

= Civil War Memorial (Sycamore , Illinois) =

The Civil War Memorial , in the DeKalb County county seat of Sycamore , Illinois , United States , is located in front of the DeKalb County Courthouse on a public square . The memorial was erected in 1896 and dedicated in 1897 . The structure is a memorial to the thousands of DeKalb County residents who served in the American Civil War . It incorporates an obelisk which rises to 50 feet (15 @. @ 2 m) in height . The base is adorned with copper sculpture , completed by an unknown sculptor . On the east facade of the memorial the word " Antietam " , denoting the Battle of Antietam , is misspelled . This work of public art underwent its first restoration work in 2005 @- @ 2006 .

The memorial is included among the 187 buildings and structures considered contributing properties to the Sycamore Historic District . The historic district was added to the U.S. National Register of Historic Places in 1978 . The structure also has artistic significance as it is listed by the Smithsonian American Art Museum in their research database . It is one of the few sculptures in DeKalb County found within that database . The Civil War Memorial is owned by DeKalb County .

= = History = =

The DeKalb County Civil War Memorial and the sculpture that adorns it was created by an unknown sculptor and installed in front of the DeKalb County Courthouse in 1896 . The county @- @ owned memorial stands on the public square in Sycamore , the county seat and is 50 feet (15 @. @ 2 m) tall . The structure was dedicated on June 24 , 1897 as a memorial to the 2 @, @ 388 people from DeKalb County who served in the military during the American Civil War .

In July 2005 the statues adorning the monument underwent a restoration . DeKalb County appropriated US \$ 15 @, @ 000 for the project which , among other tasks , repaired a split seam in one of the soldier statues and a crack in the other sculpture 's base . The project took approximately six months ; the statues were removed for the duration of the restoration work and reinstalled in March 2006 . During the restoration it was revealed that the statues , thought to be bronze , were actually copper . The work , the first in the 110 @- @ year history of the memorial , was completed at a cost of \$ 16 @, @ 500 . Three months after the work was completed one of the statues was removed for a second time because the metal began to oxidize .

= = Design = =

The 50 @- @ foot (15 @. @ 2 @- @ m) tall memorial has base dimensions of 10 feet (3 m) by 6 feet (1 @. @ 8 m) . The monument is constructed from a combination of marble , masonry , and the metal used for the sculpted copper and masonry soldiers . The structure also incorporated wood into its design . The rifles the figures on the base hold and the bases that they stand on are made of wood . The front facade is adorned with a marble plate engraved with an excerpt from U.S. President Abraham Lincoln 's Gettysburg Address . Each of the other facades , also marble faced , are emblazoned with the names of major battles and campaigns of the war . The word " Antietam , " representing the Battle of Antietam , is misspelled on the east , marble facade of the memorial as " Anteitam . "

The two copper statues , each standing 6 feet (1 @. @ 8 m) tall , flank the obelisk which rises to a masonry soldier statue , instead of the typical apex of an obelisk . The figure atop the granite obelisk is a mustached American Civil War soldier dressed in a long coat , a cape , and a cap . In the figure 's right hand he holds the handle of his sword and the sword 's tip rests in front of his right foot . In the soldier 's left hand is a flag . Below the apex of the obelisk , on the memorial 's base , are two additional sculpted figures , a Union infantry soldier and a Union cavalry soldier . The Union infantryman is dressed in a cap , long coat , and a cape , much like the figure atop the obelisk . The Union cavalryman , standing on the east side of the base , is dressed in a brimmed hat and short jacket .

= = Significance = =

The 1974 Illinois Historic Sites Survey Inventory found the DeKalb County Civil War Memorial significant in the areas of military and sculpture . At the time of the 1974 survey , the memorial was considered in " excellent " and " not altered " condition . It is also one of the few sculptures in DeKalb County that is listed in the Smithsonian American Art Museum 's Smithsonian Institution Research Information System (SIRIS) . The Civil War Memorial is listed as a contributing property to the Sycamore Historic District . The historic district joined the U.S. National Register of Historic Places on May 2 , 1978 . As a part of the Sycamore Historic District , the National Register classifies the DeKalb County Civil War Memorial as an " object . "