

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War
Dept. of California & Pacific



Civil War Memorial Assessment Form
(Form CWM #61)

Used for periodic assessments of the condition of Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) and Civil War memorials in the Department of California & Pacific, SUVCW (includes California, Nevada and Hawaii)

For more information please go to:
<http://www.suvcw.org/memorials.html>

NATIONAL ORGANIZATION
SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

CIVIL WAR MEMORIAL ASSESSMENT FORM

SANTA MONICA RODMAN CANNON #263

PLEASE:

- Type or print, using a ball-point pen, when filling out this form. Legibility is critical.
- Do not guess at the information. An answer of, "Unknown," is more helpful.
- Include a photograph of each viewable side and label it with name & direction of view.

- Thank You.

Type of Memorial

Monument *with* Sculpture
 Monument without Sculpture

PAD
 Monument with Cannon
 Historical Marker Plaque

Affiliation

G.A.R. (Post Name & No. _____) M.O.L.L.U.S.
 W.R.C. (Corps Name & No. _____) Other Allied Order
 SUVCW (Camp Name & No. _____) (Please describe below)
 DUVCW (Tent Name & No. _____)

Other: *??*

Original Dedication Date *4 JULY 1908* *?* Please consult any/all newspaper archives for a local paper's article that would have information on the *first* dedication ceremony and/or other facts on the memorial. Please submit a copy of your findings with full identification of the paper & date of publication. Thank you.

Location

The Memorial is *currently* located at:
 Street/Road address or site location *PALISADES PARK*
 City/Village *SANTA MONICA* Township _____ County *LOS ANGELES*

The front of the Memorial faces: North South East West

*NEVER GOT ANY REPLIES
 GAVE UP*

Government Body, Agency, or Individual Owner (of private cemetery that Memorial is located in)...

Name _____ Dept./Div. _____
 Street Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____
 Contact Person _____ Telephone () _____

If the Memorial has been moved, please list former location(s)...

GUN WAS AT ANGEL ISLAND CA.

Physical Details

Material of Monument or base under a Sculpture or Cannon = Stone Concrete Metal Undetermined
 If known, name specific material (color of granite, marble, etc.) _____

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

Material of Plaque or Historical Marker / Tablet = _____

Material of Cannon = Bronze Iron - Consult known Ordnance Listing to confirm

→ Markings on muzzle = WPF 1886 M.S.Co. 48 No. 48 FEH 1602013s D.A.H.

Markings on Left Trunion NONE Right Trunion NONE

Is inert ammunition a part of the Memorial? NO If so, describe _____

NOT DONE →

Approximate Dimensions (indicate unit of measure) - taken from tallest / widest points
 Monument or Base: Height _____ Width _____ Depth _____ 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 4 JULY 1908

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.

NONE

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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Courthouse | <input type="checkbox"/> College Campus | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Traffic Circle | <input type="checkbox"/> Library | _____ |

General Vicinity

- Rural (low population, open land) Suburban (residential, near city)
 Town Urban / Metropolitan

Immediate Locale (check as many as may apply)

- Industrial Commercial
 Street/Roadside within 20 feet Tree Covered (overhanging branches)
 Protected from the elements (canopy or enclosure, indoors)
 Protected from the public (fence or other barrier)
 Any other significant environmental factor NO FENCE - NO PROTECTION FROM VANDALS

Condition Information

Structural Condition (check as many as may apply)

The following section applies to Monuments *with* Sculpture, and Monuments without Sculpture - including the base for Monuments with *Cannon*. Instability in the sculpture and its base can be detected by a number of factors. Indicators may be obvious or subtle. Visually examine the sculpture and its base.

	Sculpture	Base
If hollow, is the internal support unstable/exposed? (look for signs of exterior rust)	___	<u>None</u>
Any evidence of structural instability? (look for cracked joints, missing mortar or caulking or plant growth)	___	<u>None</u>
Any broken or missing parts? (look for elements (i.e., sword, musket, hands, arms, etc. - missing due to vandalism, fluctuating weather conditions, etc.)	___	<u>SOME</u>
Any cracks, splits, breaks or holes? (also look for signs of uneven stress & weakness in the material)	___	<u>UNKNOWN</u>

Surface Appearance (check as many as may apply)

	Sculpture	Base
Black crusting	}	}
White crusting	}	}
Etched, pitted, or otherwise corroded (on metal)	}	<u>RUST</u>
Metallic staining (run-off from copper, iron, etc.)	}	}
Organic growth (moss, algae, lichen or vines)	}	}
Chalky or powdery stone	}	}
Granular eroding of stone	}	}
Spalling of stone (surface splitting off)	}	<u>BIRD DROPPINGS</u>
Droppings (<u>bird</u> , animal, insect remains)	}	}
Other (e.g., spray paint graffiti) - Please describe...	___	___

None

Does water collect in recessed areas of the Memorial? Yes No Unable to tell

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).
LOCATION IS IN A PARK FREQUENTED BY HOMELESS & DRUGGIES
ETC. THE POLICE HAVE BEEN DIRECTED NOT TO BOTHER THEM.
IT WOULD BE NICE TO PUT A PLAQUE & BRIEF HISTORY BUT IN THAT
AREA - NO BODY WOULD CARE - WASTE OF TIME, ENERGY AND
MONEY -

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 7-20-2002
Your Name FLOYD FARRAR
Address 12550 E. CARSON ST. #59 City HAWAIIAN GARDENS
State CA Zip Code 90716 Telephone [REDACTED]

Please send this completed form to:

Todd A. Shillington. PCC



Floyd L. Farrar
12550 E. Carson St. #59
Hawaiian Gardens, CA
90716-2014

1-19-2005

Thank you for your help, and attention to detail.

SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR
National Civil War Memorials Committee



*SANTA MONICA CA
10" RODMAN
CANNON #263*



*Floyd L. Farrar
12550 E. Carson St. #59
Hawaiian Gardens, CA
90716-2014*

1-19-2005



**10 in -8 inch Sleeved
Rodman Cannon #263
Santa Monica CA
Palisades Park**

*Located about 100 yds north
of entrance ramp to pier
on the bluffs off Palisades Park Drive*

View looking South

*Floyd Farrar Photo
7-20-2002*



**10 in Rodman Gun
sleeved to 8 in Rifle #263**

*Located @Palisades Park
left of the pier entrance ramp
Santa Monica CA*

July 4, 1908 →

View Looking North

*Floyd Farrar Photo
7-20-2002*

*SANTA MONICA CA
10" RODMAN CANNON #263*

*Floyd L. Farrar
12550 E. Carson St. #59
Hawaiian Gardens, CA
90716-2014*

1-19-2005

The Civil War era Rodman Cannons on the Bluffs in Santa Monica California

Submitted By Floyd Farrar

Drum Barracks Civil War Musuem Volunteer, Wilmington CA

I graciously received the following article from the Santa Monica Library concerning the cannons on the bluff at Palisades Park on Ocean Boulevard. The librarian kindly sent me a copy of an article done by Les Storrs for a local newspaper dated May 23, 1973 and is as follows:

MYSTERIOUS CANNONS GUARD PALISADES PARK

For as long as I can remember, two muzzle loading cannons have guarded the approaches of Santa Monica municipal pier, one being on an emplacement in Palisades Park only a few feet northwest of the pier, the other a few hundred yards further,

No one seems to know anything about the history of these bottle shaped monsters.

Nothing appears on the guns other than the usual "U.S." and a number and what probably is the year of manufacture.

As a child I had assumed that they dated from the Civil War, since I had been under the impression that muzzle loaders went out of favor after that time.

Not so, if what I take to be the year of manufacture does indeed indicate the age of the pieces. They might, indeed have seen service in the Spanish-American War. Perhaps, on the other hand, neither has ever been fired.

Short and ponderous, the guns would have to be classified as howitzers, and I would guess that they might have come from some fixed fortification, such as one of those which once ringed San Francisco Bay.

UNABLE TO FIRE

Both are rifled rather than smooth bore, both appear to have been fired by applying burning material to powder in a touchhole. Long ago some farsighted

person plugged the touch holes with bronze, no doubt to guard against the possibility that some miscreant would load up the old guns and fire, a possibility even more startling years ago, when conical stacks of cannon balls were placed conveniently near the two.

Both are cradled in steel frames, frames from which a number of pieces seem to be missing, such as the device for raising or lowering the angle of fire and perhaps also something that absorbed what must be considerable recoil.

Still present, though are sights, sights which would by today's standards, prove barely adequate for a boy's air rifle.

Anyhow the two guns are there for curious strollers to inspect and to wonder as to their origin and history, for no plaque is there to give any clue.

POSSIBLE DONATION

Perhaps this is just as well. Perhaps the fact is that the two guns were obsolete by the time the contract for their making was executed, and perhaps they never were fired, a benevolent War Department having donated them as park ornaments the day they were delivered from the foundry

*Floyd L. Farrar
12550 E. Carson St. #59
Hawaiian Gardens, CA
90716-2014*

1-19-2005

*SANTA MONICA BLUFFS
RODMAN CANNONS*

One more theory postulated by Linn Hoadley-

The real reason that cannon is pointed at the pier... and you no doubt know of this... there was a secret order from General Grant to all of his Naval Commanders... recently discovered... that Grant expected General Lee's Navy to dock at the pier... trying to sneak into Los Angeles and catch Fort Drum off guard... what do you think?

Will it fly?? We can always blame the "rebs"

According to James Lunsford's book "***Looking at Santa Monica***", p. 12, the guns are S1861, 10-inch Rodman Smoothbore seacoast guns converted to 8-inch rifles in 1885 and 1886 by the insertion of wrought-iron liners at West Point Armory in Cold Springs, New York. The guns are on loan from the US Government and came to Santa Monica in 1908 from Angel Island in San Francisco.

(Your submitter heard that it was the Benicia Arsenal)

Lunsford also notes that the cannon at Colorado Ave, at the south end of the park, is aimed directly at the pier! *(I also noted this)*

*Floyd L. Ferrar
12550 E. Carson St. #59
Hawaiian Gardens, CA
90716-2014*

*1-19-2005
SANTA MONICA BLUFFS
RODMAN CANNONS*