

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

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1. Name of Property

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historic name: David O. Dodd Memorial

other name/site number: PU4847S

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2. Location

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street & number: 300 W. Markham Street (Old State House grounds, south lawn, west side)

not for publication: N/A

city/town: Little Rock vicinity: N/A

state: AR county: Pulaski code: AR 119 zip code: 72201

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3. Classification

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Ownership of Property: Public-state

Category of Property: Object

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	structures
<u> 1 </u>	<u> </u>	objects
<u> 1 </u>	<u> 0 </u>	Total

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

Name of related multiple property listing: "Something So Dim It Must Be Holy:" Civil War Commemorative Sculpture in Arkansas, 1886-1934

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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
Signature of certifying official

3-4-96
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): _____

Edson H. Beall 4-26-96

Entered in the
National Register

Signature of Keeper

Date
of Action

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6. Function or Use

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Historic: RECREATION AND CULTURE

Sub: Monument/marker

Current: RECREATION AND CULTURE

Sub: Monument/marker

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7. Description
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Architectural Classification:

Neoclassical

Other Description: N/A

Materials:	foundation	<u>Gray marble</u>	roof	<u>N/A</u>
	walls	<u>White marble</u>	other	_____

Describe present and historic physical appearance. _____ See continuation sheet.

Summary

The David O. Dodd Memorial at Little Rock in Pulaski County faces east on the south lawn of the west side of the Old State House, located at 300 West Markham. It was ordered from the Vermont Marble Company of Proctor, Vermont, but the actual artist is unknown. It is a relief portrait of a young male with longish hair looking straight ahead. The relief is carved within an oval shape with the tie arranged as a decorative flourish at the base of the oval. The carving, with dimensions of 14"x12"x3", is made of white marble and is placed in the upper portion of the column component of the base of the monument. The base is made of grey marble and stands 52"x144"x44".

Elaboration

The David O. Dodd Memorial at Little Rock in Pulaski County faces east on the south lawn of the west side of the Old State House, located at 300 West Markham. It was ordered from the Vermont Marble Company of Proctor, Vermont, but the actual artist is unknown. It is a relief portrait of a young male with longish hair looking straight ahead. The relief is carved within an oval shape with the tie arranged as a decorative flourish at the base of the oval. The carving, with dimensions of 14"x12"x3", is made of white marble and is placed in the upper portion of the column component of the base of the monument. The base is made of grey marble and stands 52"x144"x44".

Inscribed on the east side of the center shaft is "DAVID O. DODD / ARKANSAS BOY MARTYR / OF THE CONFEDERACY / BORN NOV. 10, 1846 / EXECUTED JAN. 8, 1864 / 'Aye, such was the love of the / boy for his Southland, / Such his endurance, his courage, / his pride, / That e'er he'd betray his own / beloved band / He sacrificed all, and silently died.' / J.F.C."

The proper right panel of the east side of the base contains the inscription "DAVID OWEN DODD, A SOUTHERN BOY OF 17, WHEN LEAVING FOR HIS / HOME IN THE SOUTHERN PART OF THE STATE, WAS ARRESTED, TRIED / BY FEDERAL COURT MARTIAL AND HANGED IN FRONT OF OLD / ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE, LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS."

On the proper left panel of the east side of the base is the inscription "PAPERS FOUND ON DAVID'S PERSON REVEALED VALUABLE INFORMATION / TO THE CONFEDERATE FORCES. FREEDOM WAS OFFERED IF HE WOULD / DIVULGE THE NAME OF

HIS INFORMANT, BUT HE PREFERRED DEATH / TO DISHONOR."

The top center of the base block contains the inscription "ERECTED BY THE VETERANS, / DAUGHTERS AND SONS OF THE / CONFEDERACY OF ARKANSAS. / UNVEILED, NOVEMBER 10, 1923."

There is considerable stain and sugaring on this monument, and the base components are separating. Bird guano and black crusts also are present. It is fenced off from the public.

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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: Statewide.

Applicable National Register Criteria: A

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): B,F

Areas of Significance: SOCIAL HISTORY

Period(s) of Significance: 1923 _____

Significant Dates: 1923 _____

Significant Person(s): N/A

Cultural Affiliation: N/A _____

Architect/Builder: Unknown
Vermont Marble Company

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.
___ See continuation sheet.

Summary

Criterion A, statewide significance
Criteria Considerations B and F

The David O. Dodd Monument is associated with the historic context "Something So Dim It Must Be Holy": Civil War Commemorative Sculpture in Arkansas, 1886-1934 as a commemorative monument financed and erected through the efforts of veterans' and ancestral organizations in Arkansas. As such, it is eligible under Criterion A with statewide significance for its associations with the efforts of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, United Confederate Veterans, and United Daughters of the Confederacy to reflect members' perception of the noble character and valor of their veterans and their cause. Thus, it also meets the eligibility requirements of Criteria Consideration F: Commemorative Properties.

Elaboration

David O. Dodd had only recently turned 17 when, on the night of December 29, 1863, he was stopped and questioned by Union troops as he passed through their lines on the Military Road, 10 miles west of Little Rock. Since his travel pass had been confiscated by a Federal soldier earlier in the day, he had no form of identification other than a notebook containing odd symbols. When it was discovered that these symbols were a code that revealed Union troop strength and location in Little Rock, Dodd was immediately arrested and jailed in the McHenry House on Stagecoach Road (NR 6/22/70). After a six-day trial by a military tribunal, he was found guilty and sentenced to death. On the eve of his execution, Union General Fredrick L. Steele visited Dodd and offered to release him if he would reveal the source of the encoded information. Dodd refused, allegedly saying, "I thank you for your good wishes and kind offers, but I must say that I will not betray a friend, and like Nathan Hale, I regret that I only have but one life to give to my country."

Dodd's hanging took place at St. John's College, near what is now 11th and McAlmont Streets, at 3 P.M. on January 8, 1864. A crowd of 5,000 showed up to watch the proceedings, exceeding Little Rock's total population of 4,800. The execution was a bungled affair from the start, as the executioners forgot a blindfold (Dodd himself provided a handkerchief). He was too light for the hanging rope to break his neck, and a replacement rope was so elastic that his feet touched the ground. After an agonizing eight minutes of dangling, Union soldiers pulled on his feet to end his pain. Federal officers refused to allow flowers or a funeral procession out of fears that it would start a riot. Dodd's stoicism, loyalty to the Confederacy, and tragic death made him a heroic figure to many Southerners, as he became known as "the Nathan Hale of Arkansas" or "the boy martyr of the Confederacy."

Dodd's legacy persisted for decades after the war and became an integral part of Arkansas's nostalgia for and glorification of the Confederacy. In 1913, Little Rock schoolteacher Miss Mary Fortner divided her history class into two groups, Dixie Girls and American Heroes, for the purpose of studying the nation's greatest citizens. Dodd was the favorite of the class, which under the leadership of Kathleen Kavanaugh, President of the Dixie Girls, and P. J. Price, President of the American Heroes, began a crusade to establish a permanent record of his actions. Their original plan to create a \$1,000,000 children's hospital in his honor was set back by the onset of World War I, so they suggested building a monument. At this point, the United Daughters of the Confederacy, Sons of Confederate Veterans, and United Confederate Veterans stepped in, raised the money, and organized the monument campaign.

On November 10, 1923, the David O. Dodd Memorial was dedicated at the War Memorial Building, what is now the Old State House. Featured speaker M. E. Dunaway called Dodd "as great as any hero in history," and explained that "he was not a matured man who knew what he was going into when he undertook for the Confederate General the task of collecting information concerning the Northern forces, yet he put honor above life." Gov. McRae was present at the ceremony and remarked that Arkansas was the only state to have monuments to heroes from each American war. Kavanaugh and Price outlined the origins of the monument's development, and Mrs. Josie F. Cappleman of the U.D.C. read a letter from Dodd's sisters in Washington, D.C., expressing their appreciation for the memorial. A band played patriotic music throughout the program, and girls decorated the base with flower arrangements.

Historic photos show that the monument was originally placed directly in front of the central "temple" of the Greek Revival-style Old State House; it

is now located on the southwest corner of the lawn. However, it is still on the same grounds on which it was originally installed, so current location still meets the integrity of setting and location requirements of Criterion Consideration B.

The David O. Dodd Monument is associated with the historic context "Something So Dim It Must Be Holy": Civil War Commemorative Sculpture in Arkansas, 1886-1934 as a commemorative monument financed and erected through the efforts of veterans' and ancestral organizations in Arkansas. As such, it is eligible under Criterion A with statewide significance for its associations with the efforts of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, United Confederate Veterans, and United Daughters of the Confederacy to reflect members' perception of the noble character and valor of their veterans and their cause. Thus, it also meets the eligibility requirements of Criteria Consideration F: Commemorative Properties.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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Arkansas Democrat-Gazette, Jan. 5, 1994, P. 10 B.

Pine Bluff Commercial, July 22, 1973, unpaginated clipping.

Arkansas Gazette, Nov. 11, 1923, p. 11.

Undated Arkansas Gazette clipping.

___ See continuation sheet.

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:

- X 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>566630</u>	<u>3845250</u>	B	<u>15</u>	_____
C	<u>15</u>	_____	_____	D	<u>15</u>	_____

___ See continuation sheet.

Name/Title: John Slater, Special Projects Intern/AHPP Staff

Organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program Date: 02/13/96

Street & Number: 323 Center Street, Suite 1500 Telephone: (501) 324-9880

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

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY David O. Dodd Memorial
NAME:

MULTIPLE Civil War Commemorative Sculpture MPS
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: ARKANSAS, Pulaski

DATE RECEIVED: 3/28/96 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 4/09/96
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 4/25/96 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 5/12/96
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 96000454

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

☒ ACCEPT ☐ RETURN ☐ REJECT 4.26.96 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in the
National Register

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N



David O. Dodd Memorial
Little Rock Pulaski Co., AR
Photo by Mark Christ
October 1995
Negative on file at AHPP
View from northwest



David O. Dodd Memorial
Little Rock Pulaski Co, AR
Photo by Mark Christ
October 1995
Negative on file at AHPP
View from East



DAVID G. DODD
ARKANSAS BOY MARTYR
OF THE CONFEDERACY
BORN NOV. 10. 1846
EXECUTED JAN. 8. 1864

David O. Dodd Memorial
Little Rock, Pulaski Co., AR
Photo by Mark Christ
October 1995
Negative on file at AHPP
Detail of east exposure

Please refer to the map in the
Multiple Property Cover Sheet
for this property

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64500015