

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 with *Cannon*
 ___ Monument *with out* Sculpture ___ 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 1903 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 STATE & LINCOLN ST.
 City/Village HART Township HART County OCEANA

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 OCEANA BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS Dept./Div. OCEANA COUNTY
 Street Address 2491 E. POLK RD.
 City HART State MI Zip Code 49420
 Contact Person LARRY VANSICKLE Telephone (616) 873-4052

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

APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN MOVED AFTER OLD COUNTY BUILDING WAS RAISED. (SEE ENCLOSED COPY)

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.) GRAY GRANITE

Material of the Sculpture = Stone Concrete Metal Undetermined
 If known, name specific material (color of granite, marble, etc.) GRAY GRANITE
 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 = _____
 Markings on Left Trunion _____ Right Trunion _____
 Is inert ammunition a part of the Memorial? If so, describe _____

Approximate Dimensions (indicate unit of measure) - taken from tallest / widest points
 Monument or Base: Height 10 FT Width 6 FT Depth 6 FT or Diameter _____
 Sculpture: Height 8 FT Width 3 FT Depth 3 FT 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.

WEST SIDE - " TO OUR FALLEN HEROES 1861-1865 " "ERECTED 1903 BY OCEANA VETERANS MONUMENT ASSOCIATION" STATE SEAL RAISED IN CENTER, G.A.R. BADGE RAISED AT BOTTOM OF BASE.

NORTH SIDE - FORM OF SAILOR RAISED FROM CENTER

EAST SIDE - FORM OF CAVALRYMAN ON HORSEBACK RAISED FROM CENTER

SOUTH SIDE - FORM OF ARTILERYMAN WITH CANNON RAISED FROM CENTER

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)
X Town

- Suburban (residential, near city)
Urban / Metropolitan

Immediate Locale (check as many as may apply)

- Industrial
Street/Roadside within 20 feet
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.

Table with 2 columns: Sculpture, Base. Rows include: If hollow, is the internal support unstable/exposed?; Any evidence of structural instability?; Any broken or missing parts?; Any cracks, splits, breaks or holes?.

Surface Appearance (check as many as may apply)

Table with 2 columns: Sculpture, Base. Rows include: Black crusting; White crusting; Etched, pitted, or otherwise corroded (on metal); Metallic staining; Organic growth; Chalky or powdery stone; Granular eroding of stone; Spalling of stone (surface splitting off) SOUTH CORNER; Droppings; Other.

Does water collect in recessed areas of the Memorial? Yes No X 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

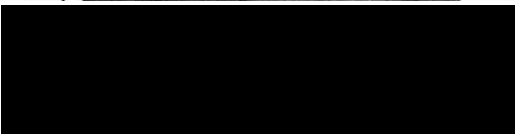
Briefly describe the Memorial (affiliation / overall condition & any concern not already touched on) .

VERY ORNATE MONUMENT WITH SCULPTURED RELIEFS. SOLDIER AT PARADE
REST, G.A.R. BADGE PARTIALLY COVERED BY SOD.

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 SEPT, 3, 2000
Your Name DOUGLAS R. ARMSTRONG
Address 236 E FREDERICK City LANSING
State MI Zip Code 48906 Telephone 

Please send this completed form to:

Thank you for your help, and attention to detail.

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



SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR
DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN

Douglas R. Armstrong
DEPARTMENT CIVIL WAR MEMORIALS OFFICER
236 Frederick Avenue
Lansing, MI 48906-3226



Mitch Johnson
Mayor, City of Hart
407 State St.
Hart, MI 49420

Dear Mayor Johnson:

I am writing to respectfully request any information you or your staff may provide about the history of the Soldiers and Sailors Monument in front of the City or County Offices in the City of Hart. I recently sent a letter and a photo of the monument as it looked in the early 1900's to Oceana County Commissioner Larry VanSickle. He has not yet responded to my inquiry. Please read the enclosed letter and pass this along to someone you feel may provide me with some information. I would also like to thank the City of Hart for their continued care and upkeep of this monument that was erected to honor the Soldiers and Sailors of Oceana County who served our country during the American Civil War of 1861-1865. It is our hope that this will continue to remain a symbol of your community's history and heritage. Thank you and I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours Respectfully,

Douglas R. Armstrong

Dear Sir: I have forwarded your correspondence, personally, to Mr. VanSickle of the county board of commissioners. He informed me he would, in turn, provide that information to our county administrator, Mr. Paul Inglis. This occurred yesterday, the 25th.

The monument of which you have reference is on county property. City of Hart has nothing to do with that or any other articles of war vintage.

Sincerely yours,

R. Mitchell Johnson



TO OUR
**FALLEN
HEROES**
1861-1865

ERECTED IN 1921 BY
THE VETERANS MONUMENT SOCIETY

November 10, 2000

Larry VanSickle
Oceana County Commissioner
2491 E. Polk Rd.
Hart, MI 49420

Dear Mr. VanSickles:

I am writing to respectfully inquire about the Soldiers and Sailors Monument in front of the Oceana County Building. In a recent visit to Hart, I noticed that the monument appears to have possibly been moved in the past to its current location. I have enclosed a copy of a postcard image of the monument as it looked in the early 1900's. Any information you provide would be greatly appreciated. I would also like to convey our appreciation for the well-maintained condition of the monument to the veterans' of Oceana County.

I am also respectfully inquiring about the condition of the Civil War era cannon in your city. One of our organization's primary activities is to observe the care and upkeep of Civil War Memorials (outside the care of the National Park Service and U.S. Departments of Defense and Veterans' Affairs) and bring any failure to do so, to the attention of the proper authorities.

Records of surviving Civil War Cannon indicate that your community has two, "**32-pdr. Shellguns**" as part of a veterans' war memorial. These cannon were donated by the U.S. Government to the Oceana County Veterans' Monument Association in 1897. Any information that you can provide about the condition of these cannon would be appreciated.

The Memorial Cannons in your community are part of nearly 12,000 that were donated by the U.S. Government, between 1872 and 1916, to local Posts of the GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC (G.A.R.) and other civic and patriotic groups for the purpose of display as a veterans' war memorial. They were formally dedicated, by surviving veterans, to serve as "silent-sentinels," in tribute to the memory of all who served and sacrificed during the American Civil War. In case you are not already aware, we have the G.A.R. to thank for our national observance of Memorial Day, which they initiated on May 30, 1868. Since then, countless communities have traditionally held their tribute to veterans (of ALL eras), near their Civil War Monument. Therefore, these memorials are tied to a community's cultural heritage, as well as its historical heritage.

Unfortunately, less than half remain of all the cannon that were originally dedicated as veterans' memorials. It's estimated that only 5,467 of these cannon survived the "scrap-metal drives" of World Wars I and II. Therefore, the historical value of these cannon and the special significance of the memorials in your community is multiplied. In recent years another threat to these memorials are collectors who will offer to buy the cannon. It is our hope that communities like yours will not let this happen.

As the successor organization of the G.A.R., the SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR (SUVCW) is proud to maintain their traditions. With your help, we will also be proud to see that the Memorial Cannons in your community are protected and preserved for the education and appreciation of future generations. We look forward to hearing from you.

Respectfully,

Douglas R. Armstrong



SOLDIERS' MONUMENT,
HART, MICH.