

Feasibility Study for the
Soldiers' Monument at the Santa Fe Plaza - FINAL REPORT

VOLUME I

December 5, 2025



Acknowledgements

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Executive Summary

01

BACKGROUND, SUMMARY OF SCOPE, LIMITATIONS, DELIVERABLES, AND ADDRESS OF FACILITY

After having been selected by the City of Santa Fe, CSR Architects was asked to provide architectural services for the feasibility study of the historic Soldiers' Monument at the Plaza in Santa Fe, New Mexico. The feasibility study would look at three things:

1. The restoration of the original monument as it was prior to 2020;
2. The restoration of the monument without the "offending" plaque;
3. The relocation of the monument to a location to be determined at a later date.

The Plaza was designated a National Historic Landmark (NHL) on December 19, 1960 by the Secretary of Interior Department and listed in the National Register of Historic Places (NR #66000491) in 1966.

To our knowledge, the Plaza was last assessed in 2005 by Morrow Reardon Wildinson Miller, Ltd. Landscape Architects when conducting a Cultural Landscape Report.

The CSR Architects Team held their first site visit on May 7, 2025, where they spent the morning taking photographs and assessing the condition of both the base and broken elements of the obelisk with the structural engineer, Eric Trujillo, P.E. of Luchini / Trujillo Engineers. Photographs and measurement were taken to establish a diagram of the fully erected monument. An additional site visit was held on May 20, 2025 with CSR and Loren Worthen, of Worthen Memorials, to assess the reconstructability of the monument and its elements. One final site visit was made on Thursday, August 7, 2025 when Heather Lamboy, AICP and Paul Duran, Santa Fe Historic Resources Expert met with the structural engineer and CSR representative to examine the monument's foundation. A 12" x 24" hole was dug on the northeast side of the monument to a depth of 32". Digging was performed by Paul Duran. The ultimate goal will be to rebuild the existing obelisk, either in place or at another location, provide structure as needed so that the monument will be stable and not need any bracing. Questions regarding the repair and/or replacement of the obelisk as well as the possibility of moving the monument will be further assessed and documented within this report.

01.a BACKGROUND

The Soldiers' Monument was erected in 1869 to commemorate those who gave their lives during the Civil War and Indian skirmishes of the period. The installation of the monument on the Plaza added an important central spatial element to the Plaza's center. It is the oldest historic constructed element still present in the Plaza today.

The designer and builders are unknown, but it is likely that the Monument was built by local craftsmen using mostly locally available materials such as cast stone, sandstone, rubble, and marble. The Monument occupies approximately sixty-four (64) square feet at its base, measuring approximately 8' x 8' and measuring approximately thirty (30) feet from historic grade to top of obelisk. It has roughly, nine (9) pieces of sandstone at the base completing the lowest level which is now partially buried; with four (4) sandstone columns at each corner framing four (4) marble plaques. The marble stones were hand etched to include inscriptions on all four sides. (See diagram on page 9 with monument components labeled.)



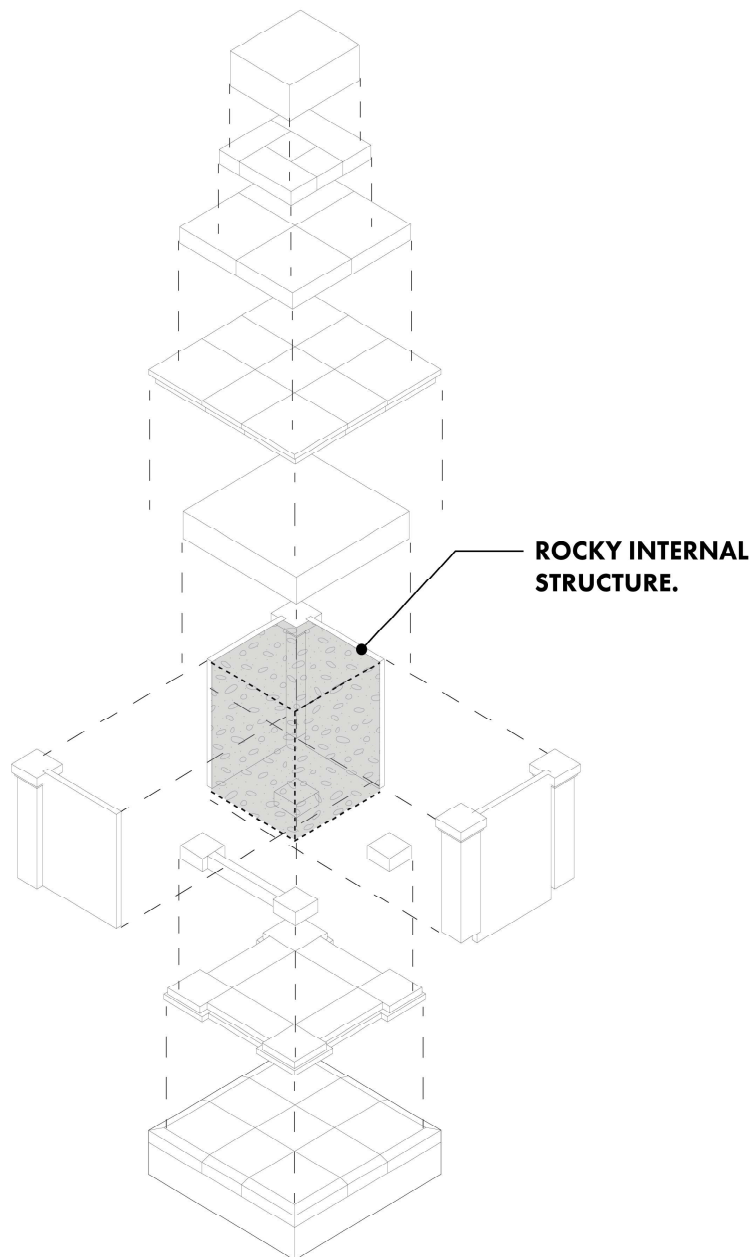
Late 19th century Santa Fe Plaza with radial pathways and the Soldiers' Monument at the center.



During the 2020 protest, the Monument was damaged when people pulled down the obelisk and damaged the marble plaque with the inscription depicting native Americans as "savages".

With the removal of this portion of marble slab it is apparent that the inside of the monument is filled with rubble, stone, bits of concrete, and dirt. There is nothing in the 2006 Santa Fe Plaza Cultural Landscape Report by Morrow Reardon Wilkinson Miller, LTD, Landscape Architects indicating that there are any sacred relics or burial items inside the monument. The base rests on the Plaza grade which is lower than the present day grade with sidewalks and grass.

The following diagram shows an exploded isometric view of the existing monument as it still stands on the plaza.



01.b SUMMARY OF SCOPE

Option#1 - Rebuild Existing Obelisk Portion of Monument Using Historic Material Only

1. Carefully transport obelisk pieces to Plaza site.
2. Rebuild obelisk using new keyed joints.
3. Where obelisk pieces are missing, determine if it will be structurally sound.
4. Seal all gaps between stone with new mortar, consistent with historic mortar used (further testing will be required to determine the proper quantities of limestone, sand, and water.
5. Remove portions of flaking sandstone so no further water may penetrate the layer and flake off.
6. Clean existing plinth base, marble and obelisk using the mildest means as to not damage the stone further.
7. What to do about missing marble piece? Remove existing marble and cut into thinner piece and reinstall missing damaged piece. Engrave the missing text.

Option #2A - Rebuild Existing Obelisk Portion of Monument Using Historic and New Material

1. Carefully transport obelisk pieces to Plaza site.
2. Rebuild obelisk using new keyed joints.
3. Cut existing obelisk stone to reshape the obelisk using thinner face pieces and fill inside with concrete??
4. Seal all gaps between stone with new mortar, consistent with historic mortar used (further testing will be required to determine the proper quantities of limestone, sand, and water.
5. Remove portions of flaking sandstone so no further water may penetrate the layer and flake off.
6. Clean existing plinth base, marble and obelisk using the mildest means as to not damage the stone further.
7. What to do about missing marble piece? Remove existing marble and cut into thinner piece and reinstall missing damaged piece. Engrave with text omitting the word "savages".

Option #2B - Rebuild Existing Obelisk Portion of Monument Using New Material

1. Carefully transport obelisk pieces to Plaza site.
2. Use existing obelisk pieces as interpretive exhibit.
3. Rebuild obelisk using new material.
4. Reinforce existing plinth to provide a stable base for the new obelisk. Repair, replace plinth components as needed.
5. Seal all gaps between stone with new mortar, consistent with historic mortar used (further testing will be required to determine the proper quantities of limestone, sand, and water.
6. Remove portions of flaking sandstone so no further water may penetrate the layer and flake off.
7. Clean existing plinth base, marble and obelisk using the mildest means as to not damage the stone further.
8. What to do about missing marble piece? Install new marble piece to complete the damaged side. New text omitting the word "savages".

Note: This option will require additional design including, but not limited to Structural Engineering.

Option #3 - Relocate Entire Existing Monument to Another Site Chosen by the City of Santa Fe

1. Dig and construct new footing for existing monument relocation.
2. Carefully deconstruct existing monument, label each piece, transport to new site - distance unknown.
3. Carefully reconstruct monument base at new site, include new reinforcement to stabilize obelisk placement.
2. Carefully transport obelisk pieces to new site - distance unknown.
2. Carefully reconstruct obelisk using new keyed joints.
3. Where obelisk pieces are missing, use new or historic material depending on the choice made for rebuilding.
4. Seal all gaps between stone with new mortar, consistent with historic mortar used (further testing will be required to determine the proper quantities of limestone, sand, and water.
5. Remove portions of flaking sandstone so no further water may penetrate the layer and flake off.
6. Clean existing plinth base, marble and obelisk using the mildest means as to not damage the stone further.
7. What to do about missing marble piece? Decide to use new or historic marble and revise text.

Note: This option will require additional design including, but not limited to Civil Engineering, Structural Engineering, and Landscape Architectural. Site unknown at this time.



01.c LIMITATIONS or EXCLUSIONS

- 1. No Materials Testing was conducted, only visual inspection
- 2. No Design and Construction Phase Services are provided, however we measured and provided diagrammatic drawings to fully understand the monument components.
- 3. ALL Options are ultimately inconclusive based on Structural Findings and further Structural Observation and Design needed for the rebuilding of the monument.

01.d DELIVERABLES

- 1. Final Assessment Report with opinion of construction costs. One reproducible hard copy, bound, with a digital copy on a flash drive. Site evaluation photos, monument plans, elevations, or other miscellaneous information collected will be provided.

01.e ADDRESS OF FACILITY

Street & number: 63 Lincoln Ave
 City or town: Santa Fe
 State: New Mexico
 County: Santa Fe
 Zip Code: 87501



01.f OPINION OF CONSTRUCTION COST

The Opinion of Construction Cost totals*

Option #1 - Rebuild Existing Obelisk Portion of Monument Using Historic Material Only	\$420,112.98
Option #2A - Rebuild Existing Obelisk Portion of Monument Using Historic and New Material	\$554,273.15
**Option #2B - Rebuild Existing Obelisk Portion of the Monument Using New Material	\$880,090.70
Option #3 - Relocate Entire Existing Monument to Another Site Chosen by the City of Santa Fe	\$1,139,211.48

*ALL Options are ultimately inconclusive based on Structural Findings and further Structural Observation and Design needed for the rebuilding of the monument.

**Option #2B and Option #3 are most viable and preferred for long-term stability and code compliance. (See Structural Report)

***Option #3 assumes the new site location within 20 miles of the Plaza. These are estimated costs that do not include any additional design or engineering costs.

PLEASE NOTE: these amounts are based on consultation with both Worthen Memorials, Inc. for constructability, and New Mexico Travertine, Inc. (NMT) for replacement of sandstone pieces. They include a 15% Contingency, Overhead and Profit, Bond, and New Mexico Gross Receipts Tax.

A Supplemental Option was added at the request of the City Manager, Mark Scott.

Option #4 - Clean Existing Monument Plinth and Replace One Marble Panel.....	\$79,729.47
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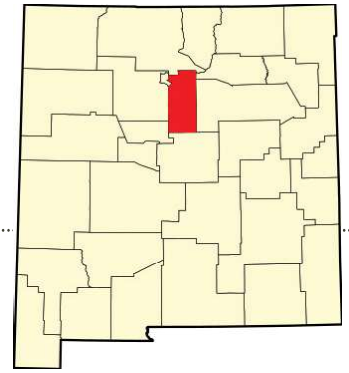




Site and Monument Assessment

02

SANTA FE PLAZA, SOLDIER'S MONUMENT
Santa Fe, New Mexico



02.a Site Condition

The Soldier's Monument is located within the Santa Fe Plaza in a fenced area consisting only of the historic cast stone and sandstone base with inscribed marble plaques on all four sides. A single stone remains on top where the obelisk used to rise. The remaining pieces of the obelisk are being stored at an undisclosed, secure site within Santa Fe.



It appears that the damage done during the 2020 protest included paint and other materials that were attempted to be removed/cleaned from the monument. Areas are scratched, gouged, and scarred.

Historic mortar joints have disintegrated or have been opened up as a result of the cleaning. New darker color mortar has been installed in some areas and is still intact.

The sandstone components show signs of freeze-thaw damage where water has penetrated cracks on the surface. Some spalling has occurred and several areas are fragile to the touch.

The upper right portion of marble on the north face has been removed. This marble held the harmful language. This marble piece was 1-3/4" thick.



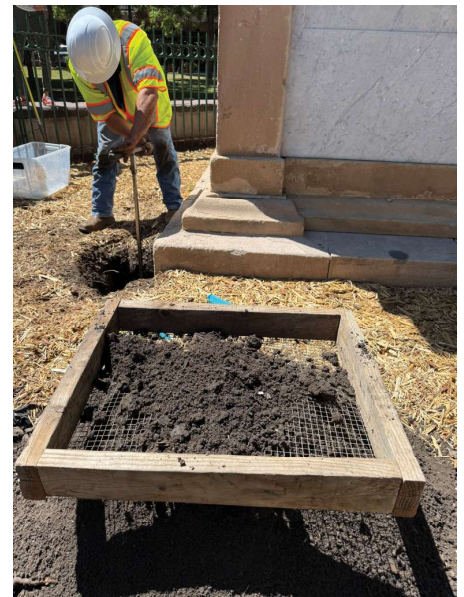
02.b. Existing Monument Condition

02.b.1.0 PLINTH

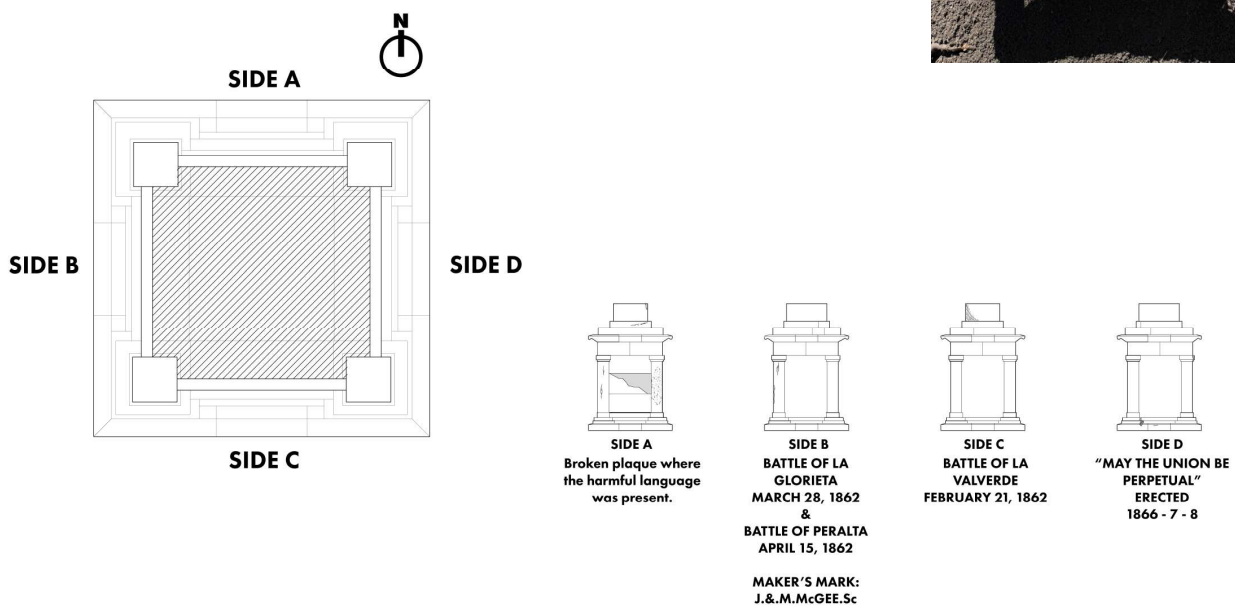
The monument's plinth is in fair to poor condition. The plinth appears to have a slight tilt to the southwest, but appears to be stable and unmoving. The bottom stones are slightly buried and continue below the grade at least 32". No visible sign of a footing was found when a small hole was dug to investigate it further. See structural report for more information.

COMPONENTS OF PLINTH:

The base is four-sided, approximately 8'-0" x 8'-0" with stepped sandstone blocks, some bevelled and others straight cut, with four columns at the corners.



SOLDIER'S MONUMENT ELEVATIONS AS IT STAND TODAY



02.b.1.1 CAST STONE / SANDSTONE: It is presumed that there is a combination of historic cast stone and solid sandstone used for the monument. As each side of the monument exhibits duplicate intricate wreath designs, carving solid stone in such precise duplicity seems uncommon, but not unheard of among stone masons. The stone has weathered in time and is showing signs of moisture damage with mildew and lichen growth. This is typical of historic stone weathering.



02.b. Existing Monument Condition

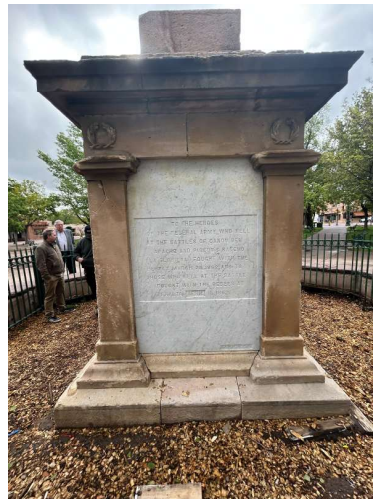
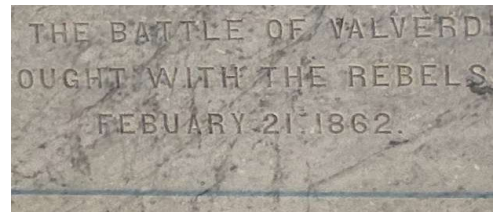
02.b.1.2 MARBLE: The marble is white, 1-3/4" or 2" thick panels installed vertically on all four sides. Inscriptions are complete with some typos or words removed, evident by the 1/4" indented inscription, highlighted in grey and others left unchecked, highlighted in yellow. They read as follows:

Side A: **TO THE HEROES** WHO HAVE FALLEN IN THE VARIOUS BATTLES WITH _____ INDIANS IN THE TERRITORY OF NEW MEXICO.

Side B: TO THE HEROES OF THE FEDERAL ARMY WHO FELL AT THE BATTLES OF CANON DEL APACHE AND PIGEON'S RANCHO (LA GLORIETA) FOUGHT WITH THE REBELS MARCH 28, 1862 AND TO THOSE WHO FELL AT THE BATTLE FOUGHT WITH THE REBELS AT PERALTA **APRIL 15, 1862. J.&M.McGEE,So**

Side C: TO THE HEROES OF THE FEDERAL ARMY, WHO FELL AT THE BATTLE OF VALVERDE FOUGHT WITH THE REBELS **FEBRUARY 21, 1862**

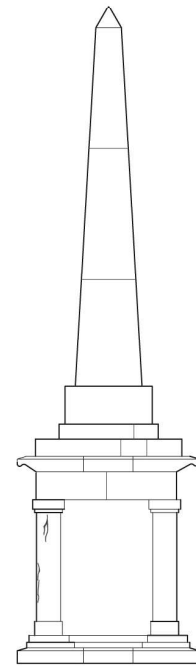
Side D: ERECTED BY THE PEOPLE OF NEW MEXICO THROUGH THEIR LEGISLATURES OF 1866 - 7 - 8. ----- MAY THE UNION BE PERPETUAL.



02.b Existing Monument Condition

02.b.2.0 OBELISK: The obelisk was formed by stacking three four sided stone pieces atop the plinth with a capstone piece on top. The current remaining pieces of the obelisk are being stored in a secure location off-site on pallets. Most pieces appear to have included a slot for stacking and pinning pieces together. The recovered obelisk stone pieces have only slots. The original pins are missing. Not all of the broken obelisk pieces were recovered. Several large stones have been broken into smaller pieces. It is uncertain which pieces go together at this time. To fully assemble the obelisk will be similar to putting a three-dimensional puzzle together with missing pieces.

The largest base piece of the obelisk has the majority of graffiti and cleaning agent remaining on three of four faces. There are four holes at the base of this piece centered approximately 3" from the bottom. Some holes still contain a metal sleeve that was possibly used to lift the stone into place at installation. Now the hole is either empty or the metal sleeve has been crimped.

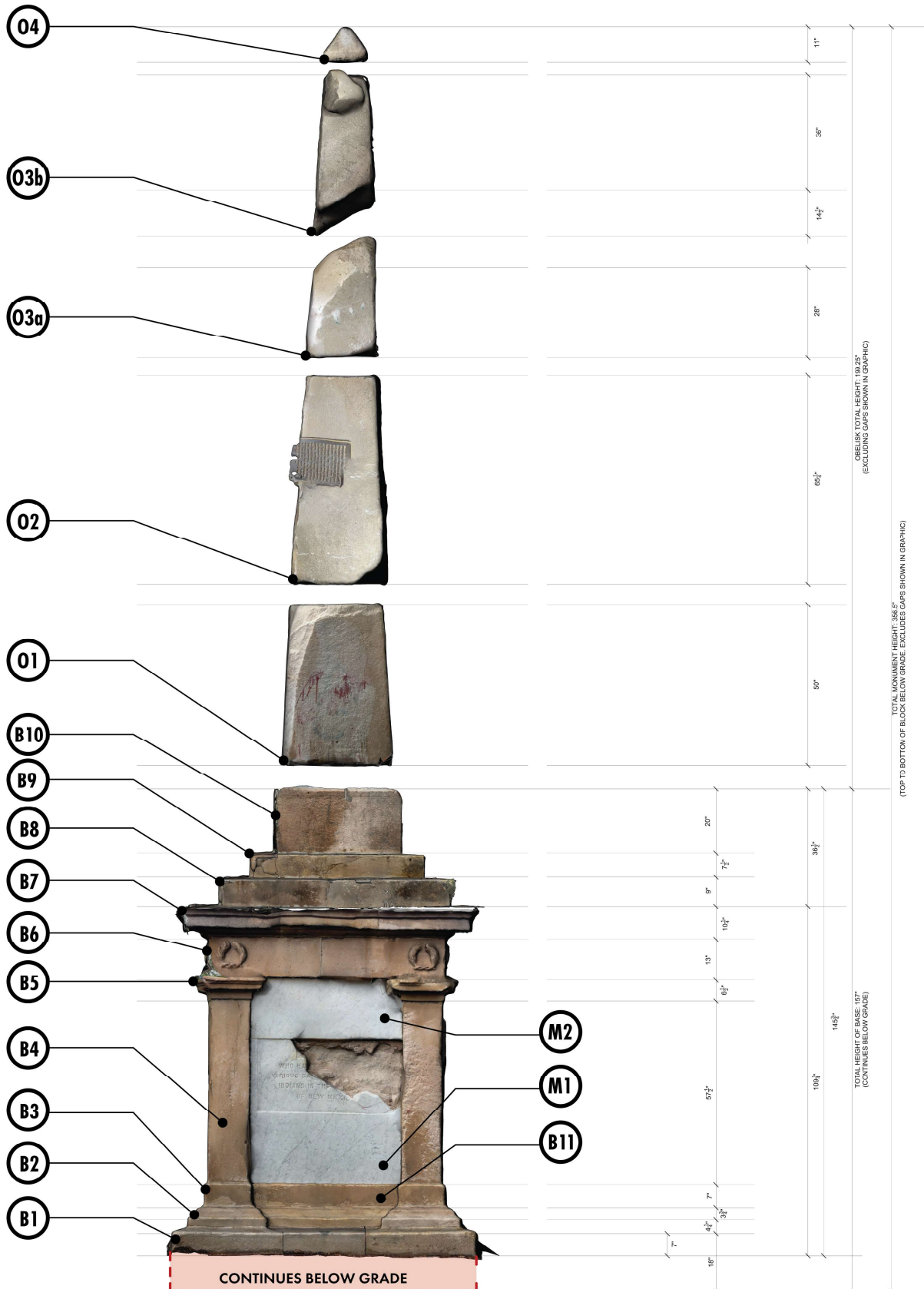


SIDE B



02.b Existing Monument Condition

02.b.3.0 COMPONENTS: *The components of the complete monument are labeled and dimensioned below.*



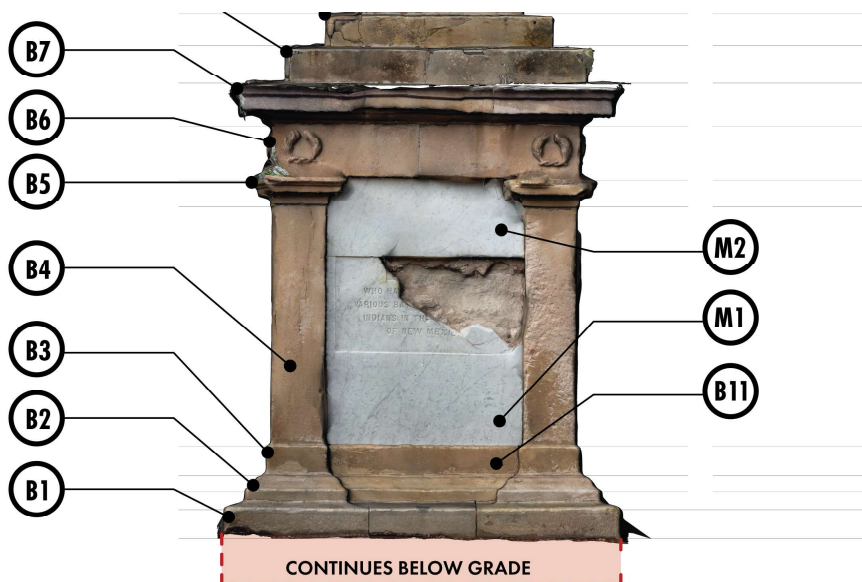
* ALL OTHER CARVED MARBLE PLAQUES WILL BE NOTED AS: **(M3)**



02.b Existing Monument Condition

02.b.3.1.1 COMPONENT ASSESSMENT:

Resource Item #	Condition Indicator Assessed	Condition Status	Rationale & Key Points
B1	9 Base Stones - 7" above grade	Fair Condition	The base has 7" visible above grade, but 11" continue below grade. The top of the stone is delaminating in at the upper sloped surfaces on sides A, C, & D. Edges are chipped on all sides with a large chip on side D where the obelisk probably fell.
B2	4 Lower Column Bases	Fair to Poor Condition	The lower column base is beveled and stepped to meet the upper column base. The stone is delaminating and chipped on all sides. There is a large crack separating the base at side C and D. At side D this base has been shattered at the inner corner of the left column base. If this stone were to be moved, it would lose all integrity and would need to be replaced.
B3	4 Upper Column Bases	Fair to Poor Condition	The upper column base is a block slightly smaller than the lower base top step and larger than the column shaft above it. The stone is delaminating and chipped at the corners on all sides. At side D above the shattered base the lower inner corner of the left column base has been chipped away by some impact. It is not certain if this stone is cracked continuously through the block.
B4	4 Column Shafts	Fair to Poor Condition	The Column Shaft appears to be a solid block of stone, rectangular in shape and volume with a niche for the marble plaque to slide into place. Side A - Left Column has a vertical crack beginning at the top down two-thirds of the shaft. Right Column has been scraped heavily. Side B - Left Column has small residual scratches and pock marks. The top is cracked from possibly an impact point. Right Column has inner edges scraped. Side C - Left Column has a few chips and scrapes and a faded handprint from the painted graffiti. Right Column also has some chips and scrapes. Side D - Left and Right Columns have chips and scrapes.



* ALL OTHER CARVED MARBLE PLAQUES WILL BE NOTED AS: **M3**



02.b Existing Monument Condition

02.b.3.1.2 COMPONENT ASSESSMENT:

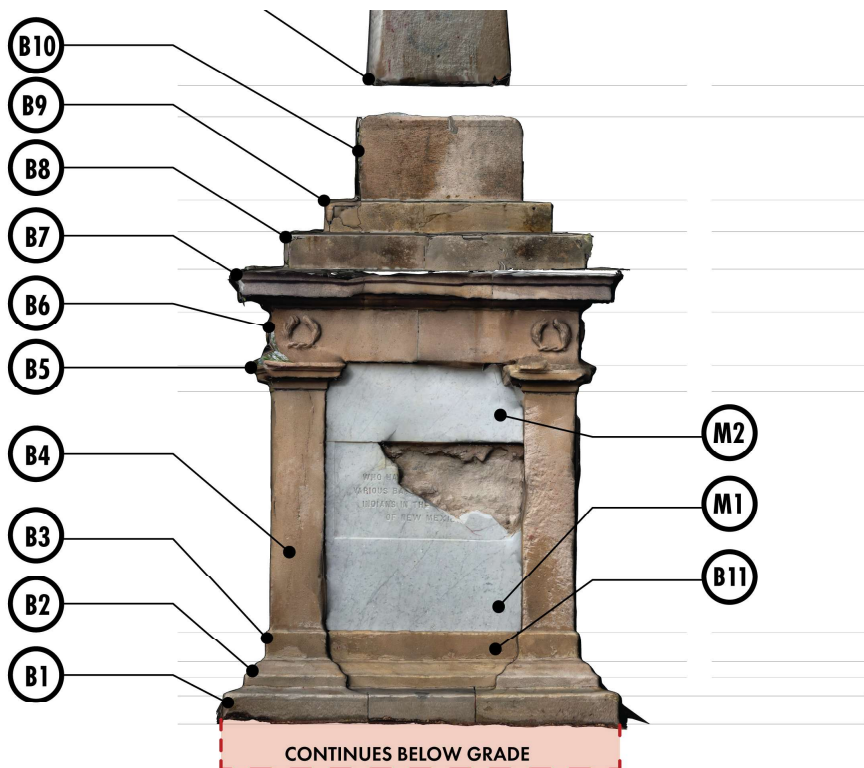
B5	4 Column Capitals	Fair to Poor Condition	The Capital appears to be a solid piece of stone with varying widths of square cap stones stacked from the column shaft, small to large with a slotted under side to allow for a drip edge. Side A - Left Capital is missing its left corner. Right Capital is missing the majority of its overhanging top layer, with considerable decay at the outer corners of the next lower overhang. Side B - Left Capital is missing the majority of its overhanging top layer, with the outer corner of the next layer chipped away. Right Capital is missing the outer corners of the top layer of the overhanging stone. Side C - Left Capital is missing the majority of its overhanging top layer, with considerable decay at the outer corners of the next lower overhang. Right Capital is missing the outer corners of the top layer of the overhanging stone and the outer corner of the next layer of stone. Side D - Left Capital is missing the inner corners of the top and second layers of stone. Right Capital is missing the inner corner of the top layer and the center of top layer is chipped. The next layer under is missing the outer corner.
B6	4 Capstones with "Open Wreaths"	Fair Condition	The Capstones include two "open wreaths" per side centered above the columns. All appear to be intact. The stones on Side A appear to have some water damage, but no delamination. On sides C & D show faded graffiti marks and slight water damage.
B7	9 Upper Cap Stones	Fair to Poor Condition	The upper cap consists of 9 stones that are almost a mirror image to the base stones but not as deep. The upper outer edge of the top is chipped on all sides. Side D has a large chip in the center where the obelisk coming down may have damaged it.
B8	Obelisk Wide Base	Fair Condition	The Obelisk Wide Base consists of 4 solid blocks of sandstone with a hole and metal sleeve at each corner when looking from the top. The top of stone shows sign of weathering with black lichen growing.
B9	Obelisk Middle Base	Fair Condition	The Obelisk Middle Base consists of 4 visible stones. At all sides, there are two holes on the vertical face at the corners with a metal sleeve inserted. Because of their regular placement it is thought that these were used to help lift the pieces in place during initial installation. Each of these stones has significant weathering and hairline cracks, some delamination, and lichen growth. Mortar between stones is missing in most areas.



02.b Existing Monument Condition

02.b.3.1.3 COMPONENT ASSESSMENT:






B10	Obelisk Upper Base	Fair Condition	The Obelisk Upper Base is one solid block of sandstone with a beveled top edge and a central slot on top. Side A has a chipped upper right corner with some residual paint that has left a white residue. Side B has a chipped upper left corner and chipped vertical right side; residual paint appears to have been washed off. Side C top edge is uneven and chipped left vertical side. Side D has residual red paint from graffiti. Mortar between this stone and the Obelisk Middle Base is present in two shades of gray possibly from original installation and a later repointing.
B11	Middle Plaque Base	Fair to Poor Condition	The Middle Plaque Base on Side A consists of 2 stones shaped to match the lower and upper column bases. The face and edges have some areas of delamination and small chips at the bottom edge. Side B is missing the upper plaque base and has similar delamination and small chips. Side C is missing the upper plaque base and has much more delamination and wear. Side D is missing the upper plaque base and has similar delamination as A & B with edges chipped and worn away.
M1	Bottom Marble Plaque	Poor Condition	This piece of marble has been damaged and a large triangular portion of the marble was removed. The piece missing is 1-3/4" thick.
M2	Top Marble Plaque	Good Condition	This 2" thick piece is still intact and undamaged.
M3	Marble Plaque, full height	Fair to Good Condition	Side B - appears to be intact with a brownish blotchy stain at the top. Uncertain if this can be cleaned. Side C - appears to be intact with a brownish blotchy stain at the top. Uncertain if this can be cleaned. Side D - appears to be intact with small chips around the "1866" date and near the bottom.



* ALL OTHER CARVED MARBLE PLAQUES WILL BE NOTED AS: **(M3)**

02.b Existing Monument Condition

02.b.3.1.4 COMPONENT ASSESSMENT:

04		04	Capstone	Fair to Poor Condition	This four sided pyramidal shape is missing its point and has sides showing weathering with lichen growth and deterioration of the crisp edges. One bottom corner is missing. There is slot in the bottom of the Capstone approximately 1" x 3" which appears to be either a mortise for a tenon or an opening to receive a pin of some sort. The adjoining segment 03b also has a slot.
03b		03b	Obelisk Upper Shaft part 2	Poor Condition	This four sided slanted shaft of the obelisk has a broken bottom end from the tearing down of the monument in 2020. The top has a slot approximately 1" x 3" to receive a pin for stacking the capstone to this piece. The pin is missing and it is unknown what material it was. This part of the shaft is sitting on its side in storage, so only 3 sides were visible. They all show signs of weathering with large chips at the edges where it fell on hard surfaces.
03a		03a	Obelisk Upper Shaft part 1	Poor Condition	This four sided slanted shaft of the obelisk has a broken top end from the tearing down of the monument in 2020. This part is severely misshapen from large missing pieces sheared off when it fell. All three visible sides show signs of weathering with large chips at the edges and middle sides from impact. Flecks of green paint are visible from scraping the surrounding fence. There is no slot at the bottom end of this piece.
02		02	Obelisk Middle Shaft	Fair to Poor Condition	This four sided slanted shaft of the obelisk has a rough and sandy bottom and top end. All three visible sides show signs of weathering with large chips and a broken corner. The missing corner appears to be on site in storage and could be lifted to see that it fit. Flecks of green paint are visible from scraping the surrounding fence. Other scrape marks and chips are visible and residue from paint or a cleaning product are present.
01		01	Obelisk Bottom Shaft	Poor Condition	This four sided slanted Bottom Shaft of the obelisk has a rough and sandy top end with a visible slot. All four sides show signs of weathering with large stains from graffiti and the removal cleaning agent. Other scrape marks and chips are visible and several holes from either lifting mechanisms or maybe embedded bullets?





Luchini Trujillo Structural Engineers, Inc.

December 5, 2025

CSR Architects
c/o Tina M Reames
220 Gold Ave
Albuquerque, NM 87102

Re: Soldiers' Monument at Santa Fe Plaza
Feasibility Study

Dear Tina,

Our office conducted site visits on May 7 and August 7, 2025, to assess structural damage to the Soldiers' Monument resulting from the 2020 protests.

This report addresses the plinth base and stored obelisk pieces only; it does not include fencing or site walls.





Existing Conditions - Foundation

- Excavation Summary
 - Excavation adjacent to the monument revealed a 22-inch thick sandstone base, embedded 14-inches below grade (8-inches exposed).
 - Excavations continued 18-inches below the sandstone base until refusal.
- Foundation Composition
 - The sandstone blocks span between large boulders, with soil filling the voids.
 - The extent and treatment of the boulders remain unknown.
- Other Observations
 - Concrete fragments found were likely remnants from past stabilizations during adjacent water line work. Not necessarily structural support but replacing soils lost during excavation.
 - Clay piping fragments, like historical water supply systems were discovered in the excavation.
- Overall Assessment
 - Buried boulders, not concrete, likely support the monument.
 - It is unclear whether the boulders were placed intentionally or are natural.





Existing Conditions - Plinth

- Monument Base
 - Composed of several sandstone block pieces; connections are unknown (dowels or keyed joints were not observed).
 - Masonry joints are in poor condition; sandstone blocks show deterioration (cracks, spalls, impact chips).
 - Joint gaps vary in width, suggesting block movement over time – could be caused by differential movement.
- Site Grading and Drainage
 - Poor grading around the monument was observed; a concrete banco and fence trap runoff, allowing water to infiltrate soils below.
 - The banco was likely installed during plaza drainage renovations, leaving the monument at the lowest elevation.
 - No drainage system exists within the banco area; soils experience wetting and drying cycles.
 - If the soils are moisture-sensitive, shrink-swell behavior may continue to damage the monument over time.





Existing Conditions - Obelisk

- **Construction & Assembly**
 - The pieces were inspected within a storage facility.
 - The obelisk is comprised of four separate stacked pieces, jointed with masonry joints.
 - Some pieces have holes or spaces possibly for dowels, but it is unclear if dowelling was used or if these features are original.
- **Condition & Damage**
 - Ends, corners, and edges of all pieces were severely damaged.
 - Most remaining pieces do not show cracks or punctures, except for one.
 - All pieces are weathered, chipped and dimpled.
- **Plinth Connection**
 - The top piece of the plinth is clean and has a hole, likely for doweling, lifting or erection.





Repair Options for Consideration

Option 1 – Rebuild Obelisk with Historic Stones

Scope:

Reassemble the obelisk using existing stones and keeping the current plinth and foundation.

Considerations:

Pros:

- Preserves historical value.

Cons:

- The plinth base is in poor condition, and its deficiencies are left unaddressed.
- No mechanical connections so there is no ductility.
- Both the dry stacked obelisk and plinth base may not meet current International Existing Building Code (IEBC) requirements for structural integrity when performing a substantial repair.
- Moisture intrusion issues will persist.

Recommendation:

Least preferred option. Only consider if historical preservation is the top priority.

If selected, the following plinth and foundation exceptions apply:

- Expect continued deterioration from moisture and freeze-thaw cycles.
- The City must acknowledge non-compliance with IEBC and a special exception may be necessary.

Option #2A – Rebuild Obelisk with Historic and New Material

Scope:

Mechanically connect original stones and replace damaged ones with new material (using damaged historical stones as thinner face materials). Keep the current plinth and foundation.

Considerations:

Pros:

- Preserves as much original material as possible.
- Improves obelisk stability with mechanical connections.

Cons:

- The plinth base is in poor condition, and its deficiencies are left unaddressed.
- Risk of damaging weathered stone during repairs (including the top stones of the plinth).

Recommendation:

Second least preferred option. Only consider if preservation is the top priority.

Without rebuilding the plinth and foundation, the same limitations as Option 1 apply.



Option #2B – Rebuild Obelisk with All New Material

Scope:

Construct a new obelisk with entirely new stone pieces. Display the original pieces nearby.

Considerations:

Pros:

- Allows for modern construction of the obelisk for improved durability.
- If the original pieces are displayed within the banco and fence area, it creates an opportunity for grading improvement to minimize moisture content changes in the surrounding soils of the monument.

Cons:

- Loses historical value.

Recommendation:

Preferred option if the monument remains in its current location. This option requires building the plinth for long-term stability. With a new plinth, this becomes the best choice for preserving the original site.

Option #3 – Relocate Monument to New Site

Scope:

Move the monument to a new site and rebuild with improved connections and new foundations.

Considerations:

Pros:

- Fully resolves structural issues moisture issues.
- Improves obelisk stability with mechanical connections.
- Opportunity to raise the base above surrounding finish grade.
- Damaged stones can be replaced.

Cons:

- The monument will no longer be at its original site.

Recommendation:

Preferred option if the monument is moved. Relocation provides the greatest opportunity to strengthen and provide a new foundation support.



Closure

The conclusions and opinions rendered herein are based on the information and evidence currently available. No warranties, express or implied, are made regarding the accuracy or completeness of these conclusions. Should additional facts or evidence emerge, we reserve the right to review and update opinions accordingly.

The recommendations provided are intended as conceptual guidelines for planning and cost estimation purposes only. For precise engineering and design of structural requirements, the services of a licensed professional with expertise in the relevant field should be consulted.

Please feel free to contact either of the undersigned if you have any questions or need additional information.

Respectfully,

Eric D. Trujillo, P.E.



**Preliminary Archaeological Assessment at the Soldier's
Monument for the Structural and Foundational Evaluation
Future Rehabilitation**



Paul A. Duran

**City of Santa Fe, Planning and Land Use Department,
Historic Preservation Division**

Permit No. NM-27-298-M/S

10/21/2025

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Introduction

On August 7, 2025, the City of Santa Fe Historic Preservation Division staffed archaeologist Mr. Paul A. Duran, conducted a preliminary field assessment at the Soldier's Monument "Obelisk" in support of the Luchini Trujillo Structural Engineers (LTSE) and CSR Architects (CSR) structural evaluation of the foundations of the Obelisk (structure). Mr. Duran's assessment was monitored by Dr. Alysia Abbott (archaeologist) and Planning and Land Use Director Heather Lamboy in support of the rehabilitation of the structure's current condition.

The assessment consisted of following the Soldier's Monument site and elevations plan (Figure 1) provided by CSR which identified the locations where two 12" wide by 12" long windows to the foundation on the northeast and southwest corners of the structure. Only the northeast window was considered as the engineer believed that there was enough information to give a proper evaluation of the structure's foundation. Given the limited visibility of the proposed northeast window the archaeologist and engineer exceeded the dimensions to 2' wide by 2' long and excavated down to 32" respectively (Figures 2-7).

The general assessment of the structures above ground integrity and history can be assessed further in Mr. Murphey's 2025 Historic Cultural Property Inventory (HCPI) survey report attached to this document in Appendix A. This document serves as a limited general assessment for considerations moving forward in regard to the rehabilitation of the structure and the general site and will discuss the subsurface soil description, artifact discussion, and the structure's foundation from the northeast corner of the site (Figures 1-8).

SOLDIER'S MONUMENT ELEVATIONS

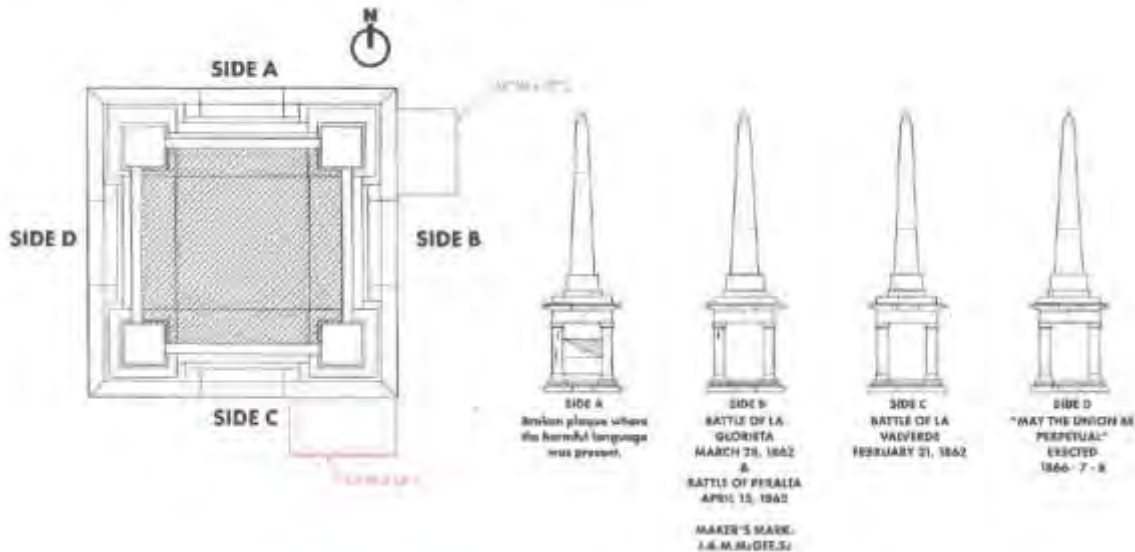


Figure 1. Soldier's Monument Site Plan and Elevations.

Soil Discussion

The soils observed during the assessment are described below in levels as the soil stratigraphy changes in material, color, and composition as identified in Table 1. Level 1 located at the northeast corner of the structure is identified as wooden mulch chips from 0-5 inches (in) (0-13 centimeters (cm)) below present ground surface (bpgs). As the assessment continued, the wood mulch chips changed to Level 2 to a dark brown O horizon with organic materials and matter including roots and leaves at 5-9 in bpgs (13-23 cm). The O horizon of organic material and matter changed in composition to Level 3 an A horizon silty clay mineral soil with no roots and the presence of historic fragmented cultural material. The A horizon was the most prominent soil observed from 9-20 in bpgs (23-50 cm). The A Horizon abruptly changed to Level 4 a R horizon identified by granitic cobbles and boulders and the presence of cement from 20-32 in (50-80 cm). The best estimation of the diameter of the granitic cobbles and boulders were noted to be from 8-40 cm respectively (Figures 2-6). Level 4 will need further assessment if and when the foundation will be repaired or replaced.

Table 1. Soil Table from the NE Corner of the site.

Levels	Horizon	Color	Structure	Depth
1	O	Light brown	Wood Chips	0-5 in/0-13 cm

2	O	Brown	Roots/Leaves	5-9 in/13-23 cm
3	A	Dark Brown	Moist/Compact	9-20 in/23-50 cm
4	R	Mixed Browns/Reds	Hard/Compact	20-32 in/50-80 cm

Artifact Discussion

The assessment of the structure’s footings in the northeast corner was excavated using hand tools including a shovel, trowel, hand brushes and screened at 1/8” to minimize any ground disturbing impacts to the structure and site. The presence of modern trash debris was observed between Levels 1 and 2 starting at the ground surface to the top of the A horizon at 0-9 in (0-23 cm). Between Levels 3 and 4 historic artifacts were observed, recorded, and collected including an 1897 “Indian Head” penny and an early 1900s intact glass medicine bottle from 9-20 in (23-50 cm). Other artifacts noted in Levels 3 and 4 include Tewa polychrome, glass, and ceramic fragments (Figure 8). The presence of cultural material was no longer observed from the top of the granitic cobbles and boulders however it is unknown to what extent cultural materials are present and further investigations are warranted if the footings of the structure are repaired or in any way altered.

Table 2. Artifact Table by level of assessment.

Levels	Depth in/cm	Type	Color	Condition	Description	Qty.
1	0-5 in/0-13 cm	Modern	Clear, brown, and green	Glass and plastic fragments	Modern trash debris	12
2	5-9 in/13-23 cm	Modern	Clear and brown	Glass fragments	Modern trash debris	18
3	9-20 in/23-50 cm	Historic and Modern	Clear, brown, green, and copper, Tewa polychrome	Glass bottle and fragments, Tewa polychrome sherds, copper penny, and bone fragments	Historic and Modern trash midden	16

4	20-32 in/50-80 cm	Unknown	No artifacts observed	N/A	N/A	N/A
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Foundation Assessment

The Obelisk’s foundation comprises of granitic cobbles, boulders, and cement at a depth from 20-32 in (50-80 cm). The granitic rock does not appear to have been formed by hand tools of any kind and looks to be in its natural form. However, cement has been used to hold these materials together. No formed or manufactured rock was visible below ground surface. The depth of the foundation is unknown and may exceed the extent of what is currently known and most likely is greater than 32 in bpgs (80 cm). The overall appearance of the foundation is limited but generally appears to be intact and stable. Further investigations may be necessary to address the exact depth, integrity, and material composition (Figures 5-7).

Concluding Remarks

This initial assessment identified the presence of modern to historic trash debris consisting of fragmented glass, animal bone, plastic, copper pennies, Tewa Polychrome sherds, and metal artifacts. The soil generally comprises of an O, A, and R horizons but to what extent is unknown and further investigations is necessary to understand the depth of the granitic cobbles and boulders and what lies beneath the current foundation. It is recommended given the limited review and window in the northeast corner of the site that all further proposed ground disturbing work at a minimum be monitored by a qualified archaeologist listed on the City of Santa Fe’s List of Approved Archaeologists and Historians for the Historic Downtown Archaeological Review District.



Figure 2. Soldier's Monument "Obelisk" site overview.



Figure 3. Begin assessment in the NE Corner.



Figure 4. Levels 3 and 4 where the historic cultural materials were observed .



Figure 5. Top of the granitic rock.



Figure 6. Bottom of excavation.



Figure 7. Plan view of the end of assessment.



Figure 8. Historic and modern trash midden from Levels 3 and 4.

Appendix A: Mr. John Murphey's 2025 Historic Cultural Property Inventory Form

SEE APPENDIX FOR HCPI FORM.



Opinion of Construction Cost

04

Opinions of Construction Cost and Feasibility for Options

**ALL options are inconclusive based on Structural Findings and further Structural Observation and Design needed for the rebuilding of the monument. CSR consulted with a Stone Mason, Memorial Company, and Stone Quarry for estimated costs.

04.a Option #1 - Rebuild Existing Obelisk Portion of Monument Using Historic Material Only

Option #1 - Rebuild Existing Obelisk Portion of Monument Using Historic Material Only					
Santa Fe Soldier's Monument					
Item No.	description	unit	cost including	quantity	subtotal
1	Carefully transport obelisk pieces to Plaza Site				
	Crane - 1 day	Ea.	\$30,000.00	1	\$30,000.00
	Estimated (# of man hours)	Ea.	\$125.00	24	\$3,000.00
2	Prepare new keyed joints				
	Estimated (# of man hours)	Ea.	\$125.00	24	\$3,000.00
	Specialized Equipment	Ea.	\$30,000.00	1	\$30,000.00
3	Rebuild obelisk (contingent on all existing pieces fitting together with no missing pieces)				
	Crane - 5 days	Ea.	\$30,000.00	5	\$150,000.00
	Estimated (# of man hours)	Ea.	\$125.00	48	\$6,000.00
4	Seal all gaps between stone with new mortar				
	Stone Mason (# of man hours)	Ea.	\$125.00	24	\$3,000.00
5	Remove portions of flaking sandstone at base				
	Stone Mason (# of man hours)	Ea.	\$125.00	24	\$3,000.00
6	Clean existing plinth base, marble, and obelisk using the mildest means				
	Stone Mason (# of man hours)	Ea.	\$125.00	80	\$10,000.00
7	Remove existing marble and cut into thinner piece to engrave				
	Estimated (# of man hours)	Ea.	\$125.00	48	\$6,000.00
	Specialized Equipment	Ea.	\$30,000.00	1	\$30,000.00
OPTION #1 REBUILD and REPAIR SUBTOTAL					\$274,000.00
	CONTINGENCY @ 15%				\$41,100.00
	Subtotal				\$315,100.00
	Overhead @ 10%				\$31,510.00
	Subtotal				\$346,610.00
	Profit @ 10%				\$34,661.00
	Subtotal				\$381,271.00
	Bond @ 2%				\$7,625.42
	Subtotal				\$388,896.42
	NMGRT @ 8.1875%				\$31,216.56
OPTION #1 REBUILD and REPAIR GRAND TOTAL					\$420,112.98

**NOTE: this option is inconclusive based on Structural Findings where further Structural Observation and Design is needed regarding the stabilization of the obelisk on the existing plinth.



04.b Option #2A - Rebuild Existing Obelisk Portion of Monument Using Historic and New Material

Option #2A - Rebuild Existing Obelisk Portion of Monument Using Historic & New Material					
Santa Fe Soldier's Monument					
Item No.	description	unit	cost including	quantity	subtotal
1	Carefully transport obelisk pieces to Plaza Site				
	Crane - 1 day	Ea.	\$30,000.00	1	\$30,000.00
	Estimated (# of man hours)	Ea.	\$125.00	24	\$3,000.00
2	Prepare new keyed joints				
	Estimated (# of man hours)	Ea.	\$125.00	24	\$3,000.00
	Specialized Equipment	Ea.	\$30,000.00	1	\$30,000.00
3	Cut new obelisk pieces (contingent on field measuring and establishing pieces to replace)				
	Crane - 2 days	Ea.	\$30,000.00	2	\$60,000.00
	Indian Buff or Silver Buff Limestone	Ea.	\$25,000.00	1.1	\$27,500.00
4	Rebuild historic/new obelisk				
	Crane - 5 days	Ea.	\$30,000.00	5	\$150,000.00
	Estimated (# of man hours)	Ea.	\$125.00	48	\$6,000.00
5	Seal all gaps between stone with new mortar				
	Stone Mason (# of man hours)	Ea.	\$125.00	24	\$3,000.00
6	Remove portions of flaking sandstone				
	Stone Mason (# of man hours)	Ea.	\$125.00	24	\$3,000.00
7	Clean existing plinth base, marble, and obelisk using the mildest means				
	Stone Mason (# of man hours)	Ea.	\$125.00	80	\$10,000.00
8	Remove existing marble and cut into thinner piece to engrave				
	Estimated (# of man hours)	Ea.	\$125.00	48	\$6,000.00
	Specialized Equipment	Ea.	\$30,000.00	1	\$30,000.00
OPTION #2A REBUILD SUBTOTAL					\$361,500.00
	CONTINGENCY @ 15%				\$54,225.00
	Subtotal				\$415,725.00
	Overhead @ 10%				\$41,572.50
	Subtotal				\$457,297.50
	Profit @ 10%				\$45,729.75
	Subtotal				\$503,027.25
	Bond @ 2%				\$10,060.55
	Subtotal				\$513,087.80
	NMGRT @ 8.1875%				\$41,185.36
OPTION #2A REBUILD GRAND TOTAL					\$554,273.15

**NOTE: this option is inconclusive based on Structural Findings where further Structural Observation and Design is needed regarding the stabilization of the obelisk on the existing plinth.



04.c Option #2B - Rebuild Existing Obelisk Portion of Monument Using New Material

Option #2B - Rebuild Existing Obelisk Portion of Monument Using New Material					
Santa Fe Soldier's Monument					
Item No.	description	unit	cost including	quantity	subtotal
1	Carefully transport obelisk pieces to Plaza Site				
	Crane - 1 day	Ea.	\$30,000.00	1	\$30,000.00
	Estimated (# of man hours)	Ea.	\$125.00	24	\$3,000.00
2	Use existing obelisk pieces as interpretive exhibit				
	Crane - 1 day	Ea.	\$30,000.00	1	\$30,000.00
	Estimated (# of man hours)	Ea.	\$125.00	24	\$3,000.00
	Specialized Equipment	Ea.	\$30,000.00	1	\$30,000.00
3	Cut new obelisk pieces				
	Crane - 2 days	Ea.	\$30,000.00	2	\$60,000.00
	Indiana Buff or Silver Buff Limestone	Ea.	\$45,000.00	1.1	\$49,500.00
4	Carefully reconstruct existing monument base (replace any pieces that break)	Ea.	\$85,000.00	1.1	\$93,500.00
	Add recommended structural footing	Ea.	\$50,000.00	1	\$50,000.00
	Estimated (# of man hours)	Ea.	\$125.00	160	\$20,000.00
5	New obelisk install				
	Crane - 5 days	Ea.	\$30,000.00	5	\$150,000.00
	Estimated (# of man hours)	Ea.	\$125.00	24	\$3,000.00
6	Seal all gaps between stone with new mortar				
	Stone Mason (# of man hours)	Ea.	\$125.00	24	\$3,000.00
7	Remove portions of flaking sandstone				
	Stone Mason (# of man hours)	Ea.	\$125.00	24	\$3,000.00
8	Clean existing plinth base, marble, and obelisk using the mildest means				
	Stone Mason (# of man hours)	Ea.	\$125.00	80	\$10,000.00
9	Remove existing marble and cut into thinner piece to engrave				
	Estimated (# of man hours)	Ea.	\$125.00	48	\$6,000.00
	Specialized Equipment	Ea.	\$30,000.00	1	\$30,000.00
OPTION #2B REBUILD SUBTOTAL					\$574,000.00
	CONTINGENCY @ 15%				\$86,100.00
	Subtotal				\$660,100.00
	Overhead @ 10%				\$66,010.00
	Subtotal				\$726,110.00
	Profit @ 10%				\$72,611.00
	Subtotal				\$798,721.00
	Bond @ 2%				\$15,974.42
	Subtotal				\$814,695.42
	NMGRT @ 8.1875%				\$65,395.28
OPTION #2B REBUILD GRAND TOTAL					\$880,090.70

**NOTE: this option is inconclusive based on Structural Findings where further Structural Observation and Design is needed regarding the stabilization of the obelisk on the recommended newly reinforced plinth.



04.d Option #3 - Relocate Entire Existing Monument to Another Site Chosen by the City of Santa Fe

Option #3 - Relocate Entire Existing Monument to Another Site Chosen by the City of Santa Fe					
Santa Fe Soldier's Monument					
Item No.	description	unit	cost including O&P (2017)	quantity	subtotal
1	Dig and construct new footing for monument relocation				
	Equipment	Ea.	\$30,000.00	1	\$30,000.00
	Estimated (# of man hours)	Ea.	\$125.00	40	\$5,000.00
2	Carefully deconstruct existing monument, label each piece	Ea.			\$0.00
	Truck/trailer	Ea.	\$30,000.00	1	\$30,000.00
	Crane - 1 day - transport to new site location (assumed within 20 miles)	Ea.	\$30,000.00	1	\$30,000.00
	Estimated (# of man hours)	Ea.	\$125.00	160	\$20,000.00
3	Carefully reconstruct existing monument base (replace any pieces that break)	Ea.	\$85,000.00	1.1	\$93,500.00
	Crane - 5 days - transport to new site location (assumed within 20 miles)	Ea.	\$30,000.00	5	\$150,000.00
	Add recommended structural footing	Ea.	\$50,000.00	1	\$50,000.00
	Estimated (# of man hours)	Ea.	\$125.00	160	\$20,000.00
4	Carefully transport obelisk pieces to new site location				
	Crane - 1 day	Ea.	\$30,000.00	1	\$30,000.00
	Estimated (# of man hours)	Ea.	\$125.00	24	\$3,000.00
5	Prepare new keyed joints				
	Estimated (# of man hours)	Ea.	\$125.00	24	\$3,000.00
	Specialized Equipment	Ea.	\$30,000.00	1	\$30,000.00
6	Rebuild obelisk (contingent on all existing pieces fitting together with no missing pieces; replace missing pieces)	Ea.	25,000.00	1.1	\$27,500.00
	Crane - 5 days	Ea.	\$30,000.00	5	\$150,000.00
	Estimated (# of man hours)	Ea.	\$125.00	48	\$6,000.00
7	Seal all gaps between stone with new mortar		13,000.00	1	\$13,000.00
	Stone Mason (# of man hours)	Ea.	\$125.00	24	\$3,000.00
8	Remove portions of flaking sandstone				
	Stone Mason (# of man hours)	Ea.	\$125.00	24	\$3,000.00
9	Clean existing plinth base, marble, and obelisk using the mildest means				
	Stone Mason (# of man hours)	Ea.	\$125.00	80	\$10,000.00
10	Remove existing marble and cut into thinner piece to engrave				
	Estimated (# of man hours)	Ea.	\$125.00	48	\$6,000.00
	Specialized Equipment	Ea.	\$30,000.00	1	\$30,000.00
OPTION #3 RELOCATE SUBTOTAL					\$743,000.00
	CONTINGENCY @ 15%				\$111,450.00
	Subtotal				\$854,450.00
	Overhead @ 10%				\$85,445.00
	Subtotal				\$939,895.00
	Profit @ 10%				\$93,989.50
	Subtotal				\$1,033,884.50
	Bond @ 2%				\$20,677.69



	Subtotal				\$1,054,562.19
	NMGRT @ 8.1875%				\$84,649.29
	OPTION #3 RELOCATE GRAND TOTAL				\$1,139,211.48

**NOTE: this option is inconclusive because the site is not known, therefore, soils testing and other site upgrades are unknown. The new site will require a full landscape architectural design including civil and structural engineering design work.

In Addition: According to NMT, the original quarry that the historic monument acquired its stone was most likely near Lamy, NM (the same quarry as the Cathedral Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi). The quarry is closed now, so NMT found another quarry with a similar stone.

From Jim Lardner, President, NM Travertine, Inc.: for the entire monument, replacement from the bottom base (B1) to the top of the obelisk(O4) the price would be around \$130,000 +/- 10% with the following assumptions. The price for the top four pieces (O1-O4) would be around \$45,000 +/- 10% with the same assumptions:

1. The base up to the bottom of the stone with the relief carved on the corners would be solid concrete with the stone being a veneer.
2. The material would be Indiana Buff or Silver Buff limestone with a smooth finish.
3. Marble panels and inscriptions on marble panels are not included.
4. FOB Job Site.
5. No taxes or bonding is included.
6. Drawings with two sets of redline revisions are included.
7. Installation is by others.
8. Lead time is 4-6 months from approved drawings and 50% deposit.
9. New Mexico Travertine, Inc. standard terms and conditions apply.



04.e Option #4 - Clean Existing Monument Plinth and Replace One Marble Panel

Option #4 - Clean Existing Monument Plinth and Replace One Marble Panel					
Santa Fe Soldier's Monument					
Item No.	description	unit	cost including O&P	quantity	subtotal
1	Seal all gaps between stone with new mortar				
	Stone Mason (# of man hours)	Ea.	\$125.00	24	\$3,000.00
2	Remove portions of flaking sandstone at base				
	Stone Mason (# of man hours)	Ea.	\$125.00	24	\$3,000.00
3	Clean existing plinth base, marble, and obelisk using the mildest means				
	Stone Mason (# of man hours)	Ea.	\$125.00	80	\$10,000.00
4	Remove existing marble and cut into thinner piece to engrave				
	Estimated (# of man hours)	Ea.	\$125.00	48	\$6,000.00
	Specialized Equipment	Ea.	\$30,000.00	1	\$30,000.00
OPTION #4 CLEAN PLINTH BASE & REPLACE MARBLE PANEL ONLY SUBTOTAL					\$52,000.00
CONTINGENCY @ 15%					\$7,800.00
Subtotal					\$59,800.00
Overhead @ 10%					\$5,980.00
Subtotal					\$65,780.00
Profit @ 10%					\$6,578.00
Subtotal					\$72,358.00
Bond @ 2%					\$1,447.16
Subtotal					\$73,805.16
NMGRT @ 8.1875%					\$5,924.31
OPTION #4 CLEAN PLINTH BASE & REPLACE MARBLE PANEL ONLY GRAND TOTAL					\$79,729.47

**NOTE: this option was added as a Supplemental Option at the request of the City Manager, Mark Scott. This option provides the cost to retain the monument today without the obelisk. It does not include any cost to replace additional damaged sandstone that may deteriorate further with the cleaning.





ERECTED
BY THE PEOPLE OF NEW MEXICO
THROUGH THEIR LEGISLATURES
OF 1896 - 78
IN MEMORY OF REPUBLICAN