

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.)

Note: try to record items separately. Cannons near monuments should be recorded & photographed separately, etc. Thank you.

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:

Congress

Original Dedication Date 27 May 1915 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

Intersection of Chapman Ave and Marion Rd in the Marion National

The Memorial is *currently* located at: Cemetery

Street/Road address or site location 1700 E 38th St GPS Coordinates 40.520654 N 85.629001 W

City/Village &/or Township Marion

County Grant State IN Zip Code 46953

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

Government Body, Agency, or Individual Owner

Name Marion National Cemetery

Dept./Div. _____

Street Address 1700 E 38th St

City Marion State IN Zip Code 46953

Contact Person _____ Telephone (765) 674-0284 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.) bronze

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 points15.5'  Height 12'  Width 9'  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.

{west facing base}

IN MEMORY OF / THE MEN WHO OFFERED / THEIR LIVES / IN SERVICE / OF / THEIR COUNTRY

{east facing base}

MARION BRANCH / NATIONAL MILITARY HOME / INDIANA / ACT OF CONGRESS / JULY 28, 1888

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*]

Submission of this form requires at least one type of identification so that you may be contacted regarding the information on this form. This information will most likely be in the public domain. Your name is required; please include one (or more) pieces of contact information.

1. If a member of an Allied Order, the name of your camp, auxiliary, tent, circle or corps; along with your department;
2. Physical Address;
3. Phone Number
4. E-Mail address.

By submitting this, you are allowing the posting of this information on the internet.

Inspector Identification _____ Date of On-site Survey 15 January A.D. 2026 
 Your Name Sumner G. Hunnewell 
 Address 2030 San Pedro Dr. 
 City Arnold  State MO  Zip Code 63010 
 Telephone () _____ E-Mail _____

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

SUVCW, Dept. of Missouri, Gen. Thomas C. Fletcher Camp #47 / US Grant Camp #68

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. Photographs & GPS Co-ordinates are very much desired.

Pages 4 & 5 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*.

Please mail (or e-mail pdf, and picture files) to:

Walt Busch, PDC, Chair, 1240 Konert Valley Dr., Fenton, MO 63026, cwmemorials@suvchw.org (314) 630-8407

Thank you for your help, and attention to detail.

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War - Civil War Memorials Committee.

>This form may be photocopied.<

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SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR
CIVIL WAR MEMORIAL ASSESSMENT FORM
ADDENDUM – MONUMENT'S CONDITION

Completion of this form is required when requesting grant money using form CWM-62 *SUVCW Memorial Grant Application Form and Instructions*.

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.

	Sculpture	Base
If hollow, is the internal support unstable/exposed? (Look for signs of exterior rust)	_____	_____
Any evidence of structural instability? (Look for cracked joints, missing mortar or caulking or plant growth)	_____	_____
Any broken or missing parts? (Look for elements (i.e., sword, musket, hands, arms, etc. - missing due to vandalism, fluctuating weather conditions, etc.)	_____	_____
Any cracks, splits, breaks or holes? (Also look for signs of uneven stress & weakness in the material)	_____	_____

Surface Appearance (check as many as may apply)

	Sculpture	Base
Black crusting	_____	_____
White crusting	_____	_____
Etched, pitted, or otherwise corroded (on metal)	_____	_____
Metallic staining (run-off from copper, iron, etc.)	_____	_____
Organic growth (moss, algae, lichen or vines)	_____	_____
Chalky or powdery stone	_____	_____
Granular eroding of stone	_____	_____
Spalling of stone (surface splitting off)	_____	_____
Droppings (bird, animal, insect remains)	_____	_____
Other (e.g., spray paint graffiti) - Please describe...	_____	_____

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

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

Inspector's Name Sumner G. Hunnewell Date 16 January A.D. 2026



IN MEMORY OF
THE MEN WHO OFFERED
THEIR LIVES
IN DEFENSE
OF
THEIR COUNTRY



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THEIR COUNTRY



IN MEMORY OF
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IN DEFENSE
OF
THEIR COUNTRY

Do Not Enter





MARION BRANCH
NATIONAL MILITARY HOME
INDIANA
ACT OF CONGRESS JULY 23, 1888



MARION BRANCH
NATIONAL MILITARY HOME
INDIANA

ACT OF CONGRESS JULY 22, 1952



MARION BRANCH
NATIONAL MILITARY HOME
INDIANA
ACT OF CONGRESS JULY 28, 1933









MONUMENT TO BE ERECTED TO MEMORY OF VETERANS

Replica of Snodgrass Hill Shaft to Be Placed in Marion Cemetery—Con- tract Is Awarded.

[Special to The Indianapolis News]

MARION, Ind., March 2.—The contract has been awarded to a Boston firm for the erection of a monument in the cemetery of the Marion branch, National Military home, at a cost of approximately \$15,000. The monument is to be inscribed "To the memory of the men who offered their lives in defense of their country." The expense is to be met by money from the post fund of the local Soldiers' home, the board of managers of the National Military homes having consented to the appropriation.

The monument is to be a replica of the one marking Snodgrass hill of the Chickamauga battlefield. The monument will stand fifteen feet and six inches high. The base will be 12x9 feet and the granite part of the monument will extend to a height of eight feet. This will be surmounted by a bronze group, 7½ feet high. The group will include a standard bearer and two soldiers, one representing a wounded man and the other an alert man, watching for an enemy.

The contract for the monument calls for its completion by May 30, but the dedication ceremonies may be held at a later date. George W. Steele, governor of the Marion Soldiers' home, says invitations will be issued to prominent war veterans and state and national officials to attend the dedication.

\$10,000 MONUMENT ERECTED AT MARION BRANCH SOLDIERS' HOME



SHAFT OF VERMONT GRANITE IN CEMETERY TO HONOR DEAD SOLDIERS AND SAILORS.

[Special to The Indianapolis News]

MARION, Ind., May 27.—Many of the civil war veterans who come to Marion this week for the encampment were interested in the new monument at the National Military Home there, which will be dedicated some time soon. The monument was built by an act of the congress, at a cost of \$10,000, and bears the inscription, "In Memory of the Men Who Offered Their Lives in Defense of Their Country."

The monument is of Vermont granite, with bronze figures representing the army and the navy. The monument stands in the cemetery at the home which always will be used as a burial ground, even if permanent peace should cause the abandonment of the home.

The Marion branch of the National Military Home was authorized by an act of the congress in 1888. The original capacity of the home was 2,500, but the advanced age of the inmates has caused more and more space to be taken over by hospital buildings, until now only about 1,500 veterans can be taken care of. The average age of the civil war veterans at the home is more than seventy and deaths are numerous. At times there is one death a day at the home. There are now 2,285 graves in the cemetery.

Marion is site of one of United States' 135 national cemeteries

MARION — If you make a trip to Marion National Cemetery today, where some 7,000 veterans are buried from America's conflicts stretching back to the Civil War, you'll notice that every grave site has a small American flag near it.

That's because volunteers from the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Veterans of Foreign Wars and the American Legion showed up at the cemetery early Saturday morning to place the flags at each grave site.

The Memorial Day weekend will continue Monday with the traditional 11 a.m. ceremony. The program will include a Memorial Day message and placing of wreaths followed by lowering the flag and taps. The Indiana Guard Reserves will assist in this national salute to veterans.

The Marion cemetery, one of 135 national cemeteries, is part of the National Cemetery Association of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Since this cemetery was established in 1890, it mostly has been in the shadow of its next-door neighbor, variously referred to over the years by those in Marion as the Old Soldiers' Home or the VA Hospital and, today, by its official title — Northern Indiana Health Care System, Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

Marion got the medical center and cemetery because a local attorney and legislator, Col. George W. Steele, convinced Congress to establish a soldiers' home in Grant County. Steele later became the governor of the Oklahoma Territory.

The Marion soldiers' home was one of first six opened in the United States in the years after the Civil War. Thirty years later, in 1920, the soldiers' home officially became known as the Marion Sanatorium, but it was never called that locally.

When I was a boy growing up in Marion, I made the assumption that the cemetery was there only to provide graves when veterans



FINAL RESTING PLACE: Justin H. Chapman, the first governor of Marion National Soldiers' Home (now the Veterans Affairs Medical Center) is buried, along with his wife Kate, in this fenced grave at Marion National Cemetery. He was discharged from the Army in 1868 and served in Marion from 1891 until his death in 1904.

at the hospital died. I was right about the very early years of the hospital — long before I was born. I was wrong about the more recent past.

Some of those buried there did, indeed, die while they were at the Marion medical center. But the fact is that today any honorably discharged veteran can be buried without cost in any of the 135 national cemeteries with available space. One hundred nineteen of them are maintained by the National Cemetery Association, with most of the others at battlefield sites maintained by the park service. Burial includes opening and closing of the grave, a headstone or marker and burial flag.

Director Bobby A. Moton, who has been at the Marion cemetery since 1993, said he frequently received a call from a relative who thought a veteran who had been at the Marion medical center certainly must be buried in the cemetery there.

"That's possible but not always true," he said.

Not everyone comes to see a loved one's grave when the cemetery office is open 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday. To help in

finding graves, a "grave locator" booklet can be found in a box outside the office door.

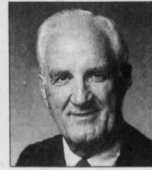
Six more VA cemeteries are to be created in the United States in the immediate years ahead, including those in Atlanta, Detroit, Miami, Sacramento, Pittsburgh and Oklahoma City.

Moton said it was expected the Marion burial grounds of nearly 40 acres would be filled by the year 2045 at the present rate of around five burials a week.

"Then we will probably get more land expansion," Moton said.

"That will likely be the land where these old buildings are now at the hospital since the hospital has all been moved up to the front now [toward Lincoln Boulevard]. So that land will come to the cemetery."

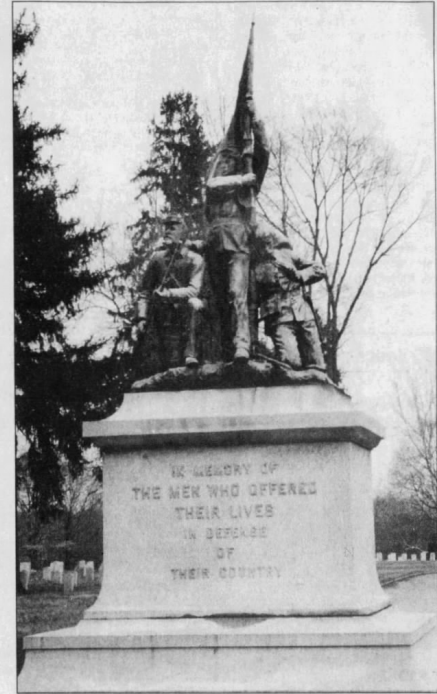
Three holders of the Medal of Honor are buried here, including two from the Civil War and one from "the campaigns and engagements with Apaches" during the winter of 1872-73. The only one who served with an Indiana military group, the 74th Indiana Infantry, was Lt. Jeremiah Kuder, who captured the flag of the 8th and 9th Arkansas Infantry at



Earl **CONN**



The Star Press



SILENT CIRCLE MONUMENT: Three militiamen with rifles and flag stand guard is this monument dedicated July 23, 1888.

Jonesboro, Ga., Sept. 1, 1864.

Next week: What about your face in the new state museum?

Correction: Reader James E. Park thought the Purdue Bell Tower, referred to in a recent column about a Purdue campus visit, was built after his graduation in 1957. He is right. It was built in 1995, not 1955.

Earl Conn's *Traveling Indiana* appears each Sunday in *The Star Press*. If you have a favorite Hoosier site you would like to see featured, contact him at *The Star Press*, P.O. Box 2408, Muncie, Ind. 47307-0408, e-mail earlconn@aol.com or telephone 289-2080.

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