

NPS Form 10-900  
Oct. 1990United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNATIONAL REGISTER  
LISTED

JAN 31 2008

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 *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "X" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an 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 entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-9000a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

## 1. Name of Property

Historic name Kinsley Civil War Monument  
Other name/site number 047-2860-0011

## 2. Location

Street & number L Road - Hillside Cemetery ☐ not for publication  
City or town Kinsley ☐ vicinity  
State Kansas Code KS County Edwards Code 047 Zip code 67547

## 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ 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 ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Patrick Zollner  
Patrick Zollner, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer  
Kansas State Historical Society

12/4/07  
Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional Comments.)

Signature of commenting official / Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

## 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

- ☐ 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:)

Kinsley Civil War Monument  
Name of Property

Edwards County, KS  
County and State

## 5. Classification

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

- ☐ private  
☒ public-local  
☐ public-State  
☐ public-Federal

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

- ☐ building(s)  
☐ district  
☐ site  
☐ structure  
☒ object

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
		buildings
		sites
		structures
1		objects
1		total

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

N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed  
in the National Register**

0

## 6. Function or Use

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter Categories from instructions)

Recreation & Culture: Monument/Marker

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Recreation & Culture: Monument/Marker

## 7. Description

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Late 19<sup>th</sup> & Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century Revivals:

Classical Revival

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation: Concrete

Walls: N/A

Roof: N/A

Other: Brick; Metal

**Narrative Description**  
(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Kinsley Civil War Monument  
Name of Property

Edwards County, KS  
County and State

## 8. Statement of Significance

### Applicable National Register Criteria

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

- ☐ 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 likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

### 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 of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years

### Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

### Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Art

### Period of Significance

1917

### Significant Dates

1917

### Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

### Cultural Affiliation

N/A

### Architect/Builder

Lester, David A.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

### Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

### 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

### Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☒ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Name of repository:

Kinsley (KS) Library

Kinsley Civil War Monument  
Name of Property

Edwards County, KS  
County and State

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one acre

### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1	4	4	6	0	6	4	0	4	1	9	8	6	6	0
Zone	Easting				Northing										
2															

3															
Zone	Easting				Northing										
4															

☐ See continuation sheet

### Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

### Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

## 11. Form Prepared By

Name/title Stacy R. Neilson

Organization Conservation District

Date April 20, 2007

Street & number 120 E. 7th

Telephone 620-659-3242 ext. 3

City or town Kinsley

State KS Zip code 67547

## Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

### Continuation Sheets

#### 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.

#### Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

#### Additional items

(Check with SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

## Property Owner

Name North Edwards County Cemetery District

Street & number 424 W 3rd

Telephone 620-659-2775

City or town Kinsley

State KS Zip code 67547

**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. 470 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 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 Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503

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Kinsley Civil War Monument  
Kinsley, Edwards County, KS

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

The Kinsley Civil War Monument (1917) is located at the center of the 32.5 acre Hillside Cemetery northwest of Kinsley, Kansas. The monument is situated between two "soldiers' plots" that are both thirty feet square. It is thought that this location was chosen for the monument as a way to honor the buried soldiers and embellish their plots. This concrete multi-figure monument features a large square base with bas-reliefs that supports a central shaft with four military figures surrounding. It is topped by a "Winged Victory", which is typical of the allegorical figures often placed atop multi-figure monuments.

Archeologist Randall M. Thies published an article in *Kansas History* in 1999 about the Kinsley monument, its method of construction, and its creator. In "Civil War Valor in Concrete: David A. Lester and the Kinsley Civil War Monument," Thies suggests the monument was created in much the same fashion as Samuel A. Dinsmoor's famous Garden of Eden in Lucas, Kansas. "Cement can be used to make sculpture through two basic methods, and apparently both were applied in constructing the Kinsley monument. One method is hand molding, in which wet cement mix is applied by hand to a framework made of metal rod, wire, or wire mesh. The other method involves the creation of cast concrete object by pouring cement mix into a hollow sculpture that serves as a rigid exterior form. Metal reinforcing rod also can be fixed in place within the form to strengthen the sculpture."<sup>1</sup>

The basic structure is concrete with the overall dimension being 10' x 10' x 25' high. The base measures 8 ½ feet square by 7 feet high. On each side of the base there is a depiction in relief of servicemen in action: a cavalry scene on the west face, a group of infantrymen on the south, an artillery scene on the east, and a naval vessel (perhaps the well-known *Monitor*) is shown on the north face. At each of the four corners of the base there is a standing figure: an infantryman, a sailor, an artilleryman, and a cavalryman. The "Winged Victory" sitting atop the central shaft faces north toward the majority of soldiers buried nearby rather than south toward the cemetery entrance, which would seem

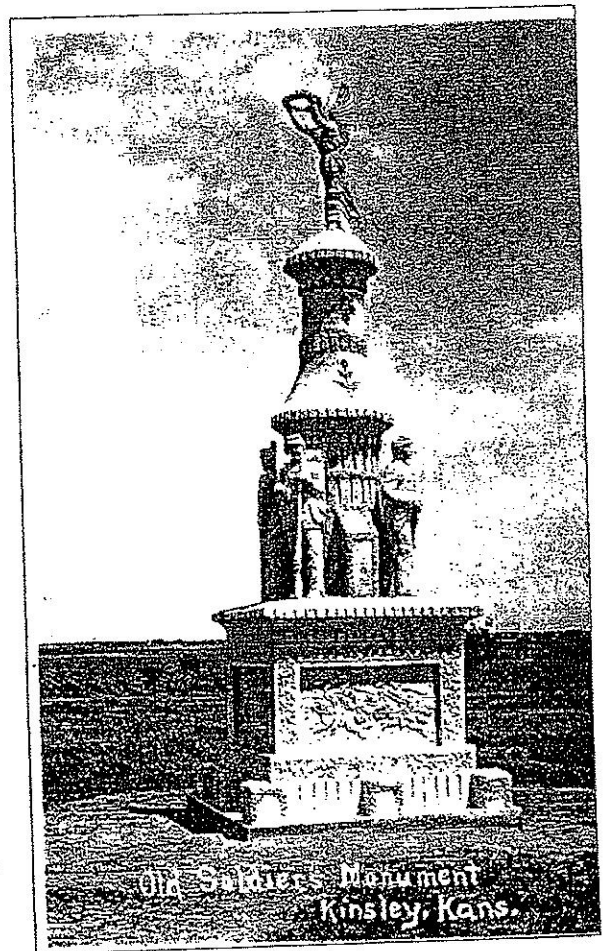


Fig. 1 - Kinsley Civil War Monument, circa 1917.  
Hillside Cemetery.

<sup>1</sup> Randall M. Thies, "Civil War Valor in Concrete: David A. Lester and the Kinsley Civil War Monument" in *Kansas History* 1999, vol. 22, no. 1, p. 173.

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Kinsley Civil War Monument  
Kinsley, Edwards County, KS

more logical to visitors.

There is a cinder core in the base with a concrete substructure over the cinder. The concrete "skin" is  $\frac{1}{2}$  to  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch thick. Many layers of waterproof paint have been applied to the relief panels on the base in an effort to protect the monument from weather. This has negatively impacted the panels as it has diminished the depth of relief. Fired clay bricks were used in the dentil courses and decorative vertical banding.

**Condition**

The historic photograph above (see Fig. 1) shows the monument shortly after its construction in 1917. The photo provides a glimpse of the monument in its original condition. It shows the detailing in the base panels and the completeness of the accoutrements on the four military figures. The infantry figure is missing its rifle, left hand, and possibly the scabbard and bayonet. The cavalry figure has damage to the brim of his cap and some minor chipping, while the sailor has damage to his face and cap. The cap of the artillery figure is also damaged, while his right forearm and cannon swab are missing. Fortunately, there appears to be little damage to the "Winged Victory" figure or the column, which she surmounts.

Some cracks have developed at the corners of the base and there are obvious patches throughout the monument. As previously mentioned, the layers of paint have affected the monument – especially the base panels. Restoration and stabilization of the monument is highly desirable.



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Kinsley Civil War Monument  
Kinsley, Edwards County, KS

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Kinsley Civil War Monument (1917) is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C for artistic significance as a handmade vernacular memorial made of concrete. Local craftsman and Civil War veteran David A. Lester created this memorial to Civil War veterans in 1917. This sculpture is one of only three known multi-figure Civil War monuments in Kansas. The others are the Sedgwick County Soldiers and Sailors Monument (1913) in Wichita and the Soldiers and Sailors Monument (1918) in Hutchinson. Both are listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Large multi-figure Civil War monuments like these are most often made of stone, and, because of the cost to build them, are generally found in more prosperous metropolitan areas. With no known formal art training, Lester's creation made of cement is truly vernacular and unique.

Historic Context

Settlers from Massachusetts founded Kinsley (population 1,658) in 1873, naming it in honor of E. W. Kinsley of Boston, who built the first church edifice. Kinsley is the county seat of Edwards County, Kansas. Despite a decade of crop failure and disease, the town grew with the hopes of becoming a large city. The town was located at the junction of two lines of the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe railroad. Local newspapers called Kinsley "the boomingest boom town in the Southwest." As Eastern capital was invested into Kansas, "townsites broke out all over the face of Kansas like the measles," one historian wrote. The bubble burst, however, in 1888, and Kinsley "settled down to more productive pursuits." Its population in 1910 was 1,547.<sup>2</sup>

During this period of growth and development in Kinsley, a group of 16 Union veterans organized a local chapter of the Grand Army of the Republic – Timothy O. Howe Post 241 – in 1883. The membership climbed to 27 by 1894.<sup>3</sup> The nation's first GAR group formed in April 1866 in Decatur, Illinois, and the first national gathering of GAR members took place later that year in Indianapolis. Soon, the organization became the "main agency through which Union veterans expressed their needs and demands, and the order quickly surpassed other veterans associations such as the Veterans Corps and the Soldiers and Sailors' National Union League in both membership and influence."<sup>4</sup> In addition to political involvement and charity work, "the central activity that dominated the early GAR was the observance of Memorial Day."<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Frank W. Blackmar, *Kansas: a cyclopedia of state history*, Vol. II (Chicago: Standard Publishing Co., 1912), 75; Federal Writers' Project of the Work Projects Administration for the State of Kansas, *Kansas: A Guide to the Sunflower State* (New York, The Viking Press: 1939), 396-97.

<sup>3</sup> Thies, 173.

<sup>4</sup> Charles Rusty Logan, "Civil War Commemorative Sculpture in Arkansas, 1886-1934," National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form. National Park Service. Washington, DC, 1996: E-23 to E-28.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid., E-24.

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Kinsley Civil War Monument  
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Monuments to past heroes were nothing new in post-Civil War America. However, never before had monuments been erected to military heroes on such a broad scale. The years between 1870 and 1910 "comprised the most notable period in U.S. history for monuments in honor of 'mighty warriors and unsung heroes' and spread a sort of contagion as plaques and other memory aids became vogue."<sup>6</sup> This type of public memorialization continued through the years after World War I.

Of the many types of Civil War monuments, the most elaborate, expensive, and ostentatious are the multi-figured sculptures. Other monument types, such as obelisks, single military statues, armaments, and funerary ornaments are relatively common throughout Kansas.<sup>7</sup> Of the multi-figured monuments, only three remain in Kansas – the Wichita monument (1913), the Kinsley monument (1917), and the Hutchinson monument (1918). All of these monuments share a common form. An allegorical statue such as Liberty or Victory sits atop a single column or shaft overlooking four lower statues representing military figures. All of this rests on a large base for support.

Monuments were erected in communities all around Kinsley during this same time: Jetmore in 1913, Dodge City in 1914, and Great Bend in 1915. Plans for a memorial were underway in Larned in 1916.

It is particularly unique to have such an elaborate monument in a community as small as Kinsley. Because of the cost, such sizable and complex structures are normally associated with larger, more prosperous towns. It is a tribute to Lester, a resident of Kinsley, who envisioned such a monument for his community and brought the project to fruition.

Another unique feature of the Kinsley Civil War Monument is that it was entirely hand built. Lester alone designed and executed the monument in 1917 at the age of 74. Two things made this formidable monument a possibility for a small, rural community like Kinsley. First, Lester selected the most common, inexpensive and utilitarian materials – namely concrete. Second, Lester did the work himself fashioning the entire monument with whatever tools were available and with his hands.

Built for a cost of \$1,100, the monument was officially unveiled in May 1917 on Memorial Day. As the commander of the local chapter of the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR), a national veterans organization, Lester read the memorial service with 17 other veterans in attendance.<sup>8</sup> Kinsley newspapers

<sup>6</sup> Charles Rusty Logan, "Civil War Commemorative Architecture in Arkansas, 1886-1934." National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form, 1996.

<sup>7</sup> Many historic sculptures and monuments in Kansas have been documented through the Kansas Save Outdoor Sculpture! (SOS!) project during the late 1990s. The Kansas State Historical Society sponsored the documentation project as part of a national effort to inventory and promote the preservation of public outdoor sculpture. The Kansas SOS! files consist of field survey reports and associated historical documentation, such as newspaper clippings, gathered by project coordinator Randall Thies and other volunteers. This study provides a clearer understanding of the historical context in which to place the Kinsley Civil War monument.

<sup>8</sup> Thies, "Civil War Valor in Concrete," 165-166.



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praised the new monument and memorial service, calling it a "very fitting commemoration to the old soldiers both living and dead," and that "every county in Kansas should do as we have done, even at this late day."<sup>9</sup>

Not a great deal is known about Lester's personal life, educational background, or artistic experience. His military pension records provide the best source of information about him prior to his arrival in Kansas. He was born in 1843 near Schenectady, New York. He was a private in the 27<sup>th</sup> New York Volunteer Infantry during the Civil War and was mustered out of the Army in 1863. He married Eulalia A. Crannell in 1873 and a son, Clarence, was born to the couple in 1877. In March of 1878, the family moved to the area of Kinsley, Kansas.<sup>10</sup>

According to Thies, Kinsley newspapers suggest that Lester's early professional activities included sign painting and house painting. "He advertised that his abilities as a painter, paper-hanger, and decorator could make your home into 'a veritable Monte Christo palace.'" One of his first big projects apparently was on a new bank building in 1885. Later Lester took an interest in photography, and even listed it as his occupation in the 1895 census.<sup>11</sup>

### Summary

The Kinsley Civil War monument is eligible under Criterion C for its artistic significance as a handmade "grassroots" memorial sculpture made of concrete. Produced by a local craftsman and Civil War veteran, the monument is one of only three known multi-figure Civil War monuments in Kansas. It fits within the greater national trends of memorialization in that it is dedicated to the "common soldier and sailor" rather than military generals or political leaders.

<sup>9</sup> Quotes from the *Kinsley Mercury*, June 7, 1917; and the *Kinsley Graphic*, June 7, 1917 as referenced in Thies, "Civil War Valor in Concrete," 180.

<sup>10</sup> David A. Lester's pension records are referenced at the National Archives as certificate number 623.206.

<sup>11</sup> Thies, "Civil War Valor in Concrete," 172.

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

Blackmar, Frank W. *Kansas: a cyclopedia of state history*, Vol. II. Chicago: Standard Publishing Co., 1912.

Federal Writers' Project of the Work Projects Administration for the State of Kansas. *Kansas: A Guide to the Sunflower State*. New York, The Viking Press: 1939.

Kansas Save Outdoor Sculpture! (SOS!) project files and inventories. Cultural Resources Division. Kansas State Historical Society, Topeka, Kansas.

*Kinsley (KS) Mercury*. November 24, 1916; November 28, 1916; and June 7, 1917.

Logan, Charles Rusty. "Civil War Commemorative Sculpture in Arkansas, 1886-1934," National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form. National Park Service. Washington, DC, 1996.

Thies, Randall M. "Civil War Valor in Concrete: David A. Lester and the Kinsley Civil War Monument." In *Kansas History* (Autumn 1999, vol. 22, no. 1), p. 164.

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Kinsley Civil War Monument  
Kinsley, Edwards County, KS

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**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

This nominated property includes only the Civil War Monument and a 10-foot perimeter. The monument is located at the intersection of blocks 1, 2, 4, and 7 in Division D of Hillside Cemetery. Hillside Cemetery is located 1 mile northwest of the town of Kinsley on L Road. The legal description of the cemetery is as follows:

Commencing at the Southwest corner of the Northeast Quarter of Section 30, Township 24, Range 19 West, and running east on half section line 780 feet for place of beginning, thence north on east line of Cemetery 1117 feet, thence east 97 ½ feet, thence south 1117 feet, thence west on half section line 97 ½ feet to place of beginning, being 2 ½ acres on east side of Kinsley Cemetery and twenty acres of land situated in the Southwest corner of the Northeast quarter of Section 30, Township 24, Range 19 West of the 6<sup>th</sup> PM, and bounded as follows: Commencing in the center of said Section 30, thence running north on the quarter section line 1117 feet, thence running east at an angle of 90 degrees, 6 minutes, 780 feet, thence south 1117 feet to the quarter section line, thence west along said quarter section line 780 feet to the place of beginning, and being platted as Hillside Cemetery.

**BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION**

This nominated property includes only the Civil War Monument and a 10-foot perimeter. This is the land historically associated with the monument.

**PHOTOGRAPHIC INFORMATION**

The following information is relevant to all photos:

Property Name: Kinsley Civil War Monument  
Location: Hillside Cemetery, 1 mile NW of Kinsley on L Road, Edwards County, KS  
Photographer: Sarah J. Martin  
Date: May 9, 2007  
Digital Images Filed at the Kansas State Historical Society, Topeka, KS

Photo 1: Full-height of monument, facing NE  
Photo 2: Full-height of monument, facing SW  
Photo 3: Full-height of monument, facing NW  
Photo 4: Close-up of military figures, facing SE  
Photo 5: Plaque near the statue, facing N

