

book

NR LISTED

JUN 20 1997

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

AHPP

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1. Name of Property

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Historic Name: Paragould War Memorial

Other Name/Site Number: GE0052S

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2. Location

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Street & Number: NE Corner of Greene Co. Courthouse lawn, 3rd & Court Sts.

Not for Publication: N/A

City/Town: Paragould

Vicinity: N/A

State: AR County: Greene Code: AR 055 Zip Code: 72450

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3. Classification

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Ownership of Property: Public-local

Category of Property: Object

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing	
_____	_____	buildings
_____	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: N/A

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

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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 _____ 6-2-97
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

Paragould War Memorial
Name of Property

Greene Co., Arkansas
County and State

6. Function or Use

Historic: RECREATION AND CULTURE Sub: Monument
Current : RECREATION AND CULTURE Sub: Monument

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

N/A

Materials: foundation STONE/Marble roof _____
walls METAL/bronze other _____

Describe present and historic physical appearance:

Summary

The Paragould War Memorial, also known as "The Statue of Liberty," faces northeast at the northeast corner of the Greene County Courthouse at North 3rd and Court streets. It is a signed replica of the Statue of Liberty in New York City; the statue depicts a standing female figure with her proper right hand raised holding a torch and her proper left arm folded at her proper left waist holding a book form. Created by artist John Paulding, it was made in Chicago at the American Art Bronze Foundry. The marble base has dimensions of 80"x164"x37", and the bronze statue stands 95"x22"x22".

Elaboration

The Paragould War Memorial, also known as "The Statue of Liberty," is located at the northeast corner of the Greene County Courthouse (NR 8/11/76) lawn near the intersection of North 3rd and Court streets. Facing northeast, it is a signed replica of the Statue of Liberty in New York City. The statue depicts a standing female figure with her proper right hand raised holding a torch and her proper left arm folded at her proper left waist holding a book form. Created by artist John Paulding, it was made in Chicago at the American Art Bronze Foundry. The marble base has dimensions of 80"x164"x37", and the bronze statue stands 95"x22"x22".

Paragould War Memorial

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Engraved on the rear base of the sculpture is "Cast by American Art Bronze Foundry / J. Paulding Sc. (copyright symbol) / 1920 Chicago."

In the center of the front side of the base is the inscription "LET US HOLD IN HONORED / MEMORY THOSE MEN FROM / GREENE COUNTY WHO GAVE / THEIR LIVES THAT MANKIND / MIGHT HOPE FOR A BETTER / WORLD." In the center of the rear side of the base is the inscription "TO THE MEN OF GREENE COUNTY / WHO SERVED IN THE WORLD WAR / AND IN MEMORY OF THOSE WHO / MADE THE SUPREME SACRIFICE / 1917-1918." Underneath this inscription are the names of the 40 Greene County men who died in the Great War.

After World War II, flanking wings were incorporated onto the base of the monument. The easternmost wing repeats the World War I list on the front elevation, while the westernmost wing lists the 78 Greene County casualties from the Second World War. Later, the rear of this wing was inscribed with the two men killed in the Korean War and the twelve who died in Vietnam.

There is considerable guano stain on the sculpture and some minor pitting of the bronze form. The marble base is in good shape. A 1992 SOS! survey recommends that the monument would benefit from treatment.

A noncontributing modern granite Desert Storm Memorial is positioned in front of the monument.

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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: Local.

Applicable National Register Criteria: A and C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): F

Areas of Significance: SOCIAL HISTORY
ART

Period(s) of Significance: 1920-24

Significant Dates: November 11, 1924

Significant Person(s): N/A

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: John Paulding, sculptor
American Art Bronze Foundry, Chicago, Fabricator

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

Summary

The Paragould War Memorial, a bronze Statue of Liberty replica created by artist John Paulding and cast by the American Art Bronze Foundry in Chicago, is associated with the post-World War I movement to memorialize Arkansans who served in that conflict; it is thus eligible for National Register recognition under Criterion A. As one of only eight sculptural monuments erected in honor of those veterans, and the only one that does not include a "doughboy" figure, it is also eligible under Criterion C. Through its associations with the efforts of the people of Paragould and Greene County to reflect their perceptions of the noble character of their veterans and their cause, the memorial also meets the eligibility requirements of Criteria Consideration F: Commemorative Properties.

Historical Background

A total of eight sculptures were erected across Arkansas in the 10-15 years following the cessation of hostilities in Europe in 1919. Seven of these -- the ca. 1930 marble sculpture at Melbourne in Izard County, the Young Memorial at Conway in Faulkner County (NR 7/19/96), the 1919 bronze piece at Jonesboro in Craighead County, the ca. 1920 marble piece at Eureka Springs, the Spirit of the American Doughboy at Helena and Fort Smith, and the Herman Davis Memorial at Manila in Mississippi County (NR 4/7/95) -- depict "doughboy" figures. Only the Paragould War Memorial deviates from this trend with its depiction of the Statue of Liberty -- a figure symbolic of the friendship between the U.S. and France, and perhaps an inspiration for some of the hundreds of Greene County men who served overseas during World War I.

American Legion records show that 476 men from Greene County served in World War I. Of those 476, 40 did not survive the war. It was decided that a tribute should be made in honor of those who lost their lives, so \$2,000 was raised by public subscription for a memorial. A statue cast by Chicago artist John Paulding in 1920 was selected for the monument.

The Paragould War Memorial was unveiled on Armistice Day, November 11, 1924, before 5,000 onlookers. The ceremony began with an elaborate parade through town that featured the mayor, mounted police, the senior band, and, in the words of the *Paragould Soliphone*, "veterans of the World War, labor organizations, gold star mothers and fathers, Demolays, Rainbow girls, Boy Scouts, junior band, school children, and several floats." Many homes and businesses, which were closed for the occasion, were patriotically decorated. The featured speaker of the day was the Hon. Harry L. Ponder of Walnut Ridge, who reviewed past wars, praised the spirit of the soldiers, and explained that "this memorial is an outstanding page in the history of Greene County and an honor to those who gave their lives on foreign soil and a reminder to the gold star mothers and fathers that their sons died for a worthy cause." Afterwards, the ladies of the United Daughters of the Confederacy and the American Legion Auxiliary served lunch.

Historical and Artistic Significance

The Paragould War Memorial, a bronze Statue of Liberty replica created by artist John Paulding and cast by the American Art Bronze Foundry in Chicago, is associated with the post-World War I movement to memorialize Arkansans who served in that conflict; it is thus eligible for National Register recognition under Criterion A. As one of only eight sculptural monuments erected in honor of those veterans, and the only one that does not include a "doughboy" figure, it is also eligible under Criterion C for its artistic merit. Through its associations with the efforts of the people of Paragould and Greene County to reflect their perceptions of the noble character of their veterans and their cause, the memorial also meets the eligibility requirements of Criteria Consideration F: Commemorative Properties.

Paragould War Memorial
Name of Property

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County and State

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9. Major Bibliographical References
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- Mueller, Myrl Rhine. *A History of Greene County, Arkansas*. Little Rock: Parkhurst Book Design, 1984.
- Hansbrough, Vivian. *History of Greene County, Arkansas*. 1946.
- Paragould Soliphone. November 12, 1924, pp. 1, 4.

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:

- 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

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

A	<u>15</u>	<u>726190</u>	<u>3992860</u>	B	_____	_____
C	_____	_____	_____	D	_____	_____

Verbal Boundary Description:

The boundary of the monument is formed by a circle with a radius of 25 feet from the center of the monument.

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Boundary Justification:

This boundary includes the historic Paragould War Memorial with flanking wings, the modern noncontributing Desert Storm Memorial, and surrounding ground historically associated with the monument.

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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: 3-10-97

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

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