

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED JUL 16 1991  
DATE ENTERED AUG 28 1991

**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

World War I Memorial

AND/OR COMMON

Soldiers' Memorial Monument, Albany Avenue Monument, Greek Temple

**LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

South Albany Ave., Ventnor Ave. & O'Donnell Parkway NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Atlantic City

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

2nd

STATE

New Jersey

CODE

34

COUNTY

Atlantic

CODE

001

**CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

**OWNERSHIP**

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

**STATUS**

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

**PRESENT USE**

- AGRICULTURE
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- MILITARY
- OTHER: Monument

**OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

City of Atlantic City

STREET & NUMBER

c/o City Hall, 1100 Block, Bacharach Boulevard

CITY, TOWN

Atlantic City

VICINITY OF

STATE

New Jersey

**LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Atlantic County Clerk's Office

STREET & NUMBER

Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Mays Landing

STATE

New Jersey

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Atlantic City Historic Building Survey

DATE

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Office of Cultural & Environmental Services

CITY, TOWN

Trenton

STATE

New Jersey

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The temple, simple but graceful in lines, is a circular building, 124 feet in diameter, with walls and its 16 Doric columns of buff Indiana limestone. Open at the top, it has four entrances, facing, generally, the points of the compass. Its steps and paving between the columns are of light colored bluestone with rubbed finish. Within the walls the paving is of two colored slate, gray and black with planed finish.

There was once an extended circular stone paving around the Monument at the foot of the likewise circular entrance steps. But this extended apron of stone was removed, or covered over, to allow for a wider roadway around the Monument.

Around the frieze of the exterior is carved, in Roman letters, a list of battles of World War I: YPRESS-LYS, ST. MIHIEL, VITTORIO VENETO, AISNE, and MONTDIDIÉ-NOYON. Above the inscriptions are various shields of symbols carved in the same buff limestone.

On the interior an inscription on the frieze reads: "This Monument was erected in 1922 by the City of Atlantic City in honor of those of her citizens who served in the World War 1917-1918."

In the center of the interior, upon an octagonal pedestal of Vermont green marble, rests an allegorical figurative bronze statue, nine feet tall, entitled "Liberty in Distress." Designed in 1925, the statue was installed in 1929.

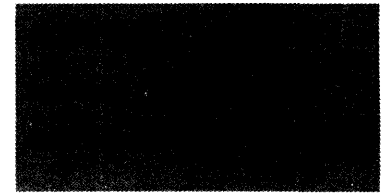
In 1949 during Mayor Altman's term in office, several floodlights were installed in the interior of the Greek Temple to illuminate the bronze statue. The illumination made the Monument an impressive sight at the entrance to Atlantic City, but has been discontinued.

The Monument is in good condition today, with all the edges of the stones in sharp condition; but there is a need for repointing.

The structure is located at the intersection of Albany and Ventnor Avenue, and acts as a traffic circle regulator. It stands opposite Atlantic City High School and Chelsea Park, and is on the axis of Atlantic Avenue. The entrance vista to Atlantic City from Route 40 (Albany Avenue) is made truly exquisite by the presence of the rotunda-type Temple projected against the street opening towards the ocean. To the west the architectural mass of the high school solidifies the sense of

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

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



World War I Memorial NJ  
Continuation sheet Atlantic City, Atlantic Co., Item number 7

Page 1

Description (continued)

space from that side and accentuates the access toward the water and the presence of the City of the east. The Monument is literally upon the asphalt, with its base marked with traffic arrows. Pedestrian accessibility is difficult.

# 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1929 - sculpture installed BUILDER/ARCHITECT sculptor - F. MacMonnies  
 1922 - monument builder - Emil Diebitch, Inc.  
 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE architect - Carrere and Hastings

The World War I Memorial is the only executed component of the 1907 Atlantic City Improvement Plan, a "City Beautiful" scheme by Carrere and Hastings. Atlantic City's only civic monument of consequence, it serves as the terminus of Atlantic Avenue's axis and is the focal point of Chelsea Park. A circular Greek Temple, the Monument is a superb example of Carrere and Hastings' Neo-classical Revival architecture. It also contains a work by one of the finest sculptors of the period, Frederick A. MacMonnies.

In 1907 City Council had engaged the services of the Carrere and Hastings, noted architects and "City Beautiful" municipal planning engineers, to lay out a plan of improvement for Atlantic City. The plan, according to Frank Butler's authoritative "Book of the Boardwalk," called for a circular "Greek Temple Monument." The structure was to be conspicuously situated where it could be viewed, for purely decorative purposes, by the millions who came to visit the shore by motor car. The site selected for the temple was at the intersection of two wide avenues, Chelsea Parkway (now O'Donnell Parkway) and Albany Avenue. The Carrere and Hastings plan was intended to develop boulevards that would cut across city streets, have parkways and parks and various beauty spots.

The 1907 plan was never executed, but when World War I was over and the City wanted a memorial to its servicemen, it eventually turned to Carrere and Hastings' proposed Greek Temple monument. The temple idea was combined with an interior statue for the Memorial.

In 1922 the War Memorial Monument Commission was formed with Dr. J.B. Thompson as Chairman. Other members of that body were John W. Hackney, city engineer, Mayor Ruffu, and Commissioner Louis Kuehne of the Parks Department. Dr. Thompson was serving his second term in the City Commission as Parks Director when the United States entered the war. He became a member of one of the draft boards and was in direct touch, therefore, with hundreds of men who were summoned to the army and eventually went overseas. When the conflict ceased, he was impressed with the fitness of erecting an appropriate and lasting monument to their sacrifices and valor.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See Continuation Sheet

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA **ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than 1

QUADRANGLE NAME Atlantic City

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES

**UTM NOT VERIFIED**

A 18 446930 4354690  
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]  
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]

D [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]

E [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]

F [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]

G [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]

H [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION Intersection of two wide avenues, Albany Avenue (US 322/40) and O'Donnell Parkway; the monument forms a traffic rotary and is located near the Atlantic City High School and a municipal park area at one of the main entrances to the city.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

Revisions by T. Karschner, Office of Cultural and Environmental Services

NAME / TITLE

Jeffrey Pergament, Coordinator of Cultural Affairs

ORGANIZATION

Atlantic County Office of Cultural Affairs

DATE

10/8/80

STREET & NUMBER

628 Guarantee Trust Building

TELEPHONE

(609) 345-6700, ext. 243

CITY OR TOWN

Atlantic City

STATE

New Jersey

## 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 National Park Service

Deputy

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*Laura Schmitt*

TITLE

DATE

7/2/81

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

*Bruce W. ...*  
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

8/28/81

ATTEST:

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

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

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

World War I Memorial NJ  
Continuation sheet Atlantic City, Atlantic Co., Item number 8

Page 1

Significance (continued)

The idea of a memorial met with instant favor in the Commission and with public approval in general. The form the memorial should take was the next issue to be resolved. From the first, Dr. Thompson and his colleagues insisted that it should be imposing and artistic. The Monument Commission consulted highly skilled men in New York art circles.

In 1923 the City decided upon the Greek Temple Monument proposed by Carrere and Hastings as part of the 1907 plan. The Monument was built by the firm of Emil Diebitch, Inc., at a cost of \$93,039.

Having built the temple, the Monument Commission then deemed it necessary to add a finishing touch by placing a statue or group within it. The problem of selecting an artist capable of producing something of merit was a prolonged one. Finally, the Commission entered into negotiations with an internationally famous sculptor, Frederick A. MacMonnies. The sculptor, however, was at the time engaged on a heroic group sculpture of the French Republic to be erected on a historic ground and he was reluctant for a time to take on the proposed contract with Atlantic City. In November of 1925 he was finally prevailed upon to design a sculptural group, but the city was obliged to wait upon his convenience.

The installation of the sculptural group at the end of June 1929 was the culmination of several years of planning, the attaining of an objective set back in 1922 by Dr. J. B. Thompson, Chairman of the War Memorial Monument Commission. It was set up a decade after the war had ended. The cost of the bronze sculpture was \$19,000. The same firm that built the Temple, Emil Diebitch, Inc., also provided the octagonal pedestal of Vermont green marble upon which the sculpture was placed, at a cost of \$3,200. The sculpture was titled "Liberty in Distress" and is reminiscent of the period when democracy was threatened and America threw her weight of men and resources with the Allies to save it.

It was later discovered that this sculpture, known as "Liberty in Distress" was apparently the same design that MacMonnies had made for the French Government in Paris under the title of "Frances Aroused" (although the meaning is somewhat similar). The latter was a much larger sculpture, but Atlantic City had paid for what it supposed was an exclusive design.

**United States Department of the Interior  
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World War I Memorial NJ  
Continuation sheet Atlantic City, Atlantic Co., Item number 9

Page 1

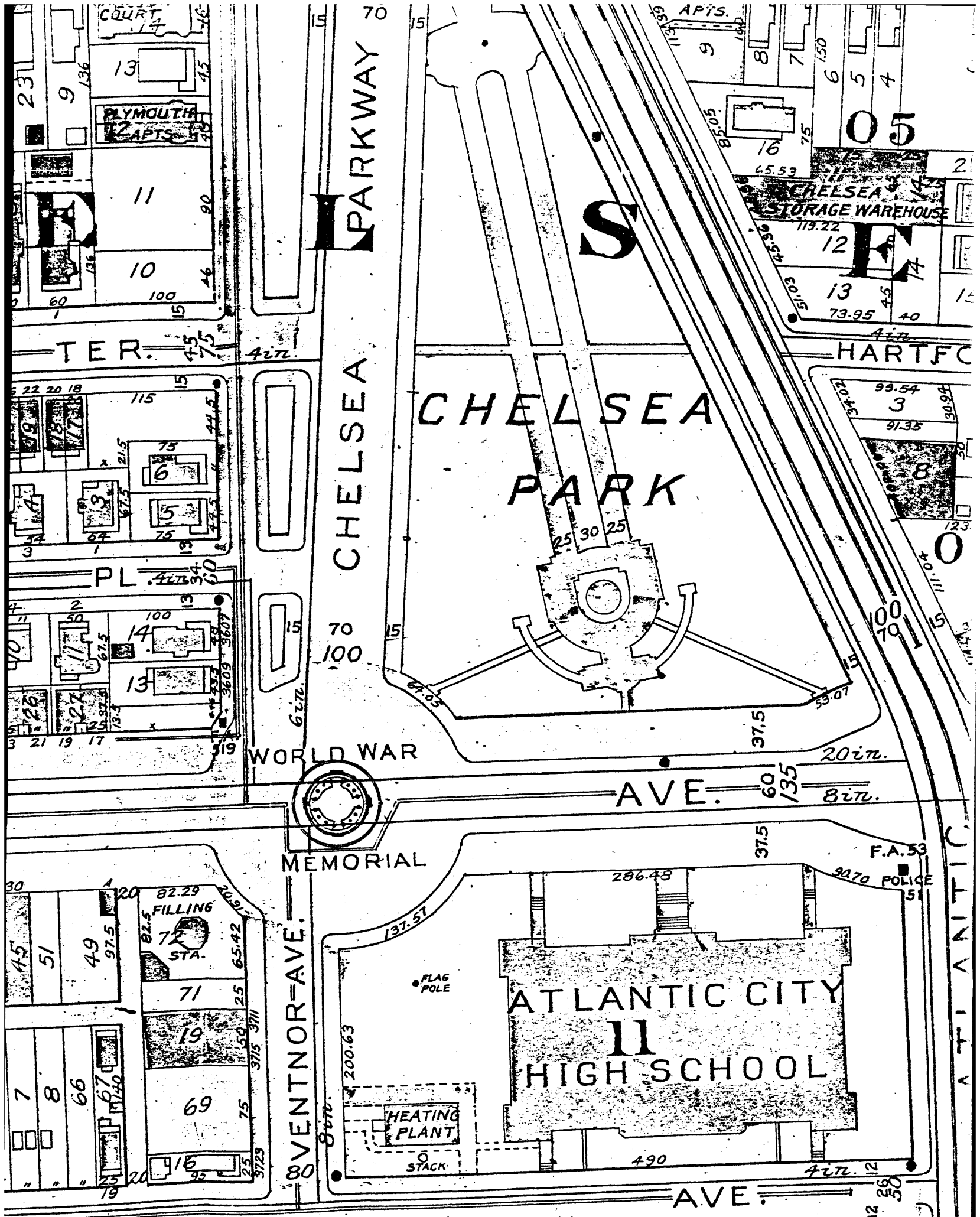
Atlantic City Historic Building Survey. New Jersey Office of Cultural and Environmental Services.

Butler, Frank. The Book of the Boardwalk, 1952.

Real Estate Record. XXXVII: 5/24/1922.

City of Atlantic City, New Jersey: Comprehensive Master Plan. Office of Angelos C. Demetriou, architects. 1977.

Atlas of Atlantic County. A.H. Mueller, 1924 (Plate 19).



World War I Memorial  
Atlantic City, Atlantic County

AUG 28 1924

20 1924  
A.H. MUELLER  
ATLAS  
PLATE 19

Scale 100 feet to an inch.

