

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

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Continuation sheet 95

Item number 7

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R.F.
P. Co.
W

NAME: ~~The~~ Woonsocket Civil War Monument (W.M.R.A.) (Figure 67)

LOCATION: Monument Square

OWNER: City of Woonsocket
City Hall
169 Main Street
Woonsocket, Rhode Island 02895

CONDITION: Good; unaltered; original site

DESCRIPTION:

The Civil War Monument stands on a small traffic island in the center of a triangular space which bears its name--Monument Square--at the intersection of Main, North Main and Social streets. Monument Square was the north end of the city's historic and once compact business district. Nineteenth- and early twentieth-century commercial blocks still bound much of the square.

The monument's tall, Westerly granite shaft--a battered pier with moulded cap and high pedestal--is surmounted by a granite statue of a Union soldier, draped in a cloak and resting on his rifle. Names of Civil War battles in which Woonsocket troops took part are inscribed on raised bands ringing the shaft. On the shaft's south face is a trophy of war bearing the United States arms in high relief. A circular curbing and low iron fence surround the monument's base.

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: Politics/Government, Social History, Sculpture

PERIODS: 1800-1899

SPECIFIC DATES: 1868-70

SCULPTOR: J.G. Batterson

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: Local

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

Commissioned at a cost of \$5,000 in 1868 and dedicated in 1870, Woonsocket's Civil War Monument is the work of Hartford sculptor, J.G. Batterson. Typical in design, it is a well executed work, representative of the better-quality but essentially modest Civil War memorials erected all across the country in the decades following the conflict.

The monument has special significance in Woonsocket (which lost 39 men in the war), for that community, though a major industrial center, was not an independent political jurisdiction until 1867. One of the first acts of its town council was to commission this monument--the first civic gesture of a new and proud town. It was, moreover, the first Civil War monument erected in the state.

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ACREAGE: less than 1 acre.

BOUNDARIES: The property nominated is a small city-owned traffic island in the middle of Woonsocket's Monument Square; it has no plat and lot number.

UTM: 19 291880 4653220

(See Continuation Sheet #97)