

**SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR
CIVIL WAR MEMORIAL FUND REQUEST**
(FORM CWM #62)

REQUESTOR INFORMATION (Please print or type)

CAMP AND DEPARTMENT NAME: L. L. Mitchell Camp 4 Department of Florida

NAME/ TITLE OF CONTACT PERSON: Commander Michael Emmet Urell

ADDRESS: 903 Pennsylvania Ave.

CITY: St. Cloud STATE: Florida ZIP CODE: 33897

PHONE(S) [REDACTED] E-MAIL: [REDACTED]

SIGNATURE: _____

NAME OF MEMORIAL/MONUMENT GAR Memorial Hall State of Florida Historical Marker

NAME, NUMBER & STREET ADDRESS OF CEMETERY OR OTHER LOCATION

1101 Massachusetts Ave. St. Cloud, Florida 34769

LOCATION DESCRIPTION (i.e. corner of 3rd and Lincoln St) IN Front of main Entrance of building.

GPS N _____ W _____ City St. Cloud State Florida ZIP 34769

WAS FORM CWM-61: GAR MONUMENTS/CIVIL WAR MEMORIALS ASSESSMENT SUBMITTED? Y ___ N ___

_____ EXISTING MONUMENT yes NEW MONUMENT _____ LAST SOLDIER PROJECT

RESTORATION COST \$ _____ AMOUNT RAISED \$ 100 REQUESTED \$ 700

CHECK PAYABLE TO: St. Cloud Main Street Program

ADDRESS: 903 Pennsylvania Ave.

CITY: St. Cloud State: Florida ZIP CODE: 34769

Memorial Grant Committee Use Only					
Grant Request # _____		Amount Approved \$ _____			
Approve	Deny	Table	Name Committee Member	Signature	Date

Check box, sign, date & return completed email to Committee Chair, who will send to National Treasurer for payment.

MONUMENT/ MEMORIAL INFORMATION

WHEN WAS IT BUILT: _____ WHO OWNS IT: City of St. Cloud

WHO IS FINANCIALLY RESPONSIBLE? City of St. Cloud

ARE MATCHING CONTRIBUTIONS AVAILABLE? no FROM WHERE: _____

ARE OTHER SOURCES OF FUNDS AVAILABLE? yes FROM WHERE: City and private Contributor

WAS A GRANT FROM THE SUVCW PREVIOUSLY RECEIVED FOR THIS PROJECT? no

DATE: _____ AMOUNT: _____

DESCRIBE THE WORK THE GRANT IS NEEDED FOR (Be specific, use continuation sheet if needed)

Brother Roger Heiple and I (Brother Michael Urell) composed an almost 500 word essay describing the St. Cloud Memorial Hall and its historic significance. With some revisions this is what will be written on the Florida State Historical Marker. Presently the building is privately owned. We hope someday that the town will buy it and it may be used for many purposes including a Sons Meeting Hall and some type of museum. In the meantime the marker will serve to remind the public of the role of the old Civil War Veterans in the history of St. Cloud. St. Cloud was a veteran's colony founded in 1909. The old National Tribune Newspaper of Washington D. C. with Comrade John McElroy apart owner had acquired the land, divided it into lots and advertised and sold the lots. In 1914 the Memorial Hall was completed and it still stands in pretty good repair today.

WHO EVALUATED THE NEED FOR THE WORK AND WHAT ARE THEIR QUALIFICATIONS? City of St. Cloud personnel.

WHO WILL DO THE DESCRIBED WORK, AND WHAT ARE THEIR QUALIFICATIONS? This will be the fourth state marker in this time period.

WHO WILL RECEIVE FUNDS IF GRANTED? St. Cloud Main St. Project

LIST WHAT THE CAMP/DEPARTMENT HAS AND/OR WILL DO TO ACCOMPLISH THE PROJECT

We have worked on the wording, will raise more money and will participate in the dedication. This is a part of our objective to bring the building back to life again.



PROPOSED TEXT - SIDE ONE

GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC BUILDING

The Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) was a nationwide organization from 1866 to 1949 comprised of Union veterans of the Civil War. The L. L. Mitchell Post #34, named for the first Union veteran to die in St. Cloud, was the local GAR chapter. The post's original hall was located to the rear of this building on land donated by the Seminole Land & Investment Company in 1909. The "old hall" hosted meetings, and other civic and social events. When St. Cloud incorporated, its first officials were elected in the "old hall." As the town grew, so did GAR membership, and a larger hall was needed. Starting in 1910, plans were drawn up, stocks were sold to raise funds, and Tampa architect M. W. Chessman was contracted to lead the construction. Many GAR members donated money and volunteered labor. Post secretary E. E. Scranton wrote "A splendid GAR building has been erected for memory and in honor of the old boys of the Union Army of '61 - '65 who saved the country for the generations coming after us, and saved our glorious flag, the Stars and Stripes, from dishonor or disgrace in over 2,000 battles of that great war." During its height, St. Cloud's GAR post was the largest in Florida and the second largest post in the country.

PROPOSED TEXT - SIDE TWO

GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC BUILDING

The 150' x 50' building has three defining features. There are two panels of inscribed brick flanking the entrance that include soldiers' names and their regiments, a public auditorium on the first floor with stage and historic painted curtain, and a private assembly room on the second floor for the GAR. Military and community organizations including the Women's Relief Corps, Army and Navy Union, Sons and Daughters of Union Veterans, Chautauqua Association, Oddfellows and Rebeccas, Masons and Eastern Star all met in the hall. In addition, plays, movies, and graduations were presented here. In 1940, the Florida GAR held its last encampment at this site. The last Union veteran in St. Cloud died in 1943. Life Magazine author Bruce Catton wrote in regards to the passing of Union veterans, "Something deeply and fundamentally American is gone forever." The hall was managed by the Masons until 1971 when it was sold to private owners. Dr. Woodrow and Cherry Everett used the top floor for the Northeast Consortium for Engineering Education research. Dr. Everett housed many of his Civil War era artifacts in a display room designed for preservation. In 1997, the hall was listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Brother Brian,

I received a further reply to your questions from Paula Stark. Paula wrote that this is part of the State Marker Program of Florida. They pass along the cost from the Manufacturer "Sewah" out of Ohio. The pricing has been changing some, but she thinks the most recent price is \$2200. The only information on their invoices or shipping forms is that it is aluminum. I've sent the front and back of the wording for the Marker to you already but please note that a state of Florida committee will have the final say on January 11th. I don't expect many changes.

Please let me know if you have any further questions.

With Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty,
Commander Michael Urell

Sent from my iPad



GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC BUILDING

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SONS OF UNION VETERANS, DR. WOODROW & CHERRY EVERETT,
AND THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF STATE

F-936

2017



GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC BUILDING

(Continued from other side)

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