

## APPENDIX III

WAR MEMORIALS FOR HIGHWAY AND PARK AREAS

One of the problems to be met by the heads of highway departments and park departments during the coming post-war years, will be the selection, acquisition, and development of areas of land for war memorials.

This is a brief analysis of typical existing forms of war memorials on roadsides, streets, and in parks. From such analysis it is believed that certain general principles of memorial site selection and design can be obtained for future guidance.

A Brief Analysis of the "Memorial Idea". An observer passing through one of our National Military Parks or through the main streets and parks of our older towns and cities can see how war memorials have changed with periods in our history.

Shafts and columns, pyramids of cannon balls, and generals on horseback set up after the war between the States, were forms never again exactly repeated. The Confederate or Union soldier standing in stone at the entrance to a Virginia or Vermont town as the case may be, represents an older time. The bronze "doughboy" that replaced him and the World War I cannon and tanks now rusting on the green in front of the county courthouse are already "old and strange".

Following the first world war the sculptor and the stone cutter were still in charge of war memorial development but certain new conceptions of the memorial idea began to grow. There is a very limited literature relating to memorial design in our libraries, but there is still enough to show that most of those who have studied the memorial problem have come to the conclusions that:

1. There is a growing thought that war memorials should combine the qualities of commemoration and beauty with that of being useful. The best memorials of the future will, it is believed, be located and designed to play a part in the daily lives of men and women.

2. Some of the best of our World War I memorials commemorate, not individuals, or even individual military units, but men of a whole armed service or of the three armed services. Impressive memorials to the "Unknown Soldier" in this and other countries are the culmination of this idea.

3. Some of the finest existing memorials take the form of parks, of planted groves or avenues of trees, of public plazas and parking spaces, or of whole highway and parkways. These areas, or perhaps more frequently, specially selected and designed portions of them, represent our best models for World War II memorial development.

4. The best memorials have been placed where they are seen and used by the people of a community as part of their daily lives, or by drivers along a highway during every journey.



5. Memorials do not depend for their effectiveness upon their size or the large amounts of money expended on them, but on the "spirit of the memorial" as this spirit is interpreted by the designer in terms of useful design, permanent and beautiful materials, and the wise arrangement of space available.

6. In urban areas memorials will be "created"--that is the memorial will be a combined product of engineering, architecture, and landscape architecture. Good taste in design, planned grading methods, and careful selection and use of stone, flowering plants, trees, and other materials will be the essential elements in much of our future successful urban memorial development.

7. In open country areas such as roadside parks, the memorial spirit may often be part of a fine natural setting, which is to be preserved at all costs. Fine old trees, a shoreline, a point from which fine mountain, prairie, or ocean views can be seen; such landscape values represent "the heart of" an open country memorial. Structures on roadsides or other country memorial areas should be subordinated to the landscape not featured, as they may well be in urban memorials.

8. Successful memorial development will by and large depend upon employment of well-trained landscape architects with imagination, training, and experience and the ability to cooperate with the engineers, architects, and contractors and craftsmen in construction matters, and with the sculptors in matters of art. Such a designer must, it goes without saying, have the cooperation of all individuals and organizations interested in memorial development.

Examples of Successful Memorials. The lists which follow include some typical examples of possible memorial developments. This list is by no means complete. The Committee will particularly appreciate photographs of existing memorials of these and related types for possible inclusion in the report for next year.

### Memorials in Towns or Cities

#### Memorial Streets and Avenues

Streets and avenues may be effective memorials provided that:

Adequate 10 to 12-foot space for tree planting is provided between curbs and sidewalks, or between the sidewalks and the property line.

Long-lived trees suitable under prevailing climatic and local atmospheric conditions, are planted in the space provided.

#### Parking Areas and Plazas.

Parking areas and plazas in cities, towns and villages can be designed as memorials. Locations will be selected and developed to meet the requirements of the spirit of the memorial. Thus a parking area in an industrial portion of the city would logically be a memorial to service men joining the armed forces from nearby industries, business, or trade centers. A plaza on a hilltop site overlooking a harbor



or naval establishment would be a fitting place for a memorial to Navy personnel and officers, etc. Industries and business centers might incorporate the "memorial idea" in their own plans for site development of parking areas or other ground use.

Small City or Village Parks. Well-designed small urban parks may be favorable sites for memorials. Opportunity for rest, shade, and where possible running water in basins and fountains are types of features of successful memorial park use. Flowering trees and masses of flowering shrubs are also featured in such small parks, with the addition of appropriate memorial tablets or other memorial structures as a central point of interest.

Bridges and Grade Separation Structures. Fine bridges and grade separation structures at entrances to cities or towns can be given memorial significance by the use of tablets and other appropriate markers.

Transportation Terminals, Municipal Piers, Docks and Causeways may be adapted to memorial purposes by use of appropriate tablets or markers. Waterfront structures where they are of outstanding architectural quality may be appropriate memorials to Navy or Merchant Marine personnel, for example.

Dams and Waterworks. Town or city waterworks and dams offer locations for appropriate memorial markers or tablets commemorating men of the several armed services who may for example have been recruited from the city and its environs. Overlook or outlook points in connection with dams and reservoirs are frequently marked with effective memorial tablets.

These are but a few examples of opportunities to fit the "Memorial Idea" into the design of urban streets, parks, public works and urban structural development.

#### Memorials in Residence Suburbs and on Open Country Roadsides.

1. The following types of memorials might well be dedicated to men of an army, of a whole division or force of the fleet, or of the air services:

(a) Parkways, freeways, other memorial highways. (b) State or county parks. (c) State or county forests. (d) Major dams and reservoir lakes. (e) Airfields and airports. (f) Public schools and athletic fields.

2. Smaller memorials might be dedicated to smaller units of the armed services, or to men of the highway departments who served in the armed services, or to service men of a nearby village or town. These memorials may be of the following types:

Roadside parks, waysides, parking areas and turnouts located to conserve and take advantage of: (a) Groups or groves of existing or planted trees. (b) Hillsides or ravines, covered with masses of spectacular flowering or desert growth. (c) Knolls, ridgetops, or mountain passes, from which outstanding views are seen. (d) Seashores, lakeshores, streamshores. (e) Sand dunes, and weathered rocky cliffs. (f) Swamp and marsh views. (g) Promontories in lakes, or sea, or rivers.



Check List Comparison of Rural Roadside and Urban Parks  
Suitable for Memorial Development

Roadside Memorial Parks

Size usually not exceeding 1-2 acres

Designed to conserve existing fine trees, flowering growth, views, shorelines, etc. To develop memorial quality using only incidental structures necessary for public use.

Safe, convenient access and egress from main road. Parking space for vehicles.

Driveway and parking space gravel or hard surfaced.

Masonry structures dry stone or weathered field stone in mortar. Masonry a subordinate part of area.

Tablets small, set in natural boulders, ledge rock, etc. No statuary, fountains, formal pools, trimmed hedges, etc., planting informal, all native materials, mainly native high headed trees.

Avoid lawn type grass areas in favor of meadow type turf and natural woody ground covers. Limit roses, flowering perennials, etc. to wild type materials that do not require horticultural maintenance.

Creosote stained round timber bumper rails, guard posts, or natural weathered stone in parking spaces. No hard-looking curbs, sidewalks, concrete paved drives and gutters.

Drainage design by rounded slope grading into natural contours and drainage channels. All gutters preferably turf in humid areas.

Water supply from developed springs, streams, etc. if free of pollution. Wells usually safe supply.

Urban Park Memorials

Varying in size, areas usually a part of larger parks or traffic rotaries, or entrances to schools, public libraries, etc.

Effective development of available area for memorial purpose in manner appropriate to urban site to provide setting for monument, tablets, fountains, sculptors, etc.

Convenient access to memorial by surfaced walk from street or outside parking place.

Driveway or parking areas surfaced like adjoining streets.

Masonry in mortar structures, cut stone, or brick, in character with urban setting, may be feature of area.

Tablet of a suitable type or size set in appropriate masonry, monuments or walls, etc. Statuary, fountain, formal pools, trimmed hedges, etc., where appropriate. Planting horticultural varieties, formal rows, etc. where appropriate. Shade trees, flowering trees, shrubs, etc.

Lawn type turf where appropriate. Some use of roses, flowering perennials etc., if appropriate to design.

Concrete curbs, sidewalks, paved drives sometimes appropriate. In large city park rustic timber guard rail, etc. may also be in character.

Drainage may be into city storm sewer system by means of necessary paved gutters, or turf gutter, and catch basins, etc.

Water supply usually from city or town mains. Wells often unsafe supply.