

Flower Girl

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:

Gen James A. Williamson Circle #54 Ladies of the GAR

Original Dedication Date May 30, 1907 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 Woodland Cemetery
2019 Woodland Avenue GPS Coordinates 41.59000 -93.645333
 City/Village &/or Township Des Moines
 County Polk State Iowa Zip Code 50312

The front of the Memorial faces: ☐ North ☐ South ☐ East ☒ West

Government Body, Agency, or Individual Owner

Name City of Des Moines
 Dept./Div. Park and Recreation
 Street Address 1551 E. MLK, Jr. Parkway
 City Des Moines State Iowa Zip Code 50317
 Contact Person _____ Telephone (515) 248-6320 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.) gray granite

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) _____ 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 _____

Materials of the Memorial _____

Complete for All Memorials**Approximate Dimensions** (indicate unit of measure) - taken from tallest / widest points

8" Height 30" Width 30" Depth or _____ Diameter

The flower girl on top is 32"

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 photos. Inscriptions on east and west. It appears the east inscription was intended for WWI soldiers. The flower girl had to be replaced about 2000 and we believe it to be concrete. It needs repainting based on inspection Oct-17-2016. "Soldiers" and "Sailors" are inscribed on north and south sides.

also see attachments for interesting history of this monument.

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

Oct. 17, 2016

Your Name Tom Gaard

State

il

gaardt@aol.com

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

SUVCW Greenville Dodge Camp #75

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.

Department of Iowa - Civil War Monuments

Polk County - Des Moines

Flower Girl Monument Woodland

According to Woodland Cemetery historian Gerald LeBlanc, the first Decoration Day was in Des Moines in 1868. The parade was led by 12 flower girls dressed in white who went to the south GAR section at Woodland and laid flowers at the tombstones of fallen Civil War soldiers. This tradition continued, and many years later, older soldiers wanted to erect a monument that included the flower girls. This occurred on Memorial Day, 1907 with an 8 foot monument. The original name was the Monument to the Unknown Dead but is best known today as the Flower Girl Monument. The Flower Girl at the top had deteriorated and had to be replaced about 2000. This is in the east GAR section of Woodland. Photos taken 10/19/16. The final image, thanks to Ron Rittel, is the newspaper article with a photo of grandchildren of CW Veterans who were to decorate the Monument.







