NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name: Camden Confederate Monument

other name/site number: OU0046S

2. Location

street & number: Courthouse Lawn (at the courthouse’s northern corner)

not for publication: N/A

city/town: Camden

state: AR county: Ouachita code: AR 103 zip code: 71701

county: Ouachita

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: Public-local

Category of Property: Object

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing Noncontributing

buildings sites structures objects

1 0 Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: N/A

Name of related multiple property listing: "Something So Dim It Must Be Holy:" Civil War Commemorative Sculpture in Arkansas, 1886-1934
7. Description

Architectural Classification:

Neoclassical

Other Description: N/A

Materials: foundation STONE/Granite  roof N/A
walls STONE/Marble  other N/A

Describe present and historic physical appearance. See continuation sheet.

Summary

The Camden Confederate Monument, also known as the Confederate Women’s Memorial, is located at the west side of the southwest lawn of the Ouachita County Courthouse on Jefferson St. between Harrison St. and Scott Alley. The sculpture depicts a lone female figure in a long period dress, standing with her feet together and clutching a flagpole that leans against her proper left shoulder. She is placed on a block of Waynesboro, NC, granite at the base of a tall dedicatory obelisk (both are components of a piece). The Italian marble sculpture is 60"x24"x18"; the granite obelisk is 28’x8’x8’.

Elaboration

The Camden Confederate Monument, also known as the Confederate Women’s Memorial, is located at the west side of the southwest lawn of the Ouachita County Courthouse on Jefferson St. between Harrison St. and Scott Alley. The sculpture depicts a lone female figure in a long period dress, standing with her feet together and clutching a flagpole that leans against her proper left shoulder. She is placed on a block of Waynesboro, NC, granite at the base of a tall dedicatory obelisk (both are components of a piece). The Italian marble sculpture is 60"x24"x18"; the granite obelisk is 28’x8’x8’.

The front base of the sculpture contains the inscription "1861 / 1865 / TO OUR CONFEDERATE WOMEN."

The proper right base of the obelisk is marked "THEIR INSPIRATION TRANSFORMED / THE GLOOM OF DEFEAT INTO THE / HOPE OF THE FUTURE AND THEIR / MEMORY SHALL NOT BE FORGOTTEN / EVEN IN THE HOURS OF PEACE."

The proper left base of the obelisk is inscribed "ERECTED BY THE VETERANS / OF / HUGH MCCOLLUM / CAMP 778 / AIDED BY / GRINSTEAD CHAPTER / U.D.C. / AND OUACHITA COUNTY / CAMDEN, ARKANSAS / 1914 / ---- / TO THE WOMEN OF THE CONFEDERACY."

On the rear face of the obelisk is the inscription "TO THE CONFEDERATE WOMEN / WHOSE PIOUS MINISTRATION / TO OUR WOUNDED SOLDIERS, / SOOTHE THE LAST / HOURS OF THOSE / WHO DIED FAR FROM THE OBJECTS / OF THEIR TENDEREST LOVE; / WHOSE DOMESTIC LABORS / CONTRIBUTED MUCH TO SUPPLY / THE WANTS OF OUR DEFENDERS / IN THE FIELD; WHOSE ZEALOUS / FAITH IN OUR CAUSE SHONE / A
GUIDING STAR UNDIMMED / BY THE DARKEST CLOUDS OF WAR; / WHOSE FORTITUDE SUSTAINED / THEM UNDER ALL THE PRIVATIONS / TO WHICH THEY WERE SUBJECTED; / AND WHOSE PATRIOTISM / WILL TEACH THEIR CHILDREN TO / EMULATE THE DEEDS OF THEIR SIRES."

Here is a loss of detail on the sculpture due to severe sugaring, and the nearby trees are causing staining on both the obelisk and the sculpture. The sculpture also has some black crusting and bird guano.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: Statewide

Applicable National Register Criteria: ___A___

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): ___F___

Areas of Significance: SOCIAL HISTORY

Period(s) of Significance: 1899-1906

Significant Dates: 1899-1906

Significant Person(s): N/A

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

See continuation sheet.

Summary

Criterion A, statewide significance

Criterion Consideration F

The Camden Confederate Monument is associated with the historic context "Something So Dim It Must Be Holy": Civil War Commemorative Sculpture in Arkansas, 1886-1934 as a commemorative monument financed and erected through the efforts of a veterans' organization in Arkansas. As such, it is eligible under Criterion A with statewide significance for its associations with the efforts of the Hugh McCollum Camp 778 to reflect members' perception of the noble character and valor of the women who supported their cause. Thus, it also meets the eligibility requirements of Criteria Consideration F: Commemorative Properties.
Elaboration

Primarily sponsored by the Hugh McCollum Camp 778 of the United Confederate Veterans, the Camden Confederate Monument was erected at the county courthouse in mid-April 1915. (The UCV camp was assisted in the effort by the Brinestead Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy and Ouachita County in the effort to erect the monument.) The official dedication ceremony took place on the courthouse lawn on Saturday, May 15 of that year. Featured orator Judge W. T. Martin stated that the memorial "will perpetuate in stone the unparalleled sacrifices, loyalty and devotion of the women of that momentous period, an episode in the History of this beautiful southland which will live in song and story long after this beautiful statue has crumbled into dust." He continued to praise the statue, saying "her beauty and symmetry and sacred devotion that beam from her beautiful and lovely face is a prototype of the high civilization of the time in which she appeared in the tragic drama, a fitting mould in which she was cast, a time when patriotism stood at full tide and fair Arcadia pulsed with Knight errant, and chivalry and honor decorated and adorned her loveliness." The Camden Beacon added the comment that the monument "will stand for all time as a living tribute to the sainted womanhood of the Southern Confederacy." The inscriptions were selected by Mrs. J. W. Meek of the United Daughters of the Confederacy, Mr. S. B. Lid of the United Confederate Veterans, and Mr. Thomas I. Thorn of the Sons of Confederate Veterans. Mr. J. W. Juniel was chairman of the monument committee.

The Camden Confederate Monument is associated with the historic context "Something So Dim It Must Be Holy": Civil War Commemorative Sculpture in Arkansas, 1886-1934 as a commemorative monument financed and erected through the efforts of a veterans' organization in Arkansas. As such, it is eligible under Criterion A with statewide significance for its associations with the efforts of the Hugh McCollum Camp 778 to reflect members' perception of the noble character and valor of the women who supported their cause. Thus, it also meets the eligibility requirements of Criteria Consideration F: Commemorative Properties.

9. Major Bibliographical References


Camden Beacon, April 22, 1915.

See continuation sheet.

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:

X State historic preservation office
- Other state agency
- Federal agency
4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

__ 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): __________

Signature of Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic: RECREATION AND CULTURE Sub: Monument/marker

Current: RECREATION AND CULTURE Sub: Monument/marker
0. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: Less than one

UTM References:

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See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description: See continuation sheet.

An area around the monument defined by a 25 foot radius centered on the monument itself.

Boundary Justification: See continuation sheet.

This boundary includes all the property historically associated with this resource.

11. Form Prepared By

Name/Title: John Slater, Special Projects Intern/AHPP Staff

Organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program Date: 03/08/96

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