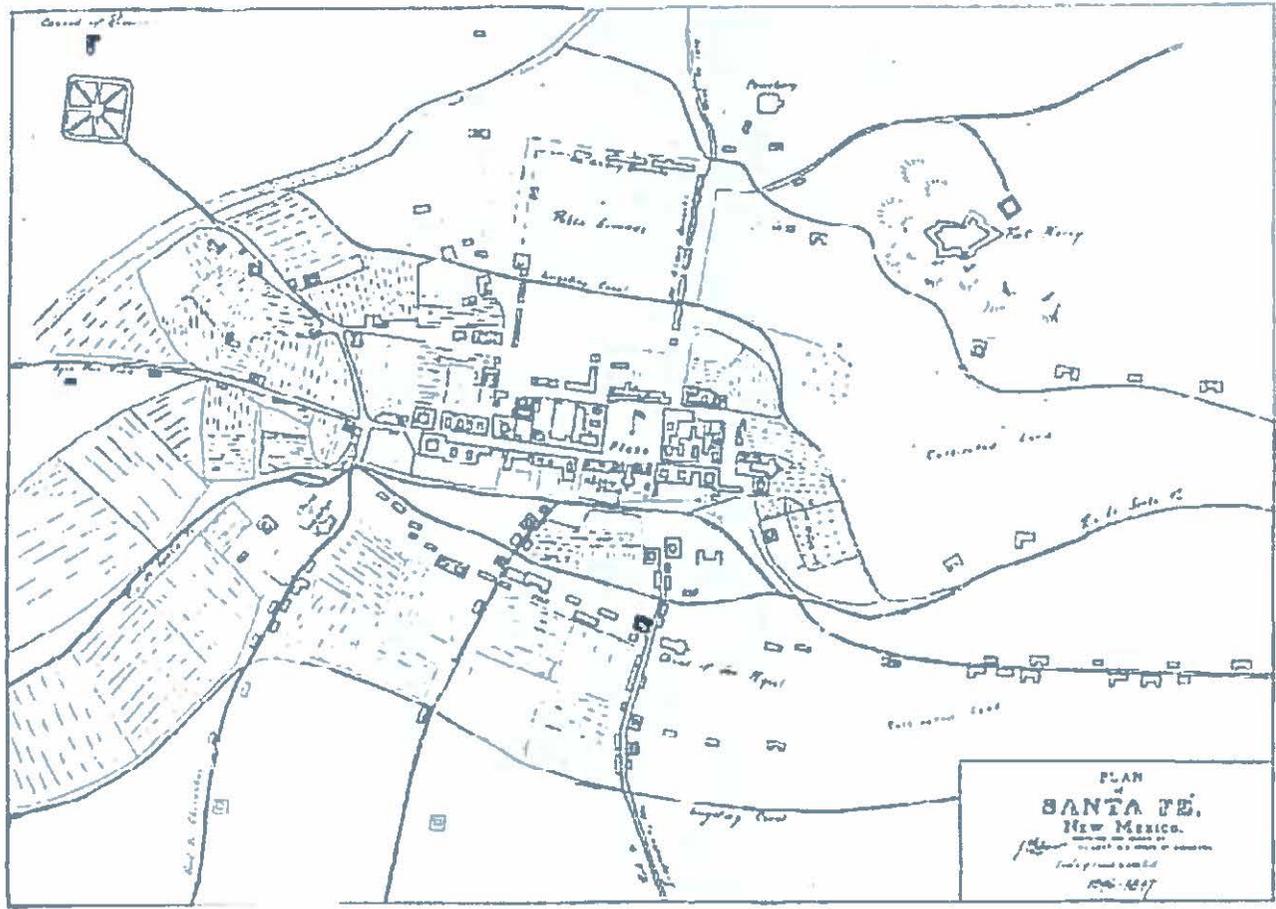


Figure 3. 1846-47 U.S. Corps of Engineers map of Santa Fe.

were cleared of construction debris from the abandoned Federal building construction, and the track that formed the oval was put in place. The site continues to be used today for local celebrations, as well as for a lunchtime and evening retreat for area residents.

**Physiographic context:** The Federal Oval lies at the base of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains in Santa Fe, at an elevation of about 7,000 feet. Historically, grasses and pinon-juniper woodland would have covered the site. Early settlers cut the wood for their stoves and their livestock grazed the grasses to the ground. Early photos of the site from the 1880s reveal that the site consisted of barren, packed earth, with the distant hills sparsely dotted with what were likely recovering pinon and juniper.

**Political context:** The Federal Oval is located in the City of Santa Fe at the north end of the historic part of town, just south of the current site of Fort Marcy. The property is owned by the Federal government and managed by the General Services Administration.

## **SITE PLAN**

The layout of the Federal Oval site is depicted in Figure 4.

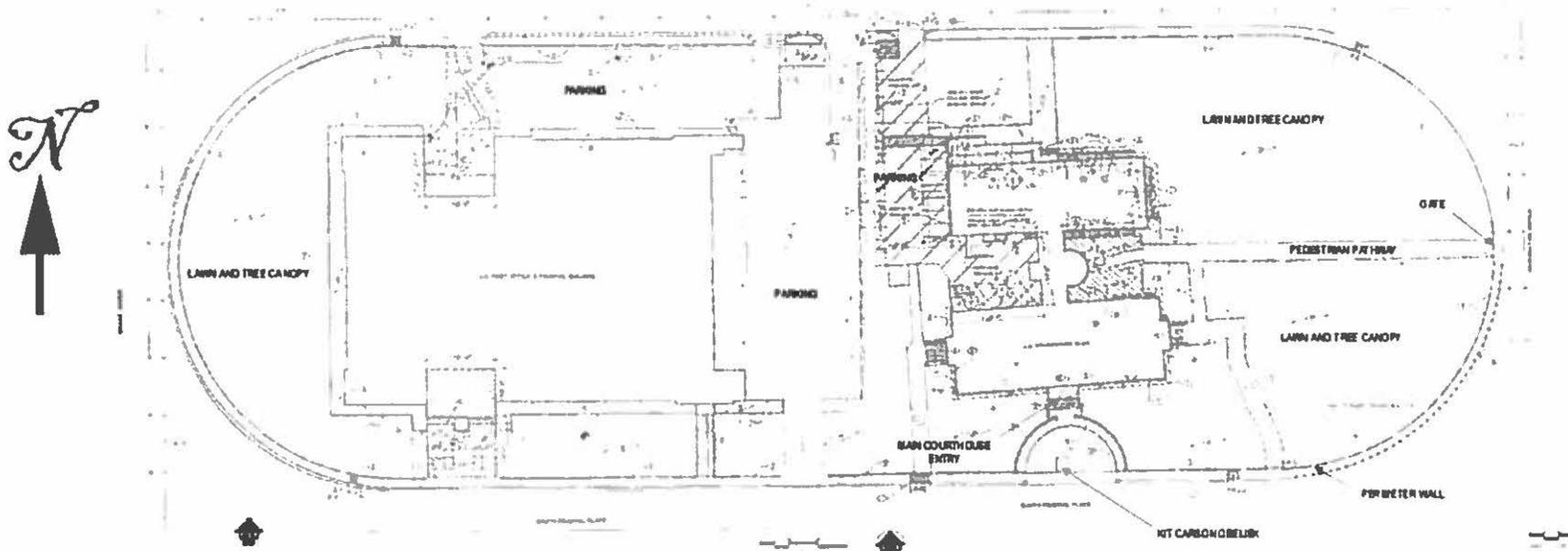


Figure 4. Site plan of the Federal Oval, Santa Fe, New Mexico. Source: U.S. General Services Administration files.

## CHRONOLOGY

- AD1200 – AD1325 Coalition Period puebloan occupation of South Oval area  
1610 -1846 Early Spanish settlement; area used as farm and grazing land. Acequia Muralla ran in the present vicinity of North Federal Place between the present day Scottish Rite Temple and the U.S. Courthouse.
- 1848 Public grounds (presidio) acquired by United States from Mexico in the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo.
- 1851 \$20,000 appropriated by the U.S. Congress to build a “capitol building.” Plans for building begun by former Chief Justice Joab Houghton.
- 1854 \$50,000 additional funds appropriated; basement and 1-1/2 stories built.
- 1860 \$60,000 appropriated, but never received because of exemption from Civil War taxes granted New Mexico.
- 1883 Federal Oval grounds bulldozed in preparation for the Tertio-Millennial celebration. Racetrack was laid out around the grounds; an artificial lake was dug north of the partially constructed Federal Building (later used as a trash dump); a temporary roof was built on the Federal Building and it was used to house out-of-town Native Americans (source: *The Santa Fe Magazine*, 1933; *El Palacio*, August 1958).
- 1885 Monument to Kit Carson erected at south entrance of courthouse in May.
- 1887 \$52,000 appropriated for completion of the courthouse. William A. French, supervising architect of U.S. Treasury, issued new plans for the Federal Building. In the summer, Architect Brigham developed plans for a park on the Federal Oval showing a double row of trees along the lengths of roadway (*Santa Fe New Mexican*, 6/7/1887). In December, builders bid on completing construction of the Federal Building.
- 1888 By spring, courthouse contractors, Donaghue and Monier, received a contract to do \$10,000 worth of work on the grounds (*Santa Fe New Mexican*, 10/09/1906).
- 1889 Wall and pipe rail constructed in fall, according to information inside the Courthouse.
- 1890 U.S. Courthouse building completed.
- 1906 Concrete sidewalks installed in fall (*Santa Fe New Mexican*, 10/09/1906)
- 1914 Santa Fe High School track team used the Federal Oval as practice track.
- 1930 North addition to the Courthouse completed.
- 1930s Probable installation of additional landscaping by the Civilian Conservation Corps.

- 1938 Art installed in building through Federal art project.
- 1962 Construction on U.S. Post Office started in spring. Robert L. McKee was the building contractor (*Santa Fe New Mexican*, 3/15/1962). Building designed by W.C. Kruger and Associates of Santa Fe, described as "modernized territorial style" (*Santa Fe New Mexican*, 8/04/1963). 29 trees (described as 30-40 years old) uprooted for construction of the new post office (*Santa Fe New Mexican*, 3/29/1963).
- 1963 New post office completed; foundation landscaping installed.
- 1972 National Register of Historic Places Inventory Nomination Form for the U.S. Courthouse completed by James H. Purdy, Archivist, State Records Center and Archives.
- 1973 U.S. Courthouse entered into the National Register on May 25, with significance in the areas of architecture and government.
- 1996-97 Archaeological survey by Charles Hannaford, Museum of New Mexico. New irrigation system installed and turf restored. Stone walls surrounding the oval grounds repointed.

G R A N  
B A I L L E  
D E  
E N M A S C A R A D O S !

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E S T A N O C H E,  
el 15 de A G O S T O.

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E s t e e s e l b a i l e u l t i m o d e  
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T E R C I O - M I L E N I O .

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B o t e r i a s d e A d m i s i o n                      S i p a r a c a b e l l e r o y r e c o r d e r .

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E l b a i l e c o m e n z a r a a l a s o c h o y m e d i a .

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L a s m a s c a r a s p u e d e n q u i -  
t a r s e l a s a l a s o n c e .

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El baile será en el Hotel El Alamo, esquina de las calles de la Calle y de la Calle.

Figure 5. Advertisement for Tertio-Millennial event (held 1883).  
Source: *El Palacio*, August 1958.

## **STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The Federal Courthouse, including the surrounding Oval grounds, is one of the most significant modern historic buildings in the State of New Mexico. The building, the wall surrounding the oval, and the park-like grounds, the first courthouse "square" constructed in New Mexico, are representative of a late nineteenth century interpretation of the English Landscape Garden. Designed by Brigham and modified by the Civilian Conservation Corps during the New Deal Era, the grounds continue to function as an important public space within the Federal and municipal sector of Santa Fe. The landscape is historically significant at the local level under National Register Criteria C and D. The period of significance is 1848, when the property was purchased by the U.S. government for public use, to 1953.

### **CRITERION C: DESIGN/CONSTRUCTION**

The Federal Oval grounds, with their lush, green lawns and arching, stately elms, are representative of the courthouse square form and the New Deal Era landscape. The earliest irrigation system was likely installed by the WPA(CCC) in the 1930s. The characteristic elements include the large public spaces surrounding the U.S. courthouse, the stone walls surrounding the oval, the circulation patterns around and through the oval, and the plant palette, including Siberian and American elms, box elder, crabapple, maple, Douglas fir, ponderosa pine, blue spruce, lilac, honeysuckle, rose, and bluegrass. The landscape complements the courthouse building, which was constructed in the Greek Revival architectural style. The stone used for the building and the surrounding walls was quarried locally at Hyde Park and Cerrillos, New Mexico.

### **CRITERION D: INFORMATION POTENTIAL**

According to the archaeological survey conducted by Hannaford (1997), the site may contain archaeological resources from the Territorial period that would provide additional information about life in Santa Fe during that era.

## **PHYSICAL HISTORY**

Plans for a Federal courthouse in Santa Fe were initiated in 1846 by Justice Joab Houghton, who was a magistrate at the time. The site on which the courthouse was to be built was officially acquired by the U.S. government in 1848 under the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo. Through a trickle of funding from the U.S. Congress, the Federal building was begun in 1853. The Civil War interrupted the building's construction, when promised additional funding was forfeited in exchange for the Congress forgiving New Mexico's war tax. The partially constructed building (see Photo 1) and site sat abandoned until 1883, when local boosters concocted a plan to celebrate Santa Fe's "333<sup>rd</sup>" anniversary (the town was mistakenly believed to have been settled by the Spanish in 1550). The Tertio-Millennial Fair, as it was called, was designed to attract tourists and help revive the city's flagging economy.

To prepare for the Tertio-Millennial celebration held in mid-August of 1883, a roof was constructed over the unfinished, standing stone walls of the Federal building, and it was used to house visiting Native American participants in the celebration. An oval-shaped track one-third of a mile in length was constructed around the perimeter of the grounds to accommodate horse and burro races.



Photo 1. Federal Building in partial state of completion, 1881. Photo by George C. Bennett.

In 1885, a monument dedicated to Kit Carson was erected in the presence of about 5,000 citizens. With the arrival of additional funding from Congress, the Federal building and the surrounding perimeter wall were finally completed in 1889 (see Photo 2). It is believed that some trees and shrubs were planted shortly after completion of the structure, though no documentation exists to confirm this. Photos from around the turn of the century, and later in 1925, show vigorous trees growing along the front (south side) of what by then had become the courthouse. The north addition to the courthouse building was added in 1929.

Numerous Civilian Conservation Corps projects were undertaken in and around Santa Fe during the New Deal Era. The Siberian (and possibly American) elms that grace the perimeter of the Federal Oval grounds are very likely the work of the CCC, though no documentation has been found showing plans for the tree planting. However, when the post office building was constructed on the oval just west of the courthouse, newspaper accounts detail the removal of about 29 trees believed to have been about 30-40 years old. This would be consistent with the New Deal Era tree planting project.

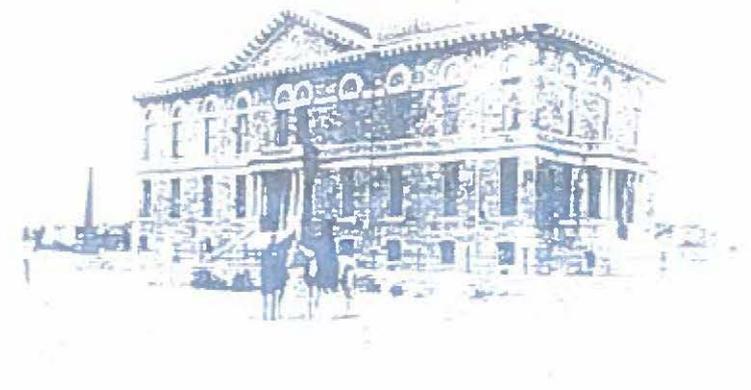


Photo 2. Federal Building shortly after being completed, ca. 1890. Photographer unknown.

The General Services Administration, the agency that manages the grounds, has taken great care to preserve the historic nature of both the building and the landscape, which still serves as an important public gathering place for Santa Fe citizens into the twenty first century.

## ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

### Summary of contributing elements/integrity evaluation

#### Contributing Features

Spoils pit  
Refuse pit  
U.S. courthouse  
Stone perimeter walls  
Sandstone obelisk  
Fountains  
Light posts  
Concrete pedestrian pathways  
Vehicular circulation on roads surrounding the oval  
Use of the site for public events  
Historic trees and shrubs (including American and Siberian elms, box elders, maples, lindens, Douglas fir, White fir, Ponderosa pine, Pinon pine, lavender, honeysuckle, rose, expanses of bluegrass lawn; see plant list, Figure 4)  
Views of surrounding structures – the Scottish Rite Temple and the former Allison Dormitory (on corner of Old Taos Highway)  
Views of the Sangre de Cristo and Jemez Mountains

#### Noncontributing Features

Montoya Federal Building (post office)  
Parking lots  
Plastic picnic tables  
Modern lighting and security system  
Cottonwoods at entrance to Montoya Building

Integrity Evaluation: Integrity is the ability of the landscape to convey its significance. It is determined by comparing historic and contemporary conditions, and by determining contemporary/ethnographic values. The following integrity evaluation is based primarily on historic significance, since ethnographic studies have not been completed.

#### **Overall Integrity – High**

Location: The place where the historic property was constructed or the place where the historic event occurred. Integrity of location is **high**.

Setting: The physical environment of the historic landscape; the character of the place in which the property played its historic role. Integrity of setting is **high**.

Design/Community Organization: Design is the combination of elements that create the form, plan, space, structure and style of the property. Community organization is the organization of an ecological community in terms of size, structure, and distribution of each plant species and animal population plus the cyclical patterns in these characteristics. Integrity of design/community organization is **medium**. Little documentation is available

about the status of the ecological communities of the Federal Oval during its early years. Design remains virtually unchanged, with the exception of the loss of some trees and shrubs.

Materials/Species Composition: Materials are the physical elements that were combined or deposited during a particular period of time and in a particular pattern or configuration to form an historic property. Species composition focuses on the dominant native and introduced plant and animal species. Integrity of materials/species composition is **high**.

Workmanship/Management Techniques: Workmanship is the physical evidence of the crafts of a particular culture or historic period. A management technique describes treatment to the landscape to maintain, preserve or change conditions. Integrity of workmanship/management techniques is **medium**. Though workmanship is high, the landscape has suffered as a result of the reduced irrigation schedule. It should be noted that this is not the result of poor management on the part of the General Services Administration, but rather owing to irrigation restrictions imposed on the property by the City of Santa Fe.

Feeling: Feeling refers to a landscape's expression of the aesthetic or historic sense of a particular period of time. Feeling results from the on-site presence of physical features, and from continuing values and meanings of the place alive in contemporary communities; these taken together convey the landscape's historic character. Integrity of feeling is **high**.

Association: The direct link between an important historic event or person and an historic landscape. Integrity of association is **high**.

The Federal Oval has significance and integrity as a cultural landscape.

### Landscape characteristics and features

Archeological sites: An archaeological survey was conducted on the grounds of the Courthouse and Federal Oval (LA114261) from August to November 1996 by the Office of Archaeological Studies, Museum of New Mexico. "The monitoring program established that the subsurface material across the Federal Oval grounds was shallow and confined to a cultural layer varying from 20 to 50 cm below the surface. Artifacts recovered from the cultural layer represented low-density and highly mixed refuse ranging from the prehistoric Coalition period through early Statehood period material. Two archaeological features discovered by the monitoring program relate to Santa Fe's Territorial period. A large refuse pit is interpreted as the trash-filled artificial pond built for the 1883 Tertio-Millennial Fair. A spoils pit seems to be filled with stone dressing debris related to Territorial period construction either at the Courthouse or possibly the penitentiary. The debris may even relate to a razed structure, but this was not confirmed by the present project. Both discovered features preserve intact deposits likely to yield important information on Santa Fe's Territorial period." (Hannaford, p. ii)

### Contributing Features

Spoils pit

Refuse pit

**Buildings and structures:** As previously mentioned, the original portion of the courthouse building was designed by Chief Justice Joab Houghton. Construction began in 1853, but was not completed until 1889, as a result of delays in funding caused by the financial demands of the Civil War. The building is designed in the Greek Revival style of architecture. The north addition, described as Neo-Classical Revival, was completed in 1929-30. (Kroll, et al, pp. 2-3) Entrances to the building are located on the north, south, east, and west facades. The north addition created courtyards on the east and west sides of the courthouse. A stone wall connects the north and south wings of the building on the east side; the west courtyard is currently used as a parking area.

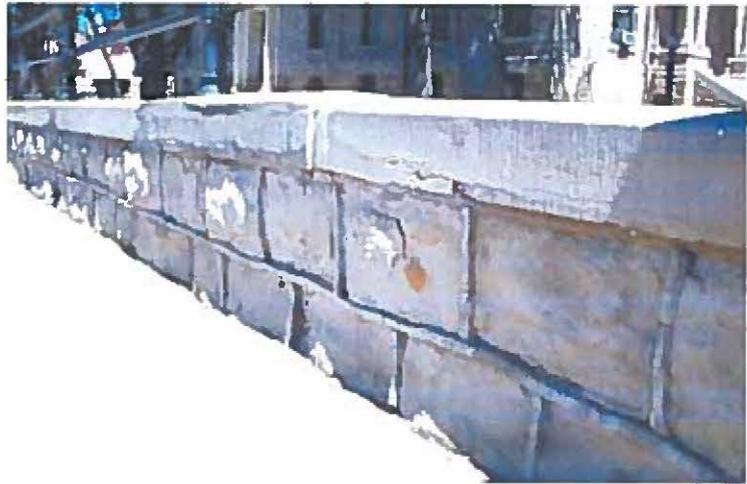


Photo 3. Perimeter wall to south of courthouse building.  
Photo by Judy Kowalski, MRW, Ltd., 2003.

The exterior walls of the courthouse were constructed of rubble stone quarried in the Hyde Park area. Dressed limestone, quarried in Cerrillos, was added as trim and also used in the Doric columns on the building's south entrance.

The stone and metal pipe rail fence was completed in 1889, at the same time as the original building (see photo 3). The wall incorporates three wrought iron gates at the north, east and south entrances to the courthouse building. The sandstone obelisk constructed in honor of Kit Carson was installed in 1885 (see photo 4).

The Montoya Federal Building, which houses the U.S. Post Office and various other government offices, lies directly to the west of the courthouse. It was constructed in the modern style of the early 1960's, compromising the historic setting of the Federal Oval.

#### **Contributing Features**

Courthouse

Stone perimeter walls

Sandstone obelisk

#### **Noncontributing Features**

Montoya Federal Building

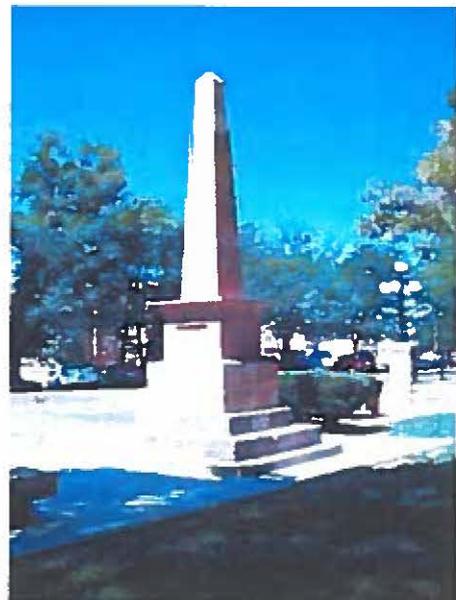


Photo 4. Kit Carson obelisk at south entrance to the courthouse.  
Photo by Judy Kowalski, MRW, Ltd., 2003.

Circulation: Concrete pedestrian pathways completely encircle the Federal Oval, as well as provide access to the major entrances to the buildings (see photo 5). Parking areas are located between the courthouse and the post office building and on the north side of the post office building. Frequent traffic travels around the oval on South Federal Place for access to the post office and on Paseo de Peralta, a major artery around the city.



Photo 5. Gate and pedestrian path on southeast side of courthouse. Photo by Judy Kowalski, MRW, Ltd., 2003.

#### Contributing Features

Concrete pedestrian pathways  
Vehicular circulation on roads surrounding the oval

#### Noncontributing Features

Parking lots

Cultural traditions: With the purchase of the Federal Oval grounds by the U.S. government in 1848, the land came officially into public ownership. The site was used for whatever purpose deemed necessary, including adobe brickmaking and public celebrations, with the largest and most documented being the Tertio-Millennial Exposition. The landscape existing on the oval creates an environment conducive to public events, with open, tree-shaded expanses. Public events continue to be held on the oval, particularly on the lawn on the east side of the courthouse building.

#### Contributing Features

Use of the site for public events

Small Scale Features: A few site amenities are present on the grounds. Two concrete fountains (see photo 6), no longer operational, are located on either side of the pathway on the east side of the courthouse. Black metal Territorial period



Photo 6. Fountain and picnic table on east lawn. Photo by Judy Kowalski, MRW, Ltd., 2003.

lightposts are located around the oval near the perimeter wall. New lighting has been installed around the building's foundation to light the structure and provide a measure of security for the courthouse. Surveillance cameras are mounted on poles at each side of the courthouse, also for security. Concrete bench seating is located around the obelisk at the south entrance to the courthouse, and green plastic picnic tables and modern trash cans are scattered around the oval grounds.

#### Contributing Features

Fountains  
Territorial period lighting  
Concrete benches

#### Noncontributing Features

Green plastic picnic tables  
Security lights  
Security cameras  
Trash cans

Vegetation: The trees and shrubs planted around the Federal Oval (see photos 7 and 8) are representative of those found in nineteenth and twentieth century town squares around the Southwest – American and Siberian elms, maples, Douglas fir, ponderosa pine, lavender, honeysuckle, rose and bluegrass. Most of the existing vegetation is more than 50 years old. Figure 6 shows an inventory of the existing plants and conditions on the site.

#### Contributing Features

See plant list on Figure 6

#### Noncontributing Features

Cottonwoods at entrance to Montoya Building

Views and vistas: The buildings surrounding the Federal Oval are no taller than three stories, with most only one or two stories, in keeping with the requirements of Santa Fe's Historic Review Board. This provides clear views of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains to the near northeast and the Jemez Mountains in the distance to the west. Two other historic properties, the Scottish Rite Temple, at 463 Paseo de Peralta, and the former Allison Dormitory, at 433 Paseo de Peralta, are also visible from parts of the oval grounds.

#### Contributing Features

Views of the Sangre de Cristo and Jemez Mountains  
Views of other historic sites



Photo 7. Federal Building in 1912. Source: *Old Santa Fe Today*.



Photo 8. South facade of the courthouse, 1997. Photo by Judy Kowalski, 1997.

## ADJACENT LANDS

The Federal Oval is well within the historic district of the City of Santa Fe. The Federal courthouse is joined by two adjacent structures – the former Allison Dormitory and the Scottish Rite Temple – on the State List of Historic Properties. The view down tree-lined Lincoln Street provides an important connection with the Santa Fe Plaza, and those same trees provide a stunning frame for the view up Lincoln Street of the Federal Courthouse. These adjacent sites are important elements contributing to the significance of the Federal Oval.

## NATIONAL REGISTER INFORMATION

The U.S. Courthouse was entered into the National Register of Historic Places on May 25, 1973. The nomination form was completed by James H. Purdy, archivist with the State Records Center and Archives on October 16, 1972. The nomination focuses on the courthouse building, with brief mention of the perimeter wall. The other significant historic landscape features are not mentioned in the nomination.

### General Management Information

The U.S. General Services Administration manages the Federal Oval grounds and the maintenance of the post office and courthouse.

### Condition Assessment and Impacts

The condition of the courthouse is good as a result of recent renovations to the structure, particularly the stone façade and cornices. Until the past two years, the condition of the landscape has also been good. However, as a result of drought restrictions put in place by the City of Santa Fe, the irrigation schedule for the Federal Oval was cut back significantly during the dry summer months of 2002. This has resulted in a significant decline in the health of many of the old trees and the browning of the grass lawn. As a result, the overall condition of the landscape is fair, with some trees in particularly poor condition (see photos 9 and 10). A continuation of restricted watering will likely result in a continued decline in the health of the trees. The affected trees may respond to pruning and fertilization, but this should be addressed immediately in order to avoid their further quick deterioration. The level of impact is severe.



Photo 9. Elm tree with rotting branch at southwest corner of the oval. Photo by Judy Kowalski, MRW, Ltd., 2003.

The perimeter wall also shows some troubling signs of wear. The sandstone blocks making up the wall are spalling in some places and retreating from the mortar, which was replaced in 1996.

The Federal Oval landscape and its buildings remain New Mexico's most significant and influential courthouse square.



Photo 10. Dead junipers at south entrance to post office parking lot. Photo by Judy Kowalski, MRW, Ltd., 2003.

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**Re: Kit Carson Monument Issue**

Jim Pahl [REDACTED]

Thu 12/3/2020 11:49 AM

To: pcincdarb [REDACTED]; Brian Pierson [REDACTED]

Cc: James Pahl, PCinC &lt;[REDACTED]&gt;; Walter Busc [REDACTED]

My understanding of the materials provided, the government agreed to maintain the monument when the G.A.R. erected it on federal property. From what I can tell, the monument remained G.A.R. property, just setting on federal property.

In fraternity, charity and loyalty,

*Jim*

On Wednesday, December 2, 2020, 11:49:51 PM EST, Brian Pierson <equitem.bp@hotmail.com> wrote:

Brothers,

Please see the email below and the attached file, specifically the GSA letter at the beginning. It raises so many questions. Before this gets pushed to the COA at large, I'd like to know what your thoughts are.

I agree with Brother Walt's position that the monument should stay and that any governmental entity (Federal, State, County, Local, Tribal) could be free to erect their own interpretive marker, plaque, monument, etc. if they want.

My understanding is that if the monument is on federal property, the city of Santa Fe has no standing to have it removed. If, however, the Federal Government wants it removed, then that will be another story. But we need to be careful in our response to the GSA. If we are determined to be the rightful owners of the monument, then would/could we be responsible for any associated costs? Was the monument donated to the government by virtue of it having been erected on public property?

In FC&L,  
BP

---

**From:** Walter Busch [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Tuesday, December 1, 2020 11:38 AM

**To:** National C-in-C <[REDACTED]>; chiefofsta [REDACTED]

**Cc:** Jim Pahl [REDACTED] >

**Subject:** Kit Carson Monument Issue

Dear Commander in Chief Pierson--

This is above my paygrade. I have been in contact with the Federal Courthouse in New Mexico over the summer about the GAR Kit Carson monument there. I have been having issues dealing with them as many emails between us have been rejected by their servers. But this finally has come through. The mayor of Santa Fe wants it removed as Kit was hostile to Indians. The research done on the monument suggests the GAR hence the SUVCW still owns it although the Federal govt helps maintain it. They would like to know what we would want done with this ASAP.

Since we are developing a monument policy and I have not seen it, I do not feel I should answer. HOWEVER, my recommendation would be that they be informed that we would like the monument to stay and that we would help pay for an informational marker to be placed next to it with input from indigenous Americans describing how such an important person can do great things and also bad things. If you

PS - I haven't read through all the historical info yet on this, but enough to have formed this opinion. If you are not the one to address this, could you forward it?

In FC&L

Walter Busch, Past Department Commander

Missouri Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

check out Walt's Civil War Books on Amazon.com

[https://www.amazon.com/Walter-E.-Busch/e/B004CPRUPM/ref=sr\\_ntt\\_srch\\_lnk\\_4?qid=1535986084&sr=8-4](https://www.amazon.com/Walter-E.-Busch/e/B004CPRUPM/ref=sr_ntt_srch_lnk_4?qid=1535986084&sr=8-4)

manages & designs the following websites:

[www.suvcwmo.org](http://www.suvcwmo.org)

[www.grantcamp.org](http://www.grantcamp.org)

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