Union County, Arkansas

Historic Name: Dual State Monument

Other Name/Site Number: UN0170

Street & Number: County Road 86
City/Town: Aurelle
State: AR/LA
County: Union
Code: AR139
Zip Code: 71765

Ownership of Property: Private

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: NA
Dual State Monument
Name of Property

Union County, Arkansas
County and State

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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. ___ See continuation sheet.

                                   Signature of certifying official

                                Date

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
State or Federal agency and bureau

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

                                   Signature of commenting or other official

                                Date

LA SHPO, Division of Historic Preservation
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
Dual State Monument  

Name of Property  

Union County, Arkansas  
County and State  

6. Function or Use

Historic: RECREATION AND CULTURE  
Sub: monument/marker  

Current: RECREATION AND CULTURE  
Sub: monument/marker  

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

MODERN MOVEMENT/Art Deco

Materials: foundation concrete  
walls concrete  
roof concrete  
other

Describe present and historic physical appearance:

SUMMARY:

The Dual State Monument, constructed in 1931 and completed in 1933, rests astride the Arkansas-Louisiana border in southeast Union County, Arkansas, and north-central Union Parish, Louisiana. It is rectangular in form with Art Deco-style bas-relief sculptures on its east and west faces and inscriptions flanked by stylized, vertical flutes on its north and south faces. It is the best, and in fact only, example in the Aurelle vic. of an Art Deco-inspired stand-alone monument.

ELABORATION:

Located on the Arkansas-Louisiana border, the Dual State Monument, also called the Donaghey Monument, is rectangular in form with a flat cap resting on top of the work and battered projections in its east and west sides. The piece also features Art Deco bas-relief carvings on its east and west sides and inscriptions flanked by stylized, vertical flutes on its north and south faces. The monument, bas-relief carvings and base are various aggregates of cast concrete. The overall dimensions of the piece measure 9"x11'4.5"x6'7". The monument lies about 10 feet due north of Union County Road 86, which crosses from Arkansas into Louisiana just west of the monument.
The monument's concrete base, resting on a sprawling concrete foundation, is 9"x11'4.5"x6'7" and has a USGS Benchmark, indicating the elevation as 270.952 feet above sea level, in the top-enter of its south elevation. This south face, or the Louisiana side of the monument, which faces County Road 86, contains a lengthy inscription: LOUISIANA/HUEY P. LONG GOVERNOR/LATITUDE 33 0' 38.68" NORTH LONGITUDE 92 22' 4.36" WEST/CHARLES H. MURPHY OF ARKANSAS AND EDWARD EVERETT, SR./OF LOUISIANA WERE APPOINTED COMMISSIONERS BY THE/GOVERNORS OF THEIR RESPECTIVE STATES TO CORRECTLY/ESTABLISH THE LOCATION OF THIS MONUMENT/TO GERoge E. MURPHY, JOHN M. MURPHY, W.H. MOFFETT./W.F. SLADE, T.B. GOLDSBY AND W.O. GODLEY COMPANIONS/AND NEIGHBORS OF HIS BOYHOOD DAYS, THE BUILDER IS/INDEBTED FOR PERSONAL AID RENDERED IN ERECTING THIS MEMORIAL/TO C.S. CHRISTIAN, CHIEF ENGINEER OF THE ARKANSAS/HIGHWAY COMMISSION, R.S. WILSON, W.F. ADDISON, J.C. STEVENSON COUNTY/SURVEYOR OF UNION COUNTY, ARKANSAS/APPRECIATION IS EXPRESSED FOR PROFESSIONAL/SERVICES RENDERED.

The concrete inscription panel is inset into the main body of the monument and flanked on the left and right by vertical fluted column detailing. The center of the south face also has deep vertical lines above and below the inscription panel, representing the division of the east and west range survey lines.

With the exception of the inscription, the north elevation is a mirror image of the south face, including the inset inscription panel, the fluted column detailing and center-set deep vertical lines above and below the inscription panel, representing the division of the east and west range survey lines. The north panel inscription reads: ARKANSAS/HARVEY PARNELL GOVERNOR/THIS MONUMENT COMMEMORATING THE 100TH YEAR, SINCE/THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE LINE BETWEEN ARKANSAS/AND LOUISIANA. ERECTED IN 1920 A.D. BY/GEORGE W. DONAGHEY/WHO WAS BORN JULY 1, 1856 IN/LOUISIANA APPROXIMATELY/ONE MILE SOUTHWEST OF THIS POINT AND REARED ON/THE ADJACENT LAND IN ARKANSAS/TO THE UNION SAWMILL CO. THOROUGH/ITS VICE-PRES/F.W. SCOTT THE ERECTOR AND THE PUBLIC ARE INDEBTED/FOR THE SITE CONTAINING APPROXIMATELY FORTY ACRES/OF LAND IN EACH STATE,/DEDICATED FOR A/PERPETUAL PARK.

The east face of the monument features an inset, Art Deco bas-relief carving framed in a battered projection. At the top of the panel is inscribed: 1831/ANDREW JACKSON/PRESIDENT U.S.A. The carving depicts, in descending vertical order, a side-wheeled steamboat, a stagecoach and a covered wagon, depicting the prevalent modes of travel during the Jacksonian era. The east face also features center-set, deep vertical lines above and below the carving panel, indicating the boundary line between the states.

The west face also features an inset, Art Deco bas-relief carving framed in a battered projection. At the top of the inset panel is inscribed: 1931/HERBERT HOOVER/PRESIDENT U.S.A. The carving on this face also depicts the dominant modes of travel of its era, showing in descending vertical order an airplane, an automobile and a steam locomotive. The west face also features center-set, deep vertical lines above and below the carving panel,
indicating the boundary line between the states.

The monument has been defaced by graffiti, has suffered weathering, and has sustained damage from firearms, likely from area hunters. However, it still has tremendous integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association as it sits in its lonely, remote location in the center of a state park that never developed.

8. Statement of Significance

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

Applicable National Register Criteria: **C**

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): **F**

Areas of Significance: **ART**

Period(s) of Significance: **1931-33**

Significant Dates: **1931, 1933**

Significant Person(s): **George W. Donaghey**

Cultural Affiliation: **NA**

Architect/Builder: 

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

**SUMMARY:**

The Dual State Monument is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under **criterion c** with **statewide significance** as the earliest known manifestation of figurative, narrative Art Deco-influenced sculpture in the state of Arkansas. The monument derives its principal significance from its design, which reflects the then popular Art Deco style of architecture,
which was seen in numerous public buildings erected during the period and thus meets the requirements of criteria consideration F: commemorative properties.

ELABORATION:

The Dual State Monument, also known as the Donaghey monument, was built in 1931 on the Arkansas-Louisiana state line to commemorate the 100th anniversary of establishment of the boundary between the two states and as a memorial to the birthplace of George Washington Donaghey, governor of Arkansas between 1909-1913, who had the memorial constructed. In 1932, Donaghey secured donations of land from the Frost Lumber Co. and the Union Saw Mill Co. for a 49-acre park around the site, with 30.55 acres in Arkansas and 18.5 acres in Louisiana. Some 1,500 people attended the July 2, 1933, dedication of the Donaghey State Park. The former governor also proposed building a replica of the log house that stood on the property during his childhood and he hoped to move to the area after he retired. Donaghey died in 1937 without realizing either of the latter goals.

Donaghey was born July 1, 1856, near the Oakland post office in Union Parish, Louisiana, about one mile south of the Arkansas Louisiana border. Shortly after his birth, his parents bought land that straddled the Arkansas-Louisiana state line and moved just inside the Arkansas border near the site of the future park. Donaghey left home at 15 to work as a cowboy in Texas, returning to Arkansas in 1879 to live in the growing railroad town of Conway and pursue a career as a carpenter. After a brief stint at the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville in 1882-3, he married Louvenia Wallace of Lonoke County and returned to his carpentry work in Conway. In 1886, a fire destroyed much of downtown Conway and Donaghey used his experience as a carpenter to start what would become a lucrative construction business. In the mid-1880s, Donaghey became involved in Conway politics and was instrumental in securing three colleges for the town: Hendrix in 1889, Central College in 1890 and the State Normal School (now the University of Central Arkansas) in 1908. Donaghey’s interest in education continued to late in his life, when he founded and endowed Little Rock Junior College (now the University of Arkansas at Little Rock) in 1929.

Donaghey was elected governor of Arkansas in 1908, a significant achievement because he defeated William F. Kirby, who was backed by U.S. Sen. (and former governor) Jeff Davis, effectively ending a decade of Davis’s domination of state politics. As governor, Donaghey oversaw the completion of the then-controversial new state capitol building; reformed the public educational system; expanded public health programs, including construction of the Arkansas Tuberculosis Sanitarium at Booneville in Logan County; helped create four agricultural colleges (later Arkansas Tech, Arkansas State, Southern Arkansas State and the University of Arkansas at Monticello); promoted adoption of an amendment to the state constitution to provide for initiatives and referendums, and ended the notoriously corrupt convict-lease system. Joseph T. Robinson, the emerging power broker in Arkansas politics, defeated Donaghey in his third run for governor in the 1912 election.
Though he spent most of his life in Arkansas, Donaghey wrote in his autobiography of his lifelong feeling of belonging to both Arkansas and Louisiana. This is why he chose to place the monument, which he paid for, on the border to commemorate the drawing of the boundary. According to a 1981 interview with Joe Harrison, who hauled cement for the monument’s labor crew, Donaghey personally supervised the monument’s construction.

Dedication ceremonies for the monument were held July 2, 1933, and attended by Gov. J. M. Futrell, former acting Gov. X.O. Pindall, former Gov. Charles H. Brough, who in 1933 sat on the Arkansas Park Commission, and Frank W. Scott of Union Saw Mill Co., who said during the ceremony, “This memorial signifies the stalwart dignity and power of Governor Donaghey and is typical of the grace and loveliness of that manhood which has won the affection of his fellow man.” Donaghey reminisced about growing up in the region and read a poem by Charles T. Davis, whom the former governor called “the poet laureate of Arkansas and the brilliant editorial paragraphist of the Arkansas Gazette.” Wallick’s Band of El Dorado provided music for the 1,500 who braved the south Arkansas heat to attend the festivities.

His decision to focus the monument’s bas-relief carvings on modes of transportation may have reflected his youthful fascination with the wagon trains and steamboats he saw in his youth, a fascination he described in both his autobiography and at the dedication ceremony. The vast difference in methods of travel in the 100 years between establishment of the borderline and the monument’s construction is vibrantly illustrated by the bas-relief carvings.

The designer and builder of the monument remain unknown. The only known reference to a designer is contained in an undated newspaper article (probably from the Arkansas Gazette, as that newspaper is cited within the article). The article, a “personality sketch” of Donaghey, tells how the former governor determined to “mark the spot where the states meet between the place of his birth and the scene of his early childhood.”

“So he called in his architect and instructed him to design a suitable marker. It cost him a pile of money before it was finished,” the article states. (Calvin Ledbetter in Carpenter from Conway states that Donaghey paid $3,000 for the monument’s construction, but also does not identify the architect.)

While no comprehensive survey of Art Deco architecture has been conducted in Arkansas, a statewide survey of outdoor sculpture conducted in the early 1990s specifically sought figurative elements incorporated into Arkansas buildings. An assessment of those Art Deco buildings that have been documented by the AHPP, coupled with a review of the outdoor sculpture identified through the comprehensive survey, clearly indicates that the Dual State Monument is the earliest known manifestation of figurative, narrative Art Deco-influenced sculpture in the state of Arkansas.
The Dual State Monument’s Art Deco-inspired bas-relief carvings harbingered some of the sculpture/architecture that would be created during the 1930s and early 1940s under the aegis of such Depression-era federal relief programs as the Works Progress Administration and the U.S. Treasury Department’s Fine Arts Section. However, none of the known contemporaneous Art Deco architecture produced in Arkansas between 1932-33 featured such stylized, figurative artwork. Some, such as the 1931 Arkansas County Courthouse, Southern District at DeWitt (NR listed 11-20-92), the 1930 Newport Junior and Senior High School in Jackson County (NR listed 12-22-82) and the 1931 Pope County Courthouse in Russellville (Russellville Downtown Historic District, NR listed 9-3-96) are ornamented with stylized geometric patterns. The 1930 Warren City Hall in Bradley County and 1930 National Guard Armory at Searcy in White County (NR listed 9-13-91) and the 1933 Ouachita County Courthouse in Camden (NR listed 11-13-89) feature carved shield motifs. And the 1930 Gardner Junior High School at Russellville in Pope County and 1933 Scott County Courthouse at Waldron (NR listed 11-13-89) feature bands of chevrons as accents to their Art Deco massing. None of these buildings feature the level of detail as is evident in the Dual State Monument’s bas-relief panels.

In fact, the only known figurative Art Deco detailing in Arkansas actually shows up much later. Perhaps the best examples are the panels inset beside the main entrance to the 1939 Hempstead County Courthouse at Hope (NR listed 5-19-94). Those carvings depict an interesting mixture of images of men at work in industrial and agricultural pursuits and classical themes, such as Iogiones pursuing an honest man and other Greek-influenced male and female figures. The ca. 1940 Nyberg Building at the state tuberculosis sanatorium (an institution established during Donaghey’s gubernatorial tenure) features two classically inspired Art Deco carvings, one of which appears to represent a nude St. George slaying a dragon. The 1939 Business Building at Arkansas State University in Jonesboro in Craighead County features two standing figures depicted in the Art Deco style. The 1940 printing press addition to the Gazette Building in Little Rock (NR listed 10-22-76) features a bas-relief carving of a muscular male operating a printing press. Heroic, Art Deco-style cast aluminum football players, created by sculptor Sasha Schnittmann, adorn the east façade of the 1948 War Memorial Stadium in Little Rock. The most recent known Art Deco carvings in Arkansas depicted natural resource themes with both human and animal figures and were created by L. Terebesy in 1952 to adorn a building on the Arkansas State Capitol grounds. That building was later incorporated into the Multi-Agency Complex Building in 1979; one set of panels remains on that building while another was removed to the grounds of the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission in West Little Rock. Each of these structures appeared well after construction of the Dual State Monument’s 1931 construction.

Two other National Register listed properties are worthy of mention in considering the Dual State Monument’s place in Arkansas’s artistic legacy: The Berryville Post Office in Carroll County (NR 8-14-98) and the Monticello Post Office in Drew County (NR listed 8-14-98). Unlike the afore-mentioned buildings, most of which were built by the Works Progress Administration or other Depression-era public works programs, the sculptures in these post
Offices were commissioned through the Fine Arts Section of the Treasury Department. Berryville features a 1940 work by Daniel Olney of New York City. The three-piece plaster sculpture "Man and Woman, Arkansas" is clearly inspired by the Art Deco style. New York Artist Berta Margoulies created a three-piece terra cotta sculpture titled "Tomato Culture" for Monticello in 1941 that also exhibited Art Deco stylings. These works, too, were created well after the Dual State Monument, cementing its place as probably the earliest example of figurative Art Deco public sculpture in the state of Arkansas.

Though the park had a fund of $7,300 set aside to develop it as an attraction, Donaghey State Park was never developed and the monument was soon largely forgotten. In 1952, Olinkraft, Inc., a timber company, bought most of the land surrounding the park, including the area around the monument. Locals on both sides of the border knew of the monument hidden in the woods, but most believed the area was timber company property, not a state park. Raymond Farris, a Louisiana Highway Department employee, was in northern Union Parish inspecting roads when he saw the monument, which had been exposed by a timber cut. He contacted Louisiana state Rep. Louise Johnson of Bernice, who had never heard of the monument despite living in the area for several years. Johnson became interested in preserving the monument and contacted top Olinkraft executives to get their assurances that no harm would come to the monument, and to negotiate with the firm to vacate the property and donate the access road to the monument to the state. She also worked with the Louisiana legislature to have the land recognized as a state park. Finally, on April 6, 1975, the park and monument were rededicated in a ceremony dominated by Louisianans more than Arkansians, in contrast to the 1933 ceremonies. Though Arkansas Gov. David Pryor attended, Louisiana Gov. Edwin Edwards headlined the event, which was attended by some 1,000 people. Just one month later, the State of Arkansas sold all of the Arkansas part of Donaghey State Park except for 1.9 acres surrounding the northern half of the monument to Olin Mathieson Chemical Corp.

Though the park itself was never developed and the monument has suffered from both the elements and vandalism, the Dual State Monument still has a high degree of integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. The Dual State Monument is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under criterion c with statewide significance as the earliest known manifestation of figurative, narrative Art Deco-influenced sculpture in the state of Arkansas. The monument derives its principal significance from its design, which reflects the then popular Art Deco style of architecture, which was seen in numerous public buildings erected during the period and thus meets the requirements of criteria consideration F: commemorative properties.

9. Major Bibliographical References

El Dorado Daily News, "Dedication of Donaghey State Park on Sunday," July 1,
Dual State Monument

Union County, Arkansas

Name of Property

County and State

1933 p. 1, col. 5; "Big Crowd Expected at Park Dedication," July 2, 1933, p. 1; "Leading Citizens of Two States Join In Ceremonies as Park is Dedicated," July 4, 1933, p. 1.


The Dual State Timber Talk, "Governor Edwards to Dedicate the 'Lost and is Found' Dual State Park, Oakland, Northwest of Marion," 1, 10 (March 1975).


Ledbetter, Calvin R., Jr. Carpenter from Conway (Fayetteville: University of Arkansas Press, 1993).

Donaghey, George W. Papers, series 3, item 65. University of Arkansas Libraries, Fayetteville.

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: Less than one

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

A 15 559040 3652480 B D

Verbal Boundary Description:

The nominated property consists of a 33-foot diameter circle with a radius of 15 feet from the center of the monument.

Boundary Justification:

This boundary includes the historic monument, the most significant feature historically associated with this resource.

11. Form Prepared By

Name/Title: Mark Christ/Community Outreach Director

Organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program Date: July 24, 2000

Street & Number: 1500 Tower Bldg., 323 Center St. Telephone: (501) 324-9880

City or Town: Little Rock State: AR ZIP: 72201
This nomination was approved by the Louisiana State Review Committee at its September 9, 1999 meeting. The discussion was lengthy and spirited, with some members expressing reservations and others endorsement. The motion to recommend was amended to include only significance under Criterion C (for the monument's design features). Despite the differing opinions expressed during the course of the debate, the motion passed unanimously.

However, my staff's professional opinion is that the monument is not eligible. The form states that the Dual State Monument is eligible under Criterion A "as the lone site feature remaining from a park created to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the drawing of the boundary between the states of Arkansas and Louisiana and to celebrate the area of the birthplace and boyhood home of George W. Donaghey, governor of Arkansas from 1909-1913." My staff does not think it eligible in this manner because NPS guidelines for Criteria Consideration F state that a commemorative property "must possess significance based on its own value, not on the value of the event or person being memorialized."

The attached form also indicates significance under Criterion C. According to the previously mentioned guidelines, a commemorative property can also be eligible for its design (Criterion C) if "it expresses the aesthetics or craftsmanship of the period when it was made." The best expression of 1930s design found on the monument is on the side showing the prevalent forms of transportation in that decade (see photo of west face detail). However, my staff feels that these three relatively average bas-relief panels are not sufficient to carry the nomination under Criterion C. In short, we do not feel there is a compelling case.

Gerri Hobdy, Louisiana State Historic Preservation Officer
View from north east
Negative on file at AHP
June 1995
Photo by H. Berry
Hurricane vic, Union County, Ala.

Duke State Monument
Duell State Monument
Aureille vic., Union Co., AR/Union Parish, LA
Photo by H. Barry
June 1995
Negative on file at AHPP
West face detail
Dual State Monument
Aureille Vic. Union Co.
Photo by H. Barry
June 1995
Negative on file at APHE
East face detail
Dual State Monument
Aurelle vic., Union Co., AR/Union Parish, LA
Photo by H. Barry
June 1995
Negative on file at AHPP
West Face detail
View from East
Negative on file at AHPP
June 1995
Photo by H. Barry
Aurelie Vick Union Church, AR
1/24.5 Exposure
Dept. of Archeology
North face spot.

Negative on file + AHP

June 1995

Photo by H. East

Aucilla River Union Co. AR

Union Parish, LA

Dual State Monument
I

GEOBRE W. BONAHAM

WHO WAS BORN JULY 1, 1820 IN LOUISIANA, LOUISIANA,
ADJACENT LAND IN ARKANSAS

OF THE UNION SO VALORously FELL HERE.

ON THIS SITE CONTAINING APPROXIMATELY FORTY ACRES

PERPETUAL PARK.
Dual State Monument
Arkansas, Union County, AR/Union Parish, LA

Photo by H. Barry
June 1965

Negative on file at AHPPE

View from South
Dual State Monument
Avreille v.i., Union County, AR/Union Parish, LA
Photo by H. Barry
June 1995
Negative on file at AHPB
View from West
This is a stone monument with an inscription that reads:

To George E. Murphy, John M. Murphy, W. H. Moffett, W. O. Ellis, T. B. Goldsby and W. O. Cooley companions in the life and death of our beloved Mr. Murphy. This monument is erected by the friends of Mr. Murphy to commemorate his death and to testify to his memory.

[Signature of C. S. Chard, Chief Engineer of the Arkansas Valley Irrigation District, W. L. Forrester, J. C. Stevenson and J. C. Addison, President of the Union County, Arkansas, and other names and affiliations associated with the monument.]
South Florida
Northwest on 11th Ave.
Hillsborough County
June 1995

Photo by H. Barry

Avenue Vic., Union Co., AR/Union Parish, LA

Dual State Movement