

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

Type of Memorial (check all applicable)

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

Affiliation

GAR ___ MOLLUS ___ SUVCW ___ WRC ___ ASUVCW
___ LGAR ___ DUVCW ___ Other

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

Marion GAR Post 119 accepted this cannon. Given by act of Congress approved on May 22, 1896. Distributed from the New York Arsenal on May 24, 1897

Original Dedication Date After May 24 1897 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 City Park near the corner of Locust Street and 1st Street

715 S 6th St GPS Coordinates near 40° 12.836 N, 94° 32.593 W

City/Village &/or Township Stanberry

County Gentry State MO Zip Code 64489

The front of the Memorial faces: ___ North South ___ East ___ West

Government Body, Agency, or Individual Owner

Name City of Stanberry

Dept./Div. _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Contact Person _____ Telephone (12) _____ ext _____

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

For Monuments with/without sculpture:

Physical Details

Material of Monument or base under a Sculpture or Cannon = ___ Stone ___ Concrete ___ Metal Other

If known, name specific material (color of granite, marble, etc.) Cannon Carriage

Material of the Sculpture ___ Stone ___ Concrete ___ Metal ___ Other Is it hollow or solid? _____

If known, name specific material (color of granite, marble, etc.) _____

For Historic Marker or Plaque:

Material of Plaque or Historical Marker / Tablet = _____

For Cannons with/without monument:Material of Cannon = _____ Bronze Iron _____ Type of Cannon (if known) 3 inch Ordinance RifleRifled YES _____ NOMarkings: Muzzle T.P.S.L. No. 272 PICo 1862 816 lbs Base Ring/Breech USLeft Trunion UNK Right Trunion UNKIs inert ammunition a part of the Memorial? _____ Yes No[For camp/department monuments officer's use: Cannon on list of known ordnance] Yes _____ No**For Other Memorials:** (flag pole, G.A.R. buildings, stained glass windows, etc.)

What best describes the memorial

Materials of the Memorial

Complete for All Memorials**Approximate Dimensions** (indicate unit of measure) - taken from tallest / widest points4' _____ Height 4 1/2" Width 6' Depth or _____ Diameter

For Memorials with multiple Sculptures, please record this information on a separate sheet of paper for each statue (service, pose, etc) and attach to this form. Please describe the "pose" of each statue and any weapons/implements involved (in case your photos become separated from this form). Thank you!

Markings/Inscriptions (on stone-work / metal-work of monument, base, sculpture)

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

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

NO TEXT -- ALSO UNKNOWN IF CANNON HAS BEEN REPLACED IN A PUBLIC SETTING

Environmental Setting

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

Type of Location

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

General Vicinity

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

Immediate Locale (check as many as may apply)

Industrial Commercial Street/Roadside within 20 feet Tree Covered (overhanging branches)
 Protected from the elements (canopy or enclosure, indoors) Protected from the public (fence or other barrier)

Any other significant environmental factor In 2015 reported as being removed for repairs (most likely to the cannon carriage).

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

Supplemental Background Information

In addition to your on-site survey, any additional information you can provide on the described Memorial will be welcomed. Please label each account with its source (author, title, publisher, date, pages). Topics include any reference to the points listed on this questionnaire, plus any previous conservation treatments - or efforts to raise money for treatment.

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

Thank you.

Inspector Identification _____ Date of On-site Survey 6 Sept 2020
 Your Name Walt Busch & Brian Smarker
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____
 Telephone () _____ E-Mail _____

Are you a member of the Allied Orders of the G.A.R.? If so, which one?

Walt - US Grant Camp 68 MO SUVCW & Brian Smarker - Westport Camp 64 MO SUVCW

Please send this completed form to:

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

Thank you for your help, and attention to detail.

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

|

Civil War Gun

Laverne Smithson <stanberryadmin@jagtec.net>

Mon 7/25/2022 8:38 AM

To: webusch@hotmail.com [REDACTED]

Walt,

The Civil War canon you speak of, is actually a rifle. It has been completely restored and is back in the City Park, and has been for several years now. The location is just South of the original spot, under a new shelter, made from raw timber and built to look period correct. The structure is lighted and looks beautiful during the winter time when our community lights the park for Christmas.

Thank you for your concern. If you need any other information, please feel free to ask.

Laverne Smithson, City Administrator
City of Stanberry
130 W. First St.,
Stanberry, Mo 64489
admin@stanberrymo.com
660-783-2725

Where the Cannon is suppose to be



Cannon in Stanberry City Park to be Restored

STANBERRY, MO — Numerous members of the Raymond Sager American Legion Post #260 approached the Stanberry City Council with questions about the removal of a historic cannon recently removed from the city park for repairs. Legion post members reviewed the cannon history and then expressed interest and concern that the cannon be properly restored and placed in a secure spot to prevent vandalism. Legion members also offered funds to restore

Cannon, part of town's heritage, finds renewal



Ken Newton | St. Joseph News-Press

Lloyd Poff, a resident of Stanberry, Mo., and commander of American Legion Post 260 there, led the effort to restore a Civil War-era cannon that has resided in the town's park for more than a century.



Posted: Thursday, July 16, 2015 6:00 am

Cannon, part of town's heritage, finds renewal By Ken Newton St. Joseph News-Press | 0 comments

Lloyd Poff did not know about that, though. Not as a child when he played on the cannon — technically, a Griffen Gun, he points out — at the city park in Stanberry, Mo.

The Civil War-era ordnance resided there for more than a century, part of the community's heritage, a civic fixture that people saw and then took for granted seeing.

The cannon, with its 816-pound barrel, fell into disrepair and eventually became unsafe to display in a public space.

"It's heartbreaking to see something like that, that you've always known as a kid, just see it deteriorate to where they couldn't even have it in the park," Mr. Poff said.

So he decided to do something about it. Always good with his hands, skilled with wood tools and adept with a welding torch, he became a cannon restorer.

Mr. Poff has worked as a cabinet maker and furniture builder. He has done concrete work and laid blocks.

With the Air National Guard, he served as an airframe mechanic for C-130s, including overseas in Desert Storm.

Rebuilding a cannon made a century and a half before? That took some thinking.

And some research. He learned that the cannon, known as a three-inch ordnance rifle, had been the creation of an inventor named John Griffen. The Union Army would buy at least 1,400 of these artillery weapons from the Phoenixville, Pa., manufacturing facility.

This particular one was number 272, according to an imprint on the muzzle. Others can be found on display at the battlefield at Gettysburg.

Mr. Poff said the cannon came from the New York Arsenal, by way of Fort Leavenworth, in May 1897. The Grand Army of the Republic Marion Post 119 in Stanberry accepted delivery. He speculated that Post 119 probably had no property, so the ordnance got displayed in the town's centerpiece park.

There, it would attract the attention of generations and the ravages of decay.

"I was willing to spend the time to do it," said Mr. Poff, commander of the local American Legion Post 260. "My great-grandfather was a Civil War veteran and he escaped from Andersonville (prison) and made it out alive. That's another thing that makes it close to my heart."

He contacted people in Phoenixville, where a museum now celebrates the iron works. Folks there sent along plans for the carriage. He set up a fund at the local bank for donations. He made an outbuilding on his property the epicenter for the restoration.

"I knew he wanted to do it so bad," his wife, Judy, said. "We had to let some of our stuff go because it just took so much time. But it was worth it."

From Ohio, he ordered white oak, the strong lumber used to make the original Griffen Gun. Authenticity seemed essential to the project, Mr. Poff said.

"I wanted to put it as close as I could to the way it was built originally," he explained.

Bill Steinhausen, also of Stanberry, would lend a hand, along with his brother Don, owner of Steiny's Machine Shop, which fabricated some of the parts.

The chest-high and iron-encased wheels that would bear this heavy armament had to be commissioned. "The wheels were more than I wanted to take on, because that's an art," Mr. Poff said.

After almost two years of work, he unveiled the nearly restored cannon (a few fine points to touch up) at the town's Fourth of July celebration.

Stanberry officials hope to put the cannon back in the park once a shelter has been erected to cover it. Two coats of primer and three coats of finish paint will only last so long against the elements.

Mr. Poff reflects on why a small-town cannon represents bigger things.

"I would like to think when this is displayed in the park, when the young kids read about this, that they will think about what happened in this country and how we got to be a free nation," he said. "I hope they'll look at that and think about all the blood that has been shed for our freedom."

Ken Newton can be reached at [REDACTED] Follow him on Twitter: [REDACTED]

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From 1915 Postcard