

NR LISTED

MAY 23 1997

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

AHPP

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

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1. Name of Property

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Historic Name: "Spirit of the American Doughboy" Monument

Other Name/Site Number: PH0260S

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2. Location

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Street & Number: Center of intersection of Cherry and Perry streets

Not for Publication: N/A

City/Town: Helena

Vicinity: N/A

State: AR County: Phillips Code: AR 107 Zip Code: 72342

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3. Classification

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Ownership of Property: Public-local

Category of Property: Object

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing	
_____	_____	buildings
_____	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
<u>1</u>	_____	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

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

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

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County and State

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4. State/Federal Agency Certification
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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.

Cathy A. Slater
Signature of certifying official

4-11-97
Date

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

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

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5. National Park Service Certification
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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

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6. Function or Use

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Historic: RECREATION AND CULTURE Sub: Monument

Current : RECREATION AND CULTURE Sub: Monument

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7. Description

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Architectural Classification:

N/A

Materials: foundation CONCRETE roof N/A
walls METAL/copper other _____

Describe present and historic physical appearance:

Summary

The "Spirit of the American Doughboy" monument at Helena in Phillips County faces south at the intersection of Cherry and Perry streets. Designed by American sculptor Ernest Moore "Dick" Viquesney, it depicts a World War I "Doughboy" soldier dressed in battle gear. He is standing on a plot of battlefield that has barbed wire and two broken fence posts on the proper right and proper left sides. The figure is in mid-stride and is wearing a World War I battle helmet. His proper right arm is raised above his head clutching a grenade in his proper right hand, while his proper left arm is at his side and is carrying a rifle horizontal to the ground. The circular base, made of concrete, stands 9' tall and 12' in diameter. The sculpture, made of sheet copper, is 6"x40"x58".

Elaboration

The "Spirit of the American Doughboy" monument of Helena, Phillips County, faces south at the intersection of Cherry and Perry Streets. Designed by American sculptor Ernest Moore "Dick" Viquesney, it depicts a World War I "Doughboy" soldier dressed in battle gear. He is standing on a plot of battlefield that has barbed wire and two broken fence posts on the proper right and proper left sides. The figure is in mid-stride and is wearing a World War I battle helmet. His proper right arm is raised above his head

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clenching a grenade in his proper right hand, while his proper left arm is at his side and is carrying a rifle horizontal to the ground. The circular base, made of concrete, stands 9' tall and 12' in diameter. The sculpture, made of sheet copper, is 6"x40"x58".

Written on a bronze plaque on the south face of the base is "ERECTED IN HONOR / OF / THE MEN AND WOMEN / OF / PHILLIPS COUNTY / WHO SERVED IN THE / WORLD WAR / 1917 - 1918."

Inscribed on the proper right base of the figure is the sculptor's signature, "E. M. Viquesney Sc."

The rifle barrel and the bayonet are missing from the sculpture and some of the barbed wire is broken. There are some bird guano deposits on the figure. The entire work has a dark brown patina along with some copper oxide from age. A 1994 SOS! survey recommends that the monument would benefit from treatment.

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8. Statement of Significance
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Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: Local.

Applicable National Register Criteria: A

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): F

Areas of Significance: SOCIAL HISTORY

Period(s) of Significance: 1927

Significant Dates: July 10, 1927

Significant Person(s): N/A

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: Ernest Moore "Dick" Viquesney, sculptor

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

Summary

The "Spirit of the American Doughboy" monument is significant for its associations with the efforts of the Phillips County Memorial Association to reflect members perceptions of the noble character and valor of their local World War I soldiers and their cause. It thus also meets the eligibility requirements of Criterion Consideration F: Commemorative Properties.

Historical Background

Almost as soon as hostilities ended in the American Civil War, ladies memorial associations were formed throughout the former Confederacy to gather the remains of the Southern dead and mourn their passing. These groups were the primary standard bearers for remembering the late Confederacy until such groups as the United Daughters of the Confederacy took the lead in "creating or celebrating the Confederate tradition" in the 1890s.

The Phillips County Memorial Association was an active one. By 1869, it had created the Helena Confederate Cemetery (NR 5/3/96) to hold the graves of many of the casualties of the July 4, 1863, Battle of Helena, as well as the remains of Confederate veterans. Also buried there was General Patrick Ronayne Cleburne, a prominent Helena resident killed leading his division at the 1864 Battle of Franklin, Tennessee, and re-interred in the Helena Confederate Cemetery in 1870.

The Phillips County Memorial Association worked for several years, seeking donations from across the United States, to erect two large monuments in the Confederate Cemetery. The first, placed atop Cleburne's grave, was erected in 1891. A taller monument, topped by the statue of a Confederate soldier, was dedicated in 1892 and serves as the cemetery's center piece.

Unlike many memorial associations, which sought primarily to remember the Confederate dead, the Phillips County Memorial Association set its sights on commemorating the casualties of another war by raising money for a World War I memorial on Cherry Street in downtown Helena.

Helena's Doughboy monument is not unique; it is part of a nationwide series of Doughboy sculptures designed by artist E. M. "Dick" Viquesney. Although the exact total is uncertain, 136 Viquesney Doughboys have been identified so far in 35 different states and some experts consider it one of the most-seen pieces of outdoor statuary in the nation. Viquesney, who lived from 1876 to 1946, devoted two years to perfecting what was to become his trademark; during this time he interviewed World War I veterans, studied hundreds of photographs, and used two soldiers as models. The finished product, completed in 1920, was a statue described by the Helena World as "the only true representation of the real Doughboy and his indomitable spirit." Viquesney's Doughboy monument, which was named as the official World War I National Memorial, became extremely popular and was erected by towns across

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America until the late 1930s. Materials touting the monument described it as being constructed of the same materials as the Statue of Liberty: "standard, 32-ounce, monumental bronze."

Helena's monument, which honored the men and women of Phillips County who served in World War I, was the culmination of nine years of work by the Phillips County Memorial Association, aided by the Seven Generals Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy. It was financed through donations from Phillips County residents, but progress was repeatedly slowed by factors beyond the Memorial Association's control. The Helena World explained that "there have been droughts and floods and boll weevils and cotton worms and financial deflations during the nine years in which the Memorial Association has sought its goal, and all these have helped to retard the movement." In 1927, the monument was finally completed after nearly a decade of effort.

On July 10, 1927, the "Spirit of the American Doughboy" monument was dedicated before a crowd of 2,500. The program began with the Marianna military band marching down Cherry Street, which was decorated with American flags. The featured speaker for the afternoon was Sen. Joe T. Robinson, who recalled his 1917 Senate vote in favor of war and praised the men and women who responded to the call to arms. The ceremony also included music, as the crowd sang along with the band on "America" and "Arkansas." Finally, seven young ladies, representing the towns of the county, removed the curtain to reveal the completed statue. After the festivities had concluded, the monument was lit with a special floodlight that illuminated the Doughboy figure.

Historical Significance

While the early work of the Phillips County Memorial Association is recognized through the National Register listing of the Helena Confederate Cemetery, that organization's activities continued well into the twentieth century and encompassed remembrance of a new generation of Phillips County soldiers. As the historic resource most closely associated with this later period of the Phillips County Memorial Association's endeavors, the "Spirit of the American Doughboy" monument is worthy of recognition on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A with local significance.

The "Spirit of the American Doughboy" monument is significant for its associations with the efforts of the Phillips County Memorial Association to reflect members perceptions of the noble character and valor of their local World War I soldiers and their cause. It thus also meets the eligibility requirements of Criterion Consideration F: Commemorative Properties.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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Wesley, T. Perry. *The Chamber Monthly: Special Doughboy Statue Edition*,
Spencer, Indiana, February, 1991, pp. 1-7.

Helena World. July 10, 1927, p. 1.

Helena World. July 11, 1927, p. 1.

Phillips County Historical Society. *Historic Helena-West Helena, Arkansas*.
2nd edition, 1978, p. 52.

SOS! Update. Fall, 1993, p. 4.

Logan, Charles Russell, "'Something So Dim It Must Be Holy': Civil War
Commemorative Sculpture in Arkansas, 1886-1934," historic context for
multiple-property National Register nomination, Arkansas Historic
Preservation Program, 1995.

"Helena Confederate Cemetery," National Register nomination, Arkansas
Historic Preservation Program, December, 1995.

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 -- Specify Repository: _____

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10. Geographical Data
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Acreage of Property: Less than one

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

A	<u>15</u>	<u>721650</u>	<u>3823200</u>	B	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
C	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	D	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Verbal Boundary Description:

The boundary of the monument is formed by a circle with a radius of 25 feet from the center of the monument.

Boundary Justification:

This boundary includes the historic monument, surrounding circular flower bed, and all of the property historically associated with this resource that retains its integrity.

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11. Form Prepared By
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Name/Title: John Slater, Special Projects Intern/AHPP staff

Organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program Date: 3-11-97

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