

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Memorial Fountain and Statue

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Memorial Square

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Chambersburg

VICINITY OF

9th

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Pennsylvania

CODE

42

COUNTY

Franklin

CODE

055

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Borough of Chambersburg

STREET & NUMBER

City Hall, 116 South Second Street

CITY, TOWN

Chambersburg

VICINITY OF

STATE

Pennsylvania 17201

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Franklin County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

One North Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Chambersburg

STATE

Pennsylvania

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Pennsylvania Inventory of Historic Places

DATE

9/20/77

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission

CITY, TOWN

Harrisburg

STATE

Pennsylvania

DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Memorial Fountain and Statue are located in Memorial Square in the center of Chambersburg, Franklin County, at the intersection of Main Street (U. S. Route 11) and Lincoln Way (U. S. Route 30, the Lincoln Highway). Installed in 1878, the fountain and statue stand in the middle of the Square on a hexagonally shaped grassy plot about 50 feet in diameter with a limestone curb.

Both the fountain and the statue are made of cast-iron. The fountain is approximately 26 feet in height with a 30 foot diameter ground basin from which rises a central shaft with five, petal shaped tiers or basins. The shaft is terminated at the top with a turned finial. The tiers measure from bottom to top 11 feet, 7 feet, 4 feet, 3 feet, and 2 feet in diameter. Eight pested flower vases are positioned around the hexagonal shaped ground basin. The fountain is painted a bronze color and is labeled with raised letters in two places on the rim of the ground basin "J. W. Fiske, 21 & 23 Barclay Street, New York."

The base of the shaft is supported by four rectangular pedestals rising out of the ground basin and each of which is surmounted by a cherub riding a dolphin. The shaft culminates into a Corinthian capital below the first tier and is surrounded by four swans above the tier. Four lions' heads are mounted below the second tier above a band of four flower medallions. The shaft above the second tier and to the top is a series of fluted, bulbous, vase-shaped, and foliated sections with another band of four lions' heads below the third tier.

Water projects from the mouths and nostrils of the dolphins, the beaks of the water fowl, and the two small cherub statues, calla lily, and potted tulip plant which rise out of the water of the ground basin. Water also jets from the finial atop the shaft from which it falls and drains into successive lower basins. Originally, the vase-shaped area above the second tier contained four lions' heads which spouted water. These lions' heads were removed in the late 1960's when the shaft was repaired following its collapse during a winter storm. Unfortunately, the fountain's water system is not turned on very often.

The statue is about 6 feet high and is of a standing, uniformed soldier holding a rifle with the stock resting on the ground. A portion of the left arm of the statue was broken off in recent months. An attempt was made in recent years to give the statue humanistic qualities by painting.

The grassy plot on which the fountain and statue stand is encircled with a fence consisting of cannon-shaped metal posts with chains strung between. Plaques honoring the dead of other wars are set around the fountain.

Turn of the century photographs of Memorial Square indicate that the fountain was once painted a light color with the decoration detailed in dark. The statue is shown as being painted a dark color.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES July 17, 1878

BUILDER/ARCHITECT J.W. Fiske

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Memorial Fountain and Statue are cast-iron objects which were installed in Memorial Square in the center of Chambersburg in 1878 to honor local soldiers who died in the Civil War. The fountain is approximately 26 feet high with six basins ranging from 30 feet to 2 feet in diameter. The statue is about 6 feet in height and is of a soldier standing at rest. The fountain and statue are excellent examples of late nineteenth century ornamental cast-iron work and have been a prominent focal point of the streetscape of the central business district of this southern Pennsylvania town for nearly a century.

The memorial was dedicated on Wednesday, July 1878, on what is described in contemporary newspapers as the "sunniest and hottest" day of the year. The dedication ceremonies were marked by speeches and parades and were generally an event of festivities for the entire community culminating an effort begun a decade earlier.

The fountain and statue were given to the town by a group of private citizens who organized as the Ladies and Soldiers Association (Saturday Local, 20 July). The Association was formed in 1869 uniting a group of veterans with a ladies group organized in the previous year. The Association is variously referred to in other contemporary literature as the Soldiers' Monumental Association of Franklin County and the Franklin County Monumental Association. The group raised the money to purchase the fountain and statue by holding festivals, concerts, and other community events. Borough Council prepared the site by installing a sewer system on Memorial Square and closing an open drainage ditch.

The fountain is labeled in two places "J. W. Fiske, 21 & 23 Barclay Street, New Yor." The Fiske firm produced ornamental cast-iron work in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The Variety Iron Works of York, Pennsylvania, is identified in a newspaper article covering the dedication ceremonies as having "built" the fountain (Saturday Local, 20 July). This reference probably implies that the York firm either assembled the various parts of the fountain when they arrived from the Fiske firm or that it may have cast the structure from Fiske molds. (A late nineteenth century catalogue published by the firm which succeeded the Variety Iron Works is illustrated with Fiske items.) The source from which the fountain was purchased is not known. Although it is not labeled as such, the statue is believed to have also been manufactured by Fiske.

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MEMORIAL FOUNTAIN and STATUE

CONTINUATION SHEET

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Traditionally, the fountain is said to have originally been a part of a French display at the Centennial Exhibition held in Philadelphia in 1876. The documentation available at the moment, however, does not support this claim. Fiske is not listed in the Official Catalogue for the exhibition nor is such an origin referred to in any of the newspaper articles covering the dedication ceremonies. In fact, one article implies that the fountain and statue were purchased in 1878 from the Fiske firm (Saturday Local, July 20).

The centennial tradition appears to have originated with a statement released by the Ladies and Soldiers Association in the Spring of 1878 announcing that the group intended to purchase a fountain which had been on display at the Centennial Exhibition and for which purpose the Association sent a committee to Philadelphia (Saturday Local, April 13). The fountain which the Association had announced that it had selected, however, is not the fountain which was eventually installed and still stands in Memorial Square.

Chambersburg is the seat of Franklin County. Founded in 1764, the town was invaded three times during the Civil War by Confederate forces. The central portion of the town was burned in 1864 during the third raid, a fact which explains in part why the town erected the grand memorial it did in 1878 and why that memorial was placed at a prominent site at the intersection of the two main streets through the town, the present Main Street (U. S. Route 11) and Lincoln Way (U. S. Route 30, the Lincoln Highway). The Greek Revival influenced Franklin County Courthouse (listed on the National Register), which was rebuilt following the 1864 fire reusing the existing ruins of the earlier structure, stands on the eastern side of Memorial Square and provides an interesting and harmonious background for the fountain and statue.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Chambersburg, Pa., newspapers:

Franklin Repository, July 24, 1878

People's Register, April 12 and July 19, 1878

Saturday Local, April 13, May 4, June 15, July 13 & 30, 1878

(See continuation sheet)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .2

UTM REFERENCES

A	1 8	2 7 2 5 2 0	4 4 2 8 0 0 0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C			

B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Memorial Fountain and Statue stand on a grassy hexagonal plot about 50 feet in diameter at the intersection of U. S. Routes 11 and 30. Traffic flows about the site.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Ronald L. Andrews

August 14, 1977

ORGANIZATION

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

649 Philadelphia Avenue

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Chambersburg

STATE

Pennsylvania

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE

WILLIAM J. WEWER, Executive Director
Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission

DATE

2/24/78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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C			

B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
D			

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KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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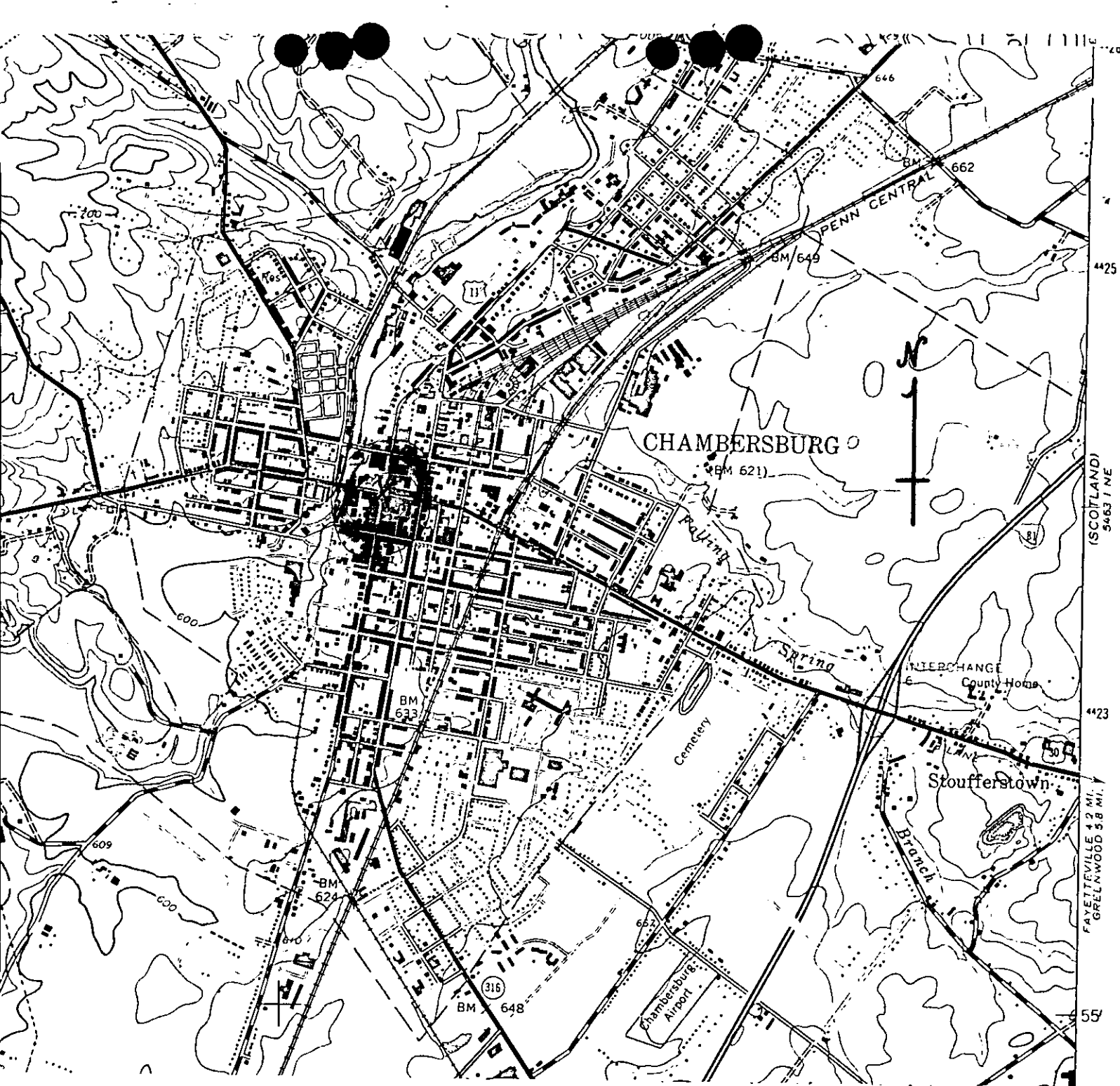
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Valley Spirit, July 17 & 24, 1878

Borough Council Minutes, Borough of Chambersburg, Pa., 1876-1878.

Historical Society of York County, York, Pa., Variety Iron Works file.

Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C., Centennial Exhibition files.



map: Chambersburg, Pa.
 U.S. G. S. Quad
 15' Quadrangle
 1944, photo revised 1968
 scale 1:24000

Memorial Fountain and Statue
 Memorial Square
 Chambersburg
 Franklin County, Pennsylvania