

Spokane Register of Historic Places Nomination

*Spokane City/County Historic Preservation Office, City Hall, Third Floor
808 Spokane Falls Boulevard, Spokane, Washington 99201-3337*

1. Name of Property

Historic Name: American Legion Cenotaph – Riverside Park Cemetery
And/Or Common Name: Riverside Memorial Park Cemetery – American Legion Memorial

2. Location

Street & Number: 508 N Government Way
City, State, Zip Code: Spokane, WA 99224
Parcel Number: 25144.0036

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> building	<input type="checkbox"/> public <input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> structure			<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> residential
<input type="checkbox"/> object	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes, restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes, unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Funerary

4. Owner of Property

Name: Fairmount Memorial Association
Street & Number: 822 N Government Way
City, State, Zip Code: Spokane, WA 99224
Telephone Number/E-mail: information@fairmountmemorial.com

5. Location of Legal Description

Courthouse, Registry of Deeds	Spokane County Courthouse
Street Number:	1116 West Broadway
City, State, Zip Code:	Spokane, WA 99260
County:	Spokane

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Title: American Legion Post 9 Historian Report, Darrel Maddox
Date: September 23, 2019 ☐ Federal ☒ State ☐ County ☐ Local
Depository for Survey Records: Spokane Historic Preservation Office

7. Description

Architectural Classification

Condition

- ☐ excellent
- ☐ good
- ☐ fair
- ☐ deteriorated
- ☐ ruins
- ☐ unexposed

Check One

- ☐ unaltered
- ☐ altered

Check One

- ☐ original site
- ☐ moved & date _____

Narrative statement of description is found on one or more continuation sheets.

8. Spokane Register Categories and Statement of Significance

Applicable Spokane Register of Historic Places category: Mark "x" on one or more for the categories that qualify the property for the Spokane Register listing:

- ☒ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of Spokane 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 history.
- ☐ E Property represents the culture and heritage of the city of Spokane in ways not adequately addressed in the other criteria, as in its visual prominence, reference to intangible heritage, or any range of cultural practices.

Narrative statement of significance is found on one or more continuation sheets.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography is found on one or more continuation sheets.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: Less than one acre
Verbal Boundary Description:
Verbal Boundary Justification: Nominated property includes entire parcel and urban legal description.

11. Form Prepared By

Name and Title: RaeAnna Victor (edited by DAHP staff)
Organization: National Society Daughters of the American Revolution
Street, City, State, Zip Code: 504 S Skipworth Ct, Spokane Valley, WA 99206
Telephone Number: 509-892-6945
E-mail Address: raeannav@comcast.net
Date Final Nomination Heard: March 20, 2024

12. Additional Documentation

Additional documentation is found on one or more continuation sheets.

13. Signature of Owner(s)

14. For Official Use Only:

Date nomination application filed: _____

Date of Landmarks Commission Hearing: _____

Landmarks Commission decision: _____

Date of City Council hearing: _____

I hereby certify that this property has been listed in the Spokane Register of Historic Places based upon the action of the Spokane City Council as set forth above.

Megan Duvall
City/County Historic Preservation Officer
City/County Historic Preservation Office
Third Floor – City Hall
808 W. Spokane Falls Blvd.
Spokane, WA 99201

Date

Attest:

Approved as to form:

City Clerk

Assistant City Attorney

SUMMARY STATEMENT

The American Legion Cenotaph was constructed in 1930 by Spokane Post No. 9 in the Riverside Park Cemetery. The cenotaph was built to honor fallen soldiers in war as well as to provide a place for reflection for those left behind. Architect and American Legion member Henry Bertelsen designed the cenotaph and Julian Simonson was the builder. The cenotaph is constructed of concrete and granite and contains benches along the U-shaped sides. The back wall boasts a taller arched stone panel (approx. 8' tall at its highest point from ground level) which is etched with the wording, *"In Memory of Those Who Gave their Lives for their Country in the World Wars."*

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY

The American Legion Cenotaph is located within Riverside Memorial Park (a cemetery) in Spokane, Washington. It is sited in a grove of pine trees directly north of the Heritage Funeral Home and about 500 yards from the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR) Never Forget Garden. The cenotaph sits on the southern edge, near the road, of the Geranium Lawn, which is where the American Legion Post 9 purchased 300 plots to bury military members and their families. They designated 18 plots on which the cenotaph was to be located.

The site immediately surrounding the cenotaph is flat and grass covered. Access to the cenotaph from the road is via a recently installed paved sidewalk area. This replaced a smaller concrete pad and exposed grass area which was originally used for the placement of a wreath on an easel stand. On each side approximately 2' from the walkway are concrete bases, flush with the ground, that hold ceremonial flags.

The cenotaph itself is a low-lying, rectangular, granite stone memorial designed as a focal point of the various military burial plots. It measures 19' x 26' and was designed as an open U-shape (open to the south) structure of three granite walls and a granite floor.

The cenotaph itself faces inward and has a stone floor platform 18" or three steps above grade. The steps are defined by square plinths and end walls which contain round bronze plaques. The plinths have a hole drilled in the center for the installation of a flagpole during ceremonies. The northwest end wall boasts the logo for the American Legion, while the southeast wall holds a plaque with the logo of the American Legion Auxiliary.

Integrated within the memorial are stone benches on the east and west sidewalls which rise approximately four feet above the floor. The benches face inward. These lower stone walls are adorned with a banding of five pointed stars just carved in relief on the interior of the U-shaped monument.

Symbolizing the grave of an unknown soldier, the back wall (or bottom of the U), features a taller arched stone panel (approx. 8' tall at its highest point from ground level) which is etched with the wording, *"In Memory of Those Who Gave their Lives for their Country in the World Wars"*. This panel is highlighted by slightly shorter side piers which are engraved with a decorative cornice of Art Deco inspired triangular motifs on three of the four sides.

ORIGINAL APPEARANCE & SUBSEQUENT MODIFICATIONS

The site remains the same today as it did upon completion.

SECTION 8: STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

<i>Area of Significance:</i>	<i>Category A, Broad Patterns of Spokane History; Funerary; Military</i>
<i>Period of Significance:</i>	<i>1930</i>
<i>Built Date:</i>	<i>1930</i>
<i>Architect:</i>	<i>Henry Bertelsen</i>
<i>Builder:</i>	<i>Julian Simonson</i>

HISTORIC CONTEXT

CENOTAPH

Derived from the Greek word *kenos taphos*, meaning “empty tomb” a cenotaph is a monument, sometimes in the form of a tomb, to a person or group of persons who are buried elsewhere. While there may be a plaque symbolizing the loss it memorializes, the main purpose of a cenotaph is to honor the dead. There are no names inscribed on a cenotaph, which allows individuals to assign their own meaning to the memorial. Such memorials can be found scattered across the United States.

The American Legion Cenotaph at Riverside Park Cemetery in Spokane is historically significant under Category “A” for its direct association to memorial events that originally centered around the recognition of soldiers who served in WWI. At the time of its construction in 1930, the citizens of Spokane were still reeling from the impact of the war and the significant loss of life and wanted a place to honor and remember those who served. The period of significance begins and ends in 1930, the year the monument was erected and dedicated.

During WWI, Spokane had sent about a tenth of their population to serve in the military. Reportedly a total of 4,551 Spokane County men had been drafted into the service and more than 11,000 had enlisted in Spokane’s various recruiting stations. Before the war ended, 164 Spokane men would lose their lives. After the war, with the help of the newly formed American Legion, grieving mothers and soldiers began to look for ways to memorialize those who were lost in the war.

Before the construction of Spokane’s cenotaph, Great Britain had recently built a cenotaph which had garnered much press around the world. Soon the local chapter of the American Legion decided to erect their own cenotaph. The cost at the time seemed impossible - \$6,000 – 7,000 for the construction. Seeking to reduce costs, the Legion scaled back their initial design ideas and most of the work on the monument was done by the members themselves.

AMERICAN LEGION

The American Legion is a non-profit organization comprised of U.S. war veterans. It is made up of state, U.S. territory, and overseas departments, which are then divided into local posts. The organization was formed on March 15, 1919, in Paris, France, by a thousand officers and men of the American Expeditionary Forces (A. E. F.) who were stationed in France shortly after the ending of WWI. At the meeting, they adopted a tentative constitution. The action of the Paris caucus was then confirmed and endorsed by a similar meeting of troops in the United States held in St. Louis, Missouri a few months later from May 8-10th. At both caucuses a committee of seventeen officers was elected to represent the troops. These two national executive committees were then amalgamated and formed the initial governing body of the American Legion. The temporary headquarters was located in New York City.

Officially chartered by Congress on September 16, 1919, the American Legion focused on service to

veterans, servicemembers and communities. Its primary activity was (and still is) to lobby on behalf of the interests of its members to support pensions and health care benefits. They also promote Americanism, individual obligation to the community, state, and nation; as well as general peace and good will.

Since its establishment, the Legion has evolved from a group of war-weary veterans of World War I into one of the most influential nonprofit groups in the United States today. Membership swiftly grew to over 1 million, and local posts quickly sprang up across the country, including several in the Spokane area. Today, membership stands at nearly 2 million with more than 13,000 posts worldwide.

Initially membership in the American Legion was restricted to soldiers, sailors, and marines who served honorably between April 6, 1917, and November 11, 1918. Eligibility has since been expanded to include personnel who served at least one day of active-duty service in the Armed Forces since December 7, 1941. Honorary, associate, social, or guest memberships in the Legion is not permitted. Members must be U.S. citizens and are eligible through the nature and timing of their military service.

Spokane's American Legion Post No. 9 was formed on June 9, 1919, and was officially chartered in August 1920. By June 25, 1920, membership had grown to 3,600 and held the distinction of being the 7th largest post in the nation and the largest in the state.

Post No. 9 started after a group of 300+ World War I veterans met in the Chamber of Commerce Hall in the Metals Building (today known as the Legion Building) in downtown Spokane. Reportedly many members of the "Sons of Democracy," a similar organization with a membership of 750 veterans, were present at the meeting and took a prominent part in the organization of the Legion post.

After raising \$4,000 from local businessmen, the Post moved to their first home at 518 W. Riverside Ave, above the Hill Brother's Shoe Store. Post 9 met at this location from 1919 through 1922. Annual dues were initially \$3.00 after a \$1.00 initiation fee. For the next 40+ years, the Post No. 9 moved several times. This included offices at 408 W. Sprague Ave (1923); 115 ½ N. Wall (1924); 220 Columbia Building - 107 S. Howard (1925); Spokane Hotel Building (1926-27 demolished); the Dessert Hotel Building (1928-36 demolished); 610 W. Sprague (1937-1946); Metals (Legion) Building (1946-55); Police Guild Building (1973-75); 1212 W. Sharp Ave; 808 W. 1st; 16 S. Post; 1719 W. Garland Ave (1977-89); 9515 N. Division Street (1990); 119 E. Boone Ave (1991-92); 315 W. Mission Ave (1993-2001) and 300 W. Mission Ave (2001-present).

While membership had dropped to 1,800 people by 1931, by 1938, 19 full-time employees worked at the Legion Club. Membership grew slowly and rose to 1,948 by 1944. At that time, Spokane's Post No. 9 was still Washington's largest Post and the 10th largest in the world, with an annual budget of over \$40,000. Today, Post No. 9 is still active in the community and sponsors a variety of programs. Currently Post No. 9's membership is 590 members.

AMERICAN LEGION CEMETERY AT RIVERSIDE PARK CEMETERY

Post No. 9's effort to honor and recognize those who had lost their lives in war began shortly after their establishment. The first such event was held on May 31, 1920, at a ceremony at Riverside Park Cemetery. Reportedly an audience of over 2,000 gathered in tribute to the 164 sons of Spokane who gave their lives in World War I. Colonel Charles Albert, Commander of the post delivered the memorial address, with much of it directed to the Gold Star Mothers ~ women who gave their sons for the safety of the world. Each mother was presented with poppy flowers. The event quickly spurred discussion to create a permanent memorial to lost soldiers, and preferably a dedicated burial ground at the cemetery.

By June 1920 Colonel Albert had made an announcement that the Legion had decided to purchase 300 burial plots at Riverside Park Cemetery which would then be resold by the Legion to individual families. The plots were purchased for sole use by the ex-service men and women and for the first time, would create a dedicated military-only cemetery in Spokane. Lots were to be sold for \$40 for an individual lot, or \$125 for family plots. Newspaper articles reported that efforts were also being made to acquire captured artillery and other equipment that could be used as "decoration for the cemetery."

Formal dedication of the plots was held on November 14, 1920 under the direction of Chaplain Dean W.C. Hicks with speakers Bishop Augustine Schinner and Rabbi Julius Leibert. Colonel C.C. Ballou, the commanding officer of Fort Wright, served as the keynote speaker. Special sections were set aside for Jewish, Protestant, and Catholic veterans. The first servicemen to be buried in the new cemetery took place before the official dedication. Lt. Edward Stephens (1891-1918) was laid to rest on November 6, 1920. Days later, Corporal Theodore W. Altman (1894-1918), one of two brothers to lose their lives in the war, was interred at the site as well.

Within a year work began on the idea of creating some type of monument in the cemetery. While no definitive action was taken, a sketch was reportedly introduced at a Post meeting in August of 1921. In presenting the matter to the military committee of the chamber of commerce, Chamber President George Phillips said: *"It would be most fitting to erect some sort of a monument to our hero dead that could be dedicated when Marshal Foch visits Spokane. The idea has been presented that a monument costing about \$1,000 be erected at this time."*

The first structure at the American Legion Cemetery site was the erection of a flagpole by the Washington National Guard Society in 1922. The pole, located at the center of the Legion plot, was originally an 80' cedar pole and was dedicated on March 30, 1922. By June of the next year, the Legion sought to establish a more substantial memorial at the site. At a Legion Post meeting it was decided to create a separate "cemeteries and graves decoration fund" and allocated \$300 from the recent sales of poppy flowers to go into the fund. With seed money in hand, on May 25, 1924, the Spokane Chronicle announced that Legion Post 9 would be erecting a \$10,000 memorial to Spokane's heroes at the American Legion plot in the Riverside Park Cemetery.

According to chairman Fabian Smith, *"The American Legion guarantees to spend this money for the memorial and for the upkeep of the plot, and for nothing else. Spokane's poppy sales have been unusually successful because we have expended these funds as the donors intended them to be spent. I'm going to see a \$10,000 memorial erected if I never accomplish anything else. The present plan is for a monolithic cenotaph of beautiful marble and backed by rich evergreens. There are many wealthy citizens who might help us, but I'd rather obtain the funds from the nickels and dimes of everybody."*

Unfortunately, poppy sales that year were not strong (only \$800). Low sales were attributed to the Legion supporting a congressional bill which would have given bonuses to servicemen. Not dissuaded, Smith said in the Spokesman-Review on May 26, 1924, *"I am on the whole well satisfied that we shall raise our \$10,000 for a monolithic cenotaph to Spokane's dead eventually. There are more than 200 who will be honored by such a monument."* He concluded that he would appreciate any constructive suggestions to raise the whole sum and estimated that the fund contained \$1,000 at that time.

Fundraising efforts in 1925 were better. That year the poppy sales set a record with the assistance of screen actress and Spokane native, Lucille Carlisle, Princess Columbia Mrs. George Hoffman, and dozens of society matrons and maids. Proceeds were three times those of the previous year with

twenty thousand poppies sold by 400 volunteers. The sales netted nearly \$3,000 for the cenotaph and the grave and decorations fund. In the Spokane Chronicle on May 30, 1925, Commander William Berry thanked all those who supported the sale and said, *"At this time we assure those who supported the day that every cent of the money will be used in a fitting memorial and decorations to Spokane's World War dead."*

AMERICAN LEGION CENOTAPH

For the next several years the funds for the memorial slowly increased. By 1927 the cenotaph fund had reached \$3,500. As early as 1925, cemetery committee member Henry Bertelsen (a Legion member and architect) met with a group of the Gold Star Mothers. By the next year he had shown the group a rough model of the proposed cenotaph seeking their support and approval. Funds were finally adequate to begin to nail down the details of the proposal in 1929.

In the October 7, 1929 Legion meeting minutes, Comrade Rosenthal moved to name a specific committee to investigate ways and means to erect a cenotaph in the Legion Plot in Riverside Park Cemetery. Comrade Henry Bertelsen was named chairman and Fabian Smith and Charles S. Albert were added to the committee.

Bertelsen stated that he would begin specific plans as soon as possible, so that work could be started and bids procured. Reportedly there was some discussion as the type of memorial. Bertelsen noted that his initial design idea was for a speaker's platform instead of a straight monument. Discussion followed and it was suggested that monument be made of granite and that, if possible, the cost should be reduced to around \$6,000.

After studying the needs of the site and conferring with the others, Bertelsen settled on a combination of speaker's platform and memorial. Shortly thereafter the Legion began to call the memorial a "cenotaph." The plans were approved on January 20, 1930 and the call for construction bids went out shortly thereafter.

Bids were received from the Washington Monumental & Cut Stone and Empire Granite. They differed by only a little over \$100.00. Empire Granite, whose quarry was in Dishman, was chosen as the supplier. The final cost of the cenotaph was estimated at \$7,500.

To build the cenotaph, the Legion also hired one of its own, Julian Mosfelt Simonson. He was born February 21, 1888, Jackson County, Minnesota. During WWI Simonson served as an Army Corporal. In the mid-1920s he became a skilled stonecutter while working for the Empire Granite Production Co. and he later worked as a general carpenter. While it is assumed that Simonson was involved in numerous other stone carving ventures across the Inland Northwest, the cenotaph is the only verified project associated with him. Simonson passed away in Spokane on January 29, 1968 at the age of 79, and is buried in the American Legion plot in Riverside Cemetery.

At the urging of Bertelsen, he suggested that the dedication of the cenotaph be part of the Armistice Day ceremonies in 1930. While the city had celebrated Armistice every year since the end of the war, 1930 was shaping up to be a special year for the Legion. A variety of events from 10:30 am to 10:30 pm were planned for November 11th. As the months grew closer, on October 23, 1930, it was announced that Wings of Aviation would carry 7,000 invitations to people throughout the Inland Empire to join the City of Spokane in celebrating the greatest Armistice Day program since the war.

While newspaper photos show that by the end of October the cenotaph had still not been completed,

the builders promised it would be ready for the celebrations on November 11th. The day's events started with the dedication of the American Legion Cenotaph at 10:30, followed by the Armistice Day parade at 11:45, and then a dedication of a new Lincoln Memorial downtown at 12:30. This was to be followed by the Gonzaga-Haskell Indian football game, after which a banquet was held at the Silver Grill starting at 6:30. Chain dances flowed that evening at various locations throughout the city including rooms at the Garden, Moose Hall, and Davenport Hotel. Reportedly the activities of the day were filmed by Pathe News Corp. and were eventually shown throughout the United States. The total attendance for the day was estimated to be over 20,000. Pilots of the local National Guard flying unit spent a large portion of the day in overhead formation flights.

The parade, celebrating the 13th anniversary of the end of the war, featured 3,000 marchers and 180 automobiles and floats. The event was touted as the biggest and most colorful Armistice celebration since the war in the city's history. All downtown businesses were closed, and thousands came to attend the parade. The parade line which began at Main and Monroe would march past the site of the shrouded Lincoln Memorial. At 12:30 pm an electrical impulse set in motion by President Hoover pressing a golden key at the White House, released a set of balloons which pulled the cover off the memorial. As other balloons soared aloft amid fluttering flags, fireworks burst into the air and roaring airplanes flew over in tribute.

At the cenotaph a more subdued and respectful celebration formally dedicated the completed monument. Over 500 attended the dedication which featured eighteen Gold Star Mothers and Commander Charles Casey who presided over the ceremony. Past Department Commander Edward Robertson delivered the dedicatory address, stating, *"The words we speak die with their own echoes, we have carved from our native hills these flawless stones, and we have here now a memorial which is beautiful, and which will last until the end of time."* The 4th Infantry Band from Fort George Wright played "Nearer My God To Thee" and the Rt. Rev. Edward M. Cross, Episcopal Bishop of Spokane, gave the invocation. The American Legion double quartet, directed by Anthony Plastino, also performed during the ceremony. Mrs. Dan McCadam, a Gold Star Mother, unveiled the monument and said that the living had kept faith and remembered the sacrifice of those who gave their lives. The 4th Infantry Band played "The Star-Spangled Banner" and Rev. F. W. Osborn, Legion Chaplain, gave the benediction.

HENRY C. BERTELSEN - ARCHITECT

To design the cenotaph, the Legion turned to one of its own members, local architect Henry C. Bertelsen (who served as a corporal in Comp A, 60 Engineers during WWI). According to the minutes, he was paid \$20 for his original drawing of the cenotaph. At the time he was one of the more prominent architects in the community, having taken over the offices of Kirtland Cutter.

Born in Varde, Denmark in 1888, Henry Christian Bertelsen came to Spokane as a young child at the turn-of-the century. His father, a brick mason, likely brought the family to Spokane seeking stable work and to capitalize on the rapid growth of the city. The family had previously lived in Troy, New York; Chicago, Illinois; and Baltimore, Maryland.

While details about Bertelsen's early life are unknown, by the age of 18 he had begun his architectural career as apprentice with Spokane architect Howard Hals (1906). Like many architects of his day, this hands-on education training was a typical way to enter the profession. By the next year he was listed in Spokane City directories as a draftsman for architect Alfred Jones (1907). Seeking further experience, he moved to Omaha, Nebraska and took a job as a draftsman for architect J.H. Craddock, who was rapidly becoming one of the most prominent architects in that city. With experience at hand, by 1910

Bertelsen had moved back to Spokane and at the age of 22 began working as a draftsman for the prominent architectural firm of Cutter & Malmgren. Rising quickly through the ranks of the office, he became the chief draftsman within a few short years. Notable projects under his leadership included the Davenport Hotel (1914), the Symons Building (1917) and Camp Lewis entry gates (1916). After Cutter moved to California in 1923, Bertelsen assumed Cutter's practice in Spokane in lieu of unpaid back wages.

Projects continued to flood the office and over the course of his career he would design more than 100 commercial and residential buildings in and around the Spokane area. Notable projects in Spokane include the Shriners Hospital for Crippled Children (1924), National Guard Headquarters at Felts Field (1927), the United Hillyard Bank (1920), Lincoln School (1930 demolished), Mt. Spokane's Vista House (1933), the Spokane Coliseum (1954 demolished), the Inland Automobile Association Building (1963), as well as several buildings at Gonzaga University. Many of his designs received both local and nationwide press. The Bertelsen designed Solby House at 1325 E 20th was showcased with a multi-page spread in the May 1927 issue of *Good Housekeeping Magazine*.

Like many architects of the day, Bertelsen was active in a variety of social and civic groups. Among them was the Rotary Club, the Spokane Club, Associated Engineers, the American Institute of Architects, the Press Club, the Athletic Round Table, American Legion, the Sons of Norway, and the Inland Empire Automobile Association. He also served on the Salvation Army Advisory Board and was a trustee on the Fairmount Cemetery Board.

Bertelsen passed away in Spokane on August 23, 1963 at the age of 75. Today, many of his drawings and papers are housed at the Northwest Museum of Arts & Culture (NW MAC) in Spokane. The collection includes 5 linear feet of materials from 1906 to 1968 and includes 150 sets of architectural drawings. The cenotaph is not included in the collection.

LATER HISTORY

Since its completion, the cenotaph has become an important part of local Armistice Day celebrations each year (changed to Veterans Day in 1954). Often members of the drum and bugle corps perform, as the American Legion Auxiliary places a wreath on the cenotaph. One notable service was the 1936 program which hosted 10 German veterans who came to the site to pay homage to the American soldiers. They laid a wreath of red and white carnations at the site. That same year 25 Canadian veterans also came to visit the cenotaph and laid a wreath as well.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

<https://www.legion.org/memorials/255589/american-legion-cenotaph>, Bertelsen Collection, Ms57 and R37. Northwest Museum of Arts & Culture, Spokane, WA.

American Legion meeting minutes 1923 – 1933

“All Veterans of War in One Body” Spokesman Review

“Marines Lost Lives in War” Spokane Chronicle, 23 March 1920.

“Men Who Gave Up Their All That We May Live in Peace Paid a Memorial Tribute” Spokane Chronicle, 23 March 1920.

“Will Dedicate Legion Cemetery to Veterans on Sunday, November 14, Spokane Chronicle, November 6, 1920.

“Armistice Day Parade Draws Many Thousands” Spokane Chronicle, 11 November 1922.

“Vets’ Poppy Day Returns are \$800” Spokesman Review, 25 May 1924.

“Foes of Bonus Hit Poppy Sale” Spokesman Review, 26 May 1924.

“Poppy Day Sale Sets Record” Spokesman Review, 30 May 1925.

“Legion to Erect Beautiful War Memorial at Riverside Park Cemetery” Spokane Chronicle, 2 April 1930.

“Armistice Day Program Ready” Spokane Chronicle, 9 September 1930.

“Use Spokane Valley Granite for American Legion Memorial” Spokane Chronicle, 9 September 1930.

“Legionnaires Inspect Their New Memorial” Spokane Chronicle, 29 October 1930.

“Mothers Unveil Legion Memorial Armistice Day” Spokane Chronicle, 4 November 1930.

“Finest Armistice Celebration in History Planned by Legion” Spokesman Review, 9 November 1930.

“Dedicate Cenotaph in Riverside Park” Spokesman Review, 12 November 1930.

“Canadians Pay Respect to War Dead” Spokane Chronicle, 10 November 1936.

“German Veterans Join in Armistice” Spokane Chronicle, 11 November 1936.

” Large Crowds Gather at Cemetery for Memorial Day Services” Spokesman Review, 31 May 1939. “Trumpeters Pay Tribute to War Dead” Spokane Chronicle, 31 May 1940.

“Legion Memorial Service at Riverside Draws Many” Spokesman Review, 31 May 1941.

“Death Claims Civic Leader H. Bertelsen.” Spokane Daily Chronicle, 24 August 1963.

American Legion Post 9 Historian Report, Darrel Maddox, 23 September 2019.

The following photo pages are from the National Register of Historic Places nomination form 2/14/2024.

AMERICAN LEGION CENOTAPH – RIVERSIDE PARK CEMETERY

Name of Property

SPOKANE CO., WA

County and State

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.)



American Legion Cenotaph

Google Map

Riverside Memorial Park Cemetery
Spokane, WA

1 47.662296° -117.463617°
Latitude Longitude

2 _____
Latitude Longitude

3 _____
Latitude Longitude

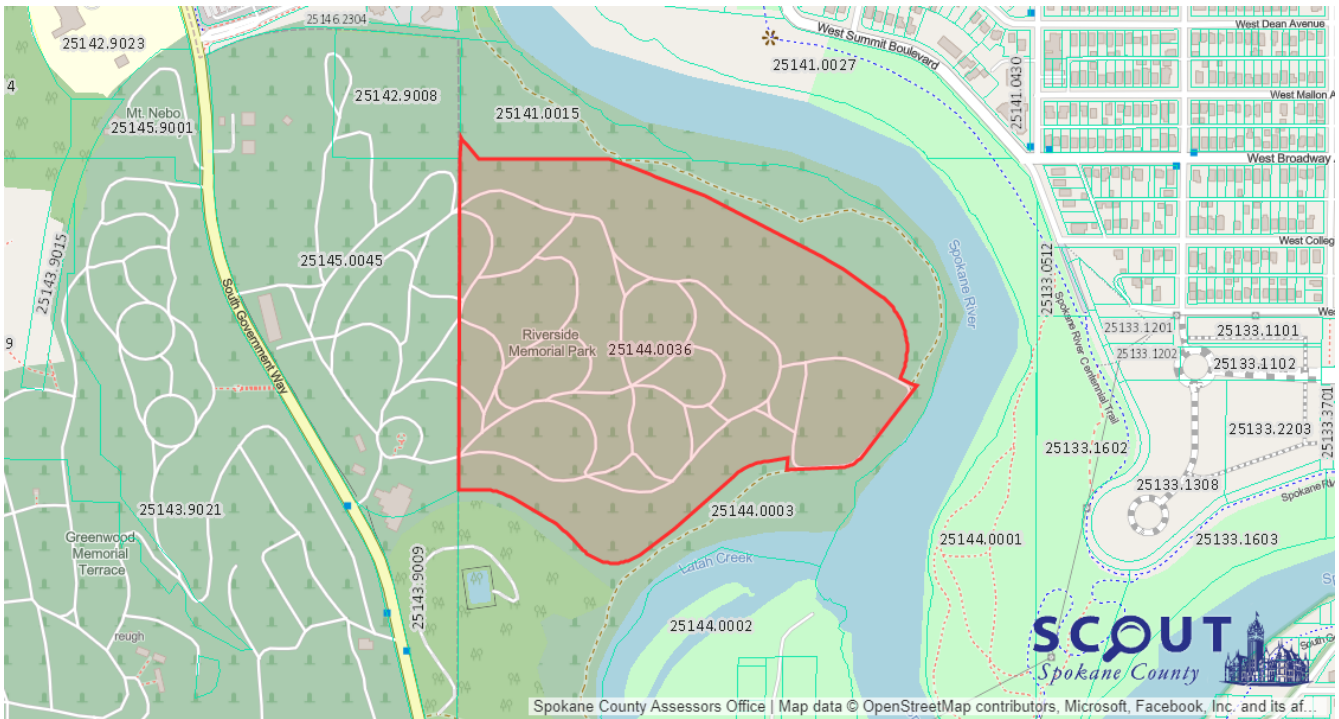
4 _____
Latitude Longitude

AMERICAN LEGION CENOTAPH – RIVERSIDE PARK CEMETERY

Name of Property

SPOKANE CO., WA

County and State



American Legion Cenotaph

Assessor Map

Riverside Memorial Park Cemetery
Spokane, WA

Parcel Number: 25144.0036 – *Note nomination boundaries contain only a portion of the existing parcel.*

AMERICAN LEGION CENOTAPH – RIVERSIDE PARK CEMETERY

Name of Property

SPOKANE CO., WA

County and State



American Legion Cenotaph

Site Plan

Riverside Memorial Park Cemetery
Spokane, WA

SPOKANE CO., WA

County and State

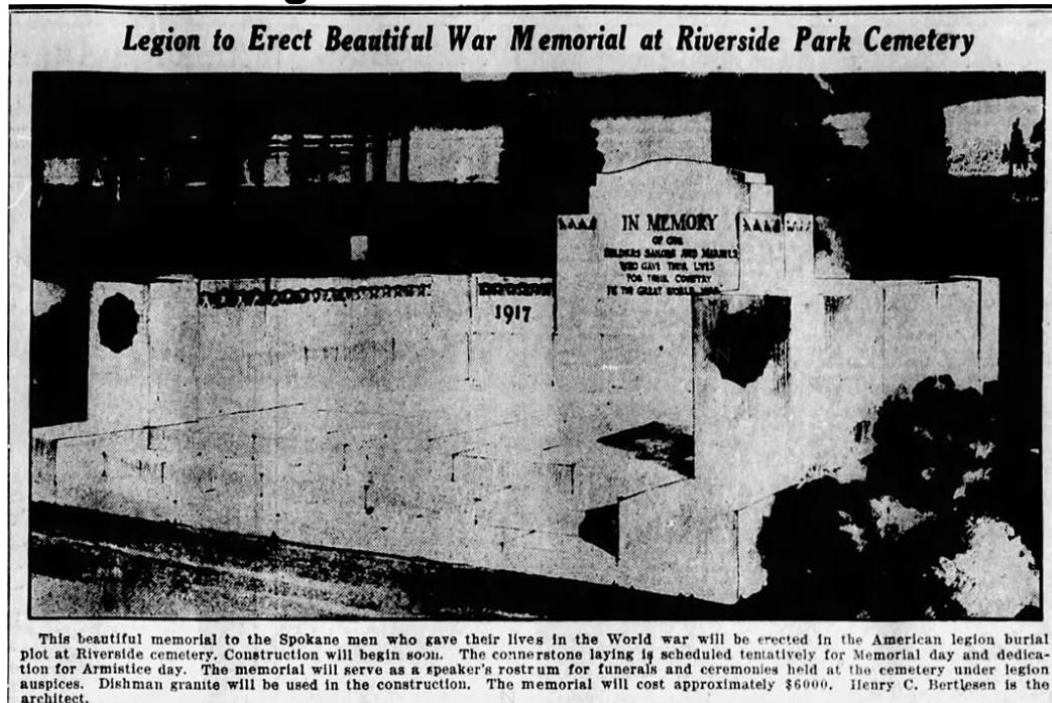
AMERICAN LEGION CENOTAPH – RIVERSIDE PARK CEMETERY

Name of Property

SPOKANE CO., WA

County and State

Historic Images



Spokane Chronicle – April 2, 1930 – *Architectural rendering of proposed monument.*



Spokane Chronicle – October 29, 1930 – *Monument under construction.*

AMERICAN LEGION CENOTAPH – RIVERSIDE PARK CEMETERY

Name of Property

SPOKANE CO., WA

County and State



Spokane Chronicle – September 9, 1930 – *Monument under construction.*



Spokane Chronicle – November 9, 1930 – *Monument under construction.*

AMERICAN LEGION CENOTAPH – RIVERSIDE PARK CEMETERY

Name of Property

SPOKANE CO., WA

County and State



1930 Dedication Ceremony of Cenotaph

KEMP & HEBERT

In Observance of
Armistice Day

The Kemp & Hebert Store Will Be
Closed All Day Tomorrow, Tuesday
Nov. 11th

Armistice Day Program

Dedication American Legion Cenotaph at Riverside Cemetery at
10:30 A. M.

Armistice Day Parade starts at Monroe and Riverside at 11:45
A. M.

Unveiling Abraham Lincoln Memorial Statue—Main and Mon-
roe at 12:30 P. M.

Gonzaga-Haskell Indian Football game, 2:15

Legion Banquet, Silver Grill, 6:30

Chain Dances at Garden, Moose Hall and Davenport Hotel at
9 P. M.

**MOTHERS UNVEIL
LEGION MEMORIAL
ARMISTICE DAY**

Beneath branches of stalwart pines that guard the graves of World war veterans in the American legion burial plot at Riverside park cemetery will gather a group of Gold Star Mothers at 10:30 o'clock Armistice morning to unveil the \$7000 legion memorial to its dead.

Final plans for an impressive dedication of the memorial were announced last night by C. A. Padgett, chairman of the committee, at the legion meeting at the Dessert hotel.

Casey Will Preside.

Commander Charles Casey will preside over the ceremonies, which will open with music by the Fourth Infantry regimental band.

Bishop Cross will offer prayer and the American legion double quartet will sing "Kindly Light."

Mrs. D. McCadan, a Gold Star Mother, will unveil the monument and speak for members of her organization.

Attorney Edward W. Robertson, past state commander, will deliver the dedicatory address. The Rev. Fred W. Osborne, post chaplain, will close the ceremonies with benediction.

The Armistice parade at 11:45 o'clock and dedication of the Lincoln memorial at 12:30 o'clock will follow the legion dedication.

Spokane Chronicle –
November 4, 1930 –
*Mothers Unveil
Legion Memorial
Armistice Day*

Spokane Chronicle – November 10, 1930 – *Armistice Day Program*

AMERICAN LEGION CENOTAPH – RIVERSIDE PARK CEMETERY

Name of Property

SPOKANE CO., WA

County and State

Photographs:

Name of Property: American Legion Cenotaph – Riverside Park Cemetery

City or Vicinity: Spokane

County: Spokane **State:** WA

Photographer: Jeronimo Roldan, DAHP

Date Photographed: April 3, 2023

Description of Photograph(s) and number:



1 of 10. View of NW corner of Cenotaph. - WA_SpokaneCounty_AmericanLegionCenotaph_0001

AMERICAN LEGION CENOTAPH – RIVERSIDE PARK CEMETERY

Name of Property

SPOKANE CO., WA

County and State



2 of 10. Front view of Cenotaph. - WA_SpokaneCounty_AmericanLegionCenotaph_0002



3 of 10. North side view of Cenotaph. - WA_SpokaneCounty_AmericanLegionCenotaph_0003

AMERICAN LEGION CENOTAPH – RIVERSIDE PARK CEMETERY

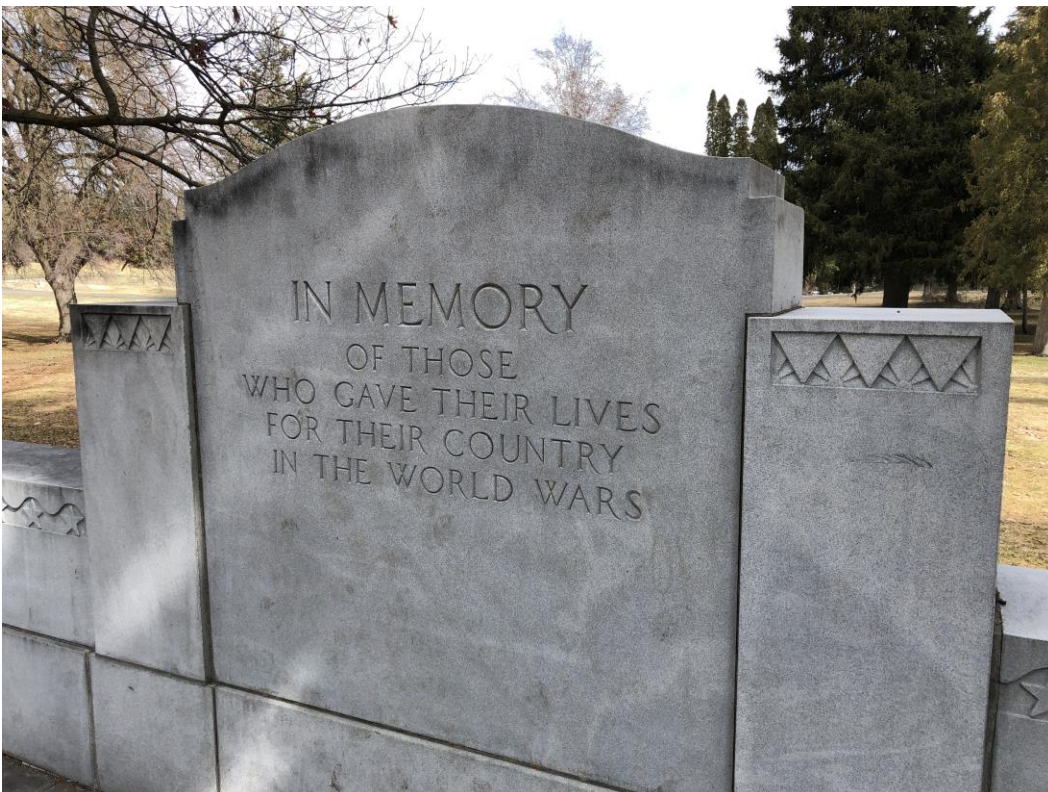
Name of Property

SPOKANE CO., WA

County and State



4 of 10. Rear view of Cenotaph. - WA_SpokaneCounty_AmericanLegionCenotaph_0004



5 of 10. Detail of main inscription on Cenotaph. - WA_SpokaneCounty_AmericanLegionCenotaph_0005

AMERICAN LEGION CENOTAPH – RIVERSIDE PARK CEMETERY

Name of Property

SPOKANE CO., WA

County and State



6 of 10. Detail of side seating area showing carved sculptural relief. -
WA_SpokaneCounty_AmericanLegionCenotaph_0006



7 of 10. Detail of bronze plaque, south wing wall. WA_SpokaneCounty_AmericanLegionCenotaph_0007

AMERICAN LEGION CENOTAPH – RIVERSIDE PARK CEMETERY

Name of Property

SPOKANE CO., WA

County and State



8 of 10. Detail of bronze plaque, south wing wall. WA_SpokaneCounty_AmericanLegionCenotaph_0008



9 of 10. Cenotaph southwest corner. WA_SpokaneCounty_AmericanLegionCenotaph_0009

AMERICAN LEGION CENOTAPH – RIVERSIDE PARK CEMETERY

Name of Property

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10 of 10. Detail of Cenotaph walkway and flag pole holder.
WA_SpokaneCounty_AmericanLegionCenotaph_0010