

# 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:

People of New Mexico Territory

## Original Dedication Date 1868

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

Santa Fe Plaza

The Memorial is *currently* located at:

Street/Road address or site location \_\_\_\_\_

63 Lincoln Ave

GPS Coordinates N35.687582839284666,

City/Village &/or Township Santa Fe

W105.93857431534137

County Santa Fe

State NM

Zip Code 87501

The front of the Memorial faces:  North  South  East  West

## Government Body, Agency, or Individual Owner

Name State of New Mexico

Dept./Div. Unk

Street Address Unk

City Unk

State NM

Zip Code Unk

Contact Person Unk

Telephone ( ) Unk

ext \_\_\_\_\_

Is Memorial on the National Register of Historic Places  Yes  No ID # if known \_\_\_\_\_

Unk

## 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.) Sandstone and Marble Tablets

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

\_\_\_\_\_ Height \_\_\_\_\_ Width \_\_\_\_\_ 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)

Unk

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.

ast-facing Panel #1: ERECTED BY THE PEOPLE OF NEW MEXICO THROUGH THEIR LEGISLATURES OF 1866 – 7 – 8.

outh-facing Panel #2: TO THE HEROES OF THE FEDERAL ARMY WHO FELL AT THE BATTLE OF VALVERDE, FOUGH'

est-facing Panel #3: TO THE HEROES OF THE FEDERAL ARMY WHO FELL AT THE BATTLES OF CANON DEL APACH

orth-facing Panel #4: TO THE HEROES WHO HAVE FALLEN IN THE VARIOUS BATTLES WITH SAVAGE INDIANS IN

**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 Deemed a Controversial Monument, Public Damage is 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 April 2023  
Your Name Avery Frantz and Kathy Turner  
Address 28655 N 68th Ave  
City Peoria State AZ Zip Code 85383  
Telephone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail averyfrantz08@gmail.com

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

**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.**

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.

Table with 3 columns: Question, Sculpture, Base. Rows include: If hollow, is the internal support unstable/exposed?; Any evidence of structural instability?; Any broken or missing parts?; Any cracks, splits, breaks or holes?.

Surface Appearance (check as many as may apply)

Table with 3 columns: Question, Sculpture, Base. Rows include: 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... Destroyed

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 Date

# Historical Narrative

## Soldiers' Monument

### Santa Fe Plaza

Santa Fe, New Mexico

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#### I. Identification

**Name of Monument:** Soldiers' Monument (also known as the Civil War Soldiers' Monument)

**Location:** Central Plaza (Santa Fe Plaza), Santa Fe, New Mexico

**Date of Construction:** 1867–1868

**Original Dedication:** 1868

**Material:** Stone obelisk with marble inscription panels

**Height:** Approximately 33 feet

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#### II. Historical Background

The Soldiers' Monument in Santa Fe Plaza was commissioned by the Territorial Legislature of New Mexico following the American Civil War. Construction began with the laying of the cornerstone in October 1867, and the monument was completed and dedicated in 1868. It stands as one of the earliest Civil War memorials erected in the western United States.

The monument was intended to honor Union soldiers who served in the Department of New Mexico during the Civil War, particularly those who fell in engagements within the Territory. Among the battles referenced are the Battle of Valverde (February 21, 1862) and the Battle of Glorieta Pass (March 26–28, 1862), both significant engagements of the New Mexico Campaign.

The New Mexico Campaign was a Confederate effort to seize control of the Southwest, including access to Colorado gold fields and California ports. Union forces, including the 1st New Mexico Volunteer Infantry and Colorado regiments, successfully halted this advance. The Confederate retreat following Glorieta Pass effectively ended major Confederate operations in the Southwest.

The monument also references soldiers who died in engagements with Native American tribes during the territorial period. The inclusion of this language reflected prevailing 19th-century governmental and military perspectives.

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### **III. Physical Description**

The monument was constructed in the form of a tapered stone obelisk set upon a square, tiered base (plinth). Four marble tablets were affixed to the base, each bearing engraved inscriptions.

The principal dedication reads in substance:

“To the heroes of the Federal Army who fell in the various battles with rebel and savage Indians in the Territory of New Mexico.”

Additional panels reference:

- The Battle of Valverde
- The Battle of Glorieta
- Union soldiers who died in defense of the Territory

A time capsule was placed within the monument at the time of construction in 1867. Contents reportedly included contemporary newspapers, legislative journals, and coins.

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### **IV. Subsequent Alterations and Interpretive Developments**

By the late 20th century, the language of the monument became a source of controversy. In 1974, the word “savage” was removed from one of the inscriptions by private action.

In 1973, an interpretive plaque was installed near the monument to provide historical context and acknowledge that the language reflected the attitudes of the 19th century rather than contemporary values.

Despite periodic public debate over relocation or reinterpretation, the monument remained in place in Santa Fe Plaza for more than 150 years.

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### **V. Toppling and Legal Proceedings**

On October 12, 2020 (Indigenous Peoples' Day), during nationwide protests concerning historical monuments, demonstrators toppled the obelisk portion of the Soldiers' Monument. The upper structure was destroyed in the incident.

Following the event, the remaining base was enclosed by the City of Santa Fe pending legal and preservation review.

A preservation lawsuit was subsequently filed asserting that the monument is located within a historic district listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is subject to protections under the New Mexico Prehistoric and Historic Sites Preservation Act.

In December 2024, a state district court ordered the City to remove the enclosure and either restore the monument to its prior condition or proceed in accordance with state historic preservation law.

As of early 2026, the base remains extant, and discussions continue regarding restoration, relocation, or reinterpretation.





Resolution No. 2021-6  
RESOLUTION HOSTING COMMUNITY  
CONVERSATIONS ON SANTA FE'S  
CULTURES, HISTORIES, AND  
RECONCILIATION, AND TRUTH.

WHEREAS, the City of Santa Fe (City) recognizes the political and cultural divisions in the United States at this time and has observed the destruction of the Soldier's Monument (the Obelisk) on the Plaza, the removal of the Don Diego de Vargas statue from Cathedral Park by Executive Order, and the boarding up of the Kit Carson memorial; and

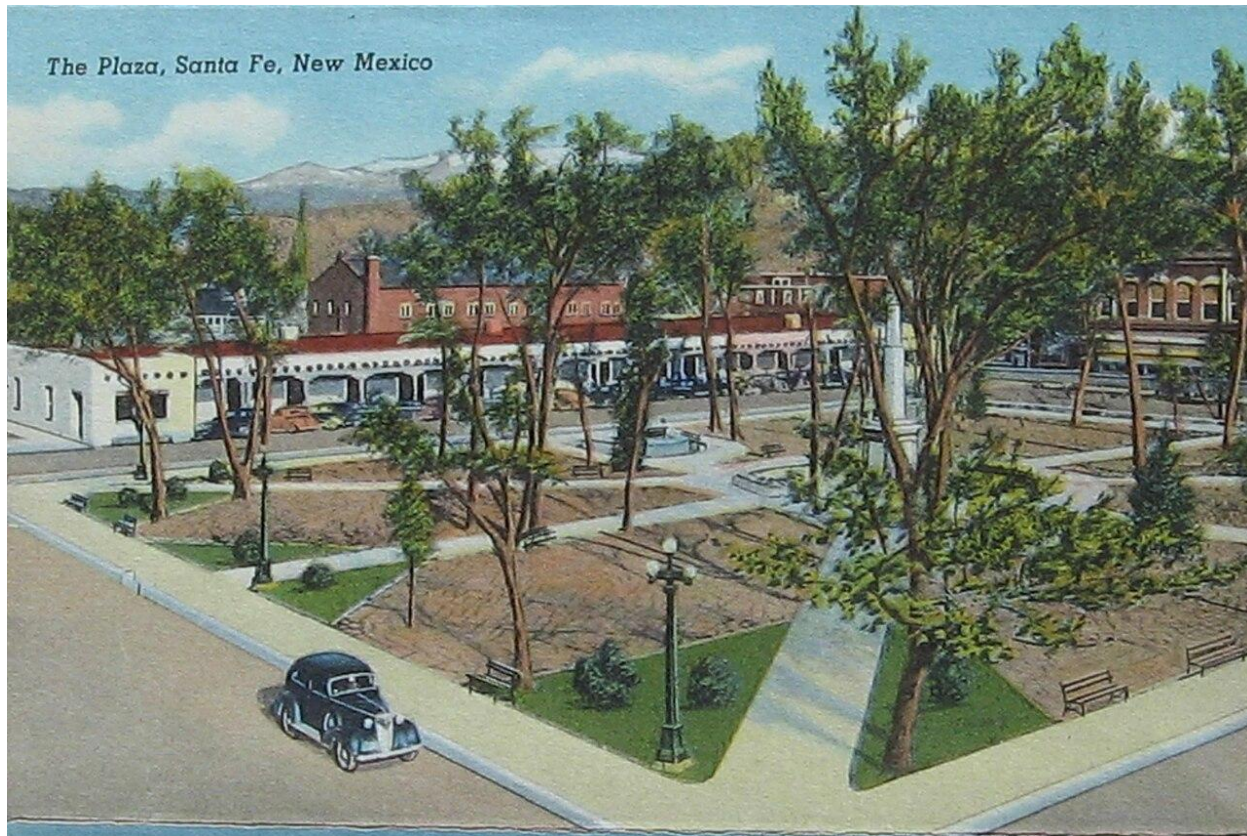
WHEREAS, the City understands there is an urgent call to action by city residents, diverse stakeholders, and the Governing Body to discuss the City's cultural histories and current viewpoints to seek solutions for a future of peace, tolerance, racial equity, social justice, healing, and reconciliation; and

WHEREAS, the City's leadership recognizes the need to create a process for community engagement to encourage people to speak, to be heard, and to listen;

To read the Resolution in full or for additional information, please scan the QR code or visit [www.santafe.gov](http://www.santafe.gov)

Monument texts reflect the character of the times in which they are written and the temper of those who wrote them. This monument was dedicated in 1868 near the close of a period of intense strife which pitted northerner against southerner, Indian against white, Indian against Indian. Thus, we see on this monument, as in other records, the use of such terms as "savage" and "rebel". Attitudes change and prejudices hopefully dissolve.

*The Plaza, Santa Fe, New Mexico*





TO THE HEROES  
OF THE FEDERAL ARMY WHO FELL  
IN THE BATTLE OF CANTON  
MAY 10 1862  
THE NATIONAL SOCIETY OF THE  
SOLDIERS OF 1862  
HEREBY DEDICATED THIS MONUMENT  
MAY 10 1902