

*Fool Con.*

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NR LISTED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

APR 26 1996

1. Name of Property

AHPP

historic name: Van Buren Confederate Monument

other name/site number: CW0165S

2. Location

street & number: Courthouse Lawn (at the courthouse's northern side,  
facing Main Street)

not for publication: N/A

city/town: Van Buren

vicinity: N/A

state: AR county: Crawford code: AR 033 zip code: 72956

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: Public-local

Category of Property: Object

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	buildings
<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	sites
<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	structures
<u>  1  </u>	<u>      </u>	objects
<u>  1  </u>	<u>  0  </u>	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

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**4. State/Federal Agency Certification**  
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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

Cathryn A. Slater \_\_\_\_\_ 3-12-96  
Signature of certifying official 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 of commenting or other official Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

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**5. National Park Service Certification**  
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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  
of Action

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**6. Function or Use**  
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Historic: RECREATION AND CULTURE Sub: Monument/marker  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Current: RECREATION AND CULTURE Sub: Monument/marker  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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**7. Description**  
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**Architectural Classification:**

Neoclassical  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Other Description: N/A

Materials:        foundation        CONCRETE/STONE/Marble        roof        N/A  
                  walls                    STONE/Marble                    other        \_\_\_\_\_

Describe present and historic physical appearance.        \_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

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**Summary**

The Van Buren Confederate Monument is located on the northwest side of the Crawford County Courthouse at 3rd and Main Sts. The sculpture, made of Italian marble, depicts a bearded and caped uniformed Confederate soldier shielding his eyes with his proper left hand, while his proper right arm points downward parallel to his body and holds a rifle to the ground. His proper right leg is placed before his proper left as if walking. The base consists of a concrete slab supporting a marble nonfluted shaft and an ornate capital with volutes supports the figure of the soldier. The northwest face of the column features an inscription of a classical female figure flanked by the Confederate national and battle flags, while the United Daughters of the Confederacy seal is inscribed on the southeast face of the column. The dimensions of the sculpture are 6'x1'6"x1'6"; the base is 15'x6'6"x6'6".

**Elaboration**

The Confederate Monument of Van Buren is located on the northwest side of the Crawford County Courthouse at 3rd and Main Sts. The sculpture, made of Italian marble, depicts a bearded and caped uniformed Confederate soldier shielding his eyes with his proper left hand, while his proper right arm points downward parallel to his body and holds a rifle to the ground. His proper right leg is placed before his proper left as if walking. The base consists of a concrete slab supporting a marble nonfluted shaft and an ornate capital with volutes supports the figure of the soldier. The northwest face of the column features an inscription of a classical female figure flanked by the Confederate national and battle flags, while the United Daughters of the Confederacy seal is inscribed on the southeast face of the column. The dimensions of the sculpture are 6'x1'6"x1'6"; the base is 15'x6'6"x6'6".

The northwest face of the base has two crossed Confederate flags with the inscription "1899 / FURLED BUT NOT FORGOTTEN / 1861 C.S.A. 1865. / ERECTED BY THE / MARY LEE CHAPTER / UNITED DAUGHTERS / OF THE / CONFEDERACY"

Inscribed on the southwest face was "BATTLES / OAK HILL / AUG. 10, 1861. / ELK HORN / MARCH 6 TO 8, 1862. / PRAIRIE GROVE / DEC. 7, 1862. / CAPT. S. CHURCHILL CLARKE / MISSOURI BATTERY NO. 2 / KILLED AT ELK HORN. / MARCH 6, 1892, / AGED 20 YEARS."

On the southeast face of the base was "THE CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA: 22 FEBRUARY 1862 / DEO VINDICE / HE WINS THE MOST WHO HONOUR SAVES / SUCCESS IS NOT THE TEST. RYAN. / FATE DENIED THEM VICTORY, BUT / CROWNED THEM WITH GLORIOUS IMMORTALITY."

The northeast face reads "TO OUR / BELOVED / CONFEDERATE / DEAD. / ARKANSAS / TEXAS / LOUISIANA / MISSOURI / INDIAN TERRITORY."

The monument is positioned close to a road in an urban setting. In addition to extensive black crusting, it suffers from spalling and sugaring and there is evidence of structural instability. Also, the tip of the soldier's rifle has been broken off.

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**8. Statement of Significance**  
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Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: Statewide.

Applicable National Register Criteria: A

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): B, F

Areas of Significance: SOCIAL HISTORY  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period(s) of Significance: 1899-1906

Significant Dates: 1899-1906

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.

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Summary                      Criterion A, statewide significance  
                                    Criterion Consideration B and F

The Van Buren Confederate Monument 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 an ancestral organization in Arkansas. As such, it is eligible under Criterion A with statewide significance for its associations with the efforts of the Mary Lee Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy to reflect members' perception of the noble character and valor of their

veterans and their cause. Thus, it also meets the eligibility requirements of Criteria Consideration F: Commemorative Properties.

**Elaboration**

The Van Buren Confederate Monument was sponsored by the Mary Lee Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy. It was erected at Fairview Cemetery in honor of the Confederate soldiers who were buried there and those who had died at the battles of Elk Horn (Pea Ridge), Prairie Grove, and Oak Hill. The monument was placed over the grave of Capt. S. Churchill Clarke, an Arkansas soldier who had died at Elk Horn at age 20, at the request of his brother, one of the project's biggest donors. Sen. James H. Berry and a large group of Confederate veterans assembled for the dedication on November 10, 1899. The monument was moved to its current site on August 4, 1906 at the request of the Sons of the Confederacy. This move was made during the historic period and has been in its current location for nearly 90 years; thus, Criterion Consideration B is met.

The Van Buren Confederate Monument 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 an ancestral organization in Arkansas. As such, it is eligible under Criterion A with statewide significance for its associations with the efforts of the Mary Lee Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy to reflect members' perception of the noble character and valor of their veterans and their cause. Thus, it also meets the eligibility requirements of Criteria Consideration F: Commemorative Properties.

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**9. Major Bibliographical References**
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Eno, Clara B., History of Crawford County, Arkansas, Van Buren, AR: Press Argus, 1949, pp. 23-25.

\_\_\_ 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: \_\_\_\_\_

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**10. Geographical Data**

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Acreage of Property: Less than one

TM References:	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	<u>15</u>	<u>376980</u>	<u>3921800</u>	B	<u>15</u>	<u>          </u>
C	<u>15</u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	D	<u>15</u>	<u>          </u>

       See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description:        See continuation sheet.

An area around the monument defined by a 25 foot radius centered on the monument itself.

Boundary Justification:        See continuation sheet.

This boundary includes all the property historically associated with this resource.

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**11. Form Prepared By**

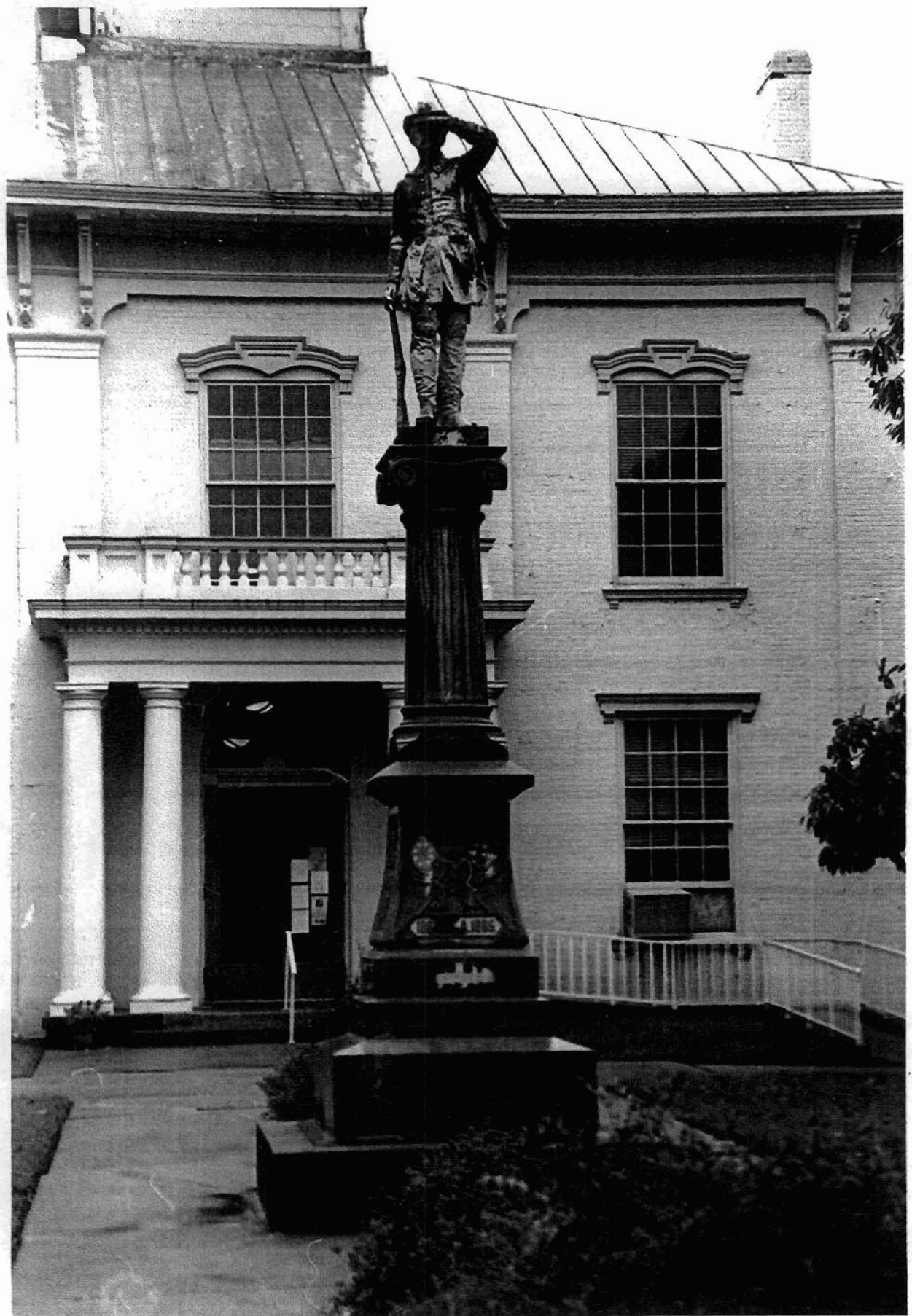
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Name/Title: John Slater, Special Projects Intern/AHPP Staff

Organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program Date: 03/08/96

Street & Number: 323 Center Street, Suite 1500 Telephone: (501) 324-9880

City or Town: Little Rock State: AR Zip: 72201



VAN BUREN  
CONFEDERATE  
MONUMENT  
VAN BUREN,  
CRAWFORD Co,  
AR  
15/376980/  
3921800

7154 IV NW  
(FORT SMITH)

SALLISAW OKLA. 23 MI.  
FORT SMITH 3.9 MI.

3820  
25'  
T 9 N  
T 8 N

