

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

For HCRS use only  
received MAR 11 1981  
date entered APR 16 1981

**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 Arch

and/or common

**2. Location**

street & number Memorial Park \_\_\_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Huntington \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ congressional district Fourth

state West Virginia code 54 county Cabell code 011

**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"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other: public monument

**4. Owner of Property**

name Board of Park Commissioners

street & number 1500 Memorial Boulevard

city, town Huntington \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ state West Virginia 25701

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Cabell County Courthouse

street & number 8th St. and 9th Ave.

city, town Huntington \_\_\_\_\_ state West Virginia

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title \_\_\_\_\_ has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date \_\_\_\_\_ federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records \_\_\_\_\_

city, town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date _____

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Memorial Arch is a single-bay, Indiana limestone triumphal arch standing at the head of Memorial Park at the convergence of Memorial Boulevard and 11th Avenue in Huntington, Cabell County, West Virginia. The monument, facing east and west, dominates the east entrance of the park. It was erected in 1924 and finished in 1929 by the Cabell County War Memorial Association as a memorial to the dead who served the county in the First World War. In design it is Neo Classical Revival, a stylistic but scaled-down counterpart of the Arc de Triomphe in Paris. In terms of historic architecture Memorial Arch derives from the ancient Roman prototype, Arcus Triumphalis, a uniquely Roman structure built to commemorate important events, campaigns, boundaries, or frontiers.

Memorial Arch is built of smooth gray Indiana limestone on a gray granite base. It is 42 feet high, 34 feet wide, and 9 feet deep. The keystone of the arch is 19 feet, 6 inches from the ground. Surfaces of the monument are expertly carved in classical-style bas-relief depicting military and state insignia or seals. The low relief is in keeping with the generally smooth, plain surfaces favored by architects employing the Neo Classical Revival idiom.

The gray granite bases and limestone piers of the arch are plain. Above the impost level, however, very finely executed bas-relief may be seen in the spandrels, entablature, and attic of the superstructure.

#### Inscriptions

Attic (East Face): "To the Glory of God and to the Honor of the men of Cabell County who served faithfully in the Great War"

Attic (West Face): FORTIS ET FIDELIS

#### Spandrel Carving

(Left Facing East): Field of swords, pikes, spears centered with eagle-embazoned roundel; surmounted with shield over crossed fasces.

(Right Facing East): Field as above; roundel with eagle; roundel surmounts crossed scimitars; canteen inscribed with "U.S." is suspended from shield.

(Right Facing West): Field as above; shield surmounts West Virginia State Seal.

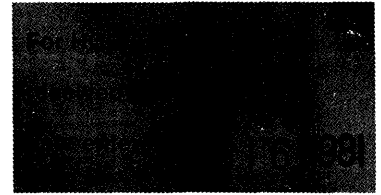
(Left Facing West ): Field as above; shield roundel over crossed fasces; roundel centered with 5-pointed star inscribed with "U.S."; surrounded with laurel sprigs.

The Memorial Arch has a single-bay opening. The arch's richly carved soffit is lined with coffers, each centered with a large daisy. An American eagle with spread wings forms the keystone on both the east and west elevations. Above the keystones is a wide frieze across which is carved a series of wreaths and crossed palm boughs.

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No significant alterations have damaged the fabric of the Arch. In 1980, in ceremonies rededicating the structure, a large American flag was suspended across the archway. The wire and metal plate fastenings bearing the weight of the wind-tossed flag may cause eventual stress to the coffered stone soffit to which the cables are attached. Evidence of this stress has recently appeared in one of the metal plate fastenings which has begun to pull away from the stone. Should the wire fail, carved features may be damaged.

Plantings, graveled walkways, and floodlights were installed at the Arch in 1980. A low unobtrusive embankment with a concrete backing was also constructed to prevent vehicles from passing through the archway.

## 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** 1924; 1929 **Builder/Architect** Meanor and Handloser, architects; Jerry S. DeYoung, associate designer; Thomas Gracie, Sr., contractor

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Memorial Arch is a Huntington, West Virginia memorial to the First World War dead of Cabell County. It is a unique and highly significant architectural landmark of the Neo Classical Revival in West Virginia, and possesses among the finest large-scale displays of classical-style bas-relief carvings in the Mountain State. Significance of the landmark is also measured by its professional design, the work of the Huntington-Charleston, West Virginia, architectural firm of Meanor and Handloser, a partnership which was a state-wide leader in its field during the decade of the 1920's and 1930's.

The idea of honoring the dead of the Great War with a memorial originated with George S. Wallace, a Huntington attorney and military officer who served the State of West Virginia and the nation in the Spanish American and First World Wars. (Wallace wrote two volumes of history on Huntington and Cabell County in 1935 and 1947.) The idea was a complement to the efforts then proceeding in the early 1920's to create a Memorial Boulevard. A Cabell War Memorial Association was soon formed and its efforts were spearheaded by Robert L. Archer, president of the group.

The War Memorial Association chose the architectural plans of Wilbur Meanor and Edward Handloser, who were the city's most prominent architects. Mr. Jerry S. DeYoung contributed to the design effort; it was his perspective that appeared on the front page of the November 9, 1924, Huntington Advertiser. The association chose as the site of the proposed monument the head of Memorial Park.

Ceremonies marking the cornerstone laying on November 11, 1924, and dedication on November 11, 1929, were attended by thousands, including dozens of state and local officials. Attending the dedication were Governor William G. Conley, U.S. Senator Guy D. Goff, and Adjutant General C.C. Pierce. An airplane dropped flowers on the monument during the events.

Money for the memorial's embellishment ran out as it was not until June 1929 that work could resume to finish the project. From June until November, or for a period of about fourteen weeks, artisans from the Easton Studios, Bedford, Indiana, completed the symbolic relief carving. The Huntington Advertiser announced in its June 4, 1929, addition that "The eastern facade of the arch will carry a figure of an American eagle, the seal of West Virginia and a heroic facsimile of a service button of a discharged soldier, with other decorations in conventional motif."

The Memorial Arch of Huntington, West Virginia, is the only triumphal-style arch in west Virginia. Although its design inspiration was the French Arc de Triomphe, befitting the contributions and sacrifices of the dough boys who served "over there", the structure has in the late 20th century assumed additional significance as an architectural landmark of state-wide importance.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Huntington Advertiser (WV), Nov. 9,11, 1924; June 4, 1929; Nov. 7,11,12, 1929.  
 Wallace, George S., Huntington Through Seventy-five Years. Huntington, WV, 1947, pp.50-51.  
 West Virginia: A Guide to the Mountain State. N.Y.: Oxford Univ. Press. 1961, p. 243.

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

# 10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Acreege of nominated property 1/2 acre

Quadrangle name Huntington, WV

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A 

1	7	3	7	2	2	8	0	4	2	5	1	7	2	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

C 

Zone		Easting				Northing							

E 

Zone		Easting				Northing							

G 

Zone		Easting				Northing							

B 

Zone		Easting				Northing							

D 

Zone		Easting				Northing							

F 

Zone		Easting				Northing							

H 

Zone		Easting				Northing							

**Verbal boundary description and justification** Bounded by Memorial Blvd. on the south, 11th Ave. on the north, and point of convergence of said Sts. on the west. The east boundary is formed by a straight line running southeast from so. edge of 11th Ave., opposite the west corner of 6th St., to a point of intersection with Memorial Blvd.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Rodney S. Collins, Architectural Historian

organization Department of Culture & History date December 20, 1980

street & number Cultural Center, Capitol Complex telephone 304-348-0240

city or town Charleston state West Virginia

# 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

*Charles Wilson*

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date February 26, 1981

For HCRS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

*Donna Ann Orndorff* date 4/16/81  
 Keeper of the National Register

Attest: *Emma Jane Sisk* date 4-16-81  
 Chief of Registration

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Significant among design characteristics are the monumental size and clean, smooth surfaces adorned with outstanding low relief carving. Few structures in West Virginia have been so carefully appointed; even courthouses and city halls designed in the classical mode of the early 20th century are seldom observed possessing such a variety of subjects. It is interesting to note, however, that the purpose of design simplicity was faithfully observed by the architects who understood that it was an idea which must be conveyed, and not an overwhelming impression of architecture.