

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

56647



National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. **Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

1. Name of Property

historic name Soldiers' Memorial Fountain and Park

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 120 Market Street

not for publication

city or town Poughkeepsie

vicinity

state NY code NY county Dutchess code 027 zip code 12601

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

___ national ___ statewide X local

Michael P. Lynch Deputy SHPO.
Signature of certifying official/Title

16 DECEMBER 2016
Date

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official _____ Date _____

Title _____ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government _____

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

X entered in the National Register ___ determined eligible for the National Register

___ determined not eligible for the National Register ___ removed from the National Register

___ other (explain:)

for Alexis Obernately
Signature of the Keeper

2-14-17
Date of Action

Soldiers' Memorial Fountain and Park
Name of Property

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5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

Category of Property
(Check only **one** box.)

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

<input type="checkbox"/>	private
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	public - Local
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - State
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Federal

<input type="checkbox"/>	building(s)
<input type="checkbox"/>	district
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	site
<input type="checkbox"/>	structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	object

<u>Contributing</u>	<u>Noncontributing</u>	
		buildings
1		sites
		structures
1		objects
2	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

LANDSCAPE / Object

LANDSCAPE / Object

LANDSCAPE / Park

LANDSCAPE / Park

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY

foundation: Concrete

REVIVALS / Renaissance Revival

walls: _____

roof: _____

other: Cast Iron, Cast Zinc

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Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

Summary Paragraph

The Soldiers' Memorial Fountain and Park is located at the intersection of three streets just southwest of the commercial core of the City of Poughkeepsie in Dutchess County. The triangular park is framed by Montgomery Street to the south, Market Street to the west, and South Avenue to the east. In this location, the park serves as a transitional space between business and residential districts in the city; Market Street, which ends at the park, is lined by institutional, governmental, and commercial buildings, while Montgomery Street forms the northern boundary of one of the city's earliest residential neighborhoods. A mix of nineteenth and twentieth century residential and commercial buildings are located adjacent to Soldiers' Memorial Fountain and Park; Eastman Park, the location of the former Eastman Estate, is located to the south. Historic images indicate that the size of the park has decreased somewhat over the years due to a series of road widening campaigns. A minimal metal fence and paved sidewalk run around the edge of the fountain; another sidewalk borders the edges of the triangular park. The fountain is located on the southern end of the triangular park closest to Montgomery Street. The northern part of the park features a lawn with a central cannon and piles of cannonballs and is marked by a simple, non-historic stanchion and chain fence. The large Columbiad cannon, stamped with the date 1845, still guards the northern point of the triangular park. Three small piles of cannonballs are located nearby. One smaller cannon remains to guard the southwest point of the triangle. The nominated parcel is the lot historically associated with the Soldiers' Memorial Fountain and Park.

Narrative Description

The 12-ton, 20-foot-tall cast-iron fountain has cast zinc statues and rests on an octagonal base within a circular, concrete basin; the fountain is painted white to imitate marble. The octagonal base features three raised inscriptions: "Soldiers' Memorial Fountain," "April 12th 1861, April 9th, 1865" and "To the Patriot Dead." Four triton figures blowing conch shells that spout water are located at the base. An octagonal central pedestal is covered in panels with fish, shell medallions, and triton faces. The primary basin is decorated by dolphins, grapevines, and miniature cannons topped by eagles; a secondary pedestal, decorated by cranes and marsh plants, supports a second, smaller basin.

The final, petal-shaped basin is capped by a draped female figure with a torch. The figure may be the goddess Demeter, who is often depicted holding a torch (the torch "flame" is created, in this case, by spouting water). In Greek mythology, Demeter (goddess of the earth's harvest) wandered the world with her torch in search of her daughter Persephone, who was kidnapped by Hades and taken to the underworld to be his queen. Persephone was eventually allowed to visit her mother for part of each year, during which time Demeter joyfully showered the earth with sunshine and fertility. But Persephone's required return to the underworld made Demeter grieve anew each year, plunging the world into winter.

The fountain, with its annual cycle of winter dormancy and spring rebirth, makes the goddess Demeter a logical choice as a crowning ornament. The crane, found on the fountain's second level is also associated with Demeter as are the grapes and vines of the harvest seen on the first basin's rim. Other adornments, including fish, tritons, dolphins, and shells, express appropriate water imagery.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Community Planning and Development

Art

Period of Significance

1868 - 1871

Significant Dates

1870

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Janes, Beebe & Company (foundry)

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance begins with the purchase and preparation of the land for the park by private investors in 1868 and extends through 1871, when the fountain and park were completed.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

The Soldiers' Memorial Fountain and Park is significant under Criterion A in the area of community planning and development for its association with local efforts to develop city parks in Poughkeepsie and to establish a Dutchess County Civil War memorial. In the years after the war, counties and communities across the country began commissioning and building monuments to local veterans and war dead. After an initial effort to fundraise for a Dutchess County war memorial stalled in 1867, Poughkeepsie community leaders banded together to purchase land for a park and memorial. They chose a centrally located but unsightly sunken wasteland on a triangular lot at the intersection of Montgomery and Market Streets. Community members helped fill and grade the land, which had previously been a trash-filled eyesore. The committee's choice to install a memorial fountain, rather than a more traditional war monument, and its decision to ultimately purchase a fountain lacking a strong military theme may reflect the committee's primary interest in creating a beautiful public park as well as a memorial. While the park was designed and completed by a coalition of private individuals, the intention was that the land serve as a public park; in 1878, the land was donated to the City of Poughkeepsie.

The fountain is additionally significant under Criterion C in the area of art as a rare surviving example of a Janes, Beebe & Company No. 5 cast-iron fountain based on a design by French sculptor Michel Lienard exhibited at London's Crystal Palace in 1851; the company first offered the fountain in 1855. Poughkeepsie's fountain is thought to date from this time period and is the least altered of the four known castings of "Model No. 5" still extant. In January 1870, the monument committee hired local architect J.A. Wood to design a memorial fountain. Wood's design was replaced at the last minute when a committee member discovered that a fountain cast before the Civil War was available at the Janes, Beebe & Company foundry in the Bronx. While J.A. Wood's design featured a military theme, the No. 5 fountain is capped by the Goddess Demeter and features sculptural elements with cranes, marsh plants, and water creatures. Small eagles perching on cannons were added to the fountain to offer a military reference and 24 jets were imported from Paris. The fountain was officially unveiled on July 4, 1870; the following spring, deaccessioned cannons and triangular piles of cannonballs were placed around the fountain and a stanchion and chain fence was erected.

Planning a Poughkeepsie Civil War Memorial

One of the oldest communities along the Hudson River, Poughkeepsie was initially settled during the late seventeenth century. Though it grew slowly, it was well situated near the major transportation routes of the Hudson River and Albany Post Road and was named the county seat in 1717. The village became a center of commerce and trade and by the nineteenth century its economy came to be dominated by industry and manufacturing; this was spurred by the completion of the Hudson River railroad to Poughkeepsie in 1849. After the city was incorporated in 1854, local leaders focused on adding amenities like gas lights and a water works. New residential and institutional development followed, notably that of Vassar College in 1861.¹

¹ Frank Hasbrouck, ed., *The History of Dutchess County* (Poughkeepsie, N.Y.: S.A. Matthieu, 1909), 200-208, 221-223; Larson Fisher Associates, "Town of Poughkeepsie, Dutchess County, New York: Reconnaissance-level Historic Resource Survey Update," prepared by Larson Fisher Associates, Woodstock, New York, for the Town of Poughkeepsie Historical Commission, Poughkeepsie, New York, September 2011, IV-6, 19, 29, 31-35.

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In the immediate aftermath of the Civil War, private individuals, organizations, and municipalities felt obligated to honor war veterans and the war dead from their community; often, they recognized the efforts and sacrifices of these former soldiers by building war monuments in town and village centers. Thousands of communities, struggling to come to terms with post-war grief and loss, turned to monument building as a healing act. Until the 1890s, the majority of Civil War monuments were constructed solely through local fundraising efforts; the process brought community members together and the completed projects served as a source of local civic pride.²

Failure to organize, fundraise and promptly build some sort of tribute to the war dead was considered a civic embarrassment. In 1867, the *Poughkeepsie Daily Eagle* complained that while “almost every county in the state” had its civil war memorial underway, “Dutchess as usual is behind in the matter.” It seemed particularly embarrassing that La Grange, a small individual community, could successfully commission a seventeen-foot-tall monument while the county still had none. The *Eagle* newspaper wondered pointedly, “Who will do it? Is there not public spirit enough in this city to start arrangements looking to the erection of a Soldiers Monument in this county?”³

The challenge was answered by Eastman Business College president Harvey Eastman, who called a community meeting in May of 1867 to propose holding a “monster Fourth of July” celebration with multiple large-scale events whose proceeds would be used to purchase a monument. Eastman electrified the community with his vision of a “monumental” fundraiser more exciting and more ambitious than anything the community had ever before attempted. The day was planned to include an enormous parade, multiple orations, a balloon ascension, fireworks, and a giant open air community picnic with enough food for 10,000 people. Earnings from food and entertainment tickets along with fees for parking horses and carriages in specially designated vacant lots were to be put toward the war memorial fund.

But the day turned into a series of unexpected disasters culminating in a catastrophic line of violent thunderstorms that sent thousands of out-of-town visitors and local residents scrambling for shelter. The excitement and hopeful “can do” spirit Eastman had inspired spectacularly collapsed, and the day turned into a soggy failure. Although an estimated 20,000 people had arrived by boat, train and wagon, the event raised only \$930.⁴

It was not long, however, before the *Eagle* newspaper again demanded to know just when Dutchess County would get its Civil War Memorial, commenting impatiently, “Once more we inquire how the enterprise [of the Soldiers Monument] is progressing. We ask Poughkeepsians to cast aside our slip slap old foggy shoes and take hold of the Soldiers' Monument project.”⁵

In response, Eastman and his well to do neighbors (George Corlies, Walter Corlies, Jacob Corlies, Allard Anthony, John Thompson, Oliver H. Booth, and John F. Hull) decided to take matters into their own hands, starting with the purchase of the triangular wasteland opposite Eastman's new mansion on Montgomery

² G. Kurt Piehler, *Remembering War the American Way* (Washington D.C.: Smithsonian Institution Press, 1995), 53.

³ “Soldier's Monument,” *Daily Eagle*, May 29, 1867; “Who Will Do It?” *Daily Eagle*, May 6, 1867.

⁴ “Fourth of July Dutchess County Memorial Celebration,” *Daily Eagle*, June 1 and 7, 1867; *Daily Eagle*, October 9, 1867; Helen Myers, “Soldiers' Fountain Dedication,” *Poughkeepsie Journal*, July 2, 1944.

⁵ “The Soldiers' Monument,” *Daily Eagle*, August 25, 1867; *Daily Eagle*, September 9, 1867; *Daily Eagle*, April 29, 1868.

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Street. In this odd, small lot, these men envisioned a home for the county's war memorial. The community was invited to bring their coal ash and other fill material to raise the sunken triangle up to a proper grade, and by the spring of 1869, the triangle was ready for seeding.⁶

Creating the small park eliminated an eyesore for the entire neighborhood (especially for Eastman, who had just finished creating his estate opposite this triangle) and additionally provided an excellent central location for the proposed war memorial. The *Dutchess Farmer* newspaper offered praise for the effort: "Those residents of our city who have filled in, graded and enclosed, the triangular lot at the corner of Montgomery and Market Streets are certainly entitled to thanks from all who pass by that portion of the town. Prof. H.G. Eastman was the moving spirit in the improvement. In place of a hole filled in with all kinds of loose trash there is a sightly piece of ground which will soon be well covered with verdure."⁷

In January of 1870, with the park now in readiness, the monument committee announced it would move ahead with the first element of the war memorial, which was the installation of a granite pedestal on which would sit a "Columbiad" (a giant cannon) donated by Oliver H. Booth, heir to the Vassar Brewery fortune and a member of the park syndicate. The committee then hired the architect of Eastman's home, J.A. Wood, to design a war memorial fountain. By May, illustrations of the fountain's design were being exhibited and admired in a downtown store window, and the projected date for the fountain's installation was early June.⁸

The memorial committee's choice to commission a fountain as Dutchess County's Civil War memorial was unusual. In the years immediately after the war, the form of war memorials was still being negotiated. While memorials built on battlefields varied in their designs, ranging from simple stones to detailed carvings and sculptures showing men fighting or specific army units, civic memorials developed a remarkably similar form: a central obelisk capped by a standing soldier. This design became readily available due to its popularity; the resolute, standing soldier was seen to exemplify republican self-sacrifice and the commitment of each soldier to the preservation of the nation. Between 1880 and 1920, over 80 percent of the monuments constructed in the north featured standing soldiers. In many cases, they also included plaques with the names of the community's war dead, inscriptions describing the motivations of the soldiers and the reconciliation of the union, and the names of the sponsor(s) of the monument.⁹ While the committee's choice to build a fountain can be partially attributed to its construction before this form was well-established, it also reflects its interest in beautifying a previously unappealing space.

Janes, Beebe & Company No. 5 Fountain

In an abrupt change of plan, the committee decided to purchase a different fountain at the last minute, even though parts of Wood's fountain were already in production. An unknown person, whose identity still remains a

⁶ "Improvement," *Daily Eagle*, April 22 and 27, 1868; *Daily Eagle*, June 18, 1868.

⁷ "New Dwellings – Triangular Lot," *Dutchess Farmer*, May 11, 1869.

⁸ "J.A. Wood's Monument Design," *News-Telegraph*, May 14, 1870; "The Soldiers' Monument Committee," *Daily Eagle*, January 22 and 25, 1870; *Daily Eagle*, February 28, 1870.

⁹ Edward T. O'Connell, "Public Commemoration of the Civil War and Monuments to Memory: The Triumph of Robert E. Lee and the Lost Cause" (PhD diss., Stony Brook University, 2008), 93, 98-99.

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mystery, had somehow discovered that a cheaper fountain – one already cast and ready for immediate installation - was available from the Bronx foundry of Janes, Beebe & Company.¹⁰

The New York based Janes, Beebe & Company is best known for erecting the mammoth iron dome on the federal Capitol building and for creating the famous Bow Bridge in Central Park. It was also among the first foundries in America to move beyond the manufacture of utilitarian stoves and furnaces to produce ornamental ironwork such as garden seats, fountains, statues, and fences.¹¹

Soldiers' Fountain is a rare surviving example of Janes, Beebe & Company's "Model No. 5" cast-iron fountain. The "No. 5" fountain was copied from a design by French sculptor Michel Lienard that was cast on the outskirts of Paris by the iron foundry of Jean Pierre Victor Andre. Lienard's impressive fountain was exhibited in 1851 at the Crystal Palace Exhibition in London, where it apparently attracted the notice of an employee of Janes, Beebe and Company who had been sent to the exhibition to "acquire" design ideas. By 1855, Janes, Beebe and Company was able to produce an American copy of Lienard's design known as "Model No. 5."¹²

Poughkeepsie's fountain is one of four known extant examples of the Model No. 5 design. In 1858, the City of Savannah, Georgia, purchased what appears to be the first "No. 5" fountain as an adornment for its Forsyth Park.¹³ A third "No. 5" fountain stands today in Curzo, Peru, while a fourth survives in Madison, Indiana. The Madison fountain was initially exhibited by the Janes, Kirtland Company at the 1876 Philadelphia Centennial Exhibition's Hall of Agriculture and was later purchased in 1884 for the city of Madison by the local Odd Fellows chapter. Known today as "Broadway Fountain," it was completely recast in bronze in 1976 due to severe deterioration.¹⁴

Poughkeepsie's Soldiers' Fountain was most likely cast at the same time as the Forsyth Park fountain, but it remained unsold throughout the Civil War years. Because it had been made before the Civil War, when production costs were less, this fountain (known simply as catalog "Model No. 5") represented good value for the money – so much so that the monument committee was apparently willing to overlook the fact that the fountain's imagery had nothing to do with the theme of war.

Had Poughkeepsie not purchased the pre-made design No.5, it would have received a fountain much more closely linked with a military theme. Architect J.A. Wood's design called for the fountain to sit on a black marble pedestal on which would be inscribed the names of the county's war dead. The fountain itself was probably a semi-custom design created by combining an array of Wood's favorite off-the-shelf items selected from an ornamental ironwork catalog or showroom using the commonly practiced "mix and match" approach to ironwork design of the Victorian period.

¹⁰ "Soldiers' Memorial Fountain," *Dutchess Farmer*, July 19, 1870.

¹¹ John E. Piper, "The Janes & Kirtland Iron Works," *Bronx County Historical Society Journal* 11, no. 2 (1974).

¹² Andrew Sherman, "Historical Background Forsyth Park Fountain," 2014 Hidden Histories Online Exhibit, Georgia Historical Society; Mary Morrison, "The Forsyth Park Fountain," 1978, Vertical File "Savannah – Parks and Squares – Forsyth Park," Georgia Historical Society.

¹³ This fountain still stands today as the park's signature focal point and was restored in 1997.

¹⁴ National Park Service, "Broadway Fountain," < https://www.nps.gov/nr/travel/madison/Broadway_Fountain.html>; Ruth Wright, "Madison's Broadway Fountain has a unique but little known history," *Roundabout Entertainment Guide*, December 2003 < <http://www.roundaboutmadison.com/InsidePages/ArchivedArticles/2003/1203Fountain.html>>.

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Structurally, the pedestals and basins of Wood's fountain were quite similar to design No. 5, as were some of the main sculptural elements such as cranes, marsh plants and water creatures holding sea shells. But given the fountain's intended purpose as a war memorial, Wood selected decorative panels featuring "implements of modern warfare" and sat his water nymphs on bases that took the form of "colossal eagle heads." The statue crowning Wood's fountain was the figure of a soldier with water shooting up from the muzzle of a gun.¹⁵

The pre-Civil War design No. 5 that Poughkeepsie's monument committee snatched up as a last minute bargain had no patriotic or military references. When it was unveiled, one newspaper reporter believed that the female figure at the fountain's peak would eventually be replaced with a soldier, although this never came to pass.¹⁶ Poughkeepsie's version of model No. 5 did have the unique addition of 24 jets imported from Paris – said to be the first of their kind used in the United States.¹⁷ And although J.A. Wood did not get his "colossal eagle heads," one small addition gave Poughkeepsie's version of model No. 5 at least one military reference in the form of miniature eagles perched on tiny cannons spouting water. Unlike other civic memorials, which typically featured inscriptions about the war and, often, lists of war dead, the fountain also offers minimal verbal references to the war; three simple statements at the base, "To the Patriot Dead," "Soldiers Memorial Fountain" and the dates of the war, offer the only clear connection to the fountain's intended memorial purpose.

At the time it was installed in 1870, the cost to cast a similar fountain was estimated at \$6,000. It had cost only \$4,000 to make the fountain in the mid-1850s. Nevertheless, the monument committee still had less than one thousand dollars in its treasury. The community once again turned to Eastman, who organized a series of special fundraisers. Lithographs of the fountain were put up for sale. An admission was charged to view the fountain before it was unveiled and a balloon ascension event did gather the usual crowds.¹⁸ But it is more than likely that private philanthropists such as Eastman were eventually called upon to subsidize the fountain's cost.

Completion and Use of Soldiers Memorial Fountain and Park

When the fountain was officially unveiled on July 4, 1870, the *Daily Eagle* proclaimed it had been worth the wait to acquire such an ornament. The speaker of the day, Civil War Major General Martin McMahon, noted that the "cheerful voice of the falling waters" and the "clouds of floating mist" presented a memorial which would bring forth sweet and tender memories of the dead far more effectively than any "towering monument of cold gleaming marble or shaft of ever enduring granite."¹⁹

Final additions to the park were completed in the spring of 1871 with the placement of five surplus cannons deaccessioned by Congress for monument purposes. The three largest cannons, made of iron, were erected muzzle up at each corner of the park with a stanchion and chain fence outlining the boundary of the park triangle. Two brass cannons, still on their wooden carriages, and the large Columbiad cannon (accompanied

¹⁵ "In Memorium," *Daily Eagle*, February 28, 1870.

¹⁶ "The Memorial Fountain," *Daily Eagle*, June 3, 1870.

¹⁷ "Soldiers' Memorial Fountain," *Dutchess Farmer*, July 19, 1870.

¹⁸ "Fourth of July," *Daily Eagle*, June 24, 1870; "The Glorious Fourth!" *Daily Eagle*, July 6, 1870.

¹⁹ Charles E. Chase, "Soldiers' Memorial Fountain," *Sunday Courier*, April 8, 1928; *Daily Eagle*, March 27, 1928.

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by three piles of cannonballs) were placed as guardians of the fountain at each point of the triangle.²⁰ After Eastman's death in 1878, the syndicate of private owners donated the park and fountain to the city. The final private share in the park was acquired by the city in 1896.²¹

In 1927, new colored lighting made the fountain into a striking night time attraction. Shortly thereafter, in 1928, a Poughkeepsie letter carrier named Homer Coxhead paid a visit to Savannah, Georgia and returned to tell Poughkeepsie that its fountain had a mate - a fact which had become obscured and forgotten in the years since 1870. This surprising discovery triggered the first in-depth research on the fountain's history by Charles E. Chase, a Civil War veteran and employee of the Poughkeepsie public works department.²²

In 1935, city arts leaders suggested it was time to replace the fountain. In plain spoken language, they called it ugly, meaningless, fantastical, inappropriate, disgraceful - and just the kind of "artistry" one would expect from a Victorian stove manufacturer. The fountain's night time colored lighting was dismissed as garish and gaudy. But veterans believed the fountain still held patriotic meaning, and the city's mayor called replacing the fountain "unthinkable."²³

In 1940, *The WPA Guide to New York State*, created by the Federal Writer's Project, characterized the fountain as an example of "folk art in cast iron." Its park-like setting received high praise: "The square in which it [the fountain] stands, at the entrance to Eastman Park, preserves more mid-Victorian atmosphere than probably any other civic square in the state."²⁴

But the fountain again faced destruction in 1942 when the City Taxpayers' Association complained about the cost of running the fountain. The City Board of Public Works responded by suggesting that the fountain could be donated to the war time scrap metal drive. Parks superintendent Frank Berry condemned the suggestion as patriotism grown "hysterical." Others accused the city of hoping to lease the land to a gas station once the fountain was removed.²⁵

Ultimately, the fountain was spared when the Board of Public Works acknowledged that hundreds of tons of old street car rails as well as ornamental iron fences from estates along the North Road (today's Route 9) could provide a sufficient amount of scrap metal without resorting to the destruction of a community war

²⁰ "Cannons," *Dutchess Farmer*, April 18, 1871; "What About Those Cannon Balls?" *Poughkeepsie Journal*, August 14, 1960; "Cannon for the Soldiers' Monument," *Daily Eagle*, June 6, 1870; "Cannon for the Fountain Park," *Daily Press*, November 30, 1870.

²¹ Deeds: Liber 144, p. 184 December 19, 1867; Liber 288, p. 72 May 29, 1878; "Ownership of Fountain," *Daily Eagle*, October 7, 1896.

²² "Lighting the Fountain," *Sunday Courier*, April 22 and 25, 1927; *Sunday Courier*, August 2, 1925; "Nutley NJ Seeks Data on Soldiers' Fountain," *Poughkeepsie New Yorker*, January 23, 1955; "Letter Carrier Discovers Fountain," *Daily Eagle*, March 27, 1928; "How Soldiers' Fountain was Built," *Sunday Courier*, April 8, 1928.

²³ "Soldiers' Fountain," *Sunday Courier*, March 24 and 25, 1933; "City Art Leaders Endorse Barrett's Fountain Views," *Evening Star*, March 27, 1933.

²⁴ Federal Writers' Project, *WPA Guide to the Empire State* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1940).

²⁵ "Campbell Suggests Scrapping Soldiers' Fountain," *Poughkeepsie Journal*, March 24, 1942; "Friends Rally to Save Fountain," *Poughkeepsie Journal*, March 24, 1942; "Champion of Fountain," *Poughkeepsie Journal*, March 26, 1942; "Plenty of Metal Other than the Cannon," *Poughkeepsie Journal*, August 11, 1942.

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memorial. In 1987, the fountain narrowly avoided destruction once again when a Dutchess County transit bus collided with a delivery truck and careened into Soldiers' Fountain Park.²⁶

But the Soldiers' Fountain has also had its share of more jovial moments. In 1887, an unknown person climbed to the top of the fountain and placed a hoop skirt and bonnet on the goddess. In 1909, the chief of police ordered a special officer placed to guard the fountain from college crew teams who had taken to throwing the nearby cannon balls into the fountain as part of their traditional victory celebration after the annual rowing regatta each June. In 1979, a *Poughkeepsie Journal* photographer could not resist capturing a city maintenance worker carefully scrubbing the bare breast of the goddess.²⁷

In 1977, the fountain and triangular park underwent an award-winning restoration utilizing \$17,000 in federal funding from the city's Jefferson Urban Renewal Project. A chain link fence which had kept the public from jumping into the fountain was replaced by a more attractive plant-filled moat and iron railing. The triangular park was planted with Bradford pear trees - their white spring flowers, summertime shade and yellow fall foliage helping to create a more pedestrian friendly setting in harmony with the nearby historic Fite House and Harloe Row. The fountain itself also received complete re-plumbing, rewiring, re-welding, sandblasting, rustproofing, and re-painting by Politi Memorials.²⁸ In 1999, Tallix Art Foundry of Beacon performed an additional restoration of the fountain (funded by \$60,000 in federal Community Development Block Grant money). This work included both paint stripping and repainting along with reproducing missing trim components.²⁹

²⁶ "Last Stop," *Poughkeepsie Journal*, July 16, 1987.

²⁷ "Guards for Fountain," *Daily Eagle*, July 2, 1909; "Fountain photo," *Poughkeepsie Journal*, August 3, 1979; *Daily Eagle*, November 26, 1887.

²⁸ "Soldiers' Fountain," *Poughkeepsie Journal*, February 24, 1974; February 12, 1976; January 15, 1977; "Fountain and Park Rededication Program," November 11, 1977, Fountain Restoration October 8, 1977, Photo of fountain August 3, 1977, "City Gets Commendation for Fountain October 11, 1977, "Ornamental Railing" August 30, 1978. Collection of Adriance Memorial Library;

²⁹ "Fountain Under Repair," *Poughkeepsie Journal*, August 28, 1999.

Soldiers' Memorial Fountain and Park
Name of Property

Dutchess Co., NY
County and State

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

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Soldiers' Memorial Fountain and Park
Name of Property

Dutchess Co., NY
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Soldiers' Memorial Fountain and Park
Name of Property

Dutchess Co., NY
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- "The Balloon Ascension." *Poughkeepsie Daily Eagle*, June 24, 1868.
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- "The Look of the Triangle." *Dutchess Farmer*, April 18, 1871.
- "The Memorial Fountain." *Poughkeepsie Daily Eagle*, June 3, 1870.
- "The Soldiers' Memorial Fountain." *Poughkeepsie Daily Eagle*, June 2, 1870.
- "The Soldiers' Monument." *Poughkeepsie Daily Eagle*, April 24, 1868.
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- "The Work of Forming the Triangular Ground." *Poughkeepsie Daily Eagle*, April 22, 1868.
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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 # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other
- Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):

Soldiers' Memorial Fountain and Park
Name of Property

Dutchess Co., NY
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property .19 acres
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>18</u> Zone	<u>588928</u> Easting	<u>4616998</u> Northing	3	<u> </u> Zone	<u> </u> Easting	<u> </u> Northing
2	<u> </u> Zone	<u> </u> Easting	<u> </u> Northing	4	<u> </u> Zone	<u> </u> Easting	<u> </u> Northing

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The boundary is indicated by a heavy line on the enclosed map with scale.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary was drawn into include the parcel historically associated with the Soldiers Memorial Fountain and Park.

Soldiers' Memorial Fountain and Park
Name of Property

Dutchess Co., NY
County and State

Soldier's Memorial Fountain & Park
Poughkeepsie, Dutchess Co., NY

120 Market Street
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601



Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 18N
Projection: Transverse Mercator
Datum: North American 1983
Units: Meter



 Fountain & Park



**Parks, Recreation
and Historic Preservation**

Soldiers' Memorial Fountain and Park
Name of Property

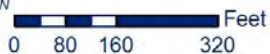
Dutchess Co., NY
County and State

Soldier's Memorial Fountain & Park
Poughkeepsie, Dutchess Co., NY

120 Market Street
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601



Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 18N
Projection: Transverse Mercator
Datum: North American 1983
Units: Meter



**Parks, Recreation
and Historic Preservation**

Soldiers' Memorial Fountain and Park
Name of Property

Dutchess Co., NY
County and State

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Holly Wahlberg (Design Historian), edited by Jennifer Betsworth (NY SHPO)
organization _____ date _____
street & number 35 Garfield Place telephone _____
city or town Poughkeepsie state NY zip code 12601
e-mail _____

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: Soldiers Memorial Fountain and Park

City or Vicinity: Poughkeepsie

County: Dutchess State: NY

Photographer: Holly Wahlberg

Date Photographed: July and October, 2016

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

NY_Dutchess Co_Soldiers Memorial Fountain_0001
Fountain and park, looking northeast

NY_Dutchess Co_Soldiers Memorial Fountain_0002
Fountain and park, looking southwest (from across Market Street)

NY_Dutchess Co_Soldiers Memorial Fountain_0003
Fountain and park, looking south

Soldiers' Memorial Fountain and Park
Name of Property

Dutchess Co., NY
County and State

NY_Dutchess Co_Soldiers Memorial Fountain_0004
Fountain, looking west

NY_Dutchess Co_Soldiers Memorial Fountain_0005
Fountain, looking northwest

NY_Dutchess Co_Soldiers Memorial Fountain_0006
Fountain, detail, looking southwest

NY_Dutchess Co_Soldiers Memorial Fountain_0007
Fountain, detail, looking west

Property Owner:

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name City of Poughkeepsie, Rob Robson (Mayor)

street & number City Hall, Third Floor telephone _____

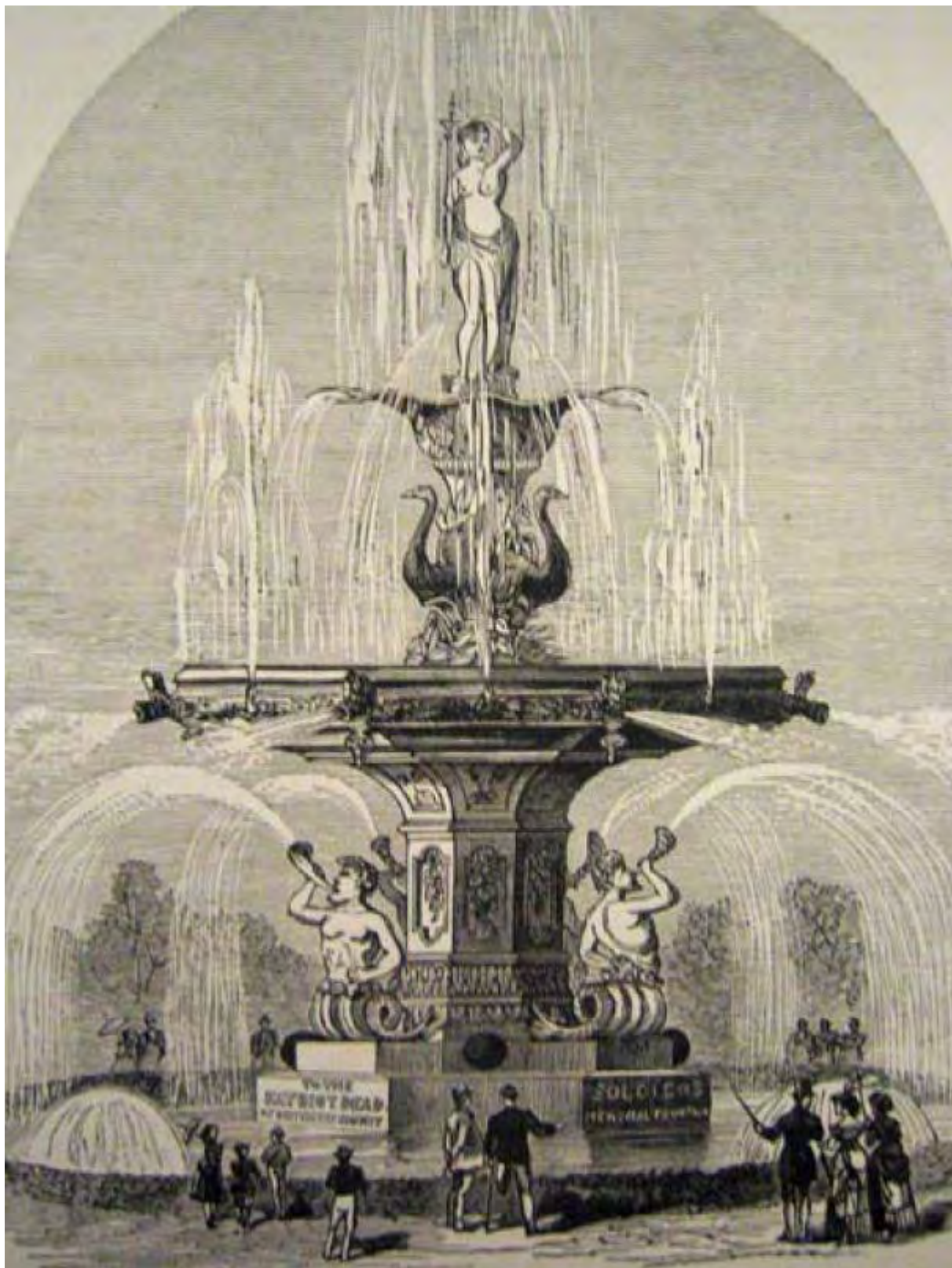
city or town Poughkeepsie state NY zip code _____

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Soldiers' Memorial Fountain and Park
Name of Property

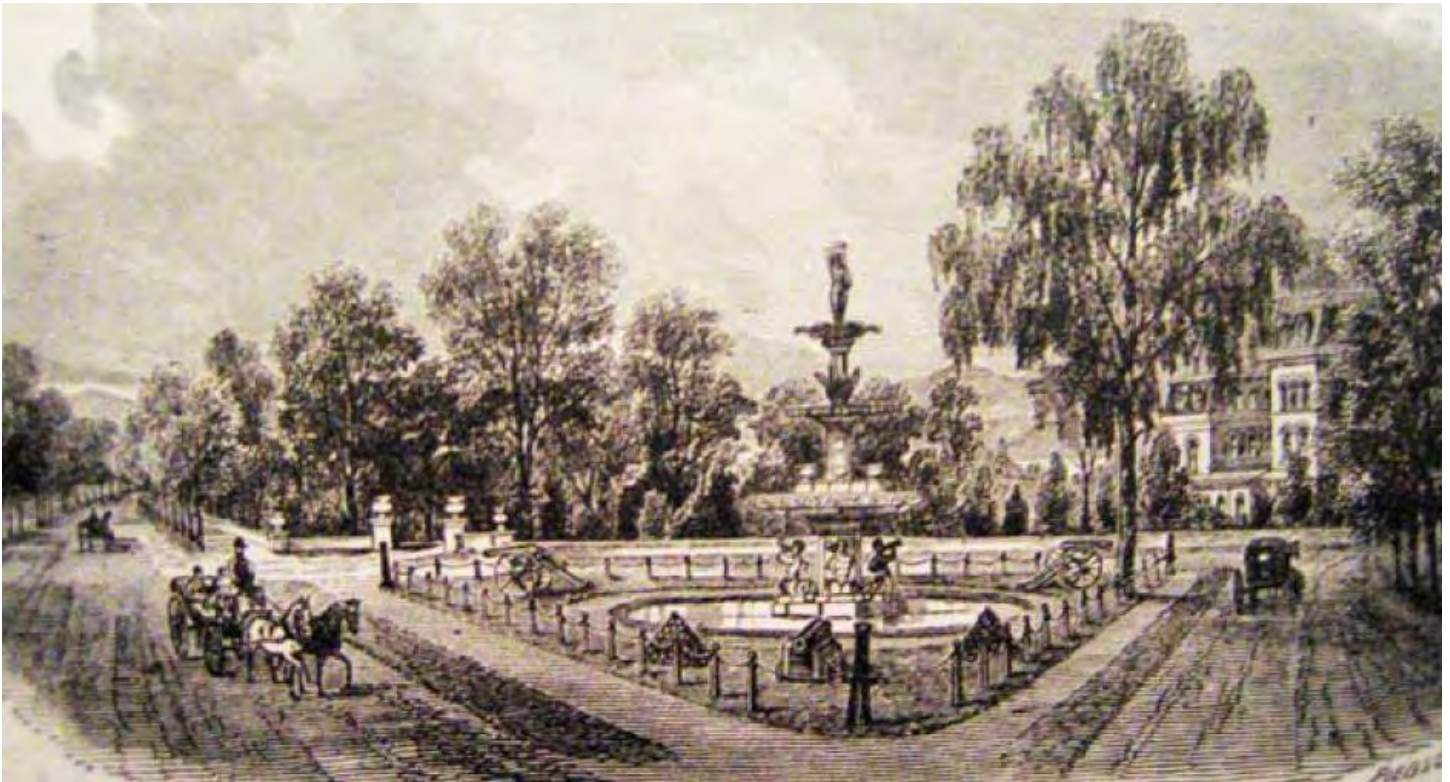
Dutchess Co., NY
County and State



Souvenir Engraving of Soldiers Memorial Fountain, 1870

Soldiers' Memorial Fountain and Park
Name of Property

Dutchess Co., NY
County and State



Engraving of the park commissioned by George Eastman

Soldiers' Memorial Fountain and Park
Name of Property

Dutchess Co., NY
County and State



Soldiers Memorial Fountain Postcard, ca. 1900



ONE WAY









TO THE
PATRIOT DEAD



**SOLDIERS
MEMORIAL FOUNTAIN**



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action:

Property Name:

Multiple Name:

State & County:

Date Received: 12/30/2016 Date of Pending List: Date of 16th Day: Date of 45th Day: 2/14/2017 Date of Weekly List: 2/23/2017

Reference number:

Nominator:

Reason For Review:

Accept Return Reject 2/14/2017 Date

Abstract/Summary
Comments:

Recommendation/
Criteria

Reviewer Alexis Abernathy Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2236 Date _____

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : No see attached SLR : No

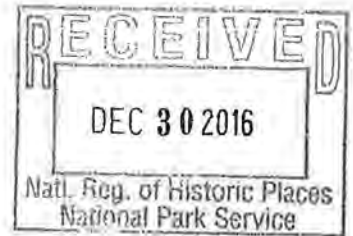
If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.



**Parks, Recreation
and Historic Preservation**

ANDREW M. CUOMO
Governor

ROSE HARVEY
Commissioner



16 December 2016

Alexis Abernathy
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places
1201 Eye St. NW, 8th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20005

Re: National Register Nomination

Dear Ms. Abernathy:

I am pleased to submit the following six nominations, all on disc, to be considered for listing by the Keeper of the National Register:

DuBois Farmhouse, Dutchess County
Soldiers' Memorial Fountain and Park, Dutchess County
Moss Street Cemetery, Washington County
International Shirt and Collar Company, Rensselaer County
John W. Jones Court, Chemung County
Bridgehampton Presbyterian Church, Suffolk County

Please feel free to call me at 518.268.2165 if you have any questions.

Sincerely:

Kathleen LaFrank
National Register Coordinator
New York State Historic Preservation Office