

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

1. Name of Property

historic name: World War I Memorial

other name/site number:

2. Location

street & number: Taunton Avenue (at Weldon Street)

not for publication: N/A

city/town: East Providence vicinity: N/A

state: RI county: Providence code: 007 zip code: 02915

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: public-local

Category of Property: object

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing	
_____	_____	buildings
_____	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
<u>1</u>	_____	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

Name of related multiple property listing: Outdoor Sculpture of RI, 1851-present

Property name World War I Memorial, Providence Cty., East Providence, RI

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria.

 See continuation sheet.

Frederic W. Wilkinson
Signature of certifying official

Date 3/21/01

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

 See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain):

Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic: RECREATION AND CULTURE

Current: RECREATION AND CULTURE

Sub: work of art

Sub: work of art

Property name World War I Memorial, Providence Cty., East Providence, RI

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

NA

Other Description:

Materials: foundation _____ roof _____
 walls _____ other METAL, bronze

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

X See continuation sheet.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: statewide

Applicable National Register Criteria: A

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): F

Areas of Significance: Art

Period(s) of Significance: 1927

Significant Dates: 1927

Significant Person(s):

Cultural Affiliation:

Architect/Builder: A Montana, Pietro (sculptor)

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

X See continuation sheet.

Property name World War I Memorial, Providence Cty., East Providence, RI

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary Location of Additional Data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other state agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other -- Specify Repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: Less than one

UTM References:	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	<u>19</u>	<u>303080</u>	<u>4632250</u>	B		
C	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	D		

See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description: See continuation sheet.

Boundary Justification: See continuation sheet.

11. Form Prepared By

Name/Title: Ronald J. Onorato

Organization: RI Historical Preservation & Heritage Comm. Date: June 2000

Street & Number: 150 Benefit Street Telephone: 401-222-2678

City or Town: Providence State: RI ZIP: 02903

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Property name World War I Memorial, Providence Cty., East Providence, RI

Section number 7

Page 5

Description

This is a larger-than-life-size bronze soldier, set on a high granite base. The soldier stands with legs apart, his left hand at his belt, the right at his side. The face is impassive and expressionless. He wears a disheveled infantry uniform, rough shoes, the shirt collar open and askew, the sleeves rolled back, the knee torn open, his helmet on the ground behind his left foot. The sculpture is 7'9" tall, 2'7" wide, and 32" deep. A holster hangs from the belt on the soldier's right hip. The sculpture is signed: "Pietro Montana/SC/1927."

The base of the monument is grey granite and is 6'4" high, 3'2" wide, and 3'6" deep, with small foliate designs carved at the corners. Rectangular bronze reliefs, 2'x2'8", with arched tops are set on the front and each side of the base. Each is signed in the same fashion as the sculpture. The front relief reads: "ERECTED TO THE MEMORY/OF THE CITIZENS OF EAST/PROVIDENCE WHO SERVED/IN THE WORLD WAR/1917*1918/DEDICATED JULY 30, 1927/IN MEMORIAM." Listed in two columns below the inscription are twenty-three names.

The left relief depicts a marching infantry column, one man on horseback, four on foot. The right relief depicts an artillery scene--four or five men load a cannon. The relief on the rear side of the base shows a nurse assisting two wounded soldiers, with an indistinct battle scene in the background.

The sculpture is in moderately good condition. The surface is stained and pitted, but there do not appear to be any missing parts or any breaks in the surface. It is located in front of a school, now converted to housing, near the city's civic center.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Property name World War I Memorial, Providence Cty., East Providence, RI

Section number 8

Page 6

Significance

East Providence's World War I Memorial (1927) is historically significant as the city's principal effort to honor those who served in the first World War and because it is an unusually successful depiction of the soldier in battle. Unlike other war monuments which show military figures in stock poses, this expressive figure stands as if he has just arisen from the heat of battle, with legs apart and athletic physique revealed by his torn uniform. Through posture and bulk the sculptor has given the figure monumentality, somewhat like Michelangelo's David, a reference which is underscored by the infantryman's oversized hands (one of which is dynamically half-clenched in tension), powerful musculature, and massive head.

Pietro Montana (1890-1978) was a painter as well as a sculptor. He was born in Alcamo, Italy, and studied at the Art School of Cooper Union; he was working in New York when he modeled this soldier. Montana was an active sculptor into the 1950s. His works include a number of war memorials, though no others in Rhode Island. His clients included many Catholic institutions in and near New York City.

Though primarily commemorative in intent, the World War I Memorial achieves historical significance as East Providence's expression of honor for its citizens who served in the war.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Property name World War I Memorial, Providence Cty., East Providence, RI

Section number 9

Page 7

Major Bibliographical References

Falk, Peter Hastings (ed.). Who Was Who in American Art.
Sound View Press, Madison, CT. 1980, p. 427.

"Outdoor Sculpture of Rhode Island," technical report, Rhode
Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission,
1998.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Property name World War I Memorial, Providence Cty., East Providence, RI

Section number 10

Page 8

Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the nominated property is the land on which the sculpture and its base sit.

Boundary Justification

The World War I Memorial is set in its original location on a small plaza near the center of East Providence. The historic significance of the work, however, is not dependent on its immediate setting (though its location near the city's civic center is not unimportant) but is encompassed within the object itself.



IN MEMORY OF THE
SOLDIERS WHO
DIED IN THE
WAR OF 1861-1865



44

World War I Memorial

Taunton Avenue

East Providence, RI

Photographer: Ronald J. Onorato

date: 6/2000

Negative: RIHP+HC

150 Benefit St.

Providence, RI

View: Looking west

Photo # 1 of 1

World War I Memorial
Providence County
East Providence, RI
19.303080.4632250

