NPS Form 10-900
(Oct. 1990)

OMB No. 10024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name SEDGWICK COUNTY MEMORIAL HALL AND SOLDIERS AND SAILORS MONUMENT

other names/site number SOLDIERS AND SAILORS CIVIL WAR MONUMENT

2. Location

street & number 510 NORTH MAIN ☐ not for publication

city or town WICHITA ☐ vicinity

state KANSAS code KS county SEDGWICK code 173 zip code 67203-3907

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Richard D. Pankratz 9-30-98

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

KANSAS STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

Signature of the Keeper — Date of Action

- ☐ entered in the National Register.
  - ☐ See continuation sheet.
- ☐ determined eligible for the National Register
  - ☐ See continuation sheet.
- ☐ determined not eligible for the National Register.
- ☐ removed from the National Register.
- ☐ other, (explain:)

AND SOLDIERS AND SAILORS C[illegible]L WAR MONUMENT

Name of Property

SEDG[illegible]K COUNTY, KANSAS

County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- ☐ private
- ☒ public-local
- ☐ public-State
- ☐ public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- ☒ building(s)
- ☐ district
- ☐ site
- ☐ structure
- ☐ object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1		Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION AND CULTURE: Monument/marker;
Work of art

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION AND CULTURE: Monument/marker;
Work of art

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19th AND 20th CENTURY REVIVALS:
Classical Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE
walls STONE: Granite, marble
roof STONE: Granite
other

Narrative Description
(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

SOLDIERS AND SAILORS CIVIL WAR MONUMENT
Name of Property

SEDGWICK COUNTY, KANSAS
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

☐ **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

☐ **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

☒ **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

☐ **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

☐ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

☐ **B** removed from its original location.

☐ **C** a birthplace or grave.

☐ **D** a cemetery.

☐ **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

☐ **F** a commemorative property.

☐ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance
1912- 1913

Significant Dates
1912- 1913

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Architect/Builder
VIQUESNEY, ERNEST MONROE- Architect
HIBBARD, FREDERICK CLEVELAND- Sculptor
JANSEN, CHRISTIAN- Landscape Architect

Narrative Statement of Significance
(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography
(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
☐ previously listed in the National Register
☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary location of additional data:

☒ State Historic Preservation Office
☐ Other State agency
☐ Federal agency
☐ Local government
☐ University
☐ Other

Name of repository:
KANSAS STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SEDGWICK COUNTY MEMORIAL HALL AND
SOLDIERS AND SAILORS MONUMENT
Name of Property CIVIL WAR MONUMENT

SEDGWICK COUNTY, KANSAS
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property LESS THAN ONE ACRE

UTM References
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	14	646580	4172940
2			
3			
4			

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description
(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification
(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title DORA TIMMERMAN, PRESIDENT

organization FRIENDS OF THE SOLDIERS AND SAILORS CIVIL WAR MONUMENT date JUNE 12, 1998

street & number 66606 MAGILL telephone 316-683-1267

city or town WICHITA state KS zip code 67206

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items
(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name SEDGWICK COUNTY COMMISSION, c/o DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL SERVICES

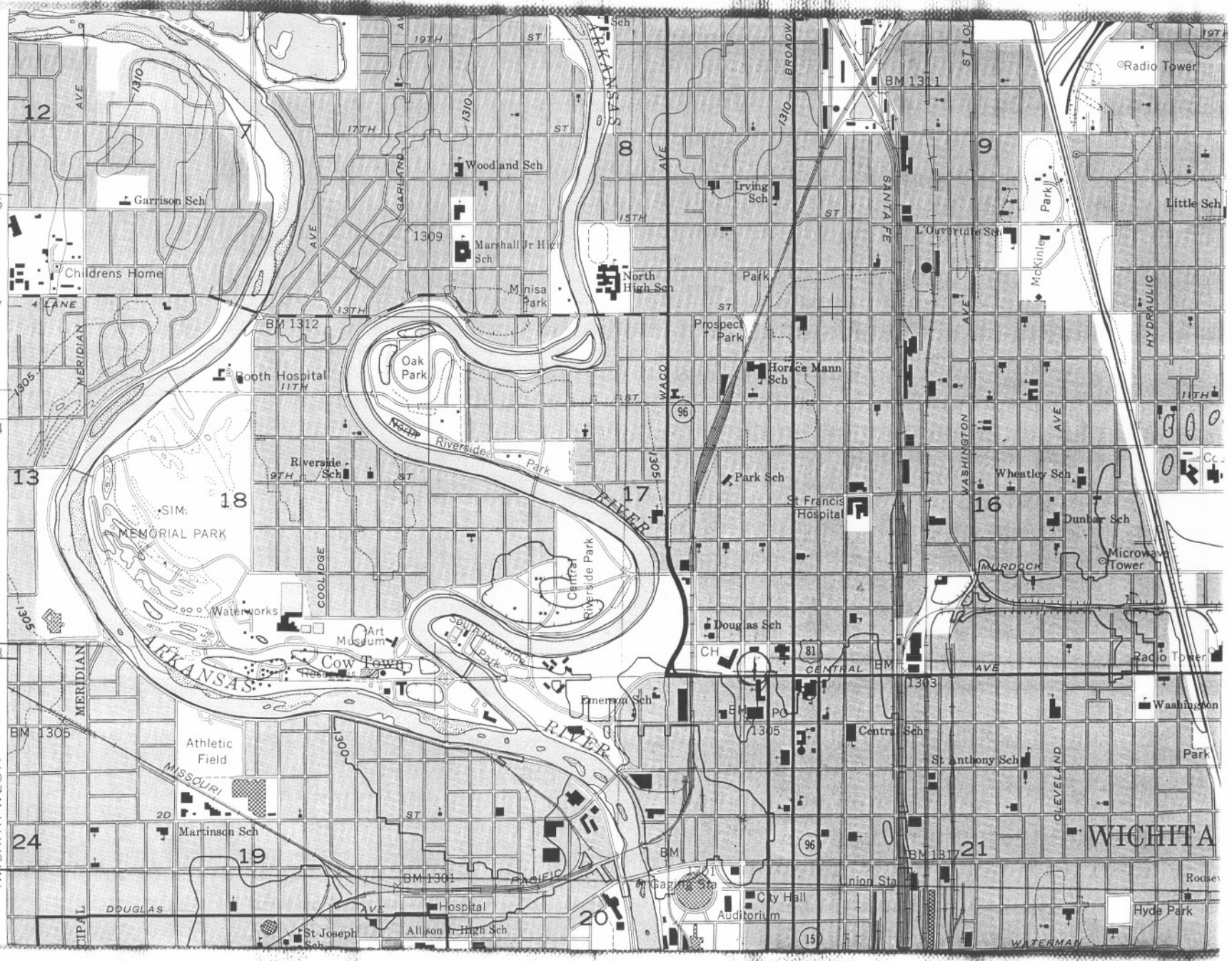
street & number 525 NORTH MAIN telephone 316-383-7451

city or town WICHITA state KANSAS zip code 67203-3759

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

US GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE : 1993 O - 350-416 QL 3


WICHITA EAST QUAD
SOLDIER & SAILORS
MONUMENT
UTM COORDINATES
1 646 580
4172 940
Garrison Sch
Childrens Home
Woodland Sch
Marshall Jr High Sch
Minisa Park
North High Sch
Irving Sch
L'Ouverture Sch
McKinley Park
Little Sch
Radio Tower
Booth Hospital
Oak Park
Prospect Park
Horace Mann Sch
Riverside Sch
Riverside Park
Park Sch
St Francis Hospital
Wheatley Sch
Dunbar Sch
Microwave Tower
SIM MEMORIAL PARK
Waterworks
Art Museum
Cow Town
Central Riverside Park
South Riverside Park
Douglas Sch
Emerson Sch
Central Sch
St Anthony Sch
Washington Park
Athletic Field
Martinson Sch
Hospital
St Joseph Sch
Allison Jr High Sch
City Hall Auditorium
Union Sta
Hyde Park
WICHITA
ARKANSAS RIVER
MISSOURI PACIFIC
BM 1312
BM 1311
BM 1305
BM 1301
BM 1303
BM 1317
4175
4174
4173
42'30"
6559 III NW (WICHITA WEST)

Description

The Sedgwick County Memorial Hall and Soldiers and Sailors Monument, built in 1912-13 and known as the Soldiers and Sailors Civil War Monument, is dedicated to the Union Soldiers and Sailors who fought and died in the Civil War. The monument is located on the south lawn of the Historic Sedgwick County Courthouse, itself on the National Register of Historic Places, and faces south onto Central Avenue, then as now a major downtown Wichita thoroughfare. The land upon which the the Historic Sedgwick County Court House sits was donated to the County on November 30,1887 by Julia P. Munger, the widow of the early Wichita pioneer, Darius S. Munger.[1]

Sedgwick County's Civil War monument is a simple, elegant ashlar building of Vermont granite (geologically it is granodiorite),[2] supplied by the Woodbury Granite Company, of Hardwick, Vermont, for a cost of $21,500, which includes four bronze military figures.[3] The monument was designed by Ernest Monroe Viquesney (1876-1946) of Marietta, Georgia.[4] Viquesney was an architect, but he is best known as the sculptor of Doughboy statues that proliferated throughout the country after the First World War. The monument is an eighteen-foot-square building, measuring fifty feet in height from its base to the apex of the pedestal that crowns it. It has a six-foot deep concrete foundation laid by J. W. Burton of Wichita at a cost of $969.11.[5] The building sits upon a series of three granite steps approached from all four sides, in the manner of a Greek temple. It has three parts: the Memorial Hall, a square drum, and cupola that tapers toward its apex and is surmounted by a granite plinth.

Sedgwick County's Civil War Monument is like a miniature Greek temple, dedicated to those who fought and died for the Union cause in the Civil War. It is in the tradition of classical temples dedicated to victory, such as the diminutive fifth-century B. C. Temple of Athena Nike (Victory) on the Athenian acropolis. Memorial Hall is an example of Greek Revival architecture, a popular style for war monuments and civic buildings during the late nineteenth century and the early twentieth century. The free-standing Greek Doric columns, finely cut and mortared granite blocks and the crisp, sharp carving of the military insignia and lettering of Memorial Hall are hallmarks of Greek Revival architecture. The selection of the Greek Doric style was undoubtedly intended to associate Sedgwick County's Civil War monument and the Union cause with Athens as the cradle of democracy in the western world.

The south elevation, which is the ceremonial entrance to Memorial Hall, has an aedicular entrance leading into what was referred to as the"trophy room." Flanking the entrance are fluted Greek Doric columns on pedestals supporting a tall entablature carrying the carved inscription: "Grand Army of the Republic/Fraternity Charity Loyalty." To either side of the entrance on a frieze that encircles Memorial Hall are carved names of Civil War battles placed within the shield of the Union and alternating with laurel wreaths. To the left of the entrance is Vicksburg, followed by a wreath, and to the right of the entrance is Appomatox [Appomattox], followed by a wreath.

The north elevation of the monument, which faces the Historic Sedgwick County Courthouse, also has an aedicular entrance into the interior of Memorial Hall. Above the entrance on an entablature held aloft by a pair of Greek Doric columns is carved the inscription: "Erected A. D.1912 By The/People Of Sedgwick County, Kansas/In Memory Of The Union Soldiers And Sailors/Of The Civil War." On the frieze to the left of the entrance is Gettysburg in a shield of the Union, followed by a laurel wreath, and on the right is Shiloh in a shield of the Union, followed by a laurel wreath.

The east elevation consists of an ashlar granite surface and on the frieze at the top are carved names of Civil War battles in a shield of the Union alternating with laurel wreaths. They are from left to right: Spotsylvania, the battle in which John Sedgwick, for whom Sedgwick County is named, died; Cedar Creek; Monitor/ Merrimac [Merrimack]; Antietam; and Petersburg. At the center of the east elevation is a raised frame. At the top is a festoon followed by the Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic membership medal. In the bar of the medal are the initials "F C L" [Fraternity Charity Loyalty] and below is a ten-star flag representing the ten armies of the Republic and from it hangs a five-pointed medal. In the center of the medal are five weathered figures, a tall central figure flanked by a soldier and sailor with two kneeling children. Encircling this scene is the inscription: "Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic 1886." Below the medal is the inscription: "If Any Man Attempts To/Haul Down The Flag/Shoot Him On The Spot/John. A. Dix".

The west elevation has the same configuration as its counterpart on the east. Carved on the frieze at the top of the elevation are names of Civil War battles in the shield of the Union alternating with laurel wreaths. They are from left to right: Ft. Donaldson [Donelson], Stone River, Mobile, Chicamauga [Chicamagua], and Nashville. At the center of the west elevation is a raised

frame and at the top is a festoon followed by the Woman's Relief Corps membership medal, patterned after the Grand Army of the Republic's medal. On the bar of the medal superimposed upon each other are the initials "F C L" (Fraternity Charity Loyalty). Below is a ribbon from which hangs the medal. In the four arms of the medal are clockwise from nine o'clock: "Woman's/ Relief/ Corps/1883." In the center is a weathered scene of a tall central figure flanked by soldiers with two kneeling children. At the bottom is carved the inscription: "The Union Is Perpetual/Abraham Lincoln/Let Us Have Peace/Gen. Grant"

Situated on the roof of each elevation of Memorial Hall are four full-length bronze statues, representing the four branches of the Union military in the Civil War: the artillery, cavalry, infantry, and navy. These bronze statues were designed and cast by Frederick Cleveland Hibbard (1881-1950) of Chicago, a noted sculptor of his day, who specialized in Civil War sculpture. A statue of an artilleryman stands on a granite plinth on the roof of the south elevation. Carved on the plinth are crossed cannon barrels and a stack of cannon balls. The artilleryman holds a ram rod in his left hand and a pistol in his right hand and wears a kepi. On his belt buckle are carved the initials "U S". A sailor stands on a granite plinth on the roof of the east elevation. Carved on the plinth is a fouled anchor and below it the initials: "U S N." The sailor holds an oar in his left hand and a rope in his right hand. An infantryman stands on a granite plinth on the north elevation. Carved on the plinth are crossed rifles and a canteen. He wears a kepi, holds a rifle in both hands and has a sheathed bayonet at his side and carries a canteen and ammunition case with "U S" carved on it. The statue of a cavalryman stands on a granite plinth on the west elevation of Memorial Hall. Carved on the plinth are crossed sabers intertwined with a rope. He wears a slouch hat, holds a saber in his right hand and in his left hand a sheathed saber. On his belt buckle are carved the initials "U S".

On top of the cupola is a granite pedestal decorated on each side with an American eagle and "U S A" carved on each side of its plinth. Situated on top of the pedestal is the fourteen-foot statue of Liberty with her left foot firmly placed on a semi-circular orb. The statue of Liberty was produced by the W. H. Mullins Manufacturing Company of Salem, Ohio. William Harold Mullins (1856-1932) was the owner and operator of a foundry that produced sculpture, architectural detailing, ceilings, elevator cages, garden ornaments and other sheet metal products. In some instances a sculptor was hired to design a

sculpture, but Sedgwick County's Liberty is a stock figure in the Mullins Company sculptural repertoire. In the Mullins company's 1913 catalogue the statue of Liberty is entitled "Peace." The statue is constructed of pressed copper sheeting and consists of numerous individual sections of copper sheeting molded into shape, then lap joined and soldered. Liberty is dressed in a flowing classical gown. In her left hand she holds a laurel wreath, symbolizing peace, and in her right hand she holds a flag pole with an unfurled American flag. Perched on the ball atop the flag pole is an American spread eagle.

Originally Liberty, or the "Goddess" as the statue was called, faced north toward the courthouse. Many citizens felt that Liberty "has turned her back on us." Others thought that "Maybe there is need for the Goddess of Liberty to keep an eye on the courthouse bunch." Another citizen asserted that "Instead of making her bow to the lawyers and County Commissioners I should think the Goddess of Liberty should be facing the public."[6] These sentiments and those of The Grand Army of the Republic delegation carried the day "as the statue now stood it appeared that the Goddess of Liberty was turning her back to the South where the Union veterans had so often withstood the Confederate fire and they objected to the inference."[7] At the January 25, 1913, County Commission meeting, it was voted to turn Liberty around.[8] The bolts that held it in place were cut, Liberty was twisted around on her retaining rod, holes were drilled in the granite for new bolts, and the statue was turned toward the south and Central Avenue.

As the major entrance into the interior of Memorial Hall, the pair of bronze doors on the south elevation are decorated in their lower panels with the medal of the Grand Army of the Republic. On the north elevation the bronze doors are decorated on the left hand panel with the Sons of the Union Veterans membership medal and on the right hand panel with the medal of the Sons of the Veterans of the United States of America membership medal.

The interior of Memorial Hall, which was designed as a small museum, is twelve feet square and is lined with gray polished Vermont marble. Entrance into the interior is through double bronze doors on the south and north elevations. Vitrines line the east and west walls. Civil War memorabilia were displayed in the vitrines until 1915 when damp conditions forced the removal of the Civil War relics to Wichita's Carnegie Library.[9] Unfortunately, no trace of these relics has survived. Flanking the vitrines are bronze Corinthian pilasters bearing on their bases the alternating dates "1861"

for the beginning of the Civil War and "1866," the date of the establishment of the first Grand Army of the Republic veterans post in Illinois. The Corinthian pilasters support a marble cornice and above it on the east and west walls are inscribed in the marble the titles of Wichita's Grand Army of the Republic posts and their womens auxiliary organizations, who were major supporters of the construction of the monument: "Eggleston Post No.24 G. A. R./Caroline Harrison Circle No.56," (B. B. Eggleston was a Civil War general, resident of Wichita, and is buried in Wichita's Maple Grove Cemetery) and the "Garfield Post No.25, G. A. R./Garfield Corps No.40 W. R. C." Originally, the interior was lighted by gas, but today the modest brass chandelier in the center of the ceiling with four glass globes has been electrified.

Condition

Despite James N. Miller's 1913 assertion that the monument "will be just as solid when Gabriel blows his horn as it is today,"[10] Memorial Hall and its sculpture require conservation and restoration. According to the Russell-Marti Conservation Report of 1996, Memorial Hall is in good to fair condition. The four bronze statues on its roof are in poor condition, and the state of Liberty atop the Hall has serious structural problems,[11] in part because the statue was rotated on its axis from north to south in 1913. Structurally the interior of Memorial Hall is sound, but it has been without electrical power for many years because the electrical conduit that runs under the south stairs of the Historic Sedgwick County House and the concrete pavement between it and Memorial Hall has been crushed from the repeated settling of the land. To compound the problem, there is no ventilation system in the interior of the hall to ensure an even temperature and climate control.

The monument stands in the center of a rectangular plaza that measures 41' 8" (E/W) by 39' 2" (N/S). The plaza if paved with large concrete slabs, concrete curbing borders the plaza. These features date from the period of construction, 1912- 1913. Seven Vermont granite benches are placed around the edges of the plaza, an eighth bench has been replaced with a flagpole and Vermont granite base. The dates of the benches are concurrent with the other features of the monument, 1912- 1913. The benches measure 60" long, 15 ½" wide and 10" high.

Statement of Significance

The Sedgwick County Soldiers and Sailors Civil War Monument is submitted for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places for its architectural and artistic merit as an example of a Greek Revival commemorative monument that embodies the characteristics of the "Golden Age" of commemorative monument building.

The Sedgwick County Memorial Hall and Soldiers and Sailors Monument, built in 1912-13 and known as the Soldiers and Sailors Civil War Monument, is dedicated to the Union Soldiers and Sailors who fought and died in the Civil War. The monument is located on the south lawn of the Historic Sedgwick County Courthouse, itself on the National Register of Historic Places, and faces south onto Central Avenue, then as now a major downtown Wichita thoroughfare.

The monument brings together a nationally recognized stone company and foundry and two artists famous for their involvement with Civil War and First World War monuments. Sedgwick County's Civil War Monument is composed of Vermont granite supplied by the Woodbury Granite Company of Hardwick, Vermont, a leading stone company of the period. The Woodbury Granite Company also supplied the gray veined marble that lines the interior of Memorial Hall. Ernest Monroe Viquesney (1876-1946) of Marietta, Georgia was the architect of the monument. Although an architect, Viquesney is best known as the sculptor of the First World War Doughboy statues found throughout the country. The four full-length bronze statues representing the four branches of the Union military on the roof of the Memorial Hall were designed and cast by Frederick Cleveland Hibbard (1881-1950) of Chicago, a noted sculptor of his day, who specialized in Civil War sculpture. The full-length statue of Liberty atop Memorial Hall is a stock figure in the sculptural repertoire of the W. H. Mullins Company of Salem Ohio, who massed produced Civil War and First World War sculpture for the "Golden Age" of commemorative monument building.

Sedgwick County's Civil War Monument is like a miniature Greek temple, dedicated to those who fought and died for the Union cause in the Civil War. It is in the tradition of classical temples dedicated to victory, such as the diminutive fifth-century B. C. Temple of Athena Nike (Victory) on the Athenian

acropolis. Memorial Hall is an example of Greek Revival architecture, a popular style for war monuments and civic buildings throughout the country during the nineteenth century and into the early twentieth century. The free-standing Greek Doric columns, finely cut and mortared granite blocks and the crisp, sharp carving of the military insignia and lettering of Memorial Hall are hallmarks of Greek Revival architecture. The selection of the Greek Doric style was undoubtedly was selected to associate Sedgwick County's Civil War monument and the Union cause with Athens as the cradle of democracy in the western world.

In its content, form, style, and means of funding, Sedgwick County's Civil War monument exemplifies the "Golden Age" of commemorative monument building that occurred between the end of the Civil War in 1865 and the beginning of the First World War in 1914. In the aftermath of the Civil War came a desire to memorialize the war's heroes with patriotic public monuments consisting of single or multi-figural sculpture groups or sculpture in combination with architecture. In many instances these monuments were funded by a special tax levied at the county level. Cuyahoga County, Ohio's Soldiers and Sailors Monument of 1895, like Sedgwick County's monument, was funded by just such a tax.

Sedgwick County's Civil War Monument is representative of the changing tides of taste that dominated late nineteenth-century America. By the time the monument was designed bronze had replaced the more traditional marble as the material of choice for sculpture. Foundries like the W. R. Mullins Company maintained a flourishing business in casting bronze commemorative sculpture and copper sheathed statues such as Liberty atop Memorial Hall. Philadelphia's 1876 Centennial Exposition revived the nation's sense of patriotism and placed an emphasis on American products, thereby, contributing to the rejection of European art forms. The realistic demeanor of the soldiers and sailor on the roof of Memorial Hall with their archaeologically correct uniforms, military equipment, and insignia are the result of the rejection of Neoclassicism with all of its European connotations in favor of a descriptive naturalism, considered to be in keeping with the American character.

Sedgwick County's Civil War Monument is unique among the Civil War monuments in the state of Kansas because it combines sculpture with architecture. But the monument's greatest significance is that it stands as a

visual testament to a fascinating aspect of Kansas history that is all but forgotten. Some fifty years after the Civil War, pro-Union sentiments were still a potent political force in Kansas. The vociferous, ostensibly non-political, but powerful Wichita chapters of the Grand Army of the Republic and their womens auxiliaries mustered political support at the state and local levels to tax the citizens of Sedgwick to pay for the state's largest and most complex Civil War monument.

Today , Sedgwick County's Civil War Monument stands as a history lesson to Wichita and Sedgwick County's school children and to all citizens of the city, county, and visitors interested in the Civil War and Kansas's involvement in it.

History

The individual responsible for creating the interest and organizing the Grand Army members as an advocate for Sedgwick County's Civil War monument was James N. Miller, County Commissioner of the Poor and Secretary of the Memorial Association. Miller was instrumental in obtaining permission for a one-time special county tax levied by the state legislature in counties of more than 70,000 population.[12] At the urging of the Sedgwick County Memorial Association, the County Commissioners at their August 7,1911, meeting voted unanimously to levy 23/100 mill for the year 1911 to provide $25,000 to construct a monument to the Union soldiers and sailors who fought and died in the Civil War.[13]

Controversy surrounded the selection of the site for the Civil War monument. At their August 7,1911, meeting the County Commissioners had unanimously chosen the south lawn of the Sedgwick County courthouse for the site of the Civil War monument.[14] But the local real estate dealer George W. Israel suggested an alternative site. He proposed that the City of Wichita purchase the triangular piece of land next to the Douglas Avenue bridge, abutting Douglas Avenue on the south, the Arkansas River on the west and Waco Avenue on the east, in the area now occupied by the Broadview Hotel. Furthermore, Israel proposed that this piece of land be developed as a park with the Civil War monument as its centerpiece, "making a famous beauty spot of the present wastes now known as the Big Arkansas River".[15]
Israel also proposed building a dam down stream at the Maple Street Bridge, thus covering the sand bars dominating the river and creating a "lagoon" for

sailing and recreation.[16]

There was another proposal to place the Civil War monument in Riverside Park, but this suggestion was immediately abandoned. Israel's proposal was eagerly adopted by the leading community organizations, the Chamber of Commerce, both the city and county commissions, and by James N. Miller and the Grand Army of Republic local chapters. The Union veterans were particularly enthusiastic about Israel's proposal for they wanted the monument to be seen by as many people as possible, even those entering the city by train. They believed that it "would also add more to the decoration of the city than a location of the monument at the court house square, where the court house itself is already one monument".[17]

The triangular piece of land intended for the Civil War monument was known as the Black estate and was owned by M. R. Diver and George Morgan, who asked $21,000 for their property, more than four-fifths of the cost to design and build the monument. To raise this sum of money the city decided to float a $25,000 bond issue to purchase the land and to provide a park for the Civil War monument and then deed the property to the county.[18] On April 2,1912, in a city-wide vote the bond issue for the proposed site in downtown Wichita on the river was resoundingly defeated.[19]

With the elimination of the Douglas Avenue site for the monument, all efforts were focused on the Sedgwick County Courthouse site. Ground breaking ceremonies for laying the foundation of the monument were held on June 3, 1912.[20] A hiatus occurred until the granite arrived from Vermont in the first part of October.[21] Work on the monument began on October 24 the day after the foreman from Philadelphia arrived.[22] On January 25,1913, the four bronze statues of Union soldiers and a sailor were hoisted into place on the roof of Memorial Hall and that afternoon a large crane placed the statue of Liberty on top of the cupola of Memorial Hall. By February 15,1913, the finishing touches were being done, the bronze doors were hung and the exterior and interior of the monument were thoroughly cleaned.[23] After the construction was completed landscape artist Christian Jansen landscaped the area surrounding the monument with walks, shrubs, trees, and grass.[24] The monument was dedicated on Flag Day, June 14,1913, in a day-long ceremony, with the dedicatory address given by Kansas United States Senator Charles Curtis.

The total cost of Sedgwick County's Civil War monument was as follows:

Foundation	969.11
Monument, including four bronze statues	20,250.00
Architect fees	1,250.00
Shelves for inside cases	45.00
Miscellaneous (stationery, postage, telegrams, express, changes, etc.)	46.78
Total	$22,560.89

The total sum of money raised for the monument was $25,574.26, leaving a balance of $3,013.37. The remaining money was intended to be used for walks and landscaping the monument. After these disbursements, if any money remained, it was to be placed in the County's general fund.[25]

Nomination

The Friends of the Sedgwick County Soldiers and Sailors Civil War Monument was established in 1997 to raise funds to restore the monument and to provide an endowment for its maintenance and conservation requirements. A major goal of The Friends of the Soldiers and Sailors Civil War Monument is to place it on the National Register of Historic Places, so it can receive its appropriate recognition and join the Historic Sedgwick County Courthouse on the National Register of Historic Places.

We, The Friends of the Sedgwick County Soldiers and Sailors Civil War Monument, submit Sedgwick County's Civil War monument to the Kansas Historic Sites Board of Review for consideration as a worthy nominee to the National Register of Historic Places.

End Notes

[1] "Deed of Record 91," fol. 607, Julia P. Munger to the County of Sedgwick, November 30, 1887, Register of Deeds, Sedgwick County, Kansas.

[2] Lawrence Skelton, Wichita's Building Blocks: A Guide to Building Stones and Geological Features (Lawrence, Kansas: Kansas Geological Survey, 1997), p.8-9.

[3] Bid by the Woodbury Granite Company, Harkwick, Vermont to the Sedgwick County Board of Commissioners, December 26, 1911; Contract between the Woodbury Granite Company and the Sedgwick County Board of Commissioners, April 22, 1912, Sedgwick County Clerk Office. E. M. Viquesney, Architect signed the contract for the Woodbury Granite Company.

[4] "Proceedings of the Board of County Commissioners, October 3,1905 to December 27, 1913," fol. 240, August 7, 1911. Hereafter "Proceedings of the Sedgwick County Commissioners."

[5] "Proceedings of the Sedgwick County Commissioners," fol. 328, May 27, 1912; Bid of J. W. Burton to the Board of Sedgwick 11 County Commissioners, May 27, 1912; Contract between the Board of the Sedgwick County Commissioners and J. W. Burton, July 3, 1912, Sedgwick County Clerk's Office.

[6] Wichita, Beacon, January 25, 1913, p.9.

[7] Wichita Eagle, January 26, 1913, p.6.

[8] "Proceedings of the Board of Sedgwick County Commissioners, October 3, 1905 to December 27, 1913," fol. 369, January 25, 1913.

[9] Wichita Eagle, April 25, 1915, p.5.

[10] Wichita Eagle, February 21, 1913, p.7

[11] "Examination Report and Specifications for Treatment of the Liberty Memorial, Sedgwick County Court House, Wichita, Kansas," Russell-Marti Conservation Services, Inc., April 22, 1996.

[12] Wichita Eagle, December 1, 1911, p.5.

[13] "Proceedings of the Sedgwick County Commissioners," fol. 240, August 7, 1911.

[14] Ibid.

[15] Wichita Eagle, February 4, 1912, p.18.

[16] Ibid.

[17] Ibid.

[18] Wichita Beacon, March 4, 1912, p.6.

[19] Wichita Beacon, April 3, 1912, p.1.

[20] Wichita Beacon, June 3, 1912, p.6.

[21] Wichita Eagle, October 13, 1912, p.19.

[22] Wichita Eagle, October 24, 1912, p.9.

[23] Wichita Beacon, February 15, 1913, p.6.

[24] "No. 2 Sedgwick County Auditor's Record, June 6, 1910 to June 7, 1915, Series 574, #493," fols. 331, 343-44, 352, February 3, May 5, June 2, 1913, Sedgwick county Clerk's Office.

[25] Wichita Eagle, February 21, 1913, p.7.

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