

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:

Hecker Family and the German-American Committee (St Louis)

Original Dedication Date 09/10/2025 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

Benton Park

The Memorial is *currently* located at: Wyoming St and Missouri Ave

Street/Road address or site location _____ GPS Coordinates 38.597262 N 90.221.850 W

City/Village &/or Township St Louis City

County St Louis City State MO Zip Code 63118

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

Government Body, Agency, or Individual Owner

Name German-American Committee (St Louis) and St Louis City Parks

Dept./Div. _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Contact Person _____ Telephone () _____ 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:

Aluminum Frame with Copolymer Sign Fave

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

4 feet _____ Height 3 ft _____ Width 2 ft _____ 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*]

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 09/010/2025
 Your Name Walter E Busch, PDC & P-Commander Central Region Allied Orders Assoc
 Address 1240 Konert Valley Dr
 City Fenton State MO Zip Code 63026
 Telephone () _____ E-Mail cwmemorials@suvchw.org

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

US Grant Camp 68 MO-SUVCW, Central Region Allied Orders of the GAR, MOLLUS, Logan Brigade

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.<

©2007-2023 Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, a Corporation

**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 _____ Date _____

Sep 9 2025

38.597262, -90.221850



Illustration of Friedrich Hecker in military uniform, standing with a rifle.

FRIEDRICH HECKER (1811-1881)

A Voice for Liberty

A man of principle, Friedrich Karl Franz Hecker fought for democracy and freedom in both Germany and America. Born in Ulm, Germany, Hecker studied law and became a lawyer. He was elected to the Baden State Assembly, where he made a name for himself as a charismatic and eloquent speaker.

Revering America's Constitution and Bill of Rights, Hecker sought the same ideals for Germany. In March 1848 he made a passionate speech calling for a democratic government, reducing the role of nobility. In April, he led a general armed rebellion against the Baden government.

When the revolt failed, Hecker fled to London, where a change of opinion. Thousands greeted his arrival in New York that October. Traveling west and loved by German-Americans along the way, he settled near St. Louis. In Sumnerfield, Illinois, and quickly won widespread fame for his speeches, writings, and political activity. As a natural leader of the German-American community, he helped form the emerging Republican Party. Like other German political refugees and leaders of the time, he was known as a Forty-Eighter.

During the Civil War, Hecker's opposition to slavery and commitment to democracy led him to enlist at age 50 in the Union Army. Initially serving in the 3rd Missouri Regiment, he saw action in the Camp Jackson Affair. Hecker subsequently rose to the rank of Colonel, commanding first the 1st and then the 2nd Illinois regiments.

While carrying his troops, Hecker was wounded at the Battle of Chancellorsville. He recovered in time to inspire his regiments at Gettysburg. Hecker later commanded the 1st and 2nd Regiments, VI Corps, which supported troops in the Chancellorsville Campaign.



Portrait of Friedrich Hecker in military uniform.

In post-war health, Colonel Hecker was honorably released from the Army in March 1865 and returned to his Illinois home. After the war, he remained an influential international figure, writing and lecturing on peace and democracy. His audience especially loved his impassioned gift of July speeches.

"The Union [of] a giant race with broadly spreading branches, casting a shadow under whose protection human rights and human happiness flourish. These chains for the principle of unity and liberty for all on earth, for the stars and stripes, the symbol of the equality of mankind!"

—Friedrich Hecker
July 1875 Stuttgart, Germany

Hecker is remembered for his noble defense of democracy and his patriotism to two countries: Germany in 1848 and the United States in 1861. These dates are inscribed on the sides of the Benton Park monument, erected by the German-American community the year after Hecker's death to honor his devotion to liberty and the ideals of the United States Constitution and Bill of Rights.



Portrait of Friedrich Hecker in civilian attire.



Photograph of the Benton Park monument.

VISITING HECKER:

Sumnerfield Park, Forest, Illinois: A historical stone monument to the Republic's Forty-Eighters, including Hecker, is located on the grounds of the park. The Forty-Eighters Monument, Benton Park, St. Louis, MO: Located on the grounds of the park, this monument honors the Forty-Eighters.

Hecker Monument at Graceland Cemetery, Chicago: A monument to Hecker is located in Graceland Cemetery, Chicago. Hecker's grave is located in the same cemetery.

Hecker's grave is located in the same cemetery. Hecker's grave is located in the same cemetery. Hecker's grave is located in the same cemetery.

Hecker's grave is located in the same cemetery. Hecker's grave is located in the same cemetery. Hecker's grave is located in the same cemetery.

FURTHER READING:

Hecker, Friedrich. *Hecker's Story: A Life of Liberty*. New York: The Forty-Eighters Library, 1911.

The Forty-Eighters Library is a collection of books and documents that honor the Forty-Eighters.

FRIEDRICH HECKER (1811-1881)

A Voice for Liberty



Hecker at the battle of Kandern, 20 Apr 1848
Friedrich Hecker Papers, Western Historical
Manuscripts, University of MO-STL

A man of principle, Friedrich Karl Franz Hecker fought for democracy and freedom in both Germany and America. Born in Eichtersheim, Germany to an educated and distinguished family, Hecker studied history and earned a law degree in his early twenties. In 1842 he was elected to the Baden State Assembly, where he made a name for himself as a charismatic and eloquent speaker.

Revering America's Constitution and Bill of Rights, Hecker sought the same ideals for Germany. In March 1848 he was a prominent leader calling for a democratic government, reducing the role of nobility. In April, he led a general armed rebellion against the Baden government.

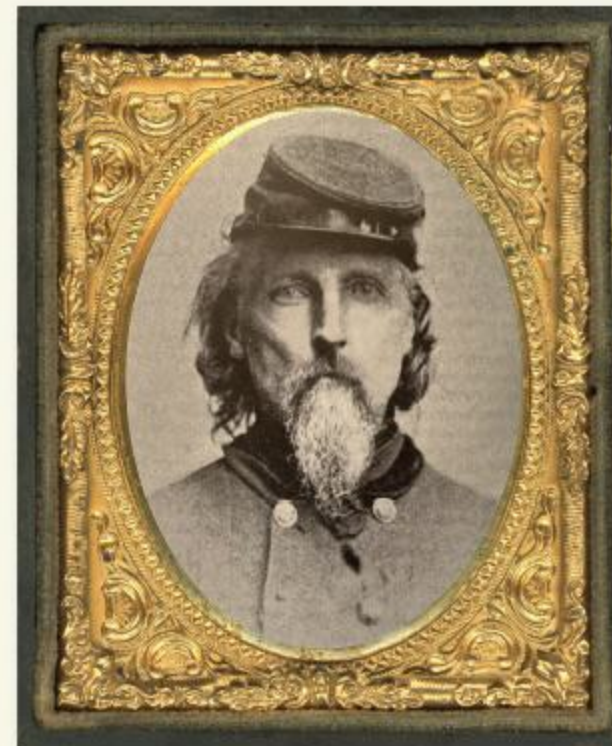
When this revolt failed, Hecker fled to America under a charge of treason. Thousands greeted his arrival in New York that October. Traveling west and feted by German-Americans along the way, he settled near St. Louis, in Summerfield, Illinois, and quickly won widespread fame for his speeches, writings, and political activity. As a national leader of the German-American community, he helped form the emerging Republican Party. Like other German political refugees and former revolutionaries of the time, he was known as a *Forty-Eighter*.

During the Civil War, Hecker's opposition to slavery and commitment to democracy led him to enlist at age 50 in the Union Army. Initially serving in the 3rd Missouri regiment, he saw action in the Camp Jackson Affair. Hecker subsequently rose to the rank of Colonel, commanding first the 24th and then the 82nd Illinois regiments.



Hecker, 1875

While rallying his troops, Hecker was wounded at the Battle of Chancellorsville. He recovered in time to rejoin his regiment at Gettysburg. Hecker later commanded the 3rd Brigade, XI Corps, which supported troops in the Chattanooga Campaign.



Hecker, as a Union Soldier, ca 1861
St. Louis Mercantile Library, University of MO-STL

In poor health, Colonel Hecker was honorably released from the Army in March 1864 and returned to his Illinois farm. After the war, he remained an influential international figure, writing and lecturing on politics and democracy. His audiences especially loved his impassioned 4th of July speeches.

"The Union [is] a giant tree with broadly spreading branches, casting a shadow under whose protection human rights and human happiness flourish. Three cheers for the principle of unity and liberty for all on earth, for the stars and stripes, the symbol of the equality of mankind!"

—Friedrich Hecker
4 July 1873 Stuttgart, Germany

Hecker is remembered for his ardent defense of democracy and his patriotism to two countries: Germany in 1848 and the United States in 1861. These dates are inscribed on the sides of the Benton Park monument, erected by the German-American community the year after Hecker's death to honor his devotion to liberty and the ideals of the United States Constitution and Bill of Rights.



Hecker speaking at the Second Chamber,
Grand Duchy of Baden, ca 1846
Friedrich Hecker Papers, Western Historical
Manuscripts, University of MO-STL



Hecker farmhouse, Summerfield, Illinois

VISITING HECKER:

Summerfield Park Plaque, Summerfield, IL: Mitchell Street entrance by the flag poles.
Summerfield Cemetery, Summerfield, IL: Summerfield South Road, St. Clair County.
Friedrich Hecker Monument, Benton Park, St. Louis, MO: Granite obelisk near intersection of Wyoming and Missouri Streets.
Illinois Monument at Orchard Knob, Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park, Orchard Knob Reservation, Chattanooga, TN: Plaque listing Hecker's Brigade inside the memorial, North Orchard Knob Avenue.

Washington Park Monument, Cincinnati, OH: Marble bust portrait, 1225 Elm Street.
Hecker's Dream, Sculpture, Angelbachtal, Germany: Front of the Friedrich Hecker House, Friedrich-Hecker-Straße 5, 74918.
Hecker Monument, Konstanz, Germany: Majolica relief commemorating Hecker's speeches for recruitment, east side of the Bürgersaal, Stephansplatz 17, Old Town.
For Freedom Monument, Sinsheim, Germany: Granite column celebrating the five most important Sinsheim fighters for democracy, Hauptstraße 92, 74889.

FURTHER READING

Freitag, Sabine. *Friedrich Hecker: Two Lives for Liberty*. St. Louis: St. Louis Mercantile Library, 2006.

This marker was funded through a partnership of local Civil War groups, German-American heritage groups, and members of the Hecker family. Copyright © 2023 by the German American Heritage Society of St. Louis.