

NATIONAL ORGANIZATION  
**SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR**  
**CIVIL WAR MEMORIAL ASSESSMENT FORM**

**PLEASE:**

- Type or print, using a ball-point pen, when filling out this form. Legibility is critical.
- Do not guess at the information. An answer of, "Unknown," is more helpful.
- Include a photograph of each viewable side and label it with name & direction of view.

- Thank You.

**Type of Memorial**

☐ Monument *with* Sculpture  
☒ Monument without Sculpture

☐ Monument with *Cannon*  
☐ Historical Marker ☐ Plaque

**Affiliation**

☐ G.A.R. (Post Name & No. \_\_\_\_\_) ☐ M.O.L.L.U.S.  
☐ W.R.C. (Corps Name & No. \_\_\_\_\_) ☐ Other Allied Order  
☐ SUVCW (Camp Name & No. \_\_\_\_\_) (Please describe below)  
☐ DUVCW (Tent Name & No. \_\_\_\_\_)  
☒ Other: Unknown

**Original Dedication Date** 1 Oct 1882

Please consult any/all newspaper archives for a local paper's article that would have information on the *first* dedication ceremony and/or other facts on the memorial. Please submit a copy of your findings with full identification of the paper & date of publication. Thank you.

**Location**The Memorial is *currently* located at:Street/Road address or site location Benton Park, Wyoming & Missouri Sts. W90°13'19" N38°35'49"City/Village St. Louis Township \_\_\_\_\_ County St Louis CityThe front of the Memorial faces: ☒ North ☐ South ☐ East ☐ West**Government Body, Agency, or Individual Owner** (of private cemetery that Memorial is located in)...Name City of St. Louis Dept./Div. Facilities ManagementStreet Address 1200MarketCity St. Louis State MO Zip Code 63103Contact Person Facilities Management Telephone ( 314 ) 613-7280

If the Memorial has been moved, please list former location(s)...

Not Applicable**Physical Details**

Material of Monument or base under a Sculpture or Cannon = ☒ Stone ☐ Concrete ☐ Metal ☐ Undetermined  
 If known, name specific material (color of granite, marble, etc.) Gray granite

Material of the Sculpture = ☐ Stone ☐ Concrete ☐ Metal ☐ Undetermined  
 If known, name specific material (color of granite, marble, etc.) not applicable  
 If the Sculpture is of metal, is it solid cast or "hollow?" \_\_\_\_\_

Material of Plaque or Historical Marker / Tablet = \_\_\_\_\_

Material of Cannon = ☐ Bronze ☐ Iron - Consult known Ordnance Listing to confirm  
 Markings on muzzle = not applicable

Markings on Left Trunion \_\_\_\_\_ Right Trunion \_\_\_\_\_

Is inert ammunition a part of the Memorial? ☐ If so, describe \_\_\_\_\_

**Approximate Dimensions** (indicate unit of measure) - taken from tallest / widest points

Monument or Base: Height 30 feet Width 8 feet Depth 8 feet or Diameter \_\_\_\_\_  
 Sculpture: Height \_\_\_\_\_ Width \_\_\_\_\_ Depth \_\_\_\_\_ or Diameter \_\_\_\_\_

For Memorials with multiple Sculptures, please record this information on a separate sheet of paper for each statue and attach to this form. Please describe the "pose" of each statue and any weapons/implements involved (in case your photos become separated from this form). Thank you!

**Markings/Inscriptions** (on stone-work / metal-work of monument, base, sculpture)

Maker or Fabricator mark / name? If so, give name & location found Name not found on monument

But Architect was Ernest C. Janssen and Sculptor was Charles Stubenraugh

The "Dedication Text" is formed: ☒ cut into material ☐ raised up from material face

Record the text (indicate any separation if on different sides...) Please use additional sheet if necessary.

North Face: Friedrich Hecker [Medallion of bronze portrait of Hecker, in high relief, is missing]

East Face: 1848

West Face: 1861

South Face: Laurel Wreaths [Bronze Wreath of Oak Leaves in original design is missing]

**Environmental Setting**

(The general vicinity and immediate locale surrounding a memorial can play a major role in its overall condition.)

**Type of Location**

☐ Cemetery

☐ "Town Square"

☐ Municipal Building

☐ Courthouse

☐ Traffic Circle

☒ Park

☐ Post Office

☐ State Capitol

☐ College Campus

☐ Library

☐ Plaza/Courtyard

☐ School

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**General Vicinity**

☐ Rural (low population, open land)  
☐ Town

☐ Suburban (residential, near city)  
☒ Urban / Metropolitan

**Immediate Locale** (check as many as may apply)

☐ Industrial ☐ Commercial  
☐ Street/Roadside within 20 feet ☐ Tree Covered (overhanging branches)  
☐ Protected from the elements (canopy or enclosure, indoors)  
☐ Protected from the public (fence or other barrier)  
 Any other significant environmental factor \_\_\_\_\_

**Condition Information****Structural Condition** (check as many as may apply)

The following section applies to Monuments *with* Sculpture, and Monuments without Sculpture - including the base for Monuments with *Cannon*. Instability in the sculpture and its base can be detected by a number of factors. Indicators may be obvious or subtle. Visually examine the sculpture and its base.

	Sculpture	Base
If hollow, is the internal support unstable/exposed? (look for signs of exterior rust)	___	___
Any evidence of structural instability? (look for cracked joints, missing mortar or caulking or plant growth)	___	___
Any broken or missing parts? (look for elements (i.e., sword, musket, hands, arms, etc. - missing due to vandalism, fluctuating weather conditions, etc.)	___	<u>YES</u>
Any cracks, splits, breaks or holes? (also look for signs of uneven stress & weakness in the material)	___	___

**Surface Appearance** (check as many as may apply)

	Sculpture	Base
Black crusting	___	___
White crusting	___	___
Etched, pitted, or otherwise corroded (on metal)	___	___
Metallic staining (run-off from copper, iron, etc.)	___	___
Organic growth (moss, algae, lichen or vines)	___	___
Chalky or powdery stone	___	___
Granular eroding of stone	___	___
Spalling of stone (surface splitting off)	___	___
Droppings (bird, animal, insect remains)	___	___
Other (e.g., spray paint graffiti) - Please describe...		
Except for missing parts monument in good shape.		

Does water collect in recessed areas of the Memorial? \_\_\_ Yes ☒ No \_\_\_ Unable to tell

**Surface Coating**Does there appear to be a coating? ☐ Yes ☒ No ☐ Unable to determine

If known, identify type of coating.

☐ Gilded ☐ Painted ☐ Varnished ☐ Waxed ☐ Unable to determineIs the coating in good condition? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unable to determine**Basic Surface Condition Assessment** (check one)

In your opinion, what is the general appearance or condition of the Memorial?

☒ Well maintained ☐ Would benefit from treatment ☐ In urgent need of treatment ☐ Unable to determine**Overall Description**

Briefly describe the Memorial (affiliation / overall condition &amp; any concern not already touched on).

SEE ATTACHED FOR DESCRIPTION

**Supplemental Background Information**

In addition to your on-site survey, any additional information you can provide on the described Memorial will be welcomed. Please label each account with its source (author, title, publisher, date, pages). Topics include any reference to the points listed on this questionnaire, plus any previous conservation treatments - or efforts to raise money for treatment. Thank you.

**Inspector Identification**Date of On-site Survey 16 October 2005Your Name Walter E. BuschAddress PO Box 509City Pilot KnobState MO Zip Code 63663Telephone ( 314 ) 546-3454

Please send this completed form to:

Todd A. Shillington, PDC  
15 Park Place  
Holley, NY 14470-1022  
(585) 638-5929

Thank you for your help, and attention to detail.

SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR  
National Civil War Memorials Committee





## Benton Park

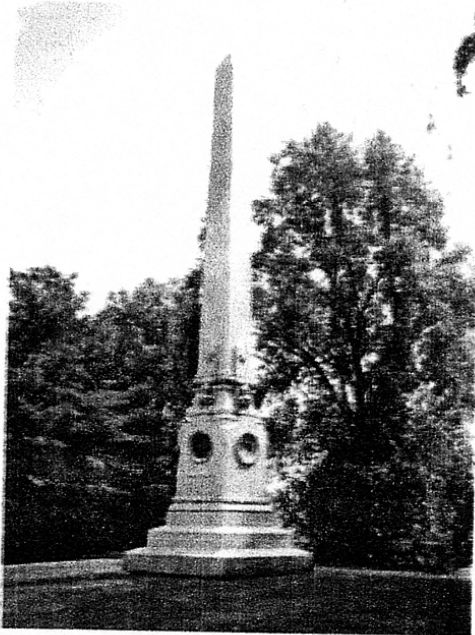
### Freidrich Hecker Monumnet

**Location:** Benton Park,  
Jefferson & Arsenal

**Sculptor:** Charles  
Steubenraugh / Ernest  
C. Janssen

Hecker, Frederick - A German Revolutionist who came to St. Louis in the forties. Hecker commanded the German, 24th Illinois Infantry ("Hecker Regiment") and the 82nd Illinois Infantry. Hecker resided near Belleville, Illinois but when the war started he joined as a private in a St. Louis Union regiment. At the Battle of Chancellorsville, he severely wounded while carrying the battle flag during a charge on a Confederate position. He was also a leader in the failed German Revolution before coming to America.

The memorial is a shaft of gray stone. On two sides are circular medallions with the dates 1848 (German Revolution) in one, and 1861 (Civil War) in the other. There is a third medallion with a bronze portrait of Hecker, in high relief, set in on the North side. The sculptor was Charles Stubenraugh. On the opposite side is a bronze wreath of oak leaves. On four sides of the base of the shaft, above the medallions, are four torches carved in full relief in the stone, and above these are four stars in high relief. Ernest C. Janssen was the Architect, and the memorial was erected in 1882 before a crowd of 15,000.



**Location:**  
S. Jefferson & Arsenal

**Acres:**  
14.3

**Donated Ordinance:**  
5852

**Ordinance Date:**  
1866

**Amenities:**  
1 Lake - Stocked with  
fish of fishing

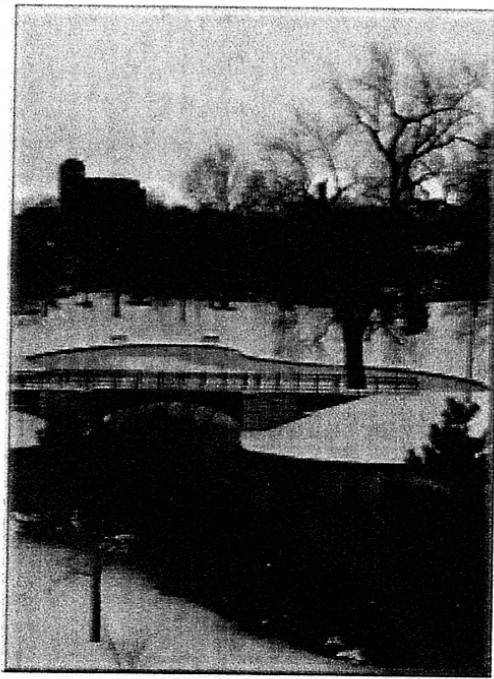
1 Reflecting pool

1 Comfort Station

1 Playground

1 Horseshoe court

2 Tennis courts  
(Lighted)

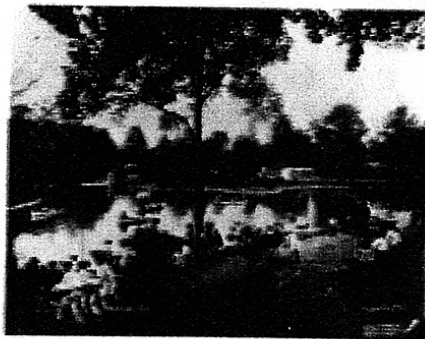


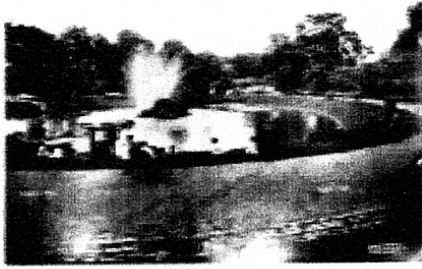
Close to the southern entrance of the park is a granite obelisk monument to the memory of Colonel Friedrich Karl Franz Hecker, who raised a regiment of local German-Americans during the Civil War, serving first under Fremont and later commanding his own brigade in the Union Army. The shaft, designed by architect Ernest C. Janssen, was dedicated in 1882.

In recent years, Benton Park has been completely remodeled and attractively landscaped with the city's neighborhood rehabilitation funds derived from the sale of City property, as part of the Cherokee Pilot Rehabilitation Area. The large playground is provided with new and modern equipment and an excellent storage and shelter building was erected overlooking the lake.

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Thanks to Greg Stock, we now have some very nice pictures of Benton Park from the late 1800's.





If you or someone you know has images of the area from old, PLEASE contact me and I can have them digitized and place them on the web for other to enjoy. I would love to create a complete history under the Neighborhood section of this web site but I will need content to do this. I will be scouring the History Museum Library for more images but, if you have some from your childhood or your parents do . . . please share them.

**Benton Park Neighborhood Association**

P.O. Box 2066 • St. Louis, MO • 63158

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For problems or questions contact the Web Master  
Last updated: Tuesday, September 06, 2005



## Benton Park and the Friedrich Hecker Monument

From Interstate 44, take Jefferson Avenue  
about one mile to its intersection with  
Main Street. Turn left (east) on Arsenal,  
and Benton Park will be on the right  
(north). No parking is allowed on the  
Benton Park side of Arsenal. For the easiest  
access to the Hecker monument, continue  
Arsenal to Lemp Street. Turn right on  
Lemp and then right again at the  
intersection with Wyoming. Follow Wyoming  
to the south side of Benton Park. The  
Hecker monument is visible from the street.

Many political refugees arrived in  
America in the late 1840s after the  
failed republican revolutions in  
central Europe, but few were as prominent as  
Friedrich Franz Karl Hecker.

Hecker arrived in New York City on  
October 4, 1848, to a welcome that he  
described as the greatest reception for a  
European since the arrival of Lafayette. As a  
prominent lawyer in Germany, Hecker had  
been a fiery and outspoken champion of the  
people, and he came to America determined  
to continue the fight for republican reforms  
in his native land. He moved west and settled  
on a farm near Belleville, Illinois, becoming a  
leader in the St. Louis area German  
community. He was an active supporter of the  
presidential candidate of the Republican  
Party, John C. Frémont, and enthusiastically  
led German support for Abraham Lincoln's  
presidency four years later.<sup>21</sup>

When war broke out, the fifty-year-old  
Hecker enlisted as a private in a Union three-  
month regiment in St. Louis. He was soon  
promoted by friends to Chicago to command  
the 24th Illinois Infantry, a German regiment  
named "the Hecker Regiment" in his honor. His  
experience with the 24th Illinois was stormy.  
Hecker's orders dismissing undesirable  
soldiers—and potential political rivals—were  
dealt all the way to Secretary of War  
Simon Cameron before an unsatisfactory  
promise was worked out in November  
1861. Hecker took sick leave in protest.<sup>22</sup>

Another German regiment, the 82d Illinois  
Infantry, was mustered into service in October  
1862, and Colonel Hecker was appointed to  
command it. After moving to the Eastern  
Theater of the war, the regiment was made  
part of Major General Carl Schurz' division, XI



Friedrich Hecker.  
Photograph by Robert  
Benecke, ca. 1880.  
Missouri Historical  
Society Photograph and  
Print Collection.

Corps, Army of the Potomac. On the afternoon  
of May 2, 1863, at Chancellorsville, Virginia, the  
82d Illinois had the misfortune to be directly  
in the path of General Thomas J. Jackson's  
flank attack. Hecker grabbed the regimental  
colors and ordered his men forward, but  
Confederate fire brought him down almost  
immediately. After his recovery, he led a  
brigade in Schurz' division in the Chattanooga  
campaign, but he retired from military service  
in early 1864.<sup>23</sup>

Hecker returned to active participation in  
politics, his patriotism heightened by his  
combat experience. In a Fourth of July oration  
in Trenton, Illinois, in 1871, Hecker boldly  
proclaimed his view of his new fatherland: "I  
am the destiny of the old world—I am  
America, and I will plant the banner of the  
deliverance of humanity in every land." On a  
similar occasion in Stuttgart, Germany, Hecker  
praised the "three miracles of America" that he  
had seen in his lifetime: the abolition of  
slavery, the return of huge armies to civilian  
pursuits, and the decision of the victorious  
not to bestow medals on their generals.  
Hecker died on March 24, 1881, and was  
buried near Summerfield, Illinois.<sup>24</sup>

Benton Park was created by city ordinance  
on June 25, 1866, converting a graveyard of  
seventeen acres to a city park. The land had  
been used for burials from 1840 until 1865, at  
which time the bodies were removed to  
Arsenal Island. The park's original acreage has  
been slowly reduced by the encroachment of  
the surrounding streets. On Sunday, October  
1, 1882, a crowd of fifteen thousand gathered

to witness the unveiling of the  
monument. Dr. Emil Prectorius, editor of  
*Westliche Post*, opened the ceremony  
which included orations in German and  
songs, and instrumental music. Mary  
Hecker, a granddaughter, then unveiled  
the monument.

The tall obelisk of gray granite is  
the highest point in Benton Park and is  
situated in a small lagoon. The shaft bears a  
photographic image of Hecker on its north face,  
a bronze relief done by German  
sculptor Karl Stubenrauch. A laurel  
wreath once graced the south side of  
the monument; an oak wreath has been  
placed in its place. St. Louisan Ernst C. J.  
Jung was the monument's architect.<sup>25</sup>

On the east and west sides of  
the monument are the years "1848"  
the dates of the two revolutions  
meaning to the life of Friedrich  
Hecker.







