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Worcester Public Art for ESL Students

Eleanor Rueffer
nrueffer@clarku.edu

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Worcester Art for ESL Students

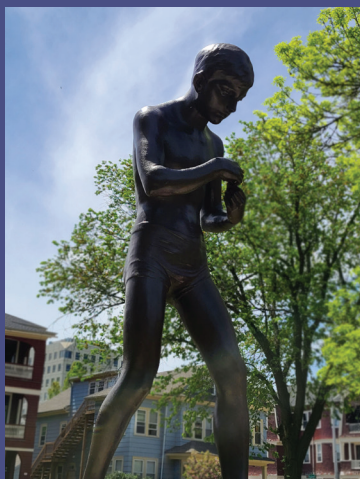
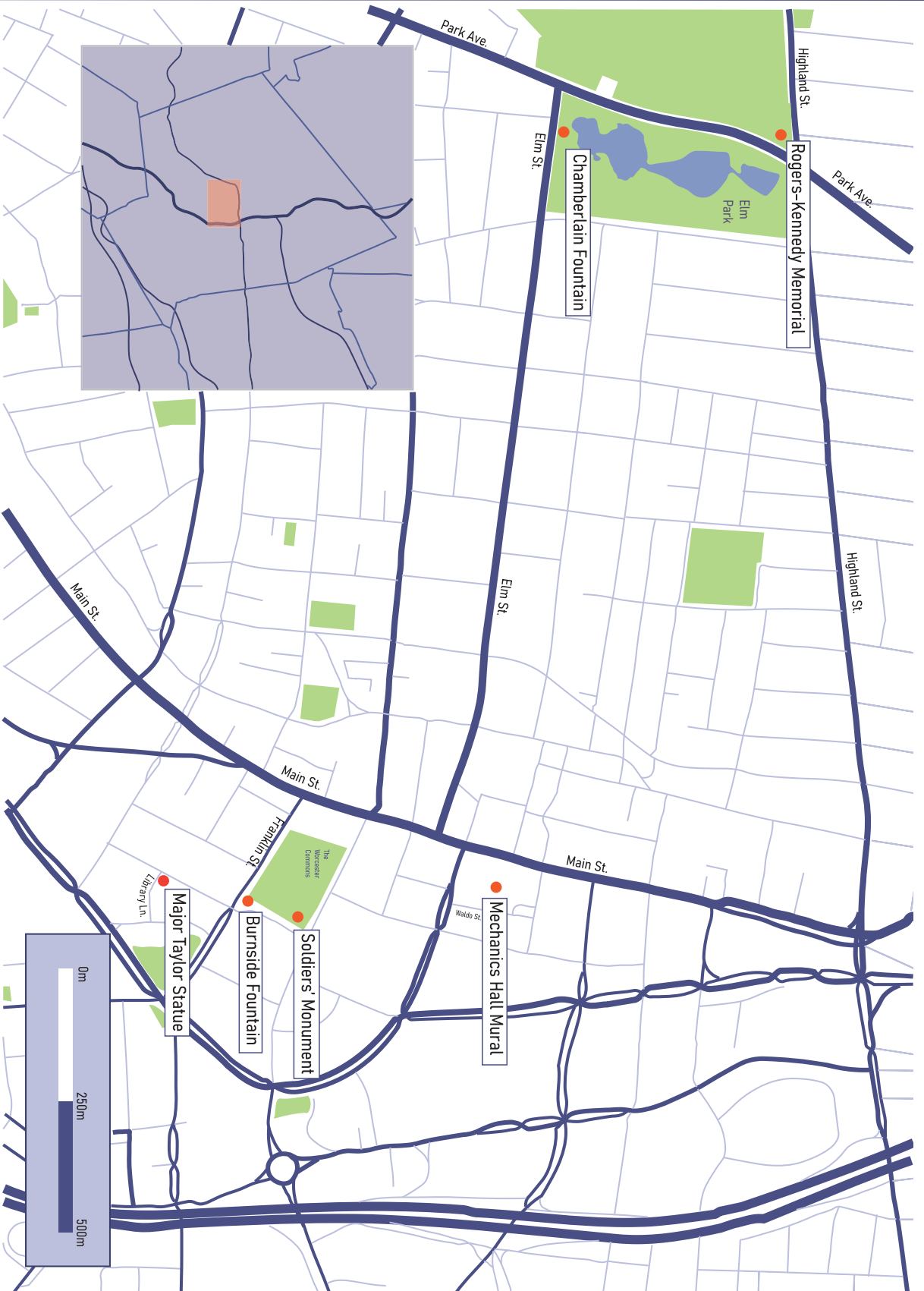




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Sources: Mass GIS (Bureau of Geographic Information), Commonwealth of Massachusetts EOTSS, City of Worcester
Map Creation: Adlai Nelson

Burnside Fountain

Fast Facts:

When was it built? 1912

Who made it? Henry Bacon, Charles Harvey, Sherry Fry and Daniel Chester French.

How big is it? 5 ft × 12 ft (1.5 m × 3.7 m)

Where is it? Worcester Commons

Burnside **Fountain** is also called “Turtle Boy” or “Boy with a Turtle.” It is one of Worcester’s most famous sculptures. It is a statue of a naked boy holding the back of a turtle on top of a large **basin**. It was a fountain, but it doesn’t work anymore and there is no water in it.

Water **flowed** from the turtle’s mouth into the basin and animals would drink from it. There are four holes in the basin that horses could drink from when the fountain still worked. When the fountain still worked, each hole had moving water in it and was automatically washed out after it was used. This stopped **bacteria** from being spread between horses.



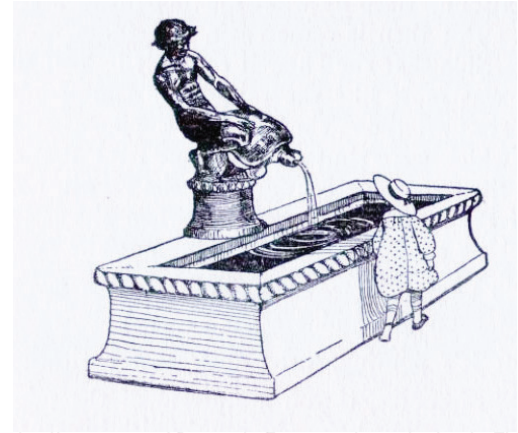
Front view of Burnside Fountain



The dog bowl on the back of the fountain.



One of the drinking holes for horses in the basin.



An illustration of Burnside Fountain from the book "The Cloud Bird."

At the back, there is a bowl close to the ground that dogs could drink from. On the front of the fountain, it says: THE GIFT OF HARRIET P. F. BURNSIDE A.D. MCMIII. A.D MCMIII is Latin for 1903. In a newspaper article from "The Worcester Telegram" from the year 1913, the boy is described as a **faun**. Maybe the sculpture was **inspired by** ancient Greek or Roman **mythology** and is of a faun and a turtle.

Burnside fountain was a present from Mrs. Harriet Burnside, who lived from 1827 to 1903. She was the daughter of a famous lawyer and was one of the richest women in Worcester during this time. She was a very important woman in Worcester and was famous for her work with many charities. She gave \$5,000 to the city of Worcester on April 6, 1904 to build a **memorial** for her father. This memorial was the Burnside Fountain.

Making Burnside Fountain was very difficult and many people worked on it. First, Daniel French was hired to **sculpt** the fountain but he gave the job to Charles Harvey. Charles Harvey died before the statue was completed so it was finished by a different **sculptor** named Sherry Fry. He was a famous sculptor. Henry Bacon made the basin. The fountain was finished in 1912. The fountain was originally across the street but it was moved to the Worcester Commons in 1969.

The fountain was always very popular. For example, in 1916 Margaret C. Getchell wrote about turtle boy in a children's book called "The Cloud Bird." There is a whole chapter about Turtle Boy called "the Adventurer in Armour." There are many **illustrations** of Burnside Fountain in the book, that show how the fountain looked when it still worked.

In 1970 somebody stole the statue of the boy from the top of the fountain. It then reappeared a few months later so the police did not arrest the people or person that stole it. Unfortunately, in 2004 someone tried to steal that statue again, but they could not take the statue, so they left the broken statue in the basin. The statue was repaired.

In old photos of the Burnside fountain, the sculpture is green because the statue is made of **bronze**. Bronze reacts with air and slowly turns green. In 2021 the statue was cleaned, turning it back to its original brown color.

“Turtle Boy” now looks like he did 100 years ago and is in the Commons by Franklin street and Church street.



The Soldiers' Monument

Fast Facts:

When was it built? 1874

Who made it? Randolph Rogers

How big is it? 66 ft x 24 ft (20m x 7m)

Where is it? The Worcester Commons

Randolph Rogers sculpted the Soldiers' Monument with help from James Goodwin to remember the people who died in the Civil War. The Soldiers' Monument was finished in 1874.

The Civil War started on April 12 in 1861 and ended on May 9 in 1865. The war was fought between the Union and the Confederacy about **slavery**. The Union was the Northern states including Massachusetts. The Confederacy was the Southern states. The war was fought to decide if slavery should continue. The Union thought it should stop and the Confederacy thought it should



On the top tier there is a relief of two swords and a laurel plant. On the tier below there is a relief of a dying soldier.

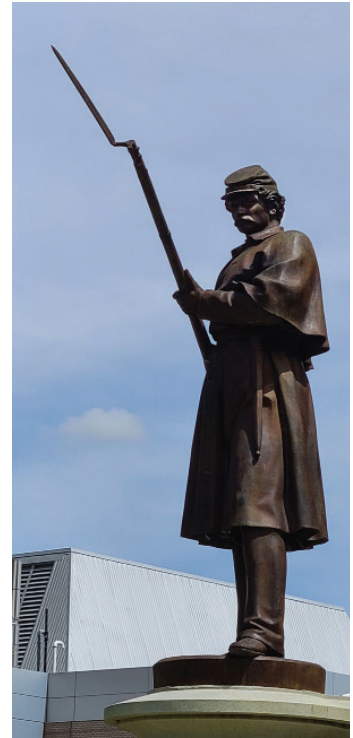
continue. The Confederacy made its money by farming, and to keep farming cheap they thought that they needed to keep slaves. The Confederacy thought their **economy** would fail without slavery. The Confederacy tried to leave the United States so that they could keep slaves, but the Union didn't want them to leave, so there was a war. The Union won the war and slavery became illegal in the United States. It was the largest war fought in the US. 4,227 men from Worcester fought in the war and 324 died in the war. The Soldiers' Monument was created to remember the men from Worcester who fought in the war.

Originally, the City of Worcester wanted to make a victory arch, similar to the Arc de Triomphe in Paris. City officials wanted to put the arch in the middle of the City Commons. The price for the arch was \$90,000, but that was too expensive, so Worcester had to make a different plan. Instead, they gave the sculptor Randolph Rogers \$50,000 to make the Soldiers' Monument. Randolph Rogers was a famous sculptor who lived from 1825 to 1892. He was born in the US but also did a lot of work in Europe. He made many famous Civil War Monuments.



The names of all the men from Worcester who died in the Civil War.

8 The Soldiers' Monument



The Soldiers' Monument has three parts: the **base**, the **column**, and the sculpture on the top. The base of the sculpture is very big and has multiple **tiers**. On top of the bottom tier are four statues. Each statue **symbolizes** one branch of the military that fought during the Civil War. The four branches of the military were: One: the Artillery. They used large guns like **cannons**. Two: The Navy. They fought on water. Three: the Cavalry. They fought on horses, and four: the Infantry. They fought on foot. On the side of the base below the statues are the names of the people from Worcester who died in the war. On the next tier, there is a bronze **relief** on each side. On one side, there

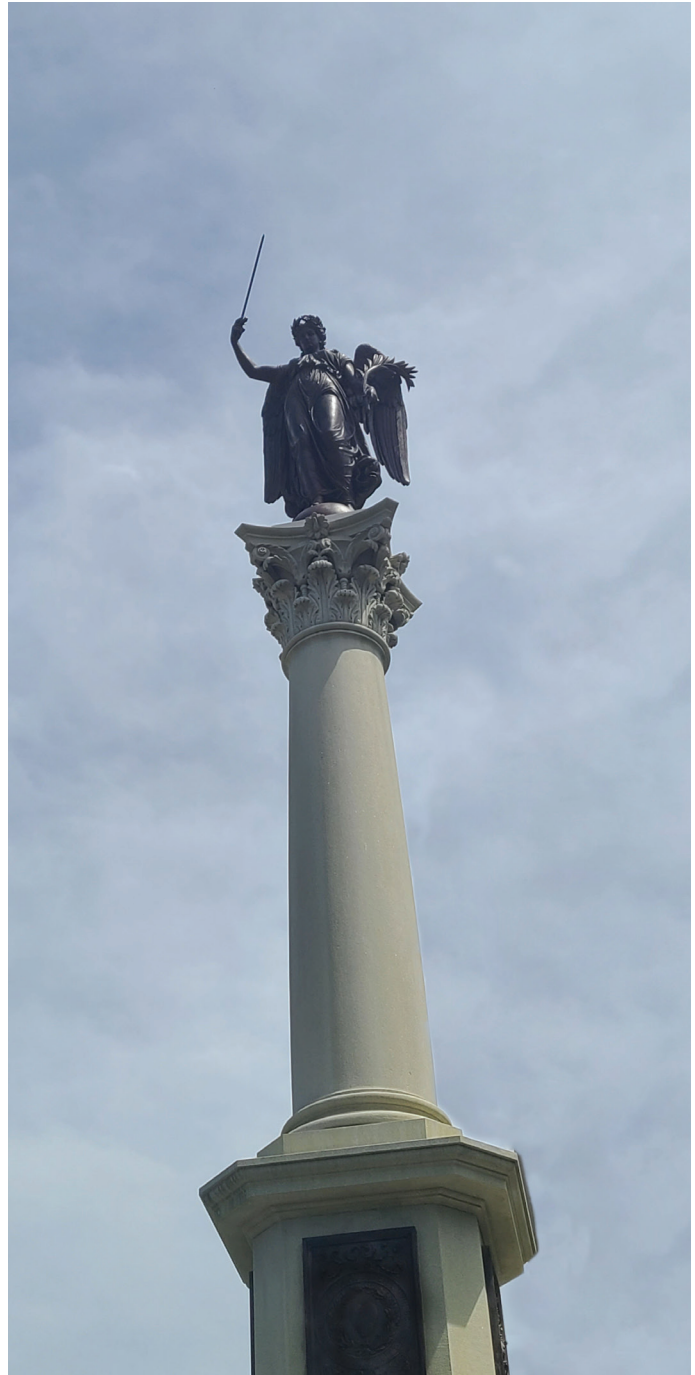
is a **portrait** of Abraham Lincoln, who was the President during the Civil War. On another, there is a portrait of John A. Andrew, who was the governor of Massachusetts. On another there is a dying soldier who is being helped by another soldier. On the last bronze relief, it says **ERECTED BY THE PEOPLE OF WORCESTER IN MEMORY OF HER SONS WHO DIED FOR THE UNITY OF THE REPUBLIC AD 1861-1865**. On the front of the third tier, there is the **seal** of Worcester. On the left of the third tier, there is the **symbol** for the US and on the right, there is the seal of Massachusetts. On the back of the third tier, there are two swords and a circle of leaves from the laurel plant. The

laurel is a symbol of victory.

On top of the base is a Corinthian column. A Corinthian column is a thin column that was popular in ancient Greece. At the top of a Corinthian column, there are sculpted leaves and other decorations. On top of the column on the Soldiers' Monument, there is a statue of Nike. Nike is the ancient Greek goddess of **Victory**.

Originally, the Soldiers' Monument was two feet taller than it is now. In 1969 the Worcester Commons was renovated and the path to the monument was fixed. This buried the bottom of the base, and it is now shorter than when it was built. The Soldier's Monument was renovated in 2016, and the statues were cleaned. Before 2016 the bronze was green because it **reacted** with air, but now it is brown.

The Soldiers' Monument can be visited in the Worcester Commons.



The Major Taylor Statue

Fast Facts:

When was it built? 2008

Who made it? Antonio Mendez

How big is it? 10 ft x 12 ft (3m x 4m)

Where is it? Outside of the Main Branch of the Library

The sculptor Antonio Tobias Mendez made the Major Taylor statue, which is also called “The Tribute to Major Taylor.” He finished it in 2008. The statue was made to remember Major Taylor, who was the first black American professional **cyclist**. He lived in Worcester for 35 years.

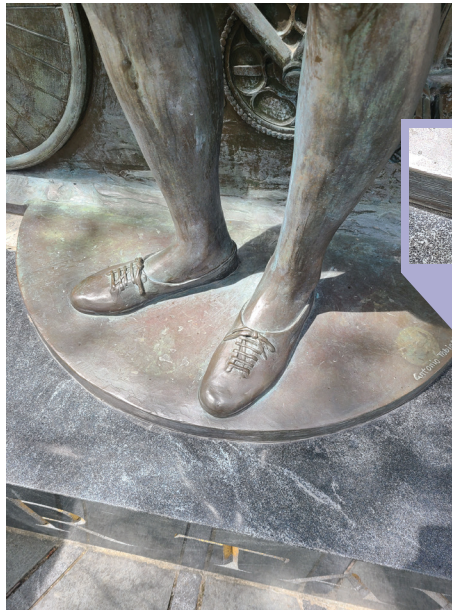
Major Taylor’s full name was Marshall Walter Taylor and “Major” was his **nickname**. He was born in Indianapolis in 1878 and died in Chicago in 1932. When Marshall Taylor was 11 he worked at a bicycle store in Indianapolis and bought a bicycle. He did **tricks**



The back of the Major Taylor statue that tells his story.



The writing on the relief.



The signature of Antonio Tobias Mendez near Major Taylor's foot.



on the bicycle and wore a military coat. He got his nickname "Major" from the military coat because a Major is also a **rank** in the military. Major Taylor also won his first bicycle race when he was 11. Major Taylor lived when there was a lot of **racism** in America. In some states, there were Jim Crow Laws. Jim Crow Laws were laws that made segregation legal. This meant that black people were allowed to be treated worse than white people and separated from them. Black people weren't allowed to be in the same places as white people, or use the same things as white people. For example, some **landlords** did not rent their apartments to people who were not white Americans. White and black children also had to attend different schools. Not all states had Jim Crow Law laws but all states had a lot of racism.

In 1895 Major Taylor moved to Worcester with his boss from the bicycle shop. His boss' name was Louis Munger. They moved to Worcester so that Louis Munger could start a bicycle factory in Worcester. They also moved to Worcester because there was less racism than in Indianapolis. Louis Munger was a **high wheel** race champion and saw Major Taylor's talent. He helped train Major Taylor. Major Taylor was the fastest bicycle racer and was the first black American bicycle champion. Even though he was a really good racer, people were still racist to him. Sometimes he wouldn't be allowed to join races because of the color of his skin. Other times other people would hit him during races, or people in the audience shouted at him. Major Taylor faced many difficulties, but he still decided to be a cyclist. He

12 The Soldiers' Monument

is famous for being one of the best cyclists ever. Even now, with better bicycles than in the 1800s, not many people are able to beat his records.

He won the world 1-mile bicycle championship in Montreal, Canada in 1899. In 1899 he also biked one mile in 1 minute 19 seconds, which broke the world record. In 1901 Major Taylor **raced** in 24 races in Europe and won 18 of them. He also raced 57 races in 1902 and won 40 of them.

Even though he had a difficult life, he did what he liked to do. He raced even when other people didn't want him to. To honor Major Taylor and his connection with Worcester the Major Taylor **Association** wanted to make a statue. They had a competition to find an artist to make it. The winner of the competi-



tion was Tobias Mendez. Tobias Mendez is a sculptor who lives in Maryland and makes a lot of sculptures of people.

The Major Taylor Statue has two sides. One of the sides has a sculpture of Major Taylor holding his bicycle in front of a **background**. In the background, there are a lot of people watching the bicycle race. On the back side of the statue, there is a **relief** that shows a bicycle race. Below the relief, it tells the story of Major Taylor. It is made of stone and bronze. The sculpture is on top of a circle that looks like a bicycle wheel.

The Major Taylor Statue was finished in 2008 and is outside of the library on Library Lane.

Mechanics Hall Mural

Fast Facts:

When was it painted? 2016

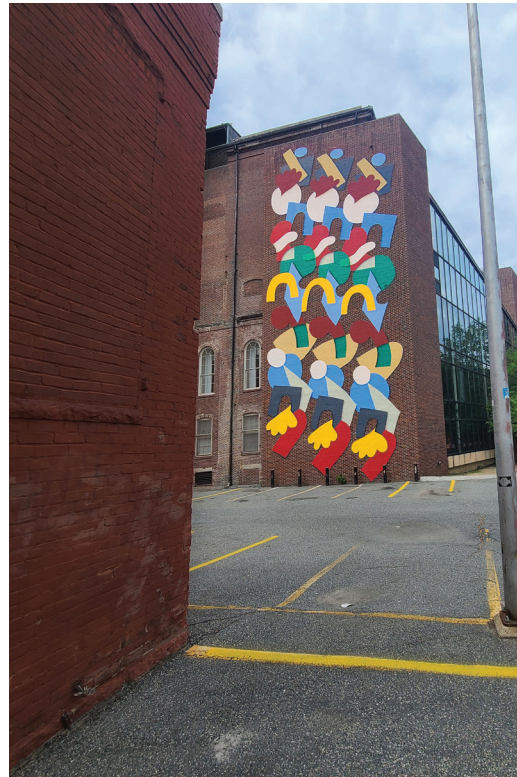
Who painted it? Morgan Blair

How big is it? 28.5 ft x 66 ft (8.7m x 20m)

Where is it? Mechanics Hall

Morgan Blair painted the colorful mural on the wall near the parking lot of Mechanics Hall in 2016. The organization "PowWow! Worcester" commissioned the mural. The mural by Morgan Blair is of colorful abstract shapes that are inspired by the architecture and decoration inside Mechanics Hall.

Mechanics Hall is one of the most beautiful old concert halls in the US, and there are still many concerts there every year. The Worcester Mechanics Association built the hall and it was finished in 1857. The Worcester Mechanics Association taught people mechanical jobs and helped mechanics



and their families in case they lost their jobs or became sick. During this period, 1815 - 1861, anyone who did work with their hands was called a mechanic. The Mechanics Association built the hall to teach classes, help families and have events. There is beautiful decoration inside the hall like paintings, red carpets and lights.

Morgan Blair was inspired by the architecture and decoration of Mechanics Hall when she painted the mural. Her father worked at Mechanics Hall for forty years, so she knew a lot about the architecture, colors, and details inside the hall. She used those details to

14 The Mechanics Hall Mural

make **simplified** shapes and choose colors that she painted outside of the Hall. She brought the details from the inside to the outside.

The abstract shapes are in **diagonal** groups of three. The different shapes are in lines that go from the top to the bottom. The colors are similar to the colors inside the hall, and the shapes look like decorations and furniture. For example, the red shape at the bottom of the mural looks like a **red carpet**. The black shape above it looks like an **arch** and there are many arches inside Mechanics Hall. The light blue triangles and white circles above those look like **spotlights**.

The mural was organized through the organization “PowWow! Worcester.” “PowWow! Worcester” is an organization that hires different artists to paint murals around Worcester so that everyone can see them. They have organized over 160 artworks around Worcester.

The mural can be seen on the side of Mechanics hall by Waldo street.



The Rogers-Kennedy Memorial

Fast Facts:

When was it built? 1929

Who made it? Maurice Sterne

How big is it? 26 ft x 130 ft. (8m x 39.6m)

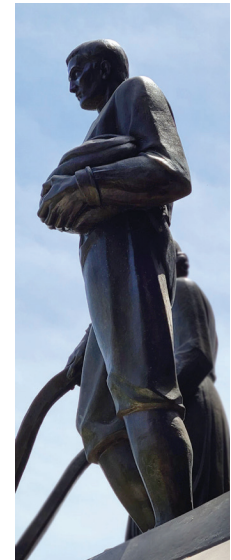
Where is it? Elm Park

The Rogers-Kennedy Memorial, which people also call “The New England Settlers” or “Sowers Monument” has 2 parts. First, there is a stone base of the sculpture. Second, there is the bronze sculpture at the top. Ellen Rogers-Kennedy gave it to the City of Worcester. In her will, she left \$75,000 to make the memorial, and the city had a competition to find an artist to build it. The winner was Maurice Sterne and he finished the statue in 1929.

The Rogers-Kennedy memorial honors the early European settlers of New



The front of the Rogers-Kennedy memorial



The sculpture on top of the base with two people holding a plow

England and Worcester. The statue is of a man and a woman, both holding a plow in the middle. A plow is a tool used to break dirt and is a **symbol of farming**. The base for the sculpture is very big and it tells the story of the early settlers' lives and how they **survived** in the **wilderness**. In the front **panel**, which is under the front of the plow, a man and a woman are in a boat coming to America from Europe. The other panels on the front show them starting to farm wheat to grow food. On the left and right of the base, the man and the woman have a child and are making boats, fishing and hunting. On the back, the panel shows the family living happily because of all of the work that they did. The panels show all of the activities that settlers did every

day: farming, catching animals, **weaving**, hunting, and teaching their children. Something that is special about this sculpture is that men and women are working together and helping each other survive and make a **community**.

Mrs. Rogers-Kennedy gave the money for this sculpture and she lived from 1844 to 1918. She was a very rich and popular woman in Worcester, and she was a part of the Worcester Women's Club. Women's Clubs were organizations where women would talk about politics and organize **protests**. For example, women's clubs were organized to win women the right to vote. She also worked with many **charities** and gave away all of her money when she died. The people who organized the

monument with Mrs. Rogers-Kennedy's money chose Maurice Sterne to make the monument. Maurice Sterne was a famous sculptor who lived from 1877 to 1957 and was born in Latvia. He became a US citizen in 1904.

When the statue was finished in 1929, many people in Worcester did not like it. For example, they did not like that the farmers in the panels were growing wheat, because when the settlers were in New England, they grew corn. People also did not like how Maurice Sterne sculpted people. They thought that the people had too many muscles and that they should be thinner. Many people also did not like that the people

in the sculpture had so many **angles**. The Rogers-Kennedy Memorial is in the art **style** of Modernism. Modernism is a type of art that started in the late 1800s and ended in the 1940s. Modernist artists wanted to make art that was different from art in the past and wanted to make new art with new ideas. A lot of Modernist art has many angles and doesn't look **natural**. Many people at that time did not like modernist art so they did not like this memorial.

Another reason that many people did not like the Rogers-Kennedy Memorial was because they didn't think that Maurice Sterne was American enough. People didn't like that he was from



Above: Multiple panels showing the life of the settlers.
 Left: Maurice Sterne's signature by the woman's foot.

Latvia and not from the United States. On the other hand, many people think that Maurice Sterne was a good choice to make the memorial because he was a recent immigrant. The Rogers-Kennedy Memorial is about immigration, and how the first Europeans immigrated to America.

In 2006 the Rogers-Kennedy Memorial was fixed. Now it looks the same as when it was first built. It is across the street from Elm Park by Highland Street and Park Avenue.



The front panel of the settlers coming to New England.



Chamberlain Fountain

Fast Facts:

When was it built?: 1915

Who made it?: Andrew O'Connor and John. J. Kittredge

How big is it?: 8 ft x 11 ft. x 5 ft. 6 in. (2.4m x 3.4m x 1.5m)

Where is it?: Elm Park



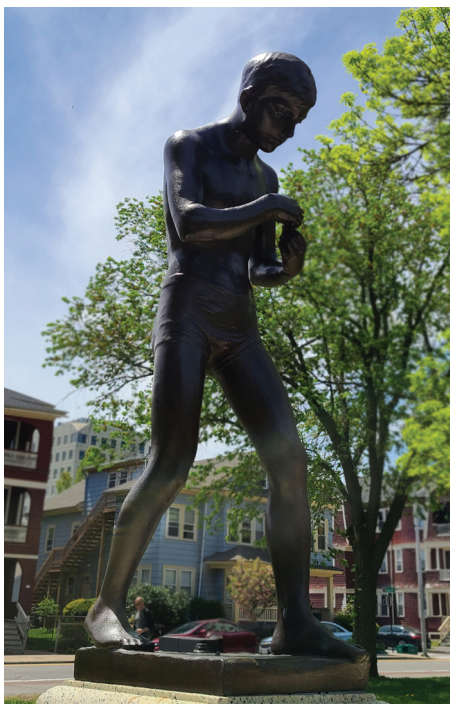
Chamberlain Fountain, which is also called Fisher Boy, is a drinking fountain for animals, similar to Burnside Fountain. There are two parts to this fountain: the sculpture and the basin. The sculpture is made of bronze and it is on top of the basin. The sculpture is of a boy in a bathing suit. In the past, the boy held a **fishing rod** but the fishing rod is now lost. The basin is made of **granite** and has 6 holes that horses could drink from. Water **flowed** from the holes that kept the water clean. There are also two holes on each side of the basin that dogs could drink out of.

The fountain was a present from Mrs. Louisa B. Chamberlain in 1913. She was

the wife of Dr. William B Chamberlain. He was a famous doctor, and when he died his wife wanted to make a **memorial** to remember him. They lived on Elm Street and watched the horses, dogs, and other animals on the street. In her **will**, she gave \$5,000 to the City of Worcester to make a water fountain for the animals. When she died there was a competition to design the sculpture that would go on top of the fountain.

The winner of the competition was Andrew O'Connor, who was a very talented local artist. He later sculpted many sculptures of famous people and worked with many famous artists like John Singer Sargent.

20 Chamberlain Fountain



Left: The hole in the side for dogs to drink from.



Above: The holes in the basin for horses to drink out of.

Left: An illustration of Chamberlain fountain from the book "The Cloud Bird."

The sculpture looks like a boy that just came out of the water and is planning to go fishing. The youngest son of John J. Kittredge was the model for the sculpture. John J. Kittredge was the **contractor** for the fountain and sculpted the basin. It was originally in the middle of Washington Square, near the train station. The sculpture was finished on August 14, 1915.

It was also a popular sculpture and Margaret C. Getchell wrote about it in 1916 in the children's book "The cloud bird." The illustrations show how the sculpture looked when it was new.

In the beginning, the sculpture was very useful, and a lot of horses drank

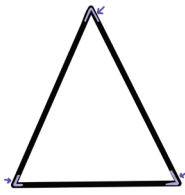
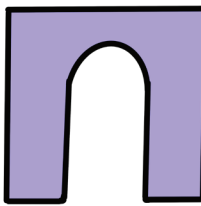
from it. When cars became popular the fountain was used less. Later, the city was building roads for cars, and the fountain was in the way and was dangerous for traffic. So, in 1956 it was moved to Elm Park, where it is now. In 1966 one of the boy's ankles was cut through by **vandals**. In 1978 both of the boy's ankles were cut through and the sculpture was pushed off of the basin.

Now the sculpture is fixed and is in Elm Park by Elm street.


Glossary

Word	Defintion	Picture
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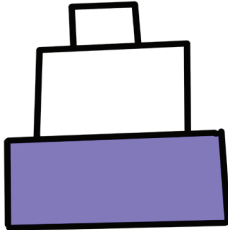
A

Abstract	Art that doesn't show real objects	
Angles	Corners at the edges of shapes	
Arch	A curved opening	
Association	A group of people who work together to fix a problem	

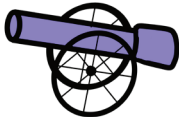
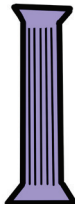
B

Background	The area behind the main part of a painting	
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22 Glossary

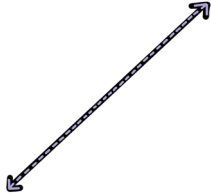
Bacteria	A very small organism that makes people sick	
Base	The bottom of something	
Basin	A big bowl that has water in it	
Bronze	A type of metal that is made of copper and tin	

C

Cannons	A very big gun on wheels	
Charities	Organizations that try to fix a problem by helping people who can't pay money	
Column	A carved pillar that holds something up	
Commissioned	To hire someone to make something (Past tense of commission)	
Community	A group of people that are similar in some way, for example, religion or nationality	

Contractor	Someone who is hired to organize and build something	
Curates	Organizing and choosing artwork to be shown	
Cyclist	Someone who rides bicycles	

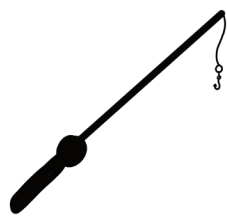
D

Decoration	Something that you put somewhere to make something more beautiful	
Diagonal	A straight line that goes up and down from side to side	

E

Economy	The things that a country or state produces and how much money they make	
---------	--	--

F


Farming	Growing plants or animals for food	
Faun	A mythological animal that is half human and half goat	
Fishing Rod	A stick with a string that is used to catch fish	

Flowed	Moved, like a small river	
Fountain	An object made by humans that water comes out of	

G

Granite	A kind of stone that is often used for building things. It looks like there are many stones in one stone	
---------	--	--

H

High Wheel	A bike that has one big wheel and one small wheel. They were popular a long time ago	
Honor	To show respect for something	

I

Illustration	Art that accompanies writing or a story and helps to explain it	
Inspired by	Where the idea for something came from	

J

K

L

Landlords	The people who own houses or apartments and rent them to other people	
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M


Memorial	A statue made to remember a person or an important event	
Mural	A painting on a wall	
Mythology	Traditional stories that explain why things are the way they are	

N

Natural	How something is in nature	
Nickname	A funny or shorter name that someone is called instead of their real name	


O

P

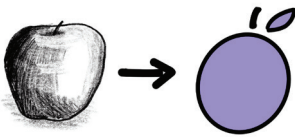
Panel	A part of an artwork that is separate from another part of the artwork. They are usually rectangles	
Plow	A tool used in farming to break dirt before seeds are planted	
Portrait	A painting or sculpture that is of a specific person	
Protests	Getting together and showing that people don't like something. People usually hold signs and shout	


Q

R

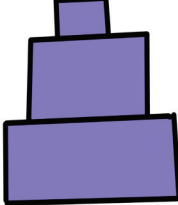
Race	A competition to see who is the fastest, for example by running, cycling or swimming	
Racism	Treating someone badly because of their skin color	
Rank	Levels in the military, like captain or major	
Reacted	Changed because of something else	
Red Carpet	A long carpet that is put out for important people to walk on	
Relief	A sculpture that is attached to a background	

S

Sculpt	To make a sculpture	
Sculptor	The person who makes a sculpture	
Seal	A design that is special to a city, country or state	
Settlers	People who move to a new country or area	
Simplified	Something that is made easier or less complicated	
Slavery	An economic system where some people own other people	

Spotlights	Bright lights that are used on stages in theaters	
Style	How something looks	
Survive	Continue living	
Symbol	Something that means something else	Peace = 
Symbolizes	Verb of symbol: to be a symbol	

T

Tiers	Layers	
Tricks	Doing something that no one else can do for entertainment	

U

V

Vandals	People who break things intentionally	
Victory	Winning	

W

Weaving	Making cloth	
Wilderness	A natural area where people don't live	
Will	A document that has instructions about what to do with a person's money or property after they die	

X
Y
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The goal of “Worcester Public Art for ESL Students” is to help people connect to the city of Worcester through art. This booklet and website have information about six public works of art in Worcester. All of the art is free and easy to visit. The booklet and website use easy English and there is a glossary that has definitions of difficult words. There are also downloadable questions that can be answered and discussed about the art. This booklet can be used by both students and teachers as a way to talk about art, history, and much more!

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