

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

|                                     |                        |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------|
| STATE:<br><b>Wisconsin</b>          |                        |
| COUNTY:<br><b>Dane</b>              |                        |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY                    |                        |
| ENTRY NUMBER<br><b>91.6.55.0002</b> | DATE<br><b>6/11/71</b> |

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
**Camp Randall**

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER: **Camp Randall Memorial Park**  
**Boundaries as shown on appended map**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Madison**

STATE: **Wisconsin** CODE: **55** COUNTY: **Dane** CODE: **025**

Congressmen to be notified:  
**Senator William Proxmire**  
**Senator Gaylord A. Nelson**  
**Rep. Robert W. Kastenmeier**

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

| CATEGORY<br>(Check One)   | OWNERSHIP   | STATUS  | ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC   |
|---|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> District<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site<br><input type="checkbox"/> Building<br><input type="checkbox"/> Structure<br><input type="checkbox"/> Object | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public<br><input type="checkbox"/> Private<br><input type="checkbox"/> Both | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied<br><input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied<br><input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress | Yes:<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted |

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

|   |                                     |  |  |
|---|-------------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural           | <input type="checkbox"/> Government | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park   | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation                              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial             | <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial | <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <b>Athletics</b> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational | <input type="checkbox"/> Military   | <input type="checkbox"/> Religious         |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment          | <input type="checkbox"/> Museum     | <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific        |  |

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
**University of Wisconsin**

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: **Madison** STATE: **Wisconsin** CODE: **55**

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
**City-County Building**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**210 Monona Avenue**

CITY OR TOWN: **Madison** STATE: **Wisconsin** CODE: **55**

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
**None**

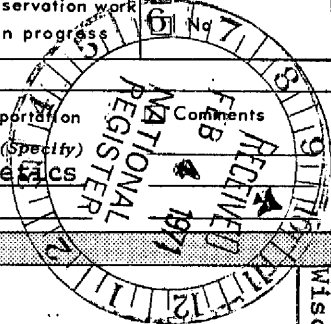
DATE OF SURVEY:  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE: Wisconsin  
COUNTY: Dane  
ENTRY NUMBER: 91.6.55.0002  
DATE: 6/11/71  
FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

|           |   |                                    |                                |   |                                |                                    |
|-----------|---|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| CONDITION | (Check One)                                   |                                    |                                |   |                                |                                    |
|           | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> Good      | <input type="checkbox"/> Fair  | <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated             | <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins | <input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed |
|           | (Check One)                                   |                                    |                                | (Check One)                                       |                                |                                    |
|           | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered   | <input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered | <input type="checkbox"/> Moved | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site |                                |                                    |

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Camp Randall is an area of approximately 50 acres on the University of Wisconsin campus. It retains almost all of its original boundaries; modifications of these have been limited largely to those required by street widening and improvements. It is a relatively flat plot of land of which about the southern two-thirds is devoted to athletic uses and the northern third to academic buildings of the College of Engineering.

A small portion of the original camp has been retained along the eastern side as a memorial park. At what was originally the east entrance to the camp is a granite memorial arch approximately 30 feet high and 30 feet wide. On the left front side of the arch is a statue of a soldier as he would have appeared as a recruit in 1861-65, and on the right is a statue of a Wisconsin Civil War veteran as he would have appeared at the dedication of the arch in 1912--in his upper sixties to middle or upper seventies.

Within the archway, which leads into the memorial park, a bronze tablet on the left lists all of the military units trained at Camp Randall and their dates of mustering-in and mustering-out. A similarly placed plaque on the right contains the commemorative inscription. At the top of a knoll in the park is a stone marker which is inscribed, "23 Wis. Inf. 1861-1865." Also at this site is a Civil War cannon with a memorial plaque to the dead of the 14th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry.<sup>1</sup>

Two major athletic buildings on the camp are memorials to the military post. Along the western side is Camp Randall Stadium, and east of the stadium, between it and the Camp Randall Memorial Park, is the Camp Randall Memorial Building, dedicated in 1956 "To the men of Wisconsin who fought to preserve the Union, 1861-1865...."<sup>2</sup> On the grounds to the south of the stadium is the Field House, the only major athletic building on Camp Randall not named or dedicated as a memorial.

Originally Camp Randall was the exposition grounds of the State Agricultural Society. Conversion to a military camp began immediately after the outbreak of the Civil War, with the exhibition halls converted to a barracks and hospitals and the sheds into shelters for cavalry animals. Numerous new buildings were constructed as quickly as needed and the area was soon a full-blown military camp (see engraving appended).

DESCRIPTION OF BOUNDARIES OF HISTORIC SITE: (see map appended)

(Memorial Park portion of Camp Randall only, as requested by National Park Service): Bounded on the north by a sidewalk, on the south by Monroe Street, on the east by North Randall Avenue, and on the west by a sidewalk adjacent to the west side of the Camp Randall Memorial Building.

1. Fred, Edwin Broun, ed., A University Remembers, University of Wisconsin, 1969, 99.  
 2. Ibid., 100.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**SIGNIFICANCE**

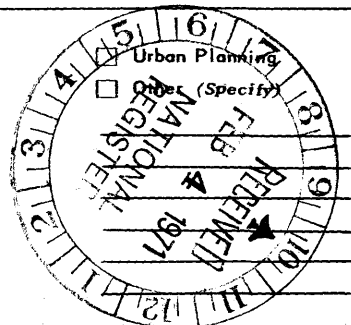
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian |  16th Century |  18th Century |  20th Century  
 15th Century |  17th Century |  19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1861-1865**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal     | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input type="checkbox"/> Political           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric    | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic       | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture    | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture   | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art            | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military    | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation   |   |  |



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Camp Randall is the single most important site in Wisconsin relating to the state's participation in the Civil War. It was Wisconsin's largest and most active staging point throughout the war. Twenty-five of the state's fifty-three infantry regiments and, altogether, more than 70,000 of the 91,379 men Wisconsin furnished to the Union Army were trained within the bounds of this camp. It was truly the center of Wisconsin's Civil War activity.<sup>1</sup>

Camp Randall was named for Governor Alexander W. Randall, who expeditiously mobilized Wisconsin men to service as soon as the Civil War broke out. The large exposition ground under lease to the State Agricultural Society was rapidly converted to a military camp, and by May 1, 1861, troops of the 2nd Wisconsin Infantry were garrisoned here. Infantry regiments were organized, trained and sent to the battlefields from here, and recruits for replacement in battle units were drilled and trained, taught the use of their weapons and a little about cooking, all within about two or three weeks' time, and then sent to bring fighting units in the field back to organizational strength. At the war's end, regiments which were organized here returned to be mustered out.<sup>2</sup>

After the war the camp reverted to use as a fair ground, but the State Agricultural Society decided to move the state fair to Milwaukee. Dane County then used the site for county fairs for a time but also decided on another location.

Because of the strenuous objection of the Civil War veterans to having their old training camp parceled into plats for sale, the state purchased the land in 1893 and turned it over to the University of Wisconsin for use as an athletic field. To this day the football field and stadium as well as the rest of the athletic area on the site are known as Camp Randall.

It is believed that Camp Randall, as the site most significantly associated with Wisconsin's participation in the Civil War, is worthy of inclusion in the National Register.

1. Thwaites, Reuben G., "History of Camp Randall."  
 2. Ibid.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Thwaites, Reuben G., "History of Camp Randall," The Daily Cardinal, Madison, Wisconsin, Dec. 19, 1901.  
 Rood, Hosea W., "Camp Randall Memorial Arch--Dedication June 18-19, 1912," Twelfth Wisconsin Infantry, Reunion Stories, 1895-1913, n.p. (Bound series of reunion pamphlets, State Historical Society of Wisconsin Library Collections).  
 Forbes, S. D., "Camp Randall [Madison, Wis.] and Environs," n.p., n.d., (State Historical Society of Wisconsin Library Collections).  
 Fred, Edwin Broun, ed., A University Remembers, University of Wisconsin, Madison, 1969, 97-100.

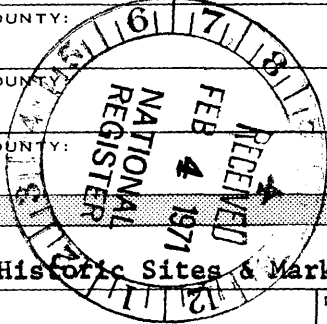
**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

| LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES<br>DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY |                         |                         | O<br>R | LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES<br>DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY<br>OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES |                         |  |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|--------|---|-------------------------|--|
| CORNER   | LATITUDE                | LONGITUDE               |        | LATITUDE  | LONGITUDE               |  |
|  | Degrees Minutes Seconds | Degrees Minutes Seconds |        | Degrees Minutes Seconds   | Degrees Minutes Seconds |  |
| NW   | ° ' "                   | ° ' "                   |        | N 43° 04' 11"   | W 89° 24' 34"           |  |
| NE   | ° ' "                   | ° ' "                   |        |   |                         |  |
| SE   | ° ' "                   | ° ' "                   |        |   |                         |  |
| SW   | ° ' "                   | ° ' "                   |        |   |                         |  |

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **4.88**

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

| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY  | CODE |
|--------|------|---------|------|
| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY: | CODE |
| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY: | CODE |
| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY: | CODE |



**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
**Donald N. Anderson, Assistant Director, Historic Sites & Markers Division**

ORGANIZATION: **State Historical Society of Wisconsin** DATE: **5/4/70**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**816 State Street**

CITY OR TOWN: **Madison** STATE: **Wisconsin 53706** CODE: **55**

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name James Morton Smith  
**James Morton Smith**

Title Director, State Historical Society of Wisconsin

Date 1/25/71

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

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

Ernest Allen Connolly  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

**JUN 7 1971**

Date \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:  
William J. Hunt  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date **DEC 7 1970**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS