NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name: Confederate Mothers Memorial Park

other name/site number: PP0344S

2. Location

street & number: Intersection of State Hwy. 326 (Skyline Drive) and South Glenwood Avenue

city/town: Russellville

state: AR county: Pope code: AR 115 zip code: 72801

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: Public-local

Category of Property: Object

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing Noncontributing

buildings sites structures objects 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
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 and 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 and Date]

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 and Date of Action]

6. Function or Use

Historic:  RECREATION AND CULTURE  Sub: Monument/marker

Current:  RECREATION AND CULTURE  Sub: Monument/marker
7. Description

Architectural Classification:

Neoclassical
Rustic

Other Description: N/A

Materials: foundation STONE/Fieldstone roof N/A
walls STONE/Limestone/CONCRETE other

Describe present and historic physical appearance. See continuation sheet.

Summary

Confederate Mothers Memorial Park is located at the corner of Highway 326 (Skyline Drive) and South Glenwood Avenue at Russellville in Pope County. The park contains three individual monuments located within a gravel parking area; the rest of the park consists primarily of unimproved woodlands.

Elaboration

Confederate Mothers Memorial Park is located at the corner of Highway 326 (Skyline Drive) and South Glenwood Avenue at Russellville in Pope County. The park contains three individual monuments located within a gravel parking area; the rest of the park consists primarily of unimproved woodlands.

The first monument is a rectangular fieldstone monument with dimensions of 92"x39.5"x30". Written on the cement panel inset on the front is "THE / BEN T. EMBRY / CAMP / SONS OF THE / CONFEDERATE / VETERANS / IN MEMORY OF / THE MOTHERS / OF THE / CONFEDERACY / PRESENTED BY W. P. FERGUSON."

The second monument is also a rectangular fieldstone monument, with dimensions of 79"x39.5"x31". Written in raised lettering in the inset panel on the front is " THE / JOHN R. HOMER / SCOTT / CHAPTER / OF THE U. D. C. / IN REVERENT / MEMORY OF / THE MOTHERS / 1861 - OF - 1864 / CONFEDERACY."

The final monument is a rectangular limestone monument that stands 48"x36"x25" with a 15"x46"x35.5" base. It is inscribed: "THIS PARK ESTABLISHED AS A MEMORIAL TO OUR CONFEDERATE MOTHERS BY R. B. AND MARY (HOWELL) WILSON / A SON AND A DAUGHTER / AND IS DEDICATED TO THE / HAPPINESS OF THE CHILDREN / OF OUR UNITED COUNTRY / MOTHER." This monument suffers from graffiti and severe damage to the inscription.

All three monuments suffer from cracking and chipping off of pieces.

d. 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: 1921-24

Significant Dates: 1921-24

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 Confederate Mothers Park 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 ancestral organizations in Arkansas. As such, it is eligible under Criterion A with statewide significance for its associations with the efforts of the John R. Homer Scott Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy and the Ben T. Embry Camp of the Sons of Confederate Veterans to reflect members’ perception of the noble character and valor of the women who supported their veterans and their cause. Thus, it also meets the eligibility requirements of Criterion Consideration F: Commemorative Properties.

Elaboration

The land for Confederate Mothers Memorial Park was donated to the United Daughters of the Confederacy by Judge R. B. Wilson and his wife, Mary Howell Wilson on June 30, 1921. The Arkansas Democrat described Judge Wilson as "one of Pope County’s most progressive and public spirited citizens" and added that Mrs. Wilson was "an active worker in all civic and public endeavors for the advancement of the community and state."

On October 10, 1921 the John Homer Scott Chapter of the U. D. C. held a ceremony in the memorial park on Pine Hill to complete plans for a roadway from the city limits to the park. A tablet inscribed "This Park Is
Established as a Memorial to Our Confederate Mothers *** and Dedicated to the Happiness of the Children of Our United Country" was placed in the park. The Democrat noted that the Wilsons had already "erected a cost of many hundreds of dollars a beautiful granite shaft" and that "it is said that this is the only memorial established to the mothers of the Confederacy."

The November 1923 Confederate Veteran notes that the U.D.C. spent over $800 to complete two roads to the park, as well as building a pavilion and making other improvements. Future plans at that point included a playground, birdhouses, and an "imposing entrance" with the name of the park "wrought in iron or stone." The Veteran adds that "on this playground...these children and their children will be taught to love and respect those who have labored and loved to make our Southland the home that it is to them."

The main columns at the entrance to the park, each containing a central inscribed tablet embedded in fieldstone, were dedicated June 12, 1924. One of the columns, dedicated by the Ben T. Embry Camp of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, was presented by W.P. Ferguson, whose wife was a member of the local U.D.C. chapter. The other column was dedicated to the John R. Homer Scott U.D.C. Chapter.

U.D.C. members from the John C. Darr Chapter at Atkins and the Joe Wheeler Chapter at Dardanelle were among those attending the dedication. After lunch at a nearby Methodist church, the celebrants drove to the park where they were entertained by the "Russellville band." Mrs. Geo. Gill received the park for the U.D.C. Arkansas Division from Mrs. Jess Martin, the president of the local chapter.

While initial plans called for a driveway, playground equipment and caretaker's home, few of these improvements came to pass. The park currently consists of a gravel parking area with few other improvements.

The park is the only known resource of its kind in Arkansas.

The Confederate Mothers Park 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 ancestral organizations in Arkansas. As such, it is eligible under Criterion A with statewide significance for its associations with the efforts of the John R. Homer Scott Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy and the Ben T. Embry Camp of the Sons of Confederate Veterans to reflect members' perception of the noble character and valor of the women who supported their veterans and their cause. Thus, it also meets the eligibility requirements of Criteria Consideration F: Commemorative Properties.

9. Major Bibliographical References


Arkansas Democrat, October 16, 1921, p. 5 (Real Estate Section)


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
Local government
University
Other -- Specify Repository: ____________________________

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: Approximately 20

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See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description: See continuation sheet.

Part of the Southeast Quarter of the Northeast Quarter Section 17, Township 7 North, Range 20 West, Pope County, Arkansas, more particularly described as follows: Beginning at the Southeast Corner of said Tract and running thence West 48 1/2 rods; thence North 66 rods; thence East 48 1/2 rods; thence South 66 rods to point of beginning, containing Twenty (20) acres, more or less.

Also, right of way for a road 33 feet wide extending along the North side of said Forty Acre Tract from the East line West on the best route and connecting with the present road leading up the mountain.

Also, right of way for a road 33 feet wide along the East side of said Forty Acre Tract from the North line South 14 rods to said Twenty Acre tract.

Also, the free use of right of way 33 feet extending from the public road West through the North side of the Southwest Quarter of the Northwest Quarter, Section 16, Township 7 North, Range 20 West.

Boundary Justification: See continuation sheet.

This boundary includes all the property historically associated with this resource.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name/Title:</th>
<th>Mark Christ, Special Projects Coordinator/AHPP Staff</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Organization:</td>
<td>Arkansas Historic Preservation Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Street &amp; Number:</td>
<td>323 Center Street, Suite 1500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City or Town:</td>
<td>Little Rock</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date:</td>
<td>03/11/96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telephone:</td>
<td>(501) 324-9880</td>
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<tr>
<td>State:</td>
<td>AR</td>
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