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 $\qquad$ Historical Marker $\qquad$ 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 |  |

$\overline{\text { X }}$ Other: Missouri Dept of Natural Resources, Division of State Parks, Civil War Monuments Program
Original Dedication Date 2006 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 Block E. Spring near Washington St. W94422'03" $\mathrm{N} 36^{\circ} 5^{\circ} 2^{\prime} 0^{\prime \prime}$
City/Nillage Neosho Township $\qquad$ County Newton

The front of the Memorial faces: __ North __ South __ East $\times$ West
Government Body, Agency, or Individual Owner (of private cemetery that Memorial is located in)...
Name Dept of Natural Resources Dept./Div. Division of State Parks
Street Address PO Box 176

| City Jefersson City | State MO Zip Code 65102 |
| :---: | :---: |
| Contact Person Jim Demy | Telephone ( ${ }_{573}$ ) ${ }^{751-8566}$ |

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

## Physical Details

Material of Monument or base under a Sculpture or Cannon $\qquad$ Stone Concrete $X$ Metal $\qquad$ Undetermined If known, name specific material (color of granite, marble, etc.) $\qquad$

Material of the Sculpture = $\qquad$ Stone Concrete Metal Undetermined If known, name specific material (color of granite, marble, etc.) notappicable If the Sculpture is of metal, is it solid cast or "hollow?" $\qquad$
Material of Plaque or Historical Marker $/$ Tablet $=$ Laminated Plastic \& Plexiglass
Material of Cannon $=$ $\qquad$ Bronze $\qquad$ Iron - Consult known Ordnance Listing to confirm Markings on muzzle $=$ not applicable Markings on Left Trunion $\qquad$ Right Trunion
If so, describe $\qquad$

Approximate Dimensions (indicate unit of measure) - taken from tallest / widest points Monument or Base: Sculpture:

Height
Height $\qquad$ Width $\qquad$ Depth $21 / 2$ feet or Diameter $\qquad$
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 not appicable

The "Dedication Text" is formed: $\qquad$ cut into material $\qquad$ raised up from material face

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

TITLE: SECESSION CONVENTION AT NEOSHO
$\qquad$
$\qquad$
$\qquad$
$\qquad$
$\qquad$
$\qquad$

## Environmental Setting

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

Cemetery Park
$\underline{X}$ "Town Square"
Municipal Building
X Courthouse
Traffic Circle

Post Office State Capitol College Campus Library
$\qquad$

## General Vicinity

Rural (low population, open land)
__Suburban (residential, near city) Town Urban / Metropolitan

Immediate Locale (check as many as may apply)

Industrial
$\times$
Street/Roadside within 20 feet

Commercial 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.

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.)
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)
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)
Sculpture
Base
$\qquad$
$\qquad$
$\qquad$
$\qquad$


Other (e.g., spray paint graffiti) - Please describe...
Good shape
$\qquad$ Yes $\qquad$ No $\qquad$ Unable to tell

## Surface Coating

Does there appear to be a coating? __ Yes $X$ No __ Unable to determine If known, identify type of coating.

Gilded Is the coating in good condition? Varnished $\qquad$ Waxed $\qquad$ Unable to determine Unable to determine

Basic Surface Condition Assessment (check one)
In your opinion, what is the general appearance or condition of the Memorial?
$\times$ Well maintained __ Would benefit from treatment $\qquad$ In urgent need of treatment $\qquad$ Unable to determine

## Overall Description

Briefly describe the Memorial (affiliation / overall condition \& any concern not already touched on).
$\qquad$
$\qquad$
$\qquad$

## 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 1211812006
Your Name Water E. Busch, Us Grant Camp \#f8 Commander
Address po box 509 City Pilot Knob

State м Zip Code 63631 Telephone (314 | 630-8407 |
| :--- |

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

## Secession Convention at Neosho

[Insert: Pictures of US Flag and Gamble]

Directly in front of this marker, at the corner of Washington and Spring Streets, there stood in 1861 a two-story frame building that served as a Masonic Hall. In this building, known as Missouri's "first Confederate Capitol," there occurred a special session of the Twenty-first General Assembly, lasting from October 21 through October 28, 1861. At this extraordinary session an Ordinance of Secession was passed that, upon recognition by the Confederate government on November 28, 1861, made Missouri the twelfth Confederate state. At the same time, Missouri also had in place a provisional government that was loyal to the Union and was backed by federal military might. This government was created on July 23-31, 1861, by a state convention that met and declared all of the executive offices of the state and seats of the General Assembly vacant. This convention then proceeded to put in place a provisional government to carry on the functions of state. Hamilton Gamble was selected to act as a provisional governor. Although the Unionist provisional government was originally intended to serve only until an election could be held to fill the vacated offices, this election, as it turned out, was postponed until November, 1864, due to wartime conditions in "Missouri.

Those senators and representatives who were able to evade federal capture and make their way to Neosho by October 21 heard a proclamation by Governor Claiborne Jackson that accused federal authorities of waging a ruthless war on the people of the state that in turn justified the people abandoning peaceful means in order to secure their constitutional rights.
[Insert: "War now exists between the State of Missouri and the Federal government, and a state of war is incompatible with the continuance of our union with that government." Claiborne Fox Jackson, October 21, 1861.]

In a few days, those members of the General Assembly who reached Neosho took the preliminary steps toward secession, steps Governor Jackson had been hoping the assembly would take since his inauguration as govenror in early 1861.

Unfortunately for the Southern cause, this gesture came too late to dislodge Missouri's position in the Union. At nearly every step on the bumpy road to
[Insert Photo: Camp Jackson "Massacre", May 10, 1861- NY Illustrated News May 25, 1861, Mo. Hist. Soc.] [Insert Photo: Masonic Hall at Neosho, MO, Site of Secession Convention, October 21-28, 1861 - State Historical Society, Columbia]
secession. Jackson and his fellow disunionists found themselves outmaneuvered by an aggressive Union faction centered in St. Louis.

From the very beginning of his term as governor, Jackson felt that a breakup of the Union was inevitable. In his inaugural address on January 3, 1861, Jackson stated that Missouri, as a slave state, should stand by her sister states of the South. At that time he also called for a state convention to determine Missouri's relation to the Union. In issuing this call he badly misjudged the strength of disunionist sentiment in the border state. When the state convention met in the spring, it not only reaffirmed Missouri's ties to the Union, it also took a firm stand against coercing the Southern states that had already seceded to rejoin the Union.

In the wake of the "submission convention," Jackson experienced yet another disappointment in his efforts to lead Missouri down the path to secession
[Insert: A State Divided: CIVIL WAR IN MISSOURI - Missouri Department of Natural Resources]
when the General Assembly refused to pass a military bill to organize and equip a state guard. Jackson required a strong military force to back any steps taken to carry Missouri into the Confederacy. He also needed to secure the munitions necessary to equip an army. To this end he conspired with supporters to seize the St. Louis arsenal and its vast stores of arms and munitions but was frustrated in this effort by alert Unionists. When Jackson angrily and defiantly refused to answer Lincoln's call for troops following the bombardment of Ft. Sumter [sic], St. Louis Unionists filled the void by
raising a force of 10,000 well-armed Home Guards, many of them German-Americans with previous military experience in their former homelands.

On May 10, 1861, St. Louis Unionist troops surrounded and captured the First Brigade of the state militia at Camp Jackson in St. Louis, thereby depriving Jackson of his best-trained military force. This action shocked much of the state and helped to bring to a climax the confrontation between the pro-Southern and Unionist elements of the state. In mid-May the General Assembly at last driven to action by the Camp Jackson "massacre," passed Jackson's Military Bill authorizing the formation of a state guard to resist federal aggression. A brief uneasy truce followed that ended abruptly on June 11, in an encounter at the Planters House hotel in St. Louis. Here Jackson met with his federal adversaries, Frank P. Blair, Jr., and Gen. Nathaniel Lyon, and attempted to forestall a direct confrontation with the Unionists long enough to finish organizing and equipping the State Guard. Suspecting
[Insert Pictures: Jackson and Confederate Flag]
Jackson's motives, Lyon would have none of this and announced to the governor that a state of war now existed between the federal and state governments. Three days later Lyon moved on Jefferson City and drove Jackson and his supporters from the capital city.

Following a skirmish at Boonville, Jackson headed for the southwest section of the state where he made contact with Arkansas Confederates. On the way, his 6,000 State Guard troops, on July 5 , scattered a smaller federal force at the Battle of Carthage. One month later, on August 10, assisted by the Arkansas State Guardsmen and Confederates, the Missouri State Guard defeated the federal army at the Battle of Wilson's Creek; Lyon fell mortally wounded in the battle. The State Guard then marched north and won the Battle of Lexington on September 18-20, before being compelled by a large federal army to retreat back to southwest Missouri.
[Insert Photo: Gen. Nathaniel Lyon, Webster's Photographic Galley - Mo. Hist. Soc.]
While at Lexington, Jackson issued a call for the General Assembly to convene in a special session at Neosho on October 21. During the first week of the Assembly little business was actually conducted. those members present found it necessary to await the arrival of more senators and representatives in order to secure a quorum. No official roster of the members present was recorded, nor did the Senate Journal list roll calls of the votes cast. This is probably because no quorum existed, although the point is moot on two grounds; first, the entire membership of the General Assembly had been deposed by the state convention and, second, the Confederacy recognized the actions of the Neosho/Cassville assembly as legal. In any event, the General Assembly went into session on October 28 and passed an ordinance of secession and an act ratifying the provisional constitution of the Confederate States of America. On October 29, the Assembly adjourned to meet on October 31 at the courthouse in Cassville. It was there that most of the business of the session was transacted. It was in Cassville, on November 3, that Governor Jackson affixed his signature to the acts drawn up in Neosho. A more detailed discussion of the accomplishments at Cassville are discussed on a marker in this series that is located on the courthouse square in Cassville.

Historian William R. Geise summed up the unique situation that prevailed in Missouri government during the Civil War period:
"From July 1861, until the end of the Civil War, there were two governments of Missouri. One, sitting in the regular state capitol at Jefferson City, was created under the stress of wartime necessity by a state convention, exercising vague and extraordinary powers. The other, composed of a number of the last regularly elected members of the old state government, became a fugitive government, dispossesses of both capital and state, moving from place to place."



