

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) .

SEE ATTACHED COPY OF REPORT FROM VENUS BRONZE WORKS, INC.

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 FEBRUARY 28, 2001
Your Name NEAL F. BREAUUGH
Address 10230 E. SAN REMO BLVD. City TRAVERSE CITY
State MI. Zip Code 49684 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

SOLDIER'S MONUMENT: TRAVERSE CITY, MICHIGAN

FRONT SIDE OF MONUMENT

TWO CROSSED SWORDS ARE IN THE ARCH OF MONUMENT ABOVE PLAQUE INSET THAT READS:

THIS IS A NATION
A GOVERNMENT
OF THE PEOPLE, FOR THE PEOPLE
BY THE PEOPLE

NO
FLAY
BUT
THE
RED
WHITE
AND BLUE

A SLANTED
FLAG
IS IN THE
MIDDLE

ONE COUNTRY
ONE FLAG
UNITED
WE
STAND
DEVIDED
WE
FALL

LET US HAVE
* PEACE * (* REPRESENTS A STAR)

THE THREE ASCENDING BLOCKS AT THE BASE OF THE MONUMENT READ IN DESCENDING ORDER:

WINCHESTER
PETERSBURG
WILLIAMSBURG

BACK SIDE OF MONUMENT

THREE RIFLES STANDING ARE IN THE ARCH OF THE MONUMENT ABOVE PLAQUE INSERT THAT READS:

TO THE HEROES
WHO FELL AND THE
PATRIOTS WHO
FOUGHT FOR
UNION AND
LIBERTY
1861-1865
BY THE CITIZENS OF
GRAND TRAVERSE
COUNTY, MICHIGAN
MAY 30, 1890

THE THREE ASCENDING BLOCKS AT THE BASE OF THE MONUMENT READ IN DESCENDING ORDER:

COLD HARBOR
REAMS STATION
ANTIETAM

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SOLDIER'S MONUMENT: TRAVERSE CITY MICHIGAN

RIGHT SIDE OF MONUMENT

CROSSED CANNONS ARE IN THE ARCH OF THE MONUMENT ABOVE:

A SCULPTURED FACE OF ULYSSES S. GRANT

THE THREE ASCENDING BLOCKS AT THE BASE OF THE MONUMENT READ IN DESCENDING ORDER:

PORT HUDSON
CEDAR MOUNTAIN
GETTYSBURG

LEFT SIDE OF MONUMENT

CROSSED ANCHORS ARE IN THE ARCH OF THE MONUMENT ABOVE:

A SCULPTURED FACE OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN

THE THREE ASCENDING BLOCKS AT THE BASE OF THE MONUMENT READ IN DESCENDING ORDER:

VICKSBURG
WILDERNESS
HATCHER'S RUN

VENUS BRONZE WORKS, INC.



CENTER FOR CONSERVATION

Richard W. Smith
Grand Traverse County
Facilities Management
1207 W. Civic Center Drive
Traverse City, MI 49686-2972

September 12, 2000

Dear Mr. Smith,

Thank you for inviting me to your beautiful city to inspect the *Civil War Monument*. I am sorry for the delay--it has taken this long to receive quotations from the foundries.

Venus Bronze Works is pleased to offer the following estimates for the restoration of the *Civil War Monument* in Traverse City.

The object is cast zinc, composed of several pieces fastened and soldered together. The American Bronze Company in Chicago, was the foundry. It appears to have been originally painted white (which was a common practice--to simulate stone). There are missing bolts and rosettes. The soldier figure is leaning backwards precariously. Some of the casting sections are separating and the lowest area (base) is cracking. This is probably due to freeze-thaw (expansion-contraction) of soaked material inside. There may be other problems for which the evidence is not visible, such as a deteriorating iron armature, hairline cracking, etc. All of these problems are common for cast zinc, a very brittle material, which was an unfortunate choice (especially for a bronze foundry).

We have worked on large cast zinc objects in the past. There are some inherent safety issues when working with zinc, particularly zinc poisoning from inhaling particulate zinc and zinc oxide fumes from brazing/soldering.

There are several options for the conservation treatment and restoration of the *Civil War Monument*. You should, of course, consider what will best benefit the citizens and future generations in your community. There are general costs which would be incurred with any option:

Richard W. Smith
Grand Traverse County
Facilities Management
September 12, 2000

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The basic cost to transport the object to and from a conservation facility, and supervision by a conservation firm for disassembly would be between \$5,000 and \$10,000.

After moving the zinc sculpture, the monument's foundation should be inspected by an appropriate company, and measures taken to correct any defects. Depending on what is required (and we are not qualified to make recommendations) this could cost \$5,000.

The conservation treatment options are as follows:

1. Repair the existing material, construct a stainless steel armature, replace missing elements, clean the surface, prime and paint original color. The unfortunate consequence of this option is that failure of the inferior material (cast zinc) will continue to occur, (although hopefully to a lesser extent). The estimated cost for this treatment would be \$40,000 (in addition to the general costs listed above).
2. Treatment as in #1, however replace some elements (lower base which is bulged and has many cracks) with cast bronze. The estimated cost for this treatment would be \$55,000 (in addition to the general costs listed above).
3. Cast the entire monument in bronze, utilizing the existing (after some minor repairs) for molds. The estimated cost for this treatment would be \$85,000 (in addition to the general costs listed above).

Option #3 will render the most stable monument with the greatest longevity. Very little maintenance will be required. Off-site restoration should never be needed again. With options #1 and #2, although the monument will be better constructed than the original, due to the problematic nature of the brittle cast zinc material--some failure is inevitable, and significant restoration will be required again at some point in the future.

These estimates are rather preliminary. It is our hope that the description of the options will help you (and others involved with planning for the restoration of the monument) with your decisions regarding the future of the monument. It is unlikely that the fabricators of the monument either knew or were concerned about the long-term prospects for the material they were using in its construction. It was undoubtedly less expensive at the time; unfortunately, it is not the optimum material for a monument intended to stand the test of time.

Richard W. Smith
Grand Traverse County
Facilities Management
September 12, 2000

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Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or would like to discuss the options for the Monument at greater length. It is encouraging to see communities looking towards the preservation of commemorative sculpture for future generations.

Respectfully,

VENUS BRONZE WORKS, INC.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "GEORGIO GIKAS JR." with a stylized flourish at the end.

Giorgio Gikas
President

REPORT ON COUNTY CIVIL WAR MONUMENT

By: Charles Lerchen, Veterans Affairs Director

Introduction: After one-hundred eleven years standing watch over the region, the County Civil War monument currently situated on the Courthouse lawn is in need of attention.

The years and the elements have taken their toll and a determination must now be made as to what action need be taken.

History: On May 30, 1890 at Memorial Day services the monument was dedicated:

Excerpt from Grand Traverse Herald, June 5, 1890:

“The dedication of the Soldier’s Monument presented to the veterans of the Grand Army of the Republic, by the citizens of Grand Traverse county, formed the chief feature of the celebration of Memorial Day in Traverse City.

The day was very generally kept by all citizens, nearly all the business houses in the village being closed from noon. The weather threatened rain during the forenoon, but cleared up beautifully just before the services commenced. Soon after noon the citizens commenced to gather, until there was, when the post and soldiers arrived at the place of meeting, between three and four thousand people collected to listen to the exercises of the occasion. In the neighborhood of one hundred and fifty veterans of the war marched in line to the ground, headed by the band. After a preliminary piece of music by the choir, the monument was unveiled and formally presented to the veterans by Hon. Perry Hannah, in the following eloquent speech:

On behalf of the citizens of Grand Traverse county, I am requested to respectfully present to you this monument, as a testimonial of the services you and your deceased comrades have rendered to your country, in one of the greatest civil conflicts the world has ever known. Preserve it....Protect it...and cherish it as a memorial for yourselves and your fallen comrades, whose bodies are today mouldering on southern battle fields. They will never witness with human eye, what generations yet to come will enjoy, at the cost of your sacrifice. Let it serve to tell your childrens children what the preservation of this union has cost their forefathers.”



Civil War Monument

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The monument is inscribed: "Erected to the heroes who fell and the patriots who fought for union and liberty 1861-1865 by the citizens of Grand Traverse County May 30, 1890."

Facts: The monument stands 18 feet 7 inches and consists of a base supporting a life size "Civil War" soldier, (nicknamed Remus). The findings of an inspection by Venus Bronze Works, Inc., Center for Conservation initiated by facilities management are that, contrary to popular belief, the monument is cast in zinc, (not bronze); which as it turns out was not the best choice of materials for longevity purposes. The monument has received little, if any, maintenance over the years. The soldier figure is leaning backwards "precariously". Some of the casting sections are separating and the lowest, (the base), is cracking. There are missing bolts and rosettes. There may be other problems for which the evidence is not visible.

Preliminary cost estimates for conservation, (not detailed in this report), range between \$50,000. to \$95,000.

Opinion: This is our responsibility. If the Board so desires to save the monument we must take action. The monument has deteriorated to the point that it either be fixed or lost. There is a great deal of historical and sentimental value attached to the monument for county and Traverse City residents. It is essentially a fixture. Almost no one who has lived and grown up in the area doesn't know of the soldier monument. We also must not forget the original intent and purpose of the monument. This meaning is as important today as it was 100 years ago, and will be 100 years from now.

Recommendation:

- 1) Obtain Board commitment for conservation/restoration of the monument.
- 2) Identify possible sources of funding:
 - a) County
 - b) City
 - c) Federal/State
 - d) Private
- 3) Initiate bid process, (if appropriate), for performance of restoration.
- 4) Replace/rededicate monument.



Record-Eagle/Jim Sovin

Rich Smith, facility manager for Grand Traverse county, stands before the Civil War monument outside the Grand Traverse County Courthouse.

Landmark statue will be restore

■ Officials aim to preserve TC's Union soldier monument, make u for 'cheap' construction techniqu

By BILL O'BRIEN
Record-Eagle staff writer

TRAVERSE CITY — The old Union soldier standing guard at the Grand Traverse courthouse will never die — but he's been to fade away.

One of the county's oldest and earliest monuments, the 13 1/2-foot statue dedicated 25 after the end of the Civil War is showing i say local officials who are investigating i restore the piece.

"I don't think there's anybody who grew u that doesn't know about the soldier statue Charles Lerchen, director of the county's ans Affairs office. "But it's really in need o

— See LANDMARK, Page



Landmark monument to get face lift

Continued from Page 1A
attention."

The county monument was dedicated on May 30 — Memorial Day — in 1890. The weekly newspaper Grand Traverse Record reported that more than 3,000 area residents gathered around the courthouse that day for the unveiling ceremony, which was led Traverse City mayor and renown city father Perry Hannah.

"Preserve it ... protect it ... and cherish it as a memorial for yourselves and your fallen comrades, whose bodies are today moldering on southern battlefields," Mayor Hannah told the 150 or so Civil War veterans who attended the ceremony. According to Lerchen, county records indicate that 30 residents of Grand Traverse County were killed in the Civil War.

More than a century later, preserving the statue remains the task at hand. Officials say that one of the main challenges with restoring it is dealing with the relatively inferior material that was used. Made by a Chicago foundry, the cast zinc metal — which was painted white to give the appearance of a marble stone statue — was said to be much less expensive at the time but not a material able to withstand centuries of outdoor weather.

"It was a cheap man's statue to begin with," said Rich Smith, the county's facilities management director. "You can see cracks all around the bottom of it."

Besides the cracks, which are allowing water into the hollow monument, a pronounced "lean" in the statue first noticed several years ago is getting progressively worse.

"Gravity's just pulling the guy backward," Lerchen said. "(It's) going to take him down eventually."

Although it may be chintzy as

monuments go, its unique design alone makes it worth saving, officials say.

"It's one of a kind," Smith said. "You're not going to find another one out there just like it."

The county has received preliminary cost estimates starting at around \$50,000 to repair the monument or up to \$85,000 to re-cast the entire monument in bronze using the existing statute as a mold.

County commissioners have concurred with a staff recommendation to erect scaffolding around the monument this summer so a closer inspection can be con-

ducted. Officials say the statue may have to be dismantled and shipped elsewhere to be properly restored.

The search is already on for state or federal grant sources to restore the statue of the Union soldier — who's been nicknamed "Remus" by staff members working on the project. Local fund-raisers and other private sources also may be sought so the work doesn't become too much of a drain on the county's general fund.

Bill O'Brien is the reporter for government in Grand Traverse County. He can be reached at (231) 933-1477 or bobrien@record-eagle.com

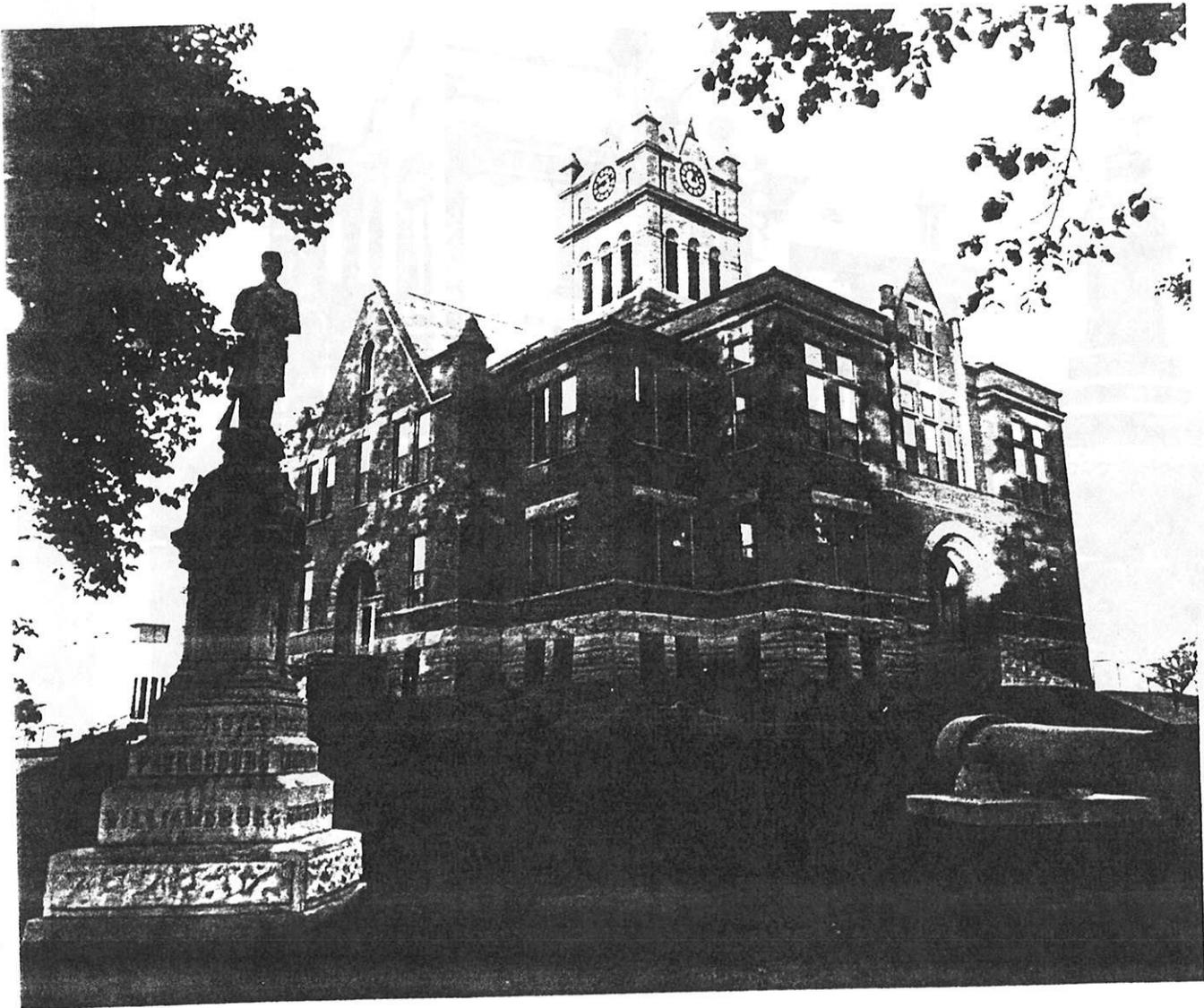
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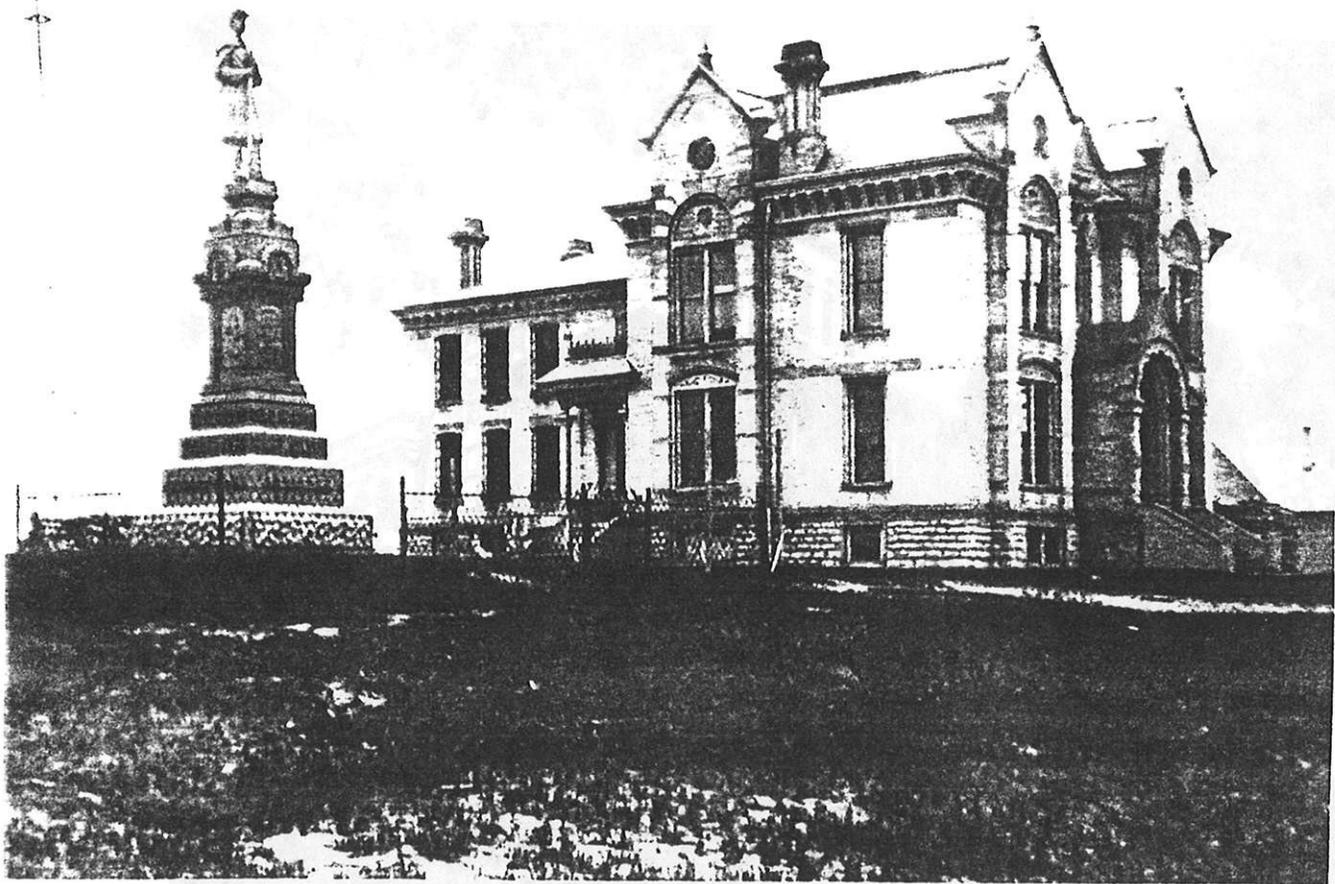
HERITAGE PRESERVED

The Grand Traverse County Courthouse



JULY 4, 1981

0162



During the early decades of Grand Traverse County history, malefactors were detained in a wooden jail; the impressive jail building pictured here was erected in 1884 at a total cost of \$20,000.

Cover: *The Grand Traverse County Courthouse, June, 1981*