

NATIONAL ORGANIZATION
SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

CIVIL WAR MEMORIAL ASSESSMENT FORM

PLEASE:

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

- Thank You.

Type of Memorial

- Monument *with* Sculpture
 Monument without Sculpture
 Monument with *Cannon*
 Historical Marker Plaque

Affiliation

- G.A.R. (Post Name & No. GAR Memorial Museum, Post 20) 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 1878 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 23 East downer Place
City/Village Aurora, IL Township _____ County Kane

The front of the Memorial faces: North South East West

Government Body, Agency, or Individual Owner (of private cemetery that Memorial is located in)..
Name City of Aurora, Illinois Dept./Div. Aurora Public Art Commission
Street Address 44 East Downer Place
City Aurora State IL Zip Code 60506
Contact Person Rena Church Telephone (630) 256 - 3340

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

Physical Details

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

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

Material of Plaque or Historical Marker / Tablet = Bronze

Material of Cannon = Bronze Iron - Consult known Ordnance Listing to confirm
 Markings on muzzle = There are four canons, two Union and two Confederate. All are in storage.

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 _____ Width _____ Depth _____ or Diameter 46 feet
 Sculpture: Height 6'5" 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 "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.
 Please See attached

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 checked="" 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 _____

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>yes</u>	<u>Yes</u>
Any evidence of structural instability? (look for cracked joints, missing mortar or caulking or plant growth)	<u>yes</u>	<u>Yes</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>yes</u>	<u>Yes</u>
Any cracks, splits, breaks or holes? (also look for signs of uneven stress & weakness in the material)	<u>yes</u>	<u>Yes</u>

Surface Appearance (check as many as may apply)

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

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) .
 GAR Memorial Museum, Post 20 has in the last several years been structurally stabilized with money from
 IL DCEO, Kane County Riverboat, City of Aurora, and Partners in Preservation grants to the tune of \$1.8 million.
 The exterior of the building still needs restoration of the sentry, cannons and tuck-pointing/ stone restoration.
 Interior of the building is undergoing phase two of interior restorations to create an occupiable space for memorial
 functions and further fund-raising opportunities, in order to complete the restoration of the Angel Room and
 museum exhibit pieces.

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 06 May 2011

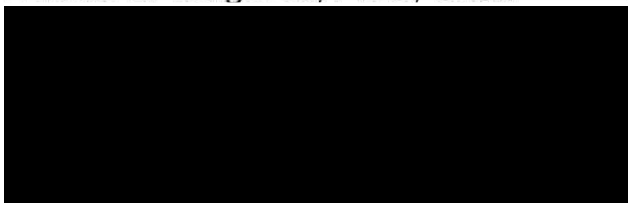
Your Name John P. Curley - A.I.A.

Address 65 Water Street City Aurora

State IL Zip Code 60505 Telephone 

Please send this completed form to:

Bruce B. Butgereit, PDC, Chair



Thank you for your help, and attention to detail.

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



The Fourth in Aurora Dedication of Soldiers Memorial Building

Transcribed from the *Aurora Daily Beacon-News*, July 6, 1878

Address by Dr. Hard

Oration by J.C. Sherwin

Splendid Procession, Grand Fireman's Tournament,
and the Largest Assembly Seen in this City for Many Years.

Business was entirely suspended on Thursday, and our people one and all gave themselves up to the celebration of the glorious Fourth. Grave fears were entertained during the early hours of morning that rain would interfere with the exercises, but this anxiety proved needless, for though clouds overhung the sky during the entire day, preventing the discomfort of a glaring July sun, the weather was all that could have been desired. Strangers flocked into the city at an early hour, the streets soon becoming thronged with vehicles of every description and every incoming train added its quota to the mass of humanity.

The committee having the exercises in charge consisted of T. B. Coulter, F. O. White, H.B. Douglas, J.B. Chase, Thos.

Bexon and A.P. Hatch. These gentlemen had perfected their arrangements with great care, and the admirable smoothness with which their plans were carried out to the end entitle them to the thanks of the community.

The procession formed on North Lake Street at ten o'clock under command of H.B. Douglas, Chief Marshal, moving south on Lake to Galena, east to River, south to Downer Place and east to memorial Building, the following order:

First Division - Capt. A. C. Graves, Assistant Marshal, Mounted police, Light Guard Band, Aurora Light Guards, under Capt. Coulter, and the Ancient Order of Hiberians, under command of John Corbet and Henry Quinneven. This latter organization turned out over fifty men, clothed in their splendid green and silver regalia--their Kossuth hats having a green and gold band and heavy white plume--their fine appearance exciting general admiration.

Second Division - A.F. Wade, Assistant Marshal. Company B. 6th Battalion, of Chicago - a fine body of forty-five men under command of Capt. Wagner - the Mayor and Common Council to carriages, and the Aurora Fire Department, under Chief Engineer Reed and Assistant Egermann, The Department presented a fine appearance, every company being full; the men nicely uniformed and their apparatus (drawn by teams) in excellent condition. They marched in the following order: C.B. & Q. steamer and company, and hose cart; Hook & Ladder company and apparatus; No. 1 steamer company and hose cart, the engine nicely decorated with flowers and evergreens.

Third Division - C. O'Niell, Assistant Marshal. Orators and Chaplains in carriages; Father Murphy Total Abstinence and

Benevolent Association, about sixty men, clad in beautiful regalia of green and gold, their hats bearing heavy green plumes. they were under command of Mr. James H. Clancey, and received many compliments upon their fine appearance. They were followed by a deputation from the Aurora Red Ribbon Club, headed by President A. G. McDole.

Fourth Division - A.T. Judd, Assistant Marshal. Aurora Post, No. 20, G.A.R. and Batavia Post, No. 48, G.A.R., headed by a martial band.

Fifth Division - Chris Zimmers, Assistant Marshal. A long line of citizens in carriages.

The island was densely packed while the streets leading thereto as well. The windows and adjacent housetops, were also thronged with people; but the greatest good order prevailed, and thanks to the watchfulness of the marshals, not a single accident occurred. A temporary platform had been erected at the northwest corner of the Memorial Building, from which Hon. F. L. Bartlett, President of the day, called the assembly to order, and in a few brief remarks opened the exercises. He said the United States government had spent \$2,000,000,000 and sacrificed 500,000 lives for the preservation of the Union; the money we could afford to spare, but not the lives, and it was right that we should raise monuments to the memory of the noble dead. It was right that Aurora should be the first to erect so grand a monumental building to perpetuate the names and deeds of her soldiers- and eminently right and proper that the soldiers of the Grand Army of the Republic should place upon its summit this splendid statue of one of their own number. His

remarks were full of patriotic devotion, and concluded with the hope that we should all return to our homes more than ever determined to defend and sustain a country where the people ruled.

The Apollo Club then sang "Star Spangled Banner," and Rev. S. D. Paine engaged in prayer, after which Joseph G. Stolp Esq., through his daughter, Miss Cleora Stolp, presented to Mayor Earle, for the city of Aurora, a deed of the land upon which the Memorial Building stands. In behalf of the city, Mayor Earle in appropriate words thanked the generous donor, and hoped that he would be spared to celebrate the Fourth of July with his fellow citizens upon this ground. The bronze statue was then unveiled, amid the booming of cannon, and at the call of the Mayor three rousing cheers were given for the Ladies' Monument Association, and the band played Star Spangled Banner. The President of the Day then introduced Colonel Grensel, as the first man who enlisted in Aurora, and he was greeted with three hearty cheers from his old comrades and friends. The Fire Department then gave three cheers for J. G. Stolp, Esq., when Dr. A. Hard, of this city, late surgeon of the Eighth Ill. Cavalry, was introduced, and delivered the following address, which was listened to with close attention, and heartily applauded:

Ladies, Comrades and Fellow Citizens - It has become a well established custom in these United States to celebrate annually upon the Fourth of July the birth of American liberty. The child from the time it is able to lisp the names of its playmates, is taught to look

forward to each returning anniversary with joyful expectation scarcely equaled by the coming of a circus or menagerie. The enthusiasm increases with returning years, until the man realizes that he celebrates the birth of a free nation, born at the cost of the bloodshed and toil of his honored forefathers during a war of seven long years, almost without a parallel in the history of the world, and actually without a parallel in the triumph of freedom over oppression. When the freemen of this nation fail to commemorate this day, when they cease to recount the deeds of noble daring the sufferings and sacrifices of their fathers in the many battles and campaigns of the revolution and to rehearse the ever remarkable Declaration of Independence, then will begin the nation 's decline or transformation from freedom to despotism. But they will not cease to honor the day or the cause we celebrate. One hundred and two years have rolled their ample rounds since the immortal principles embodied in the Declaration of Independence were promulgated and the crowds of intelligent freeman, glowing with the fire of enthusiasm, which throng our streets and thoroughfares to-day, attest the fact that this city adds lustre to the achievements of those we honor.

But we meet not only to celebrate this day and our victory over oppression; another occasion bids us come together, and it is fitting that we make the Fourth of July the day for this double celebration. Scarcely eighty-five years had passed from the date of the declaration of American Independence, when internal strife stirred this nation from centre to circumference. As domestic strife is more intolerable than that among neighbors, so insurrection is more dangerous to the prosperity of a nation than war with foreign powers. The rebellion begun in 1861 tried every nerve and sinew of this nation. I need not remind you of the feelings which the first gun fired at Fort Sumter

aroused in every loyal heart -neither, with what alacrity the ranks were filled at the call for volunteers for three months nor how, a little later, when the bloody battle of Bull Run had demonstrated that we had a foe to meet worthy of our steel, men flocked around the stars and stripes, glorious emblem of liberty! The 7th and 13th Regts Ill. Vol. were filled largely from this and adjoining towns, then followed the 36th and 52d, and the 8th Ill. Cavalry Regt's, all encamped in this country at one and the same time. What memories fill our minds as we recall with unerring mental vision the stirring and heartrending scenes in which many of you were actors. Those who did not shoulder the musket or draw the saber, parted with fathers, husbands, brothers, sons or lovers dearer to them than life itself. Gladly would these have shared the fate of those they loved, could they have followed them to the field of honor. Then followed call after call for more volunteers and at every call and all the time, the quota assigned to northern Illinois was filled to repletion. All who risked their lives to defend their country well knew that many would be the trials and sufferings to which they would be exposed, and that a large percentage would lay down their lives on the field of battle, or lingering in camps, the hospitals or in rebel prisons, worn by disease or pain, and sufferings greater than humanity could endure, would yield up their lives for their country among strangers or enemies - while others a little more fortunate would return home to die among those they loved, and for whose sake they had given their lives. All this I say, was well understood before their departure for the field, yet forward they marched in the face of this gloomy picture - and this was if possible more than realized. The remnants of regiments that returned at the close of the war proclaim the truthfulness of the picture I have drawn. What family but mourns the loss of one of the number?

To commemorate the labors, the trials and the sacrifices of these noble men, to keep ever before the generations that will rise up and enjoy the freedom for which these patriots risked and lost their lives, an Association was formed in Aurora for the purpose of erecting a suitable monument which should perpetuate the memory of our heroes. It was organized on the 28th day of June 1869. The ladies organized an auxiliary association, and by giving entertainments and holding festivals raised money and put it in the common treasury - the money was loaned and the interest swelled the sum total. Year after year this fund increased under the management of the founders and to the credit of those entrusted with its care, be it said, not a farthing of principal or interest has ever been lost or squandered In April, 1877, believing the Association had sufficient funds to commence work upon the monument, and that at no time could it be erected for less money, it was resolved to lay the foundation and ask those who felt an interest in its completion to aid by their subscriptions. There arose the question, what kind of a monument shall be erected? For ages past, even before pre-historic times, it has been customary to perpetuate the success of armies by inscriptions on tablets or columns of stone, and on the most enduring substances known to the race. The hieroglyphics found in Egypt and in the excavations of cities buried for ages beneath the earth of whose existence nearly all knowledge had been lost, and of others the existence of which was not known until revealed by excavation or accident, are now being translated, and in many instances successfully to that what transpired among men in those distant ages is being made known, and the knowledge of mankind is being enriched by the rude records thus preserved In later and more enlightened times the practice of erecting monuments to preserve the memories of persons

and events has been continued. The Column Vendome in Paris, so ruthlessly despoiled by the Commune at the close of the Franco-Prussian war, is a striking example of such a structure. Our country has perhaps been less given to the erection of monuments than the older countries of Europe, Asia and Africa and yet it is not without such mementos. The Bunker Hill monument in Massachusetts and the Washington and Battle monuments in Baltimore, are examples of such structures. These monuments answer the purpose for which they were erected - they keep in lively recollection and point to the times, the lives, the scenes, the battles, and the victories won by brave men.

I say the question arose, shall we erect a like structure, a gorgeous pile of marble pointing heavenward, on its summit place a statue and on its walls inscribe the names we would perpetuate? Neighboring cities have done so, and they are ornaments to their towns and a credit to the donors. Or shall we dare to change the order of our doing and erect an edifice which will not only do honor to the fallen heroes, but be a place of resort for the living, the repository of learning, the abode of science, and keep on enduring tablets the names and the records of those whose memories we cherish? This was resolved upon. Accordingly, by the aid of friends at home and abroad, this Monumental Building was planned and one year ago today the corner stone was laid in your presence. I confess it is not without feelings of pride and satisfaction that we are able to say, that in one brief year this edifice, with all its appurtenances, has been completed. Its main audience room is fitted with proper cases for a library of 2,500 volumes, and its capacity can be doubled at any future time when needed. On the cases are busts of Generals Taylor, Grant, Sheridan and Mulligan, also those of Webster, Clay, Douglas and

Shakespeare. The walls are frescoed in the highest style of modern art, and on the four sides are battle scenes of every arm of the services. The portraits of our martyred President, Abraham Lincoln, Generals Washington and Thomas and Admiral Farragut also adorn the walls. The basement is well arranged, and in it stands a furnace capable of warming the building in any weather, and the hall is lighted with gas, the central chandelier of which would be an ornament to any mansion.

The building stands on ground donated to the city of Aurora by the original proprietor of this island, our honored citizen, Joseph G. Stolp. Thus far the plan of its originators has been carried out. It was built by the united efforts of soldiers, citizens, and above all, the ladies - they looked upon the work and pronounced it good. A platform has been prepared upon the apex of the building for a statue - what should it be, and who should place it there? With one accord it was agreed that this monument was not erected to immortalize the memory of any one person: though officers were necessary to conduct the war, they did not save the Union: the private soldiers deserve the credit and the glory alike with the commanders, and a private soldier in statue should adorn the edifice. As the united labors of soldiers, citizens and ladies had constructed the monument, what more fitting than that the soldiers should crown the edifice with a statue of one of their own number? The Aurora Post of the Grand Army of the Republic, an organization of soldiers, undertook to erect the statue, and I am proud to direct your attention to the result of their labors. There it stands, complete in all its appointments, well proportioned and enduring. May it stand there through sunshine and storm, calm and tempest, day and night, summer and winter, to remind not only the present but future generations what the living soldier actually

endured to perpetuate the Union of States and the liberty of all, of whatsoever name or nationality, or station in life or religious belief: At the same time, may it prove a terror to evil doers reminding them of what citizens are transferred into to defend the rights and preserve the peace of society.

This Monumental Building will preserve within its walls, engraven on marble tablets the names of the men from this section of country, and those from other parts who have settled among us, who volunteered to defend the perpetuity of our Union and transmit it unimpaired to posterity. Though some of them are living today, and are permitted to join in this commemorative service; yet soon the last one will be enrolled among the dead, and to posterity will be left the responsibility of preserving this monument and these records.. There will also be kept here a record book in which may be found a brief sketch of the part each soldier performed during the war. But this is not all. This edifice has been erected for the benefit of the living for all future time. It was designed and is finished for a public library, where for ages to come the old, the young, the rich and the poor may come and be enriched at the fountain of knowledge contained within its walls. As wisdom is better than riches, so this edifice containing the wisdom of all past ages, open and free to all to come and partake, we trust will be of greater value to the present and future generations than all the gold and material wealth stored in the rocks of the everlasting mountains.

Having been successful in the completion of this enterprise, we fell profoundly thankful to the Almighty God for His fostering care over all our doings, and who has prospered us even to this very hour; and may those to whose care it may in future be committed never permit it to be used to revile His name nor to despise His authority.

The procession then reformed and proceeded, by way of Broadway and Main streets, to Lincoln Park, where several thousand persons had already assembled. After music by the band, prayer was offered by Rev. Miss Chapin; "America" was sung by the Apollo Club, when John C. Sherwin, Esq., was introduced, and delivered an eloquent oration, which will be found on our fourth page.

THE MEMORIAL BUILDING

The structure is of the best limestone from the quarry of Karl & Berthold, the work of the class known as Rock-faced Ashlar, with cut stone trimmings, executed by Mr. L. H. Waterhouse, of this city under the careful personal supervision of the architect, Mr. Joseph Mulvey. The shape is octagonal, the largest diameter being forty-six feet. The basement is eight feet in the clear, with solid cement floor, ample room for a storage of fuel, and for heating purposes contains a splendid New Pearl, self-feeding furnace of the Lawson patent, set up by F. B. Rice. In the principal story, the distance from floor to lowest point of ceiling is fifteen feet, and to the highest point twenty-eight. The highest point of the roof is thirty-six feet, and terminates in an octagon, above which is a base six feet in height, upon which stands the bronze statue presented by Aurora Post No. 20, G.A.R. This statue which is remarkably perfect in every particular, is eight feet in height, weights six hundred pounds, cost \$700, and represents an infantry soldier on guard. The four comers of the building are furnished with gables, the ridges of which extends back and terminates near the centre base above

mentions - the ridge being furnished with iron cresting and finials.

The building is approached by a cut stone walk and massive steps, and entered through double doors of black walnut with maple panels, the inner door, however, containing a large French plate cut glass panel, bearing the United States coat of arms, above which is the inscription; "Memorial Building." The floor is of hard maple, oiled, and the remaining woodwork of light oak. The room is lighted by seven beautiful stained glass windows, each of which bears military or naval emblems - while for evening use a superb 12-light gas chandelier is suspended from the centre of the dome. Twelve large glass frame book cases are ranged around the walls, with capacity for 2,500 volumes, while this capacity can be doubled when necessity demands it -and above the book cases are life-size busts of Generals Taylor, Grant, Sheridan and Mulligan, together with Webster, Clay, Douglas and Shakespeare.

The furniture of the room is from Denney Bro's establishment, is remarkable [sic] appropriate, and very substantial and beautiful. It consists of two large reading tables and a desk for the records, constructed of ash, with black walnut trimmings, of new design, and finished in oil. The chairs are of heavy maple, with perforated black walnut seat.

Upon the desk reposes a large blank book - manufactured in the BEACON bindery, and presented by Kinckerbocker & Hodder - in which is to be recorded a brief sketch of each soldier's military experience. It is an eight quire medium book, linen paper, with handsomely ruled border around each page,

and marginal lines. It has a finely printed title page, and is bound in full genuine Russia leather and extra heavy back; panel sides; with large shield inlaid in centre of each cover, and at each corner a star is sunk and inlaid. The book is elegantly finished, with just enough gold to look neat.

The entire work of the building was executed by Mr. O. B. Colwell, of this city, in first-class in every respect and all that could have been desired.

THE FRESCOING

The painting and frescoing was executed by Mr. Samuel Hitchcock, the frescoing being from designs by Rev. Isadore Leins - the portraits and other pictures being painted by Mr. Leins. The frescoing is in the highest style of the art, and is very elaborate and beautiful. Our hurried description will give but a faint idea of its attractiveness - the interior of the building must be seen to be appreciated.

In the north alcove, over the entrance, appears a portrait of Washington, surrounded by half furled national flags resting upon a central shield. In the foreground is the American eagle, with quiver and arrow in his talons, standing upon a pile of muskets and cannon of the Revolutionary period; in the distance, upon either hand, banners bearing the inscriptions, "First in War," "First in Peace" - shipping upon the right side denotes Commerce, while upon the left Agriculture is represented by heads of grain and the various fruits of the country. In a panel upon the right side of the alcove is a life size painting of "America," clothed in a mantle which gracefully falls from the right shoulder, and standing

upon a globe, emblematic of Rising Empire. One hand holding a wreath of laurel rests upon a shield, while the other rests upon the hilt of a sheathed sword, and upon the base the motto, "*E Pluribus Unum.*" In the opposite panel a figure representing "Peace" is clad in a flowing robe of bright colors, holding in one hand the "olive branch, and in the other an emblem representing commerce - surrounded with a profusion of the products of the country.

The south alcove, opposite the entrance, is devoted to the portrait of President Lincoln, set amid half-furled national flags. On either side pyramids of books represent the Constitution of the United States and The Laws of Nations; from that upon the right depending a scroll bearing the inscription, "Proclamation of Emancipation" with the broken shackles and whip beneath - and from that upon the left a scroll with that immortal sentence uttered by the martyred President, "With charity for all and malice toward none," the pen and inkstand appearing below. Beneath appear a pair of clasped hands, with the inscription, "The Union forever." In the arch above this alcove are two panels, in one of which are suspended the scales of justice, and in the other the pen and sword are crossed.

The west alcove contains a portrait of General Thomas, with U.S. flags similar to the others, and beneath a couple of muskets crossed denote the Army. In the panel to the right is a stack of muskets, from the bayonets of which hang a cartridge box, belt and canteen, and upon the ground repose a drum, knapsack and roll of blankets. The other panel is relieved with a cannon and rammer, cavalry guidon and sabre.

A portrait of Admiral Farragut occupies the east alcove in similar setting of flags with naval sword and telescope crossed. In the left panel appears a vessel's mast, union jack and sail unfurled - also a mortar and shells. The right panel contains mast with a streaming pennant, sail lowered, anchor and capstan.

Under the sides of the roof, in the arches rising from the main walls, are painted thrilling battle scenes, representing engagements by the four respective branches of the service, and in different parts of the country. On the north side is a cavalry engagement in the southwest, in which a trooper in his encounter with a rebel color-bearer has captured the flag and is bearing it aloft in triumph as his sabre is passed through the breast of his enemy. Shell is bursting beneath the chargers, and upon the blue field of the rebel colors is seen the "Lone Star of Texas." On the south, the scene is that of an artillery engagement at Lookout Mountain. On the west is portrayed the naval battle between the U. S. gunboat "Monitor" and the rebel ram "Merrimack" in Hampton Roads. The scene on the east side represents an infantry engagement at the battle of Gettysburg. In the distance the troops are hotly engaged, while in the foreground the infantry reserves are hastening forward in solid columns. On the sides of the arches over the alcoves are twelve field corps flags, with their respective badges, from which the soldier will readily distinguish his own.

THE TABLETS,

Eight in number, of beautiful Italian marble, were designed and carved by Messrs. Stickle & Fritz, of the Aurora Marble Works, and reflect much credit upon those well known artist, the lettering and carving upon each being gilded with gold. Four of these tablets are set into the wall upon either side of the entrance - the two larger ones, which are each three feet four inches by eight feet in size, each contain one hundred and twenty-nine names of soldiers who volunteered from this section or have since taken up their residence among us. -The names run in alphabetical order, and upon each slab are arranged in three columns. Above the names upon one of these tablets, appear a couple of crossed swords, entwined by a wreath of laurel - upon the other a U.S. helmet, surrounded by a wreath of oak and laurel.

The two small tablets are respectively two feet three inches by seven feet three inches in size. Upon one of these, an open scroll is surrounded by a wreath of oak and laurel and below, the inscription "To the Unknown Dead" - the body of the stone being left blank. The remaining slab is yet entirely blank, but the design intended for the upper portion represents a single flower, the poppy, indicating sleep, with butterflies upon the wing, emblematic of the Resurrection.

Upon the South side of the room another tablet, two feet seven by six feet six inches in size, contains eighty-four names similarly carved and gilded - a total of three hundred and forty-two. Above this slab are three smaller tablets, the central, two feet six by three feet four inches in size, lettered as follows: "Memorial building, erected by Soldiers'

Monument Association of Aurora, Illinois, A.D. 1877-78." The others are each one foot six by two feet eight inches in size, and respectively contain the following inscriptions: "Ladies' Monumental Association of Aurora, Ill., contributed \$1,959.06 toward the erection of the building." "Bronze statue furnished by Aurora Post No. 20, Department of Illinois, Grand Army of the Republic."

The elegant carving upon the tablets was handsomely gilded by Mr. H. M. Ellsworth of the C.B. & Q. paint department.

Messrs. Stickle & Frits also thoughtfully placed in the centre of the room for this occasion their magnificent marble statue of the Recording Angel, with pen in hand, apparently in the act of inscribing upon the pages of an open volume the names of our fallen heroes. It is an exquisite work of art, proved a most appropriate centre piece, and should permanently adorn this beautiful edifice.

THE NEW G.A.R. HALL,

The furnishing of which had just been completed, was virtually thrown open for the first time, and of course was recognized as headquarters during the day for the members of Batavia Post and other soldiers in attendance. In this connection, a few words in reference to our local organization will not be out of place.

Aurora Post, No. 20, G.A.R., was organized in June, 1876, with a charter membership of twenty-three. It has steadily grown in size and importance, however, until now its muster roll contains the names of over one hundred and

twenty veterans who “rallied round the flag” in the hour of danger, and bared their breasts to the storm. These men occupy every calling in civil life, many of our most prominent and influential citizens being found among their number, and they represent some eighty regiments and other military organizations, hailing from nearly every northern State, while every man of them took part in the most sanguinary engagements of the late war. The organization is purely of a social and benevolent character - to preserve the memories of camp and, bivouac and battle field, to care for sick and afflicted comrades, to shield and protect the widows and orphans of those who have fallen, and if need be to rally once again for the preservation of the Union they have helped to save. To these objects they confine themselves exclusively, under no circumstances permitting politics or religion to interfere with their social or business intercourse - consequently, their Post is at all times a model of harmony and good feeling, and as an organization is honored with the respect and esteem of the community.

Increasing numbers having rendered their former quarters in the Miller & Coulter Block far too small for their accommodation, those gentlemen at once kindly set about remodeling the upper portion of that structure, and converting the west end into just such a hall as the soldiers desired; and this they did at heavy attention to details which entitles them to the hearty thanks of the Post. To the Trustees of the organization, Comrades T.B. Coulter, T.R. Polglase and John B. Chase, was then confided the onerous task of

furnishing the new hall and the result convinces us that selection was most judicious.

The new hall is by far the neatest and handsomest in the city, and was greatly admired yesterday by all who visited it. It is thirty-two by forty feet in size, with ceilings sixteen feet in height, the wood work finished in oak, the walls covered with beautifully tinted fresco paper, and a handsome fresco centre piece in the ceiling - while four large windows on the north and five on the west afford simple light. The floor is covered with a heavy ingrain carpet of new and handsome pattern and the entire furniture of the room is of original and unique design.

The Commander's station at the head of the hall, raised upon a platform six inches in height, represents a section of a fort with three cannon protruding from the embrasure being painted to resemble masonry. To his right the Adjutant has his quarters, with the simple field accommodations of actual service - his desk being only a pine board projective at right angles from and supported by a rude telegraph pole representing signal station. Above the wires, the pole is surmounted by a perch, upon which rests a carrier pigeon after its flight. At the left of the Commander, the accommodations of the Quartermaster again recall actual campaign life, his table hastily improvised upon a pile of army stores. Three barrels, lettered respectively U.S. sugar, vinegar and molasses, form the centre of a pyramid of boxes supposed to contain U.S. bacon, tea, coffee and ammunitions, surmounted by the inevitable box of U.S. hard tack marked "B.C. 19."

The senior Vice Commander's station, at the foot of the hall, is supported by a couple of brass field pieces, with a conical pile of cannon balls in the centre.

The station of the Chaplain, supported by a cross, with human skulls piled beneath, a branch of laurel and a furled flag crossed in the centre.

The altar is composed of a large bass drum, which surrounds the centre column resting upon four mortars and four large shells.

This centre column is entwined with the American flag, and supports a solid brass chandelier of very beautiful design, and something entirely new - and with which the side gas brackets correspond in style and finish.

The hall is furnished with large and comfortable 9-spindle arm chairs, the handsomest and most substantial in the city. The walls are decorated with a limited number of appropriate pictures, among which we have noticed a group consisting of Mrs. Thayre, Miss Lizzie Huntington, Miss Florence Cooley and Mr. Robert Burke, the young people who so kindly aided the post in the recent presentation of the Dutch Recruit. The photograph was taken by Mr. Arcouet, handsomely framed and presented by him. Above the pictures, crossed at regular intervals, also appear flags bearing the various corps' badges, twenty-four in all.

The two ante-rooms, fourteen by eighteen feet in size, are also nicely carpeted and well furnished.

THE LADIES MONUMENT ASSOCIATION

spread a splendid dinner in the basement of the Universalist church, and were generously patronized. The military companies, the Fire Department, and hundreds of others dined with them, but we have been unable to learn the amount of their receipts.



Rena J. Church
Director/Curator

City of Aurora

Aurora Public Art Commission

20 East Downer Place • Aurora, Illinois 60506

Grand Army of the Republic, Post 20 Museum

23 East Downer Place, Aurora Illinois, 60506

Mailing Address: 44 East Downer Place • Aurora, Illinois 60507

Telephone: (630) 256-3340 Fax: (630) 256-3349 Email: rchurch@aurora-il.org

Submitted May 12, 2011

By Rena church

Director/Curator

Aurora Public Art Commission

And Grand Army of the Republic Memorial Museum, Post 20

"I say the question arose, shall we erect a {like} structure, a gorgeous pile of marble pointing heavenward, on its summit place a statue and on its walls inscribe the names we would perpetuate? Neighboring cities have done so, and they are ornaments to their towns and a credit to the donors. Or shall we dare to change the order of our doing and erect an edifice which will not only do honor to the fallen heroes, but be a place of resort for the living, the repository of learning, the abode of science, and keep on enduring tablets the names and the records of those whose memories we cherish?"

From the dedication address by Dr. Abner Hard, July 4th, 1878. Dr. Hard was surgeon for the Eighth Illinois Cavalry from 1861 - 1865

General Description of the Grand Army of the Republic Memorial Museum, Post 20

The Aurora Public Art Commission requests funding to assist in the restoration of the Grand Army of the Republic Memorial Museum, Post 20 (GAR.) The building is currently under restoration, due to a grant from the Illinois Department of natural resources and to funding from the City of Aurora.

GAR, Post 20 History

The Grand Army of the Republic Memorial Hall, Post 20 is one of Aurora's most beloved landmarks. Since its earliest days, the GAR has stood as a symbol of public and private partnership and cooperation. It was constructed in 1878, with funds raised by citizens of Aurora, many of whom had fought in the Civil War. Their intention was to create a sacred space. It was to

be a monument to Aurora's Civil War veterans and a shrine to their fallen comrades: men who had died in the cause of preserving the union and ending slavery. It would also serve as a veterans' meeting hall and as Aurora's first free public library. Over the course of 60 years Post 20 boasted a membership of more than 700 Civil War Veterans, representing 70 Illinois regiments. By 1939, however, membership was dwindling so Daniel Wedge, a past commander, organized the GAR Memorial Association. The Association continued to hold meetings in the hall until the late 1990s, when the city was forced to close it due to structural problems. The building is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is part of the Stolp Island Historic District.

Restoration History

In 2007 the City of Aurora began the restoration of GAR, Post 20. The foundation, walls and roof were stabilized. Most of the exterior was completed, and a carefully designed addition was added to provide for modern utilities and access. This phase was largely funded by the City of Aurora. In 2008, a grant of \$55,000 from the National Trust For Historic Preservation/American Express provided for restoration of the stained glass windows, and for construction of new stained glass panels to replicate the original windows that were lost in a 1904 renovation. In addition the city also received a Kane County Riverboat grant of \$50,000, as well as a grant of \$100,000 from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity.

Then, in 2009, restoration of the GAR came to a halt, due to the faltering economy. This left some of the final exterior work unfinished, and all plans for the interior work were put aside. As mentioned above, the city will now resume restoration work, due to the IDNR grant and additional funding from the City of Aurora.

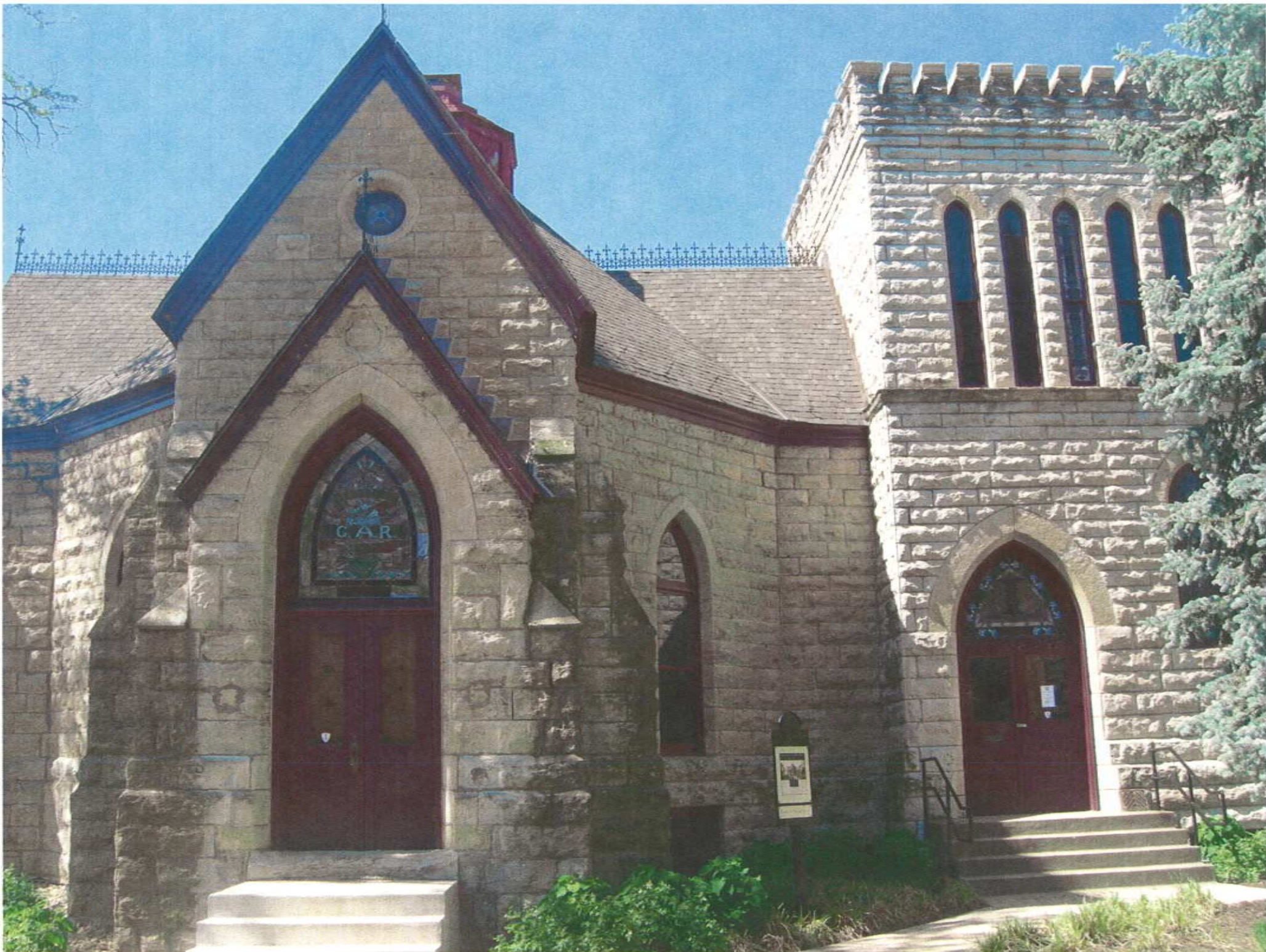
GAR Restoration 2011

The restoration of the Grand Army of the Republic Memorial Museum, Post 20 began in April, due to a grant of 250,000 from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, and to additional assistance of \$94,097.56 from the City of Aurora. This work will include both exterior and interior finishes, such as structural and electrical work, wall and ceiling painting, floor refinishing and masonry repair, and stairway and woodwork restoration. However, while gratefully appreciated, the grants do not provide enough funding to cover the entire restoration. The City of Aurora must raise at least \$800,000 through donations, both small and large, and through public and private partnerships, in order to complete work on both the exterior and the interior, which includes: recasting the Sentry sculpture in bronze, general exhibit lighting, additional painting and masonry

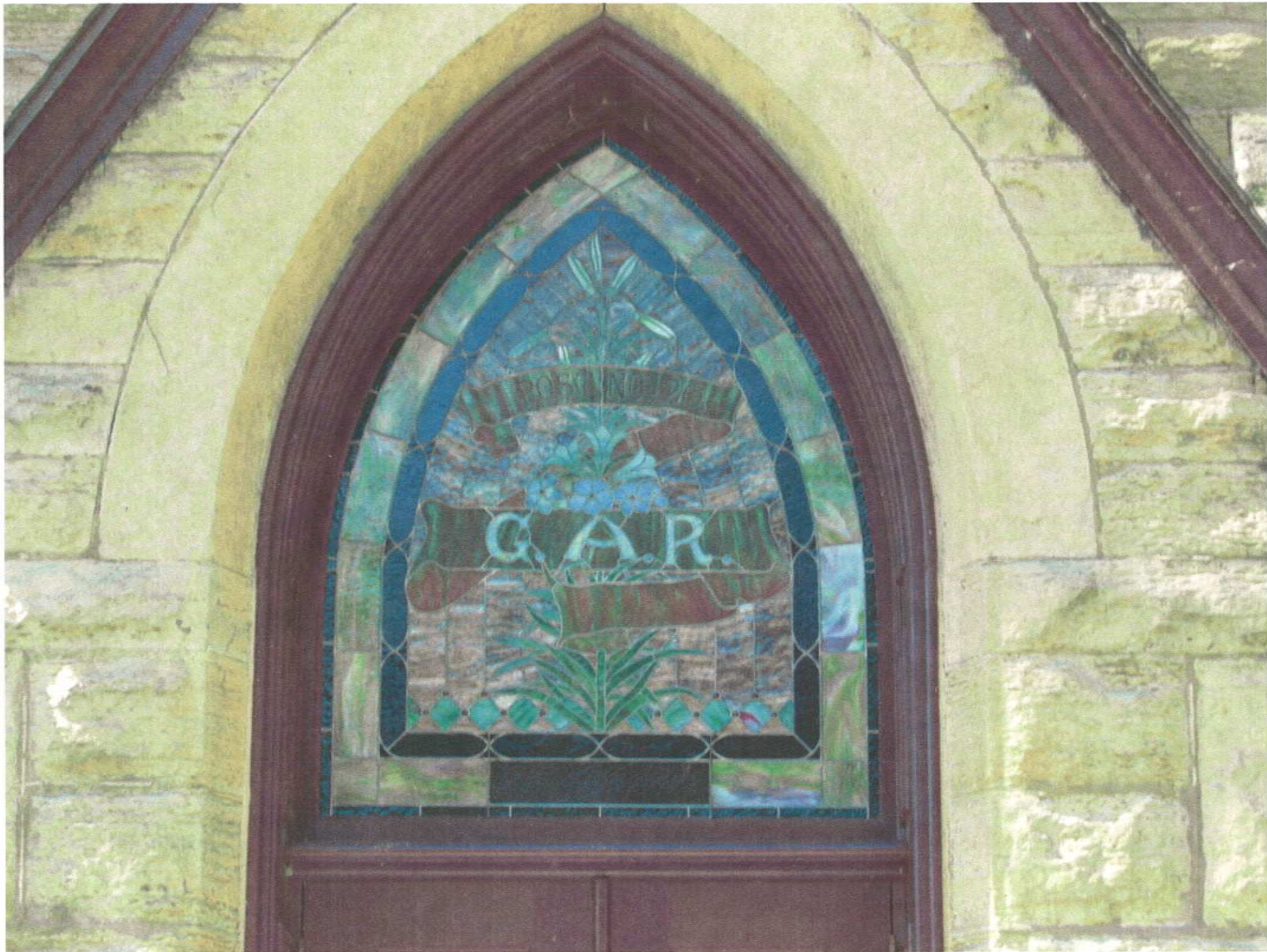
work, cabinetry restoration, exhibit cases, decorative finishes, stenciling and cleaning of the marble plaques and of the Recording Angel.

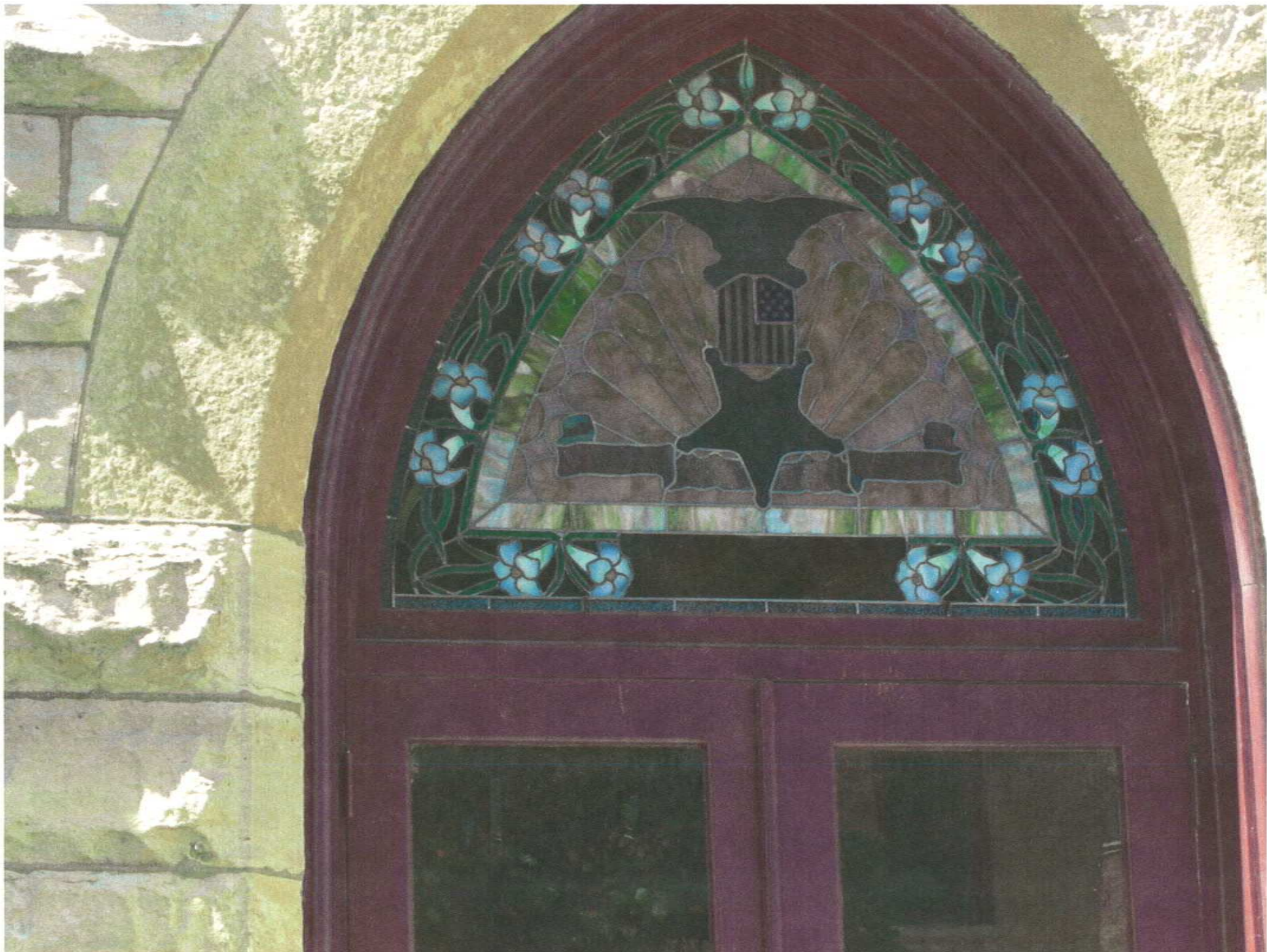
It is necessary to finish most of this work in order to allow for public access.

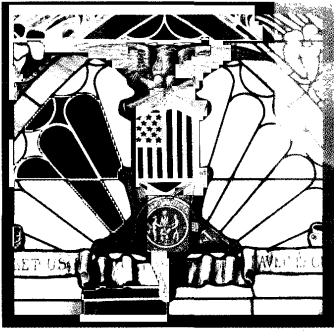
Once the GAR is restored, the Commission plans to open the hall once again, as a museum and center for veterans, for genealogical research, and as an educational venue about Aurora's role in America's wars.



GAR Post 20, Aurora, IL







GAR window detail Photo by Michael Sawdey

"The organization is purely of a social and benevolent character--to preserve memories of camp and bivouac and battle field, to care for sick and afflicted comrades, to shield and protect the widows and orphans of those who have fallen, and if need be to rally once again for the preservation of the Union they helped save."

From the GAR dedication address by Dr. Abner Hard, July 4, 1878

Dr. Hard had served as Surgeon for the Eighth Cavalry from 1861 - 1865.

To Donate

Please help restore our GAR! To donate please follow this link to the Aurora Public Art Commission's fund at the Community Foundation of the Fox River Valley:

http://www.communityfoundationfrv.org/fund_profiles-aurora_art.asp

Or send check or money order to:
Aurora Public Art Commission Fund
Community Foundation of the Fox River Valley,
111 West Downer Place, Aurora, IL 60506
Or call: (630) 896 - 7800 or (630) 256 - INFO (4636)

Grand Army of the Republic, Post 20 Museum Mission:

To preserve, showcase and interpret the Grand Army of the Republic Memorial Hall, Post 20, and its artifacts.
To celebrate the history of GAR, Post 20 through exhibits and programs.



GAR Hall Photo by Michael Sawdey

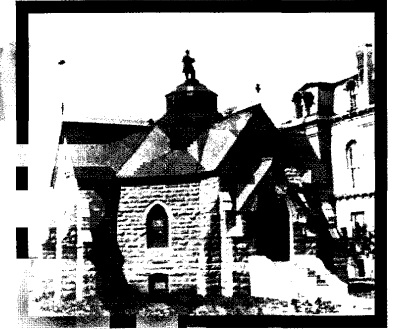
Aurora Public Art Commission

A civic organization dedicated to the presentation of public art in all its forms. A division of the Department of Community Services, city of Aurora.

20 East Downer Place
Aurora, Illinois 60506

630 - 256 - 3340
www.aurora-il.org

Charity Loyalty Fraternity



GAR, Post 20 Circa 1878

GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC MEMORIAL HALL, POST 20

AURORA, ILLINOIS

A Division of the Aurora Public Art Commission
City of Aurora, Illinois

HELP RESTORE OUR GAR!

Between 1868 and 1877,
the Soldiers Monument
Association and the
Ladies Auxiliary Association
of Aurora, Illinois,
raised \$7,184.54 for the
construction of the
Grand Army of the Republic
Memorial Hall, Post 20...

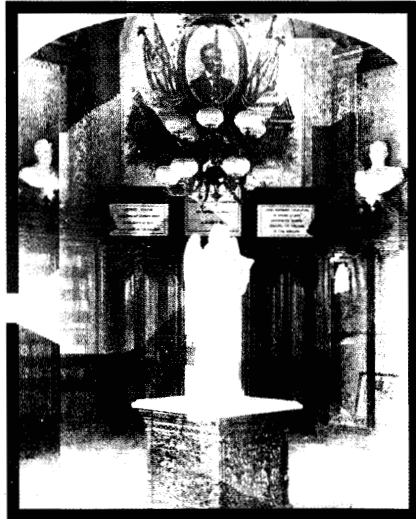


The cornerstone was laid in 1877, and construction was completed by 1878.

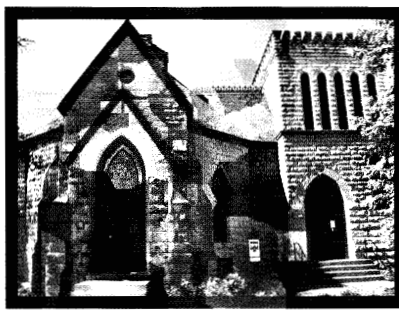
GAR, Post 20 was dedicated on July 4, 1878.

For most of its 133 years it has served as a meeting hall and museum for veterans of the Civil War, World Wars 1 & 2, the Korean Conflict, and even Vietnam and Desert Storm.

Now GAR, Post 20 needs our help.



GAR Interior, The Angel Room, Circa 1878



GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC MEMORIAL HALL, POST 20

Aurora GAR, Post 20: A Sacred Space

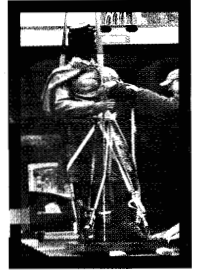
The Grand Army of the Republic Memorial Hall, Post 20, located at 23 East Downer Place, is one of Aurora's most beloved landmarks. Since its earliest days, the GAR has stood as a symbol of public and private partnership and cooperation. It was constructed in 1878 with funds raised by citizens of Aurora, many of whom had fought in the Civil War. Their intention was to create a sacred space. It was to be a monument to Aurora's Civil War Veterans and a shrine to their fallen comrades: men who had died in the cause of preserving the Union and ending slavery. It would also serve as a veterans' meeting hall and as Aurora's first free public library. Over the course of 60 years Aurora Post 20 boasted a membership of more than 700 Civil War veterans, representing 70 Illinois regiments. By 1939, however, membership in Post 20 was dwindling so Daniel Wedge, a past commander, organized the GAR Memorial Association. The Association continued to hold meetings in the hall until the late 1990s, when the city was forced to close it due to structural problems.

Restoration

In 2007 the City of Aurora began the restoration of GAR, Post 20. The foundations, walls, and roof were stabilized. Most of the exterior was

completed, and a carefully designed addition was added to provide for modern utilities and access. A grant from the National Trust for Historic Preservation/American Express provided for restoration of the stained glass windows, and for construction of new stained glass panels to replicate the original windows that were lost in a 1904 renovation.

Then, in 2008, restoration of the GAR came to a halt, due to the faltering economy. This left some of the final exterior work unfinished, including the recasting of the Sentry, the statue of an infantryman that stood atop the hall for 133 years. The Sentry had been sent to a conservator in 2007, and had disintegrated during gentle cleansing. This was due to the fact that, like many sculptures of the era it was cast in pot metal, which has a tendency to distort, crack, shatter and pit with age. It must now be pieced together to be recast in bronze, a more durable medium.



The Sentry

This year, the city received a grant from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources to help fund the remaining work on the building. This will cover some of the interior finishes, such as structural and electrical work, wall and ceiling painting, floor refinishing, masonry repair, and stairway and woodwork restoration. However, while gratefully appreciated, the grant does not provide enough funding to cover the entire restoration. The city must raise at least \$600,000 through public and private partnerships in order to complete work on the interior, which includes: general exhibit lighting, additional painting and masonry work, cabinetry restoration, exhibit cases, decorative finishes, stenciling, and cleaning of the marble plaques and of the Recording Angel. Please help restore our GAR!

Your donation of any amount will help us to realize our goal: To open the GAR once again as a museum and center for veterans, for historical and genealogical research, and as an educational venue about Aurora's role in America's wars.

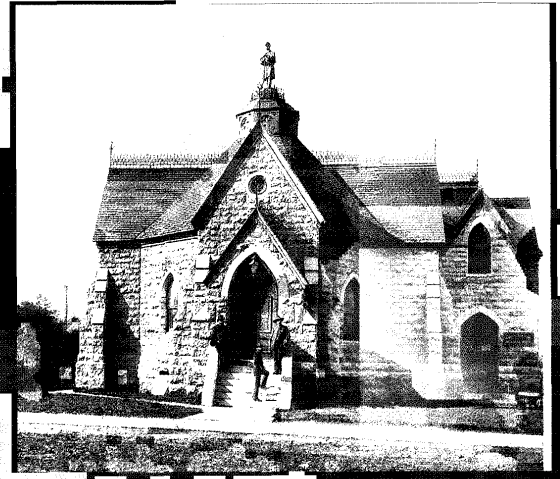
Please see back panel for donation information.

David L. Pierce Center 20 East Downer Place, Aurora Illinois

April 15, 2011 - January 20, 2012



Officers of the 36th Illinois, June 6, 1865



Grand Army of the Republic Memorial Hall, Post 20, circa 1877

If I Should Not Write You Again

Remembering Life In Aurora During and Following the Civil War

The **Aurora Historical Society** and the **Aurora Public Art Commission** commemorate the 150th anniversary of the American Civil War and the formation of the Grand Army of the Republic veterans association.



This exhibit is underwritten in part by Aurora Downtown



David L. Pierce Art & History Center

20 East Downer Place
Aurora, Illinois 60507

Hours: Wednesday - Friday
Noon - 4:00 pm

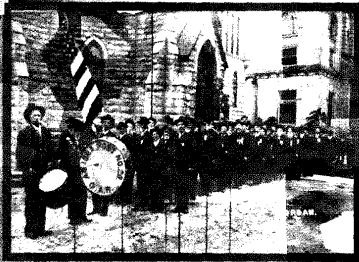
www.aurora-il.org
APAC: 630 - 256 - 3340
www.aurorahistory.net
AHS: 630 - 906 - 0650

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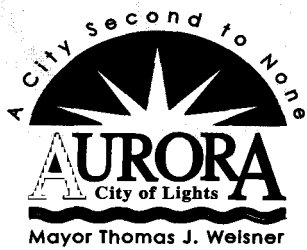
If I Should Not Write You Again Remembering Life In Aurora During and Following the Civil War

April 15, 2011 - January 20, 2012
Opening Reception: Friday, April 15
From 5:00 - 7:00 pm
Free and open to the public

The Aurora Historical Society and the Aurora Public Art Commission have partnered to create an exhibit that examines the role of citizens of Aurora, both during and following the Civil War. Experience what Aurora was like during the war years, when regiments like the 36th Infantry of Illinois and the 8th Illinois Cavalry were formed, trained, and sent to the battlefields, including Murfreesboro, Lookout Mountain, Knoxville, Atlanta, Mechanicsville, Brandy Station, and Gettysburg. The exhibit will also tell the story of the Grand Army of the Republic, an important national Civil War veterans organization that had much influence from the 1860s to the 1920s. The GAR Memorial Hall, Post 20, built by the local GAR post in 1877-78, stands across the street from the Art & History Center and is currently under restoration. On display at the Pierce Center are numerous artifacts from the hall, featuring the history of Post 20 and that of its membership.



Off-street parking available at Stolp and East Downer Place.
For free parking bring your ticket to the Museum Shop to be validated.



Aurora Public Art Commission

David L. Pierce Center
20 East Downer Place Aurora IL 60506
2011 Exhibitions



April 15

The Aurora Public Art Commission will partner with the Aurora Historical Society to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the American Civil War and the formation of the Grand Army of the Republic Veterans Association.



May 20-August 12

Works by Ruth Van Sickle Ford
Reception: May 20, meet Nancy Hopp, author of "Warm Light/Cool Shadows, the Life and Art of Ruth Van Sickle Ford."



September 9-November 18
Works by Anton Witek,
Priscilla Humay,
and Helen Balun Humay



**December 16 -
January 20, 2012**
Winter
Garden of
Youth Art

Art by Aurora
Students
from K - 12



**Aurora
Art League**



October 25, 2010 - April 1 2011



**The Uncommon
Thread:
Group Exhibit**



April 29 - February 3, 2012

Regular Gallery Hours
Wednesday - Friday Noon - 4:00 pm
630 - 256 - 3340 or (630) 256 - INFO (4636)
www.aurora-il.org

**Off-Street Parking available at
Stolp and East Downer Place.**
For free parking bring your ticket
to Museum Shop to be validated.

Grand Army of the Republic Restoration to Continue in 2011. The City of Aurora Must Raise \$80,000 to cover the cost of Restoration of the Sentry.

The GAR is a division of the Aurora Public Art Commission, City of Aurora

The Sentry, Guardian of the GAR

The Sentry, a statue of an infantryman on guard, stood atop Aurora's Grand Army of the Republic Memorial Hall, Post 20 (GAR) for 129 years—from its installation in 1878 until 2007, when it was removed for restoration.

Aurora GAR, Post 20: A Sacred Space

The Grand Army of the Republic Memorial Hall, Post 20 is one of Aurora's most beloved landmarks. Since its earliest days, the GAR has stood as a symbol of public and private partnership and cooperation. It was constructed in 1878, with funds raised by citizens of Aurora, many of whom had fought in the Civil War. Their intention was to create a sacred space: a monument to Aurora's Civil War veterans and a shrine to their fallen comrades. It would also serve as a veterans' meeting hall and as Aurora's first free public library. Over the course of 60 years Post 20 boasted a membership of more than 700 Civil War Veterans, representing 70 Illinois regiments. By 1939, however, membership was dwindling so Daniel Wedge, a past commander, organized the GAR Memorial Association. The Association continued to hold meetings in the hall until the late 1990s, when the city was forced to close it due to structural problems.

Restoration

In 2007 the City of Aurora began the stabilization and restoration of the GAR Hall. It was necessary to remove the Sentry during this time and it was sent for restoration to the Conservation of Sculpture and Objects Studio, Inc. Upon gentle cleansing the sculpture disintegrated into several pieces. This was due to the fact that the Sentry, like many sculptures of the era, was cast in pot metal, which is prone to instability over time, and has a tendency to bend, distort, crack, shatter, and pit with age.



Photo by Michael Sawdey



Photo by Jan Mangers



Aurora Public Art Commission
20 East Downer Place
Aurora, Illinois, 60506 (630) 256-3340
www.aurora-il.org

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Since 2008, the restoration plan has been to recast the Sentry in bronze and install this new piece on top of the building. The original pot metal Sentry, which is not durable enough for outside display, will be exhibited as a heritage piece inside the hall. This plan still stands, but the old Sentry must be pieced together before it can be recast, adding to the restoration cost.

The restoration of the GAR will continue in 2011 with the aid of an interior grant from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, the primary work will focus on the interior, but the Sentry is one of the last essential pieces of the exterior restoration. The city plans to open the GAR once again as a museum and center for veterans, for historical and genealogical research, and as an educational venue about Aurora's role in America's wars.

Please help us to save our Sentry! To donate please follow this link to the Aurora Public Art Commission's fund at the Community Foundation of the Fox River Valley:

http://www.communityfoundationfrv.org/fund_profiles-aurora_art.asp

Or send check or money order to:

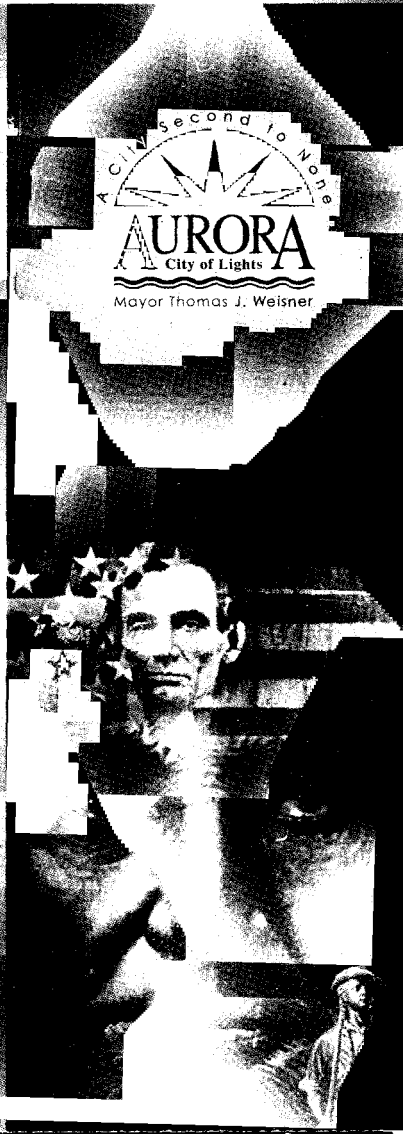
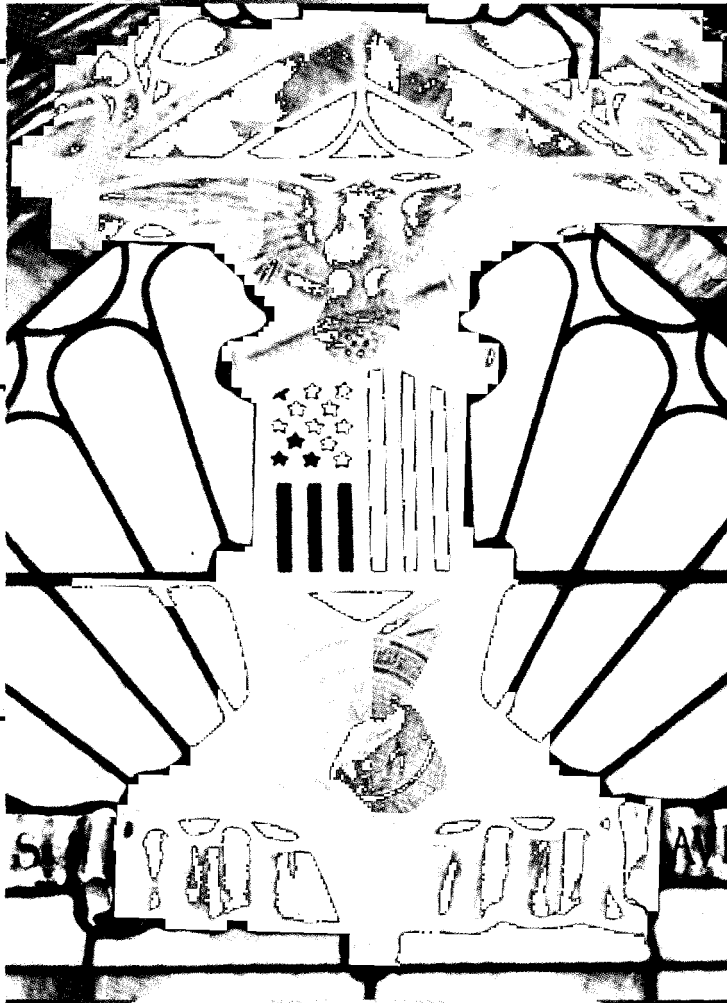
Aurora Public Art Commission Fund
Community Foundation of the Fox River Valley,
111 West Downer Place, Aurora, IL 60506
Or call: (630) 896 - 7800 or (630) 256 - INFO (4636)

Aurora Public Art Commission

Aurora Historical Society

AURORA AND THE GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC IN THE AGE OF

Lincoln



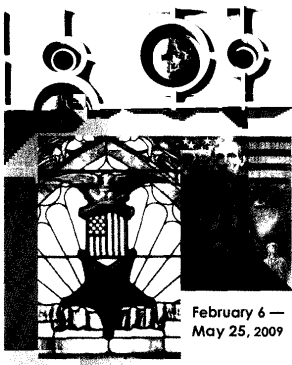
David L. Pierce Center
20 East Downer Place - Aurora, Illinois

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MODEL EU-33
SERIAL NO. 110017
POWER RATING 24V ~ 0.5A

For use with image scanner noted in the installation instructions.
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*February 12, 2009
marks the
200th Anniversary of
Abraham Lincoln's Birth.*



Aurora Public Art Commission

David L. Pierce Center
20 East Downer Place - Aurora, Illinois 60506
630-906-0654 www.aurora-il.org

A division of the Department of Community Development - City of Aurora
A civic organization dedicated to the presentation of public art in all its forms

To commemorate the occasion, the Aurora Public Art Commission and Aurora Historical Society have assembled artifacts that document Lincoln's enormous influence on the lives of Aurora residents and his continuing legacy in our community.

First, learn about the Grand Army of the Republic, an organization formed by and for Union Army veterans after the Civil War. For these men, Lincoln was Commander-In-Chief.

Then experience what Aurora was like during and just after Lincoln's life time, when he was known as a shrewd lawyer and promising young politician, and not as a mythic American icon.

AURORA AND THE GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC IN THE AGE OF Lincoln

Aurora Public Art Commission and Mayor Thomas J. Weisner invite you to the Exhibition Opening Reception Friday Evening February 13, 2009 5:00 - 7:30 pm Free and Open to the Public

Off-street parking available across street at East Downer Place and Stolp Avenue.

For free parking - bring your ticket to the Museum Shop to be validated.


Gallery and Museum Shop Hours Wednesday - Sunday Noon - 4:00 pm

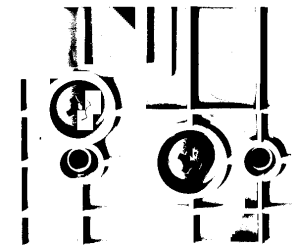
Suggested Donation \$3.00 Adults \$1.50 Students and Seniors Children under 12 Free

 **ILLINOIS ARTS COUNCIL**
AURORA - AN ILLINOIS ARTS FRIENDLY COMMUNITY
This exhibition was funded in part by the Illinois Arts Council, a state agency.

EPSON Film Adapter
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Rena J. Church
Director/Curator

City of Aurora

Aurora Public Art Commission

20 East Downer Place • Aurora, Illinois 60506

Grand Army of the Republic, Post 20 Museum

23 East Downer Place, Aurora Illinois, 60506

Mailing Address: 44 East Downer Place • Aurora, Illinois 60507

Telephone: (630) 256-3340 Fax: (630) 256-3349 Email: rchurch@aurora-ill.org

Submitted May 12, 2011

By Rena church

Director/Curator

Aurora Public Art Commission

And Grand Army of the Republic Memorial Museum, Post 20

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The Aurora Public Art Commission requests funding to assist in the restoration of the Grand Army of the Republic Memorial Museum, Post 20 (GAR.) The building is currently under restoration, due to a grant from the Illinois Department of natural resources and to funding from the City of Aurora.

GAR, Post 20 History

The Grand Army of the Republic Memorial Hall, Post 20 is one of Aurora's most beloved landmarks. Since its earliest days, the GAR has stood as a symbol of public and private partnership and cooperation. It was constructed in 1878, with funds raised by citizens of Aurora, many of whom had fought in the Civil War. Their intention was to create a sacred space. It was to

be a monument to Aurora's Civil War veterans and a shrine to their fallen comrades: men who had died in the cause of preserving the union and ending slavery. It would also serve as a veterans' meeting hall and as Aurora's first free public library. Over the course of 60 years Post 20 boasted a membership of more than 700 Civil War Veterans, representing 70 Illinois regiments. By 1939, however, membership was dwindling so Daniel Wedge, a past commander, organized the GAR Memorial Association. The Association continued to hold meetings in the hall until the late 1990s, when the city was forced to close it due to structural problems. The building is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is part of the Stolp Island Historic District.

Restoration History

In 2007 the City of Aurora began the restoration of GAR, Post 20. The foundation, walls and roof were stabilized. Most of the exterior was completed, and a carefully designed addition was added to provide for modern utilities and access. This phase was largely funded by the City of Aurora. In 2008, a grant of \$55,000 from the National Trust For Historic Preservation/American Express provided for restoration of the stained glass windows, and for construction of new stained glass panels to replicate the original windows that were lost in a 1904 renovation. In addition the city also received a Kane County Riverboat grant of \$50,000, as well as a grant of \$100,000 from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity.

Then, in 2009, restoration of the GAR came to a halt, due to the faltering economy. This left some of the final exterior work unfinished, and all plans for the interior work were put aside. As mentioned above, the city will now resume restoration work, due to the IDNR grant and additional funding from the City of Aurora.

GAR Restoration 2011

The restoration of the Grand Army of the Republic Memorial Museum, Post 20 began in April, due to a grant of 250,000 from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, and to additional assistance of \$94,097.56 from the City of Aurora. This work will include both exterior and interior finishes, such as structural and electrical work, wall and ceiling painting, floor refinishing and masonry repair, and stairway and woodwork restoration. However, while gratefully appreciated, the grants do not provide enough funding to cover the entire restoration. The City of Aurora must raise at least \$800,000 through donations, both small and large, and through public and private partnerships, in order to complete work on both the exterior and the interior, which includes: recasting the Sentry sculpture in bronze, general exhibit lighting, additional painting and masonry

work, cabinetry restoration, exhibit cases, decorative finishes, stenciling and cleaning of the marble plaques and of the Recording Angel.

It is necessary to finish most of this work in order to allow for public access.

Once the GAR is restored, the Commission plans to open the hall once again, as a museum and center for veterans, for genealogical research, and as an educational venue about Aurora's role in America's wars.