

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:
[Community sponsored artwork](#)

Original Dedication Date Fall 2018 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 Parking Lot
Main & 8th GPS Coordinates N43.13768 W93.37895
City/Village &/or Township Clear Lake
County Cerro Gordo State IA Zip Code 50428

The front of the Memorial faces: North South East West

Government Body, Agency, or Individual Owner

Name City of Clear Lake
Dept./Div. _____
Street Address 15 N 6th St. P.O. Box 185
City Clear Lake State IA Zip Code 50428
Contact Person _____ Telephone (641) 357-5267 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.) _____

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 = 1) a big rock 2) Metal post with metal text plaque atop _____

For Cannons with/without monument:

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

Rifled ____ YES ____ NO

Markings: Muzzle _____ Base Ring/Breech _____

Left Trunion _____ Right Trunion _____

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

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

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

What best describes the memorial [Painted Art with Accompanying Informational Sign](#)

Materials of the Memorial

Complete for All Memorials

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

[See Below Page 4](#) Height [See Below](#) Width [See Below](#) 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.

[SEE PICTURES](#)

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 _____

[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 4 October 2021
 Your Name Walt Busch
 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?

[US Grant Camp 68 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.

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

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

The Memorial is *currently* located at:

Street/Road address or site location Freedom Rock Park -- 8th & Main

GPS Coordinates N43.13768 W93.37895

City/Village and/or Township Clear Lake

County Cerro Gordo

State IA

Zip Code 50428

TEXT

The Cerro Gordo Country Freedom rock is located at the corner of Main and 8th Streets. Completed in fall 2018, the 16-ton Freedom Rock pays tribute to Captain Henry Irving Smith, who was the only soldier from Cerro Gordo County to earn the Congressional Medal of Honor. The Civil War hero was awarded the high honor in 1865.

The rock was painted by artist, Iowa native Ray Michael Sorensen II, better known as "Bubba". The work is one of more than 70 rocks planned in each of Iowa's 99 counties.

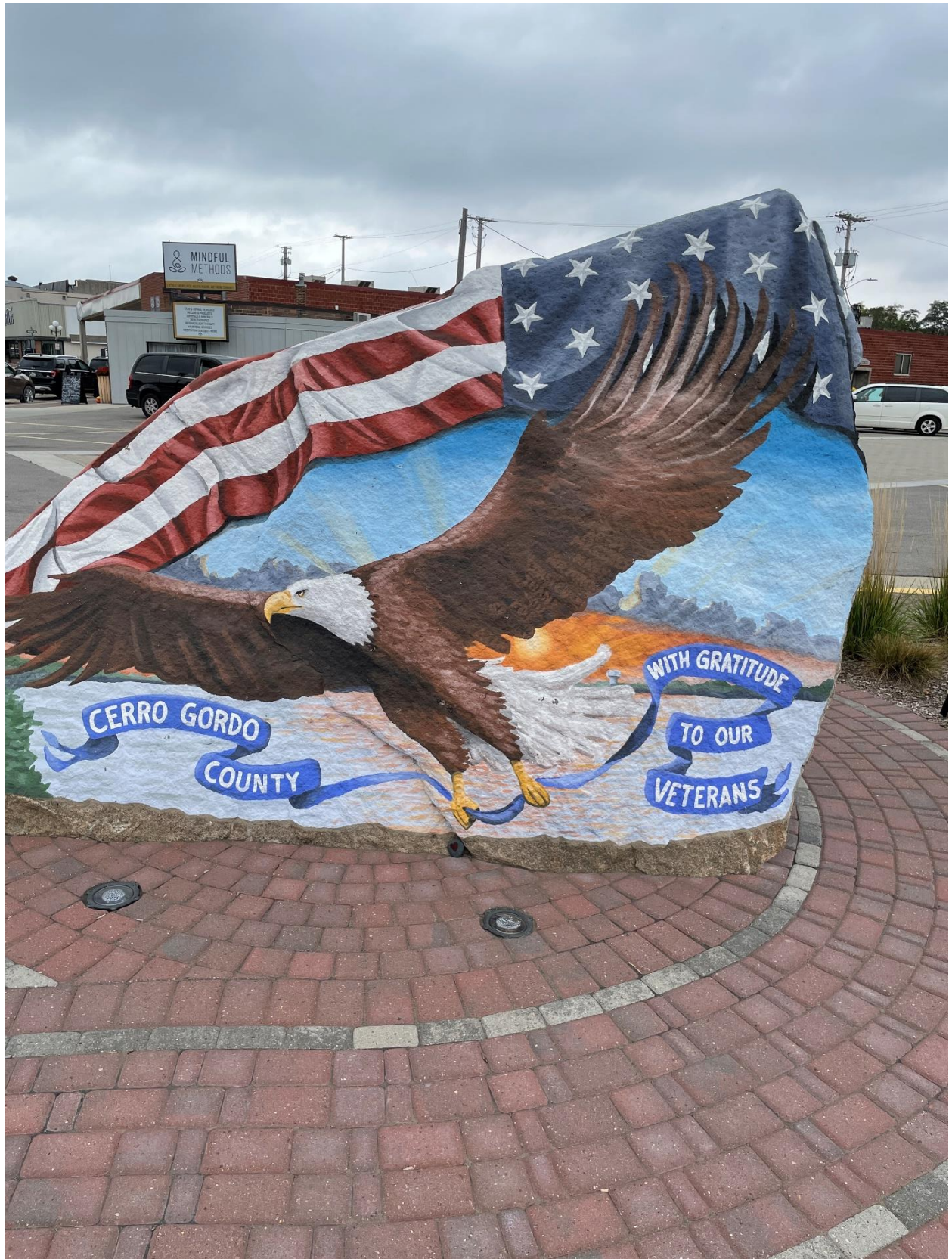
Plaque (Informational Marker) size is 3 1/2' high by 18" wide by 12" deep

16 ton rock is about 5' high by 20 feet long by 4 feet deep

Inspector's Name Walter Busch

Date 4 Oct 2021

N43*8'15.17" W93*22'44.64" Main Ave & No 8th, Clear Lake IA 50428











MEDAL OF HONOR
RECIPIENT
HENRY I. SMITH

The Clear Lake
Prison Ranks
They Built remember!
S.M. Hoops



The Clear Lake
FREEDOM ROCK
by Bette Sorenson
© All Images



The Clear Lake
FREEDOM ROCK ©
RAY Bubbi Sorensen II
© All Images

"Captain Henry Irving Smith"

May 4, 1840 – November 12, 1910

Captain Henry Irving Smith was born May 4, 1840 in Nottingham, England. After his father's death in 1847, Henry and his Mother came to North America. In 1854 the family moved to Cerro Gordo County, traveling in a prairie schooner drawn by a team of oxen.

At the age of 21, Smith enlisted in Company B, 7th Iowa Volunteers, July 8, 1861. He was the first man to enlist from Cerro Gordo County. He took six men from his neighborhood with him and they were mustered into service at Burlington, Iowa. They served under Ulysses S. Grant at Shiloh. Smith participated in 26 important engagements, including being present at Grant's first battle of Belmont, Missouri. Smith was wounded in that battle, and once again in the fall of 1862. After recuperating at Belmont he returned to his regiment on the fighting line. For valor in the face of the enemy, Smith was promoted to the rank of Captain and was awarded the Civil War Congressional Medal of Honor on March 15, 1865.

This artist's depiction on the Cerro Gordo County Freedom Rock is one of the many heroic tributes to Smith. Smith's company attempted to construct a pontoon bridge over a portion of the flooded Black River in North Carolina. The river was held by Confederate troops. In the midst of the struggle with the rebel defenders, one of his soldiers was swept away by the current. Smith threw off his coat and sword and swam to the soldier's rescue, bringing him ashore and continuing his mission. Smith also commanded his company during the famous "March to the Sea."

Captain Smith accepted a veteran's furlough, visited home, then returned to the field and served to the end of the war, being mustered out July 14, 1865 in Louisville, Kentucky.

Upon his return home, Captain Smith spent a year in farming, but was not in physical condition that would enable him to stand hard labor. He was elected as treasurer of Cerro Gordo County in 1869 and made Mason City his home. In 1873, Smith engaged in the insurance business with J.B.W. Montague and shortly thereafter they purchased the Cerro Gordo Bank, which they operated for several years. Later, the two men organized the First National Bank, of which Smith served as President for 20 years.

No man was more highly esteemed in the community, not only for his service in the war, but his steadfast good citizenship and high character.

Captain Henry Smith passed on November 12, 1910. His wife, Delight Smith, passed on March 9, 1924. They are interred at Elmwood St. Joseph Cemetery, Mason City, Iowa.



"Captain Henry Irving Smith"

May 4, 1840 - November 12, 1916

Captain Henry Irving Smith was born May 4, 1840 in Warrington, England. After his father's death in 1847, Henry and his mother came to North America. In 1854 the family moved to Cerro Smith County, becoming a prairie schooner drawn by a mule. At the age of 20, Smith enlisted in Company B, 7th Iowa Volunteers, July 8, 1861. He was the first man to enlist from Cerro Smith County. He took his men from his employment with them and they were mustered into service at Burlington, Iowa. They served under Major G. Cassel & Smith. Smith participated in 28 important engagements, including being present at Grant's Battle of Belmont, Missouri. Smith was wounded in that battle, and soon again in the fall of 1862. After recuperating at Camp and was awarded the Civil War Congressional Medal of Honor on March 19, 1863. This article is significant on the Cerro Smith County Freedom Rock is one of the many heroic tributes to Smith. Smith's company attempted to construct a pontoon bridge over a portion of the flooded Black River in North Carolina. The river was held by Confederate troops. In the midst of the struggle with the rebel defenders, one of his soldiers was swept away by the current. Smith threw all his coat and sword and swam to the soldier's rescue, bringing him ashore and continuing his mission. Smith also commanded his company during the famous "March to the Sea" being mustered out July 14, 1865 at Louisville, Kentucky. Captain Smith accepted a veteran's furlough, visited home, then returned to the field and served to the end of the war, until his return home. Captain Smith spent a year in farming, but was not in physical condition that would enable him to engage in the insurance business with B. M. Mowbray and shortly thereafter they purchased the Cerro Smith Bank, which they operated for several years. Later, the two men organized the First National Bank, of which Smith served as President for 20 years. He was one more highly esteemed in the community, not only for his service in the war, but his steadfast good citizenship and high character. Captain Henry Smith passed on November 12, 1916. His wife, Delight Smith, passed on March 9, 1924. They are interred at Elmwood St. Avenue Cemetery, Mason City, Iowa.



see & do / landmarks



Cerro Gordo County Freedom Rock 8th Street & Main Avenue

Clear Lake is home to the Cerro Gordo County Freedom Rock, located at the corner of Main Avenue and 8th Street. The Freedom Rock movement was launched in 2013 by artist Ray "Bubba" Sorensen. As a 19-year-old Sorensen was so moved by the Academy Award winning film "Saving Private Ryan," that he painted a rock outside of his hometown of Menlo, Iowa. His mural was defaced with graffiti, but veterans had so appreciated the work they asked him to repaint it. He agreed to paint a different scene on the rock and has continued to do so each May for the past 20-plus years as his own personal gift to veterans. He now has a goal to paint Freedom Rocks in all 99 Iowa counties. Nearly 80 rocks have been completed to date and he is expanding his work to other states. The flag is always a primary feature of each Freedom Rock, representing all veterans, as well as all Americans. An eagle is another standard piece of each rock.

The Cerro Gordo County Freedom Rock depicts the service of Henry Irving Smith, the first man to enlist from Cerro Gordo County for the Civil War. Smith was awarded the Civil War Congressional Medal of Honor after saving one of his soldiers who was swept away by the floodwaters of the confederate-controlled Black River North Carolina.

Paint used on a portion of the local Freedom Rock also contains veterans' ashes. The landscaped area includes benches and historical information.



The Island

In 1971, Mrs. Esther Woodford Ashland donated "the Island," located about 250-feet off the south shore of Clear Lake, to the State of Iowa. The Island had been in the Woodford family since 1897. In early days, the 2.9-acre island featured one of the first strictly resort hotels, built in 1870 and known as The Island House. Another building contained a bowling alley and billiard hall. Fire destroyed the hotel, the only commercial venture to be on the property. The deed presented to the State of Iowa stated the Island must be maintained in its natural state. Visitors may explore.





Historical Markers

Clear Lake City Park, downtown

The story of Clear Lake soldiers who served during the Civil War is told through a unique display at the west edge of City Park. A granite stone was placed in memory of Lt. Tom Howard, who died in the Battle of Pleasant Hill in Louisiana on April 9, 1864, and the G.A.R. Post of Clear Lake who served during the Civil War. Local high school students worked with a leading scholar on the Battle of Pleasant Hill to present and share local stories from the battle. In the center of the park, wayside signs in the gazebo celebrate musical history. John Kopecky was a local music teacher and the director of the Clear Lake Municipal Band for 28 years. He was among the professional musicians who came to Clear Lake to play summer concerts starting in 1904. Kopecky is credited with starting the North Iowa Band Festival in 1932. He also organized, directed and nurtured a Clear Lake Drum and Bugle Corps—at the time considered to be the youngest such group in the nation.



Clear Lake Public Library History Room 112 N. 4th Street

If you are curious about Clear Lake History, visit the Clear Lake Public Library's History Room. The history collection contains many documents and photos that record Clear Lake's unique past. Contact the library at 641-357-6133 or clplib@cltel.net for history room hours. Requests for appointments at least one day in advance are appreciated to ensure staffing.



Veteran's Memorial

219 Main Avenue

In May 2017 Clear Lake V.F.W. Post 4868 members decided to raise funds and create a memorial for veterans outside the Post. Membership unanimously supported the idea of facing two blank brick walls on the exterior of the post with black marble to display the names of local veterans, both living and deceased. The dream was realized two years later and now more than 500 names appear on the walls. In 2021, work on the courtyard outside the post will continue and more names will be added.