

Monuments & Memorials



Photo by Daniel Walker



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Monuments at Doan's Crossing

Vernon is the county seat of Wilbarger County -- and both the city and county have a long and distinguished history. The Great Western Trail passed through downtown Vernon on its way north to the Doan's Crossing at the Red River. Several monuments lay out the history of the area and the cattle trail.

In addition, the Rotary Club of Vernon placed a marker recognizing the Western Trail's route through Vernon. The marker is on the southwest corner of the courthouse square. County residents have fought in every conflict from the Civil War up to modern times.

The Doughboy statue was originally dedicated in December 1926 in Allingham Park to county residents killed in World War I. It was cast by Ernest Viquesney and titled "Spirit of the American Doughboy." It features the names of 16 killed in

the war. It was moved to its current location at the courthouse in April of 1994. It was restored in 2011 to replace a missing gun. There were 138 of the doughboy statues originally made, but some been lost either as scrap metal, hit by cars or destroyed by vandals. There are currently nine of the statues in Texas -- with the Vernon statue as the oldest.

Also located at the courthouse square is the county's War Memorial. Inscribed on it are 73 names honoring those who were killed in World War II, Korea, Vietnam and in Iraq. The courthouse is also home to the the Confederate War memorial and a small cannon. The statue was dedicated in 1916. It is a full-length figure of a Confederate soldier. He wears a jacket, trousers and brimmed hat. A canteen hangs on his proper left hip and a bedroll drapes across his proper

left shoulder and over his back. He holds a rifle barrel with both hands. The butt of the gun rests on the ground in front of his feet. The granite sculpture stands on a squared granite pedestal. The front face of the pedestal features a bas-relief Confederate flag.

Allingham Park is home to the statute "Justice" and was crafted sometime after 1902 and is believed to have originally been dedicated as a drinking trough. It is a full-length female figure, classically dressed in long, flowing robes. Her hair is pulled back in a bun. In her proper right hand she holds a pitcher or urn. The painted metal sculpture stands on a slightly rounded block which sits on top of a rectangular pedestal. The pedestal ends at the back of a long, horizontal granite slab. The front half of the slab is hollowed out for a drinking trough or basin.