

PH0356611

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	V 30 1976
DATE ENTERED	MAY 6 1977

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

**

Trenton Battle Monument

AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Warren & Broad Streets

__ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Trenton

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

4th

STATE

New Jersey

__ VICINITY OF
CODE

34

COUNTY

Mercer

CODE

021

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

__ COMMERCIAL

__ EDUCATIONAL

__ ENTERTAINMENT

__ GOVERNMENT

__ INDUSTRIAL

__ MILITARY

__ MUSEUM

PARK

__ PRIVATE RESIDENCE

__ RELIGIOUS

__ SCIENTIFIC

__ TRANSPORTATION

__ OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

State of New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection

STREET & NUMBER

Labor & Industry Building

CITY, TOWN

Trenton

STATE

New Jersey

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

New Jersey Historic Sites Office

STREET & NUMBER

Room 810 Labor & Industry Building

CITY, TOWN

Trenton

STATE

New Jersey

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

New Jersey Historic Sites Inventory

DATE

June 1976

__ FEDERAL STATE __ COUNTY __ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Labor & Industry Building

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
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		DATE <u>1976</u>

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Trenton Battle Monument is a triumphal column of granite 150 feet high. It is of the Roman Doric order with a large base decorated with accanthus leaves. The capital has a ring of stars surmounted by egg and dart molding, with a large abacus which forms an observation platform with a railing. The column is surmounted by a small round pavilion which gives access to the platform. The pavilion is surmounted by an accanthus leaf pedestal, with a statue of George Washington, right arm outstretched. The statue was carved by William R. O'Donovan. The column rests upon a heavy plinth which in turn rests upon a high, 2 state, pedestal. The upper stage is of ashlar with gauge molding on top, ogee molding at the bottom and bronze cast plaques on 3 sides. The plaques are reproductions of ones which were made by Thomas Eakins and Karl H. Niehaus. The plaques depict Washington crossing the Delaware, the opening of the Battle of Trenton, and the surrender of the Hessians. The fourth side has a memorial inscription. The lower stage of the pedestal is a heavily rusticated block with a central entrance door flanked by a pair of bronze statues of continental soldiers.

Originally, access to the observation platform was obtained by means of an iron ladder. Subsequently an Otis elevator was installed. The monument is reputed to rest upon the site of Washington's main gun emplacement, at the battle.

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 type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input 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

1890

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

John H. Duncan, F.I.A.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The monument commemorates the American success at the Battle of Trenton in December 1776. It was designed by John H. Duncan, FAIA, the architect of Grant's Tomb. Its monumentality, together with its thick, barrel like proportions, mark it as an early example of the Beaux Arts Style in America.

The statue of Washington was carved by William R. O'Donovan a noted 19th century sculptor of monuments, busts and base reliefs in the New York State area. He was one of the four founders of the Title Club, and the sculptor of the equestrian statues of Lincoln and Grant, for the Soldiers and Sailors Arch, Prospect Park, New York. He also carved the Bayard Taylor Monument at Cornell University.

The bronze plaques around the base were made by Thomas Eakins an artist of national importance. Recently they were moved to the State Museum, and replaced by exact castings. Although the castings are not original, they cannot truly be considered fakes. Because of the nature of Bronze casting, both the originals and the castings represent the artist's work in equal measure.

Agitation to erect a monument to the success at Trenton, at "Five Points" began as early as 1843. It was a half-a-century, however, before the monument became a reality.

General Garrett D. Wall first advanced the suggestion which resulted in the formation of the "Trenton Monument Association". In 1859 the name was changed to the "New Jersey Monument Association". Subscriptions totalling \$11,000 were obtained, but the project languished until 1884 when the association was incorporated as the "Trenton Battle Monument Association". In 1886 property at "Five Points"

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

The Trenton Battle Monument and Washington's Campaign, December 26, 1776, to January 3, 1777 by Alden T. Cottrell

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than 1

UTM REFERENCES

A	1 1 8	5 1 9 9 9 1 0	4 4 5 2 ^{6 2 0} 6 4 5	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

New Jersey Historic Sites Staff

ORGANIZATION

DATE

June 4, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

Box 1420

TELEPHONE

609-292-2024

CITY OR TOWN

Trenton

STATE

New Jersey

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL X

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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

John J. Bank

TITLE

Commissioner, Department of Environmental Protection

DATE

10/15/76

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

John M. ...
 DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

5/6/77

ATTEST:

Charles ...
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

5-6-77

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SIGINIFICANCE

was acquired by direction of the association. To accomplish the erection of a suitable memorial, the New Jersey Legislature appropriated \$15,00, Congress \$30,000, and \$15,000 was contributed by the citizens of the State. With the funds at hand, work was commenced on the Battle Monument in October 1891.

The cornerstone was laid on December 26, 1891, on the 115th anniversary of the Battle of Trenton. On October 19, 1893, the 112th anniversary of the surrender at Yorktown, the monument was dedicated with elaborate ceremonies. Hilary A. Herbert, then Secretary of the Navy, represented the President of the United States and the ceremonies were attended by the governors of eight of the thirteen original states.

Because the Trenton Battle Monument contains the work of two major American artists, and because it was designed by a locally significant architect, it warrants inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.