

NATIONAL ORGANIZATION SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR CIVIL WAR MEMORIAL ASSESSMENT FORM

Type of Memorial (check all applicable)

Monument with Sculpture without Sculpture with Cannon standalone Cannon
 Historical Marker Plaque Other (flag pole, G.A.R. buildings, stained glass windows, etc.)

Affiliation

GAR MOLLUS SUVCW WRC ASUVCW
 LGAR DUVCW Other

If known, record name and number of post, camp, corps, auxiliary, tent, circle or appropriate information of other groups:

Original Dedication Date September 21, 1875 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 Congress Park, Broadway at Congress St.

GPS Coordinates 43.0781 DEG. NORTH, 73.7841 DEG. WEST

City/Village &/or Township City of Saratoga Springs

County Saratoga State NY Zip Code 12866

The front of the Memorial faces: North South East West

Government Body, Agency, or Individual Owner

Name City of Saratoga Springs

Dept./Div. Dept. of Public Works

Street Address 474 Broadway

City Saratoga Springs State NY Zip Code 12866

Contact Person Commissioner Telephone (518) 587-3550 ext 2521

Is Memorial on the National Register of Historic Places Yes No ID # if known Unknown

For Monuments with/without sculpture:

Physical Details

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

Material of the Sculpture Stone Concrete Metal Other Is it hollow or solid? Hollow
 If known, name specific material (color of granite, marble, etc.) Sculpture is zinc, painted brown

For Historic Marker or Plaque:

Material of Plaque or Historical Marker / Tablet = _____

For Cannons with/without monument:

Material of Cannon = _____ Bronze _____ Iron Type of Cannon (if known) _____

Rifled _____ YES _____ NO

Markings: Muzzle _____ Base Ring/Breech _____

Left Trunion _____ Right Trunion _____

Is inert ammunition a part of the Memorial? _____ Yes _____ No

[For camp/department monuments officer's use: Cannon on list of known ordnance] _____ Yes _____ No

For Other Memorials: (flag pole, G.A.R. buildings, stained glass windows, etc.)

What best describes the memorial

Materials of the Memorial

Complete for All Memorials

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

20' _____ Height 6'-6" _____ Width 6'-6" _____ Depth or _____ Diameter

For Memorials with multiple Sculptures, please record this information on a separate sheet of paper for each statue (service, pose, etc) 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)

Sculpture: "J.W.Fiske Co. New York" base of statue.

Maker or Fabricator mark / name? If so, give name & location found

Please attach legible photographs of all text &/or Record the text in the space below. Please use the addendum – narrative sheet if necessary.

See attached 3 page narrative and digital photographs.

Environmental Setting

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

Type of Location

Cemetery Park Plaza/Courtyard "Town Square" Post Office
 School Municipal Building State Capitol Courthouse College Campus
 Traffic Circle Library Other: _____

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 Park is lighted at night and patrolled by city police dept.


[To detail the condition of a monument used the addendum form for *Monument's Condition*]

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.

Addendums attached to this electronic file are the *Monument's Condition* and the *Narrative* forms. Only the *Monument's Condition* form is required if you are requesting grant money using form CWM-62 *SUVCW Memorial Grant Application Form and Instructions*.

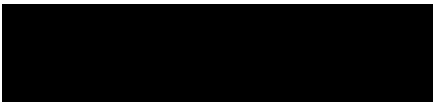
Thank you.

Inspector Identification _____ Date of On-site Survey April 19, 2016
Your Name JAMES R. KING
Address c/o WILLARD CAMP 154, PO BOX 13681
City ALBANY State NY Zip Code 12212-3681
Telephone () _____

Are you a member of the Allied Orders of the G.A.R.? If so, which one?
SUVCW, WILLARD CAMP 154, DEPT. OF NY

Please send this completed form to:

Walt Busch, PDC, Chair
1240 Konert Valley Dr.
Fenton, MO 63026



Thank you for your help, and attention to detail.

SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR – CIVIL WAR MEMORIALS COMMITTEE.

SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR
CIVIL WAR MEMORIAL ASSESSMENT FORM
ADDENDUM – NARRATIVE

[Generally used to record the text of monuments, but may be used for any other useful information, such as if the monument has been moved or if you have information about the day of dedication. May repeat use of page as often as necessary.]

The Memorial is *currently* located at:

Street/Road address or site location Congress Park, Broadway at Congress St.

GPS Coordinates _____

City/Village and/or Township City of Saratoga Springs

County Saratoga State NY Zip Code 12866

TEXT

SEE ATTACHED 3 PAGE NARRATIVE AND DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHS

Inspector's Name JAMES R. KING

Date APRIL 19, 2016

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY

Historians attribute the turning point of the Revolutionary War to the Battle of Bemis Heights, or the Second Battle of Saratoga. The battle was fought in October 1777, south of Saratoga Springs at an area known as Bemis Heights. When a Civil War infantry regiment was to be recruited from the area of Saratoga and Essex counties, the State government assigned the Regimental number 40. The organizers of the unit successfully petitioned the Governor to allow the regiment to be named for the historic Revolutionary War battle of 1777. The 77th NY Volunteer Infantry Regiment was so enumerated and nicknamed "The Bemis Heights Battalion".

A monument to honor the service of the 77th NY Volunteer Infantry Regiment was commissioned circa 1874. According to a history of Saratoga Springs written by Edward H. Fuller, an active member of G.A.R. Post 92 in Saratoga Springs, the monument was purchased and erected with funds of the 77th Regiment augmented by public subscriptions. After mustering out of service on June 27, 1865, the Regiment was issued \$500 for unpaid ration money. The veterans decided to use the money to erect a monument. The funds were invested and in ten years grew to \$1,000. On Tuesday, September 21, 1875 the new monument was unveiled in the presence of an estimated 7,000 to 10,000 people. (See dedication photograph.) The monument was originally erected in the northwest corner of Congress Park on land donated by Mr. Cornelius Sheehan, one of the park's owners. The park was bordered on the west by Broadway. Broadway was later widened and an island in Broadway was created where the monument stood. The island was called the "Monument Place". (See the period postcard photograph showing the monument in the "public square" at the new entrance to the park.) With the growing use of the motorcar, the monument was inevitably damaged by motor vehicles. The monument was moved in 1921 to its current location, back within Congress Park.

The 77TH's monument in Saratoga Springs is said to be the only regimental monument not located on a battle field. The 77TH also has a monument at Gettysburg.

Architect: Unknown

Sculptor: J.W. Fiske Company – New York, NY

Title: Unknown

Contractor: Miles Bradley (contractor that moved the monument in 1921, original builder is unknown)

Original Cost: \$1,000 plus unknown public donations.

Original Dedication Date: September 21, 1875

Originally dedicated by: Unknown*

Speakers at Original Dedication: Unknown*

*As the dedication of the monument was only ten years after the war, it is very likely that surviving 77th Regiment Officers and men participated and spoke at the dedication.

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

The 20' high monument consists of a granite base and pedestal supporting a cast zinc sculpture of a life-sized, infantry soldier with his arms resting on his rifle. A bronze plaque attached to the monument details Regimental information.

Granite Base and Pedestal: All granite in the monument is Quincy granite. Quincy granite is quarried near Quincy, Massachusetts and is recognized as one of the highest quality granites in the world, prized for its hardness and durability. Nine thousand tons of Quincy granite was used in the 221' high, Bunker Hill Monument. Characterized by its warm gray color accented with black flecks, it is known for its beauty when polished. Polishing Quincy granite provides an excellent contrast to a rough cut or a flame finished form and makes text very readable or accent features stand out.

The base is a 6'-6" square by 18" high block of granite with a sloped top. A 5'-4" square by 14" high, sloped plinth of granite transitions to a 4'-4" square by 20" high, granite coping supporting a 3'-6" square by 4' high, solid granite dye with four equal faces. The dye transitions to and supports a 2'-2" square upper dye. The upper dye is topped by two polished, raised bands with five polished, five-pointed stars between the bands on each face. The band is topped by a cornice of larger dimension which steps up to a platform supporting the zinc sculpture.

On the base coping level, of the predominant southeast face, the following text is inscribed in polished, raised letters:

77 N.Y.S. VOLS.

On the southeast face of the lower dye is a 34" wide by 32" high, bronze plaque artfully accented with a leafed border. The plaque was cast by and is inscribed "The Henry-Bonnard Bronze Co., N.Y. 1889". (Note: The plaque must have been added after the 1875 dedication as it does not appear in the dedication photograph.) The Henry-Bonnard Company was a highly regarded foundry and was selected by Frederic Remington to cast his highly prized, bronze statues. The plaque is inscribed:

**THE SEVENTY-SEVENTH REGIMENT,
NEW YORK VOLUNTEERS
(BEMIS HEIGHTS BATTALION)
THIRD BRIGADE, SECOND DIVISION, SIXTH CORPS,
ARMY OF THE POTOMAC
1861 -- * -- 1865
TOOK PART IN ALL THE CAMPAIGNS OF THE
ARMY OF THE POTOMAC, ALSO IN THE BATTLE OF
FORT STEVENS AT WASHINGTON, D.C. ALSO IN THE
CAMPAIGN IN THE SHENANDOAH VALLEY
UNDER SHERIDAN.
----- * -----**

A large Latin cross signifying the Sixth Corps of the Union Army is sculpted on the southeast face of the upper dye in raised, polished relief.

(Note: In Nathaniel Bartlett Sylvester's history of Saratoga county published in 1893, he writes that the monument was inscribed with the following words, in addition to the aforementioned text on the bronze plaque:

**RECRUITED IN THE THEN FIFTEENTH CON-
GRESSIONAL DISTRICT, COUNTIES OF
ESSEX, FOULTON, AND SARATOGA. NO-
VEMBER 23, 1861, MUSTERED INTO
THE UNITED STATES SERVE AT SARA-
TOGA SPRINGS.**

**MUSTERED OUT JUNE 27, 1865 IN THE
DEFENSES OF WASHINGTON, D.C.**

ITS TOTAL MEMBERSHIP 1560.

**ITS CASUALTIES WERE 60 CAPTURED, 294
WOUNDED, 300 DIED. TOTAL 654.**

It is unknown why this additional inscription, as recorded by Sylvester, does not currently appear on the monument.)

SCULPTURE: The sculpture was purchased from the J. W. Fiske Company in New York City. Fiske was a merchant of metal products and was primarily a sales organization who outsourced design and casting operations. The statuary selected for the 77th NY monument was chosen from a Fiske catalog and was a popular model found in many public, civil war monuments. The statue is assembled from many pieces of cast zinc forming the representation of the civil war soldier in hollow zinc. Typically, the assembled statue was painted brown to resemble bronze, a more expensive material. Cast zinc memorials were also an economic alternative to bronze in the cemetery trade, marketed as "White Bronze".

The statue is well detailed and depicts a Civil War infantryman clothed in a long coat with cape. His belt is properly fitted with a cartridge box, a small percussion cap pouch and bayonet scabbard. His headgear is a forage cap of a kepi or bummer design and his face sports a prominent mustache. His arms are posed resting on his percussion rifle.

RESTORATION

In 1986 the City of Saratoga Springs hired a conservator to repair seams in the zinc that had opened. Repairs were made and the statue received a primer coat of paint, a finish coat of deep brown and a protective coating.

REFERENCES

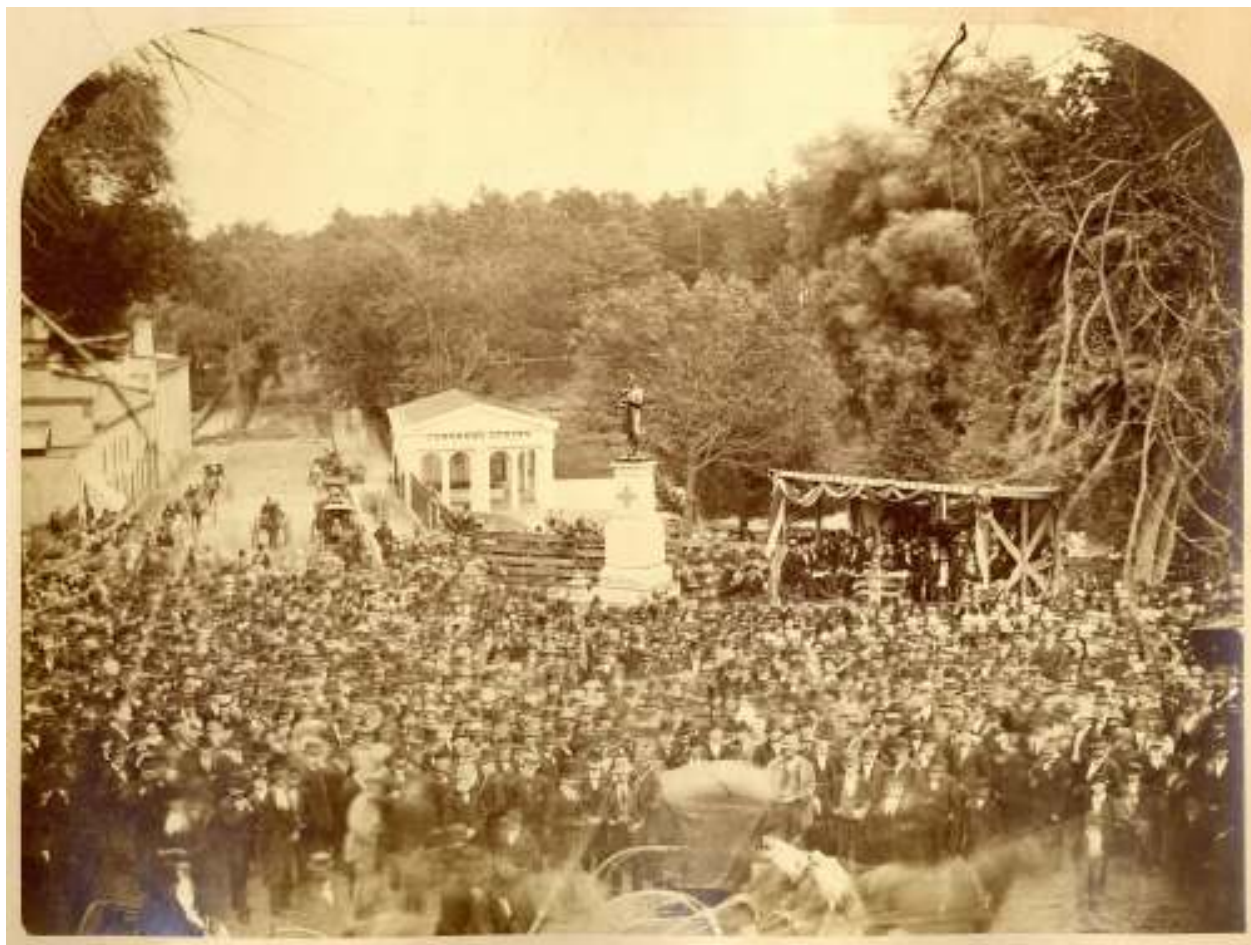
1. The Saratogian, November 29, 1921.
2. The Schenectady Gazette, June 3, 1986.
3. Historic Photographs courtesy of The Saratoga Room, Saratoga Springs Public Library.



SOLDIERS MONUMENT AND ENTRANCE TO CITY PARK, SARATOGA SPRINGS, N. Y.



SOLDIERS MONUMENT AND ENTRANCE TO CITY PARK, SARATOGA SPRINGS, N. Y.







THE SEVENTY-SEVENTH REGIMENT,
NEW YORK VOLUNTEERS
(BEMIS HEIGHTS BATTALION)

THIRD BRIGADE, SECOND DIVISION, EIGHTH CORPS.

ARMY OF THE POTOMAC.

1861 — ✱ — 1865

TOOK PART IN ALL THE CAMPAIGNS OF THE
ARMY OF THE POTOMAC, ALSO IN THE BATTLE OF
FORT STEVENS AT WASHINGTON, D. C. AND IN THE
CAMPAIGN IN THE SHENANDOAH VALLEY
UNDER SHERIDAN.

— ✱ —

77 N. Y. S. VOL

