

BIENNIAL REPORT

OF THE

Iowa Soldiers' and Sailors'

MONUMENT COMMISSION

FOR 1892-93.

BY ORDER OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

DES MOINES:
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BIENNIAL REPORT
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Iowa Soldiers and Sailors Monument Commission.
FOR 1892-3.

To the Governor of the State of Iowa:

Pursuant to an act of the 24th General Assembly of the State of Iowa, entitled an act to further provide for a State Soldiers' Monument, passed and approved April, 1892, the Iowa Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument Commission (which said Commission was created by the 22d and enlarged by the 23d General Assembly), met at the office of the Governor of the State of Iowa, April 6th, 1892, and authorized its Executive Committee, consisting of Go. Horace Boies, Chairman; Geo. G. Wright and D. N. Richardson, Secretary, to proceed under the provisions of the act to carry out its intent and purpose. It appearing, however, that the act would not take effect until July 1, 1893, it was decided that nothing of a permanent character should be undertaken until after the expiration of that time.

The Executive Committee met accordingly July 6th, 1892, and the Secretary of the Committee was directed to confer with competent architects, artists and sculptors with reference to plans, models and specifications preparatory to erecting the Iowa Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument.

This work was taken up by the Secretary, first by correspondence, which was found to be of such a dilatory and unsatisfactory character that in the September following he proceeded to eastern cities to take up the work by personal conference and investigation—full report of which was laid before the Committee at a meeting held December 2, 1892—whereupon the Secretary was further directed to continue the work of securing the necessary architectural plans for the monument under consideration; and at a subsequent meeting held Jan. 5, 1893, he reported in favor of placing the preparation of the scale drawings and approximate estimates of cost with C. C. Canfield, Architect, 1321 Broadway, New York, at a cost of \$250, which recommendation, on motion of the chairman, was agreed to, and the Secretary was directed to confer with the Architect at his discretion in respect to all changes in, or deviations from, the original design as might appear to be necessary in securing a harmonious structure without materially departing from the accepted design as to size, height and decoration.

At a meeting of the same Committee held in Des Moines March 28, 1893, blue prints from two scale drawings that had

been procured by the Secretary, were displayed, one of which was accepted, and D. N. Richardson was further instructed to obtain from the same architect complete written specifications in accordance with the accepted drawings, the cost of such specifications having already been arranged through the Secretary at \$25.

At that meeting the Secretary was also instructed to pursue the work in hand as to all things needful to be done to aid the Commission in the further preliminary work, as to bids and proper letting of the work, contracts, material and all matters of interest looking to the building of the monument, and report at the next meeting of the Committee.

The Secretary proceeded under these instructions, and at a subsequent meeting of the Executive Committee, held May 26, 1893, at Des Moines, reported progress and recommended that steps be taken for securing a 9-foot plaster model of the proposed structure in the interest of the perfect harmony of all the parts thereof, and that a complete set of working drawings showing the size and shape of the pieces to be used in the architectural work be procured. The Committee directed its Secretary to take steps necessary thereto. After due investigation as to cost of such works the working drawings were placed with the same architect that had made the scale drawings, at a further cost of \$350, and the construction of the plaster model was placed with Karl Gerhardt, Sculptor, of Hartford, Connecticut, at a cost of \$500—the same to be subject to inspection at his studio, by the Secretary and such expert assistance as he might wish to call to his aid, and such inspection should determine whether the same should be accepted or rejected. On acceptance the model was to be delivered in Des Moines in perfect order, and free of charges, in September, 1893.

At a meeting of the Executive Committee, held in Des Moines July 20, 1893, it was represented by the Secretary that in the due preparation and construction of the working drawings and the plaster model, it had become evident that certain other modifications of the design, previously discussed by the Architect and Secretary, but not adopted, should be made in the interest of harmony, as also of economy in construction. Thereupon the Secretary was directed to have the change made, provided that after due consultation by correspondence with other members of the Board of Commissioners, they should concur in the views already expressed by the members of the Executive Committee. Consent having been found to be unanimous, the model, scale and working drawings were ordered to be changed accordingly, and the specifications to be redrawn to comply therewith. All of which was done at a cost of one hundred dollars.

At a meeting of the Executive Committee, held in Des Moines September, 1893, final plans, specifications, working drawings, and plaster model were displayed and orders inserted in newspapers of general circulation inviting bids for the construction of the monument. The advertisement was as follows:

“ADVERTISEMENT.

“IOWA SOLDIERS' MONUMENT.

“Sealed proposals are invited for the building of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument, to be erected by the State of Iowa, in the City of Des Moines, in accordance with the accepted design therefor:

“Proposals for the Monument complete in all its parts.

“Proposals for the architectural work complete.

“Proposals for the bronze work complete and placed.

“Scale drawings of the monument and specifications of the work to be done may be seen at the office of Martin Huss, 1285 Broadway, New York; at the Granite Railway Company's office, 166 Devonshire street, Boston, and at the office of the Monument News, 334 Dearborn street, Chicago.

“The architectural portion of the work will be of granite, and the statues and a portion of the decorative work will be of United States standard bronze.

“Proposals for the work must be received by D. N. Richardson, Secretary of the Iowa Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument Commission, Davenport, Iowa, on or before noon of November 14, 1893, in order to receive consideration.

“The successful bidder will be required to furnish a bond in a sum not less than one-fourth of the amount of their bids, accompanied by at least three sureties whose pecuniary responsibility must be satisfactory to the Executive Committee of the Board.

“Each bid must be accompanied by a certified check for \$500 drawn to the order of the Treasurer of Iowa, which the bidder agrees to forfeit to the State without legal process in the event of his failure or refusal to enter into contract with the Board of Commissioners within twenty days from the time of the award, should his proposal be accepted. If he closes the contract the check will at once be returned, as will the checks of the unsuccessful bidders, after the award has been made. Failure to enter into contract within the time specified will forfeit the right to the award under this notice.

“Proposals must be endorsed, “Proposals for the Iowa Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument,” and the successful bidder must be prepared to furnish samples of the quarry from which he proposes to build the monument.

“Copies of specifications will be mailed on application to the Secretary.

"The right to reject any or all bids, and to choose between bidders, is reserved.

"D. N. RICHARDSON,

Secretary.

HORACE BOIES,

President.

"Des Moines, Iowa, Oct. 10, 1893.

"N. B.—The plans and specifications will be placed at the points named on or about October 15, 1893. D. N. R."

The advertisement was inserted in Chicago, New York and Boston papers at a cost of \$152. 40.

The Commission now being prepared to receive bids a call was issued for a meeting of that body at Des Moines on the 22d of November, 1893, but there being no quorum adjournment was taken until Dec. 5, 1893, at which time the bids were opened as follows:

FOR MONUMENT COMPLETE.

John Donaghoe, New York City	\$300,000
Quincy Syenite Co., Quincy, Mass	230,000
Norcross Bros, Worcester, Mass., Worcester Granite	197,000
Norcross Bros., Worcester, Mass., Brantford Granite	196,000
Norcross Bros., Worcester, Mass., New Hampshire Granite	195,000
H. H. Kitson, Boston, Quincy Granite	187,000
" " Concord Granite	175,000
Schricker & Rodler, Davenport, Ia., Barre Granite	146,500
" " " " Dodlin Granite	136,750
C. B. Canfield, New York, Quincy Granite	148,000
" " Barre Granite	146,500
" " Concord Granite	143,000
McDonald Co., New York, Quincy Granite	179,809 42
FOR ARCHITECTURAL WORK.*	
Schricker & Rodler, Davenport, Ia., Barre Granite	\$ 94,000
" " " " Dodlin Granite	91,150
Dodlin Granite Co., Maine, Dodlin Granite	90,000
H. H. Kitson, Boston, Quincy Granite	112,000
" " Concord Granite	100,000
Norcross Bros., Worcester, Worcester Granite	142,000
" " Brantford Granite	135,000
" " New Hampshire Granite	140,000
Quincy Syenite Co., Quincy, Quincy Granite	155,000
Amberg Granite Co., Amberg, Wis., Amberg Granite	128,000
C. B. Canfield, New York, Quincy Granite	111,000
" " Barre Granite	109,500
" " Concord Granite	106,500
Benj. Hyde Chicago, Concord Granite	130,000
Geo. H. Mitchell, Chicago, Barre Granite	114,215

* The architectural work refers to foundation work in concrete, vitrified brick and granite and the granite superstructure complete.

BRONZE WORK.*

Geo. H. Mitchell, Chicago	\$ 46,971
Bureau Bros., Philadelphia (Informal)	38,000
Alex Doyle, New York	47,900
J. J. Boyle, Philadelphia	60,000
J. M. Griffith, Chicago	112,200
R. H. Park, Chicago	52,000
Lorado Taft, Chicago	56,950
C. Rohl-Smith, Chicago	68,000
" " " (in Italy)	59,000
H. H. Kitson, Boston	75,000
H. A. Lukeman, New York	85,500
Western White Bronze Co., Des Moines, Ia. (Informal)	45,500

* Including placing the same upon the monument as per specification

The contract for architectural work was on motion let to Schriater & Rodler, of Davenport, Iowa, and the Executive Committee and Hon. H. H. Trimble, of Keokuk, Iowa, were charged with the duty of preparing the contract and bond to be given by the contracting party and the sureties. Ten bids for the art work seeming to demand further and more careful investigation were on motion laid over until a subsequent meeting of the board.

The entire expenses of the Commission, including premiums, models, architectural drawings from passage of original act by 22d General assembly, amount to \$4,616.10, as per books of Auditor to Dec. 5, 1893.

The Commission has to report the resignation of one of the honored members during the past year—the Hon. Geo. G. Wright—upon whose able counsel great reliance was placed. The resignation was handed in June last and reluctantly accepted, and in his place Mrs. Cora C. Weed, of Muscatine, was duly appointed by the Governor on the recommendation of the remaining members of the Commission.

As to matter of location the Commission reports as follows:

The 24th General Assembly located the Soldiers' Monument upon the site of the old state house adjacent to the Capitol—a plot of ground 160 by 100 feet, but empowered the Commission to acquire grounds sufficient to make the plot a square of 160 feet, and upon this the structure will have to be built unless the legislature in its wisdom may see fit to change it or empower the Commission to do so.

Doubtless the members composing the last legislative body wished to do the best thing possible under existing circumstances. Many bills urging large appropriations were before them—appropriations for the World's Fair, for state institutions, for the Soldiers' Monument and cottages, were being pressed and it seemed

to be impossible at the time to do otherwise than locate the monument on the old capitol grounds, since they did not feel justified in authorizing further expense in view of the special pressure of that session. The Commission has no criticism for their decision, for they still have in mind the loyal attitude of the body that stood nobly by the Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument bill in the hour of its passage. They did the best thing possible at the time.

But no sooner was the session over, and time afforded to review this decision than an earnest protest began to formulate in all parts of the state.

As to the site already defined, it may be proper to say that no single member of the board has ever favored it and for the reason—with all due respect to the law-making power—that they consider the same to be not only inadequate but inappropriate for the occupation of such a massive and elegant structure as the Iowa Soldiers and Sailors' Monument is designed to be. It is worthy to stand upon the most eligible and the most commanding site that the *Capitol City* of Iowa affords. Its installation should be ample and conspicuous.

Call to mind, if you please, the placement of the grand granite shaft that commemorates the battle of Bunker Hill. It stands in a fair, open space where all may observe—stands to teach the ages not only a historic lesson, but as a sentinel of the highest principle—warming, nourishing the patriotism for which men dare to die.

Should our own Soldiers' Monument have its eloquent beauty marred by an indifferent setting? Decidedly not! It should stand solitary and alone upon its own grounds and in full view near and far.

Observe the location of the Washington monument, the Bennington, and the Soldiers' Monument of Massachusetts, of Indiana, Ohio, Connecticut, Cleveland or Buffalo and numerous others. All have broad spacing and no competition with other structures, private or public. And the lesser monuments—county and municipal—even private works of commemorative character, *they* stand in spacious places. At home or abroad, far or near, the same rule is observed, because it should be. Iowa's Monument should have not less space than is afforded by a full city block. Better yet were it to stand in a far more generous opening, a spacious public park.

While the Commission admits that it is illogical to call in question the superior wisdom of the State legislature in making this choice, yet it also admits that it has given the matter long and serious attention during all the five years that it has been in office; that it has examined many other sites and looked abroad in the states and cities of this and other countries to gain

instruction as to the proper placing of the fine monumental structure, yet in no instance have its members found reason to change their minds as to the definite unfitness of the selected site. They deem it to be undoubtedly unfortunate.

The too small plot set forth is bounded on two sides by private property. On one side runs an alley with its uncouth appendages. On two sides, by private grounds which, in time, if not already will doubtless have large view obstructing buildings, the possible burning of which would greatly damage if not certainly destroy the monument itself. The history of conflagrations, is too well known to render it wise to imperil this costly monument at the start.

But aside from all that, the space is too limited. The Commission has taken great pains to consult with engineers, architects, and artists of highest standing upon the question of this location. It has consulted citizens, army men, legislators and travellers of high intelligence, whose opinion on such matters are often worth attention, and it has found no single friend of the site selected for that important purpose. This Committee has conversed with many a member of the 24th General Assembly, who voted for this site in order not to oppose the appropriation that went with it; as also with such, as at time advocated the site, because they thought it the best thing to do and yet failed to find a single instance of permanent approval or reasonable doubt, but that the 25th General Assembly will cheerfully hasten to make or cause to be made, the change desired.

The Commission need hardly say that the present location is unsightly as one approaches the Capitol—need hardly mention the dwarfing competition that the monument would meet in the presence of the Capitol and the great church edifice that is to rise close by; or its ludicrous competition with the Capitol smoke-stack—need hardly point out defects that are so painfully apparent to every mind and every eye. It needs only, as it believes, to direct the attention of the law-making body to the fact that the present site is unworthy of the honorable distinction that was awarded to it by the 24th General Assembly, to obtain the needed reconsideration and necessary appropriation to secure such position as this noble structure would seem to demand.

All of which is respectfully submitted by the Iowa Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument Commission.

HORACE BOIES, Chm.

D. N. RICHARDSON, Secy.

For Monument Commission.