

Salisbury War Memorial

Heritage Statement

History and Background

1. The war memorial in Salisbury stands in the Market Square, in front of (north) the Grade II* listed Guildhall with which it is aligned. Its location outside this important civic building is likely to have been a conscious decision when planning the war memorial. An inscription honouring those who served during the Second World War was added later. It was designated as a grade II listed building of special architectural or historical interest on 8 June 2011.

Historic background

2. Salisbury War Memorial was unveiled by Lieutenant T E Adlam VC at a dedication ceremony on 12 February 1922, conducted by the Reverend W R F Addison VC, a World War One chaplain. The memorial was designed and constructed by Messrs H H Martyn & Company of Cheltenham, a company specialising in the design and production of sculptures and ecclesiastical furnishings, including the fittings for several Cunard ships and the oak South Africa war memorial, Eton Memorial Library, Eton (1908). It is thought that the design was created by Robert Lindsay Clark (1864-1926), a sculptor of national significance, who was employed by Messrs H H Martyn. In the aftermath of the First World War the firm also designed or contributed to the design of a number of war memorials such as those at Walsall, West Midlands; Victoria Park, Smethwick, West Midlands; Norton in Suffolk; and in Hartlepool.
3. A detailed description of the architecture of the memorial is noted on the National Heritage List and the Wiltshire Historic Environment Record (see 10 and 11 below).
4. In c late 1930s gated railings and paving in front of the memorial were added. The paved verges were recorded on the 1954 OS plan, but are not seen on the 1936-7 edition. However, the paving can be seen on an aerial photograph dated c.1930.
5. A rectangular Irish green marble plaque was added below the central oval medallion to commemorate those who gave their lives in World War II and "conflicts since." (Precise date of alteration unknown).
6. Original globes on top of bronze lamp standards intended to illuminate the names of the fallen during dark hours have been replaced by flames. (Precise date unknown).

Heritage significance

7. Significance is also defined within the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) as:

“Significance (for heritage policy): The value of a heritage asset to this and future generations because of its heritage interest. That interest may be archaeological, architectural, artistic or historic. Significance derives not only from a heritage asset’s physical presence, but also from its setting”. Annex 2 NPPF

8. A detailed report on the history, construction and heritage significance of the memorial was produced for Salisbury Vision (a now defunct multi-agency economic regeneration project funded by Wiltshire Council and including the former Salisbury District Council and Salisbury City Council) by Rodney Melville and Partners Chartered Architects and Historic Building Consultants *The Citizens’ War Memorial, Market Place, Salisbury: History and significance, July 2011*, for proposals to relocate the memorial within the Market Place in Salisbury. Much of this report informs our understanding of the heritage significance of the memorial and informs the current proposal to add additional memorial plaques listing those who died in WW2”.
9. The Salisbury memorial and others in the UK acts as focal points for remembrance of those have fallen in WW1 and WW2.

10. The entry in the National Heritage List includes the following:

Name: Salisbury War Memorial and railings
List entry Number: 1400920
Grade: II
Date first listed: 08-Jun-2011

Summary of Building

First World War memorial by Messrs H H Martyn & Company Ltd, unveiled on 12 February 1922, with later inscriptions commemorating those who served during the Second World War.

Reasons for Designation

The war memorial in the Market Place, Salisbury, designed by H H Martyn and Company and erected in 1922, is listed at Grade II for the following principal reasons:

Historic interest: as a permanent testament to the sacrifice made by this community in the First World War, it is of strong historic and cultural significance both at a local and a national level.

Artistic interest: the bronze sculpture is a powerful and expressive piece of work.

Design quality: in contrast to the standard war memorial design, the Salisbury memorial is a striking and expressive work in a horizontal form, incorporating the carved figure of a lion and the symbols of war Group value: it has strong group value with the adjacent Grade II* listed Guildhall with which it is aligned, and with other listed buildings in the Market Place. It adds considerably to the urban texture at the centre of the city

Materials: constructed of Portland stone, and embellished with bronze and marble.

Plan: the memorial stands in a prominent location in front of the Guildhall (Grade II*) and has a curved plan.

Description: it comprises a low, curved screen wall of Portland stone blocks surmounted by a bronze sculpture depicting a lion together with a helmet, sword, rifle, cannon and regimental colours with wreaths of victory. The curved north face of the memorial carries six bronze panels recording the names of 460 local men who lost their lives during the First World War. At the centre is a decorative arched pediment with dedicatory marble plaques and a carved relief of the city's coat of arms. The upper plaque is inscribed: ' IN HONOUR / AND REMEMBRANCE / OF THE CITIZENS OF / SALISBURY / WHO SERVED / WHO FOUGHT WHO DIED / FOR FREEDOM HOME / AND HUMANITY / 1914-1919. The lower panel was added after the Second World War and reads: 'FOR YOUR TOMORROW / WE GAVE OUR TODAY / WE HONOUR ALL THOSE WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES / IN THE SERVICE OF THE COUNTRY IN THE / SECOND WORLD WAR AND ALL CONFLICTS SINCE / WE WILL REMEMBER THEM'. At either end of the memorial wall are lanterns with bronze latticework standards.

Subsidiary Features: to the front (north) and sides of the memorial are ornate bronze railings with central gates to the front.

11. The memorial is listed in the Wiltshire Historical Environment Record with identical information cited. It is also recorded on the Imperial War Museum War Memorials Register.

Discussion

12. **Historic significance:** The memorial was originally created as a testament to those who sacrificed their lives for their community during the First World War, and later the Second World War and “conflicts since”.

13. In 2014 to mark the centenary of the First world War and as part of national commemorations to remember all of those who served both in combat and on the home front, including those who survived the war, HM Government through the Department of Communities and Local Government instituted and sponsored a scheme to lay memorial paving stones for all those who were awarded the Victoria Cross during the First World War. The VC is the British and Commonwealth's highest award for gallantry (an all ranks award). Only 1355 VCs have been awarded since 1856 and approximately one thirds of all VCs were awarded in the First World War.
14. Lieutenant Tom Adlam is the only VC winner in WW1 to have been born within the Wiltshire Unitary boundaries and went to school in Salisbury. He was one of only two VC winners born in the historic county of Wiltshire (the other within SBC, while the third person nominated by DCLG was not born in Wiltshire but has some connections to the county).
15. Lieutenant Tom Adlam unveiled the memorial in 1922 so has a direct association with the monument and the fact that he was invited to unveil the memorial suggests that citizens of Salisbury thought he was worthy of honour.
16. Therefore it is appropriate to place the paving stone within the boundary of a memorial to remembrance. While Adlam would be distinguished from other names on the memorial in that he survived the war, his rare act of gallantry demonstrated that like others, he was prepared to sacrifice his life and a commemorative paving stone in his honour may act as a further and appropriate focus of remembrance. However, since it is not proposed to erect his name on the original memorial alongside the fallen, but on the paving some distance in front of the memorial it could be considered that this will not detract from the idea that the original memorial was created to commemorate the fallen.
17. **Artistic interest and design qualities:** The memorial has been designated for “the bronze sculpture is a powerful and expressive piece of work” and “in contrast to the standard war memorial design, the Salisbury memorial is a striking and expressive work in a horizontal form.”
18. The proposal to add additional curving bronze plaques to the War Memorial listing those killed in WW2 should have little effect upon the quality of the art and design on the monument. The additional plaques will be of similar quality and design as the original and will be coherent with the rest to the design.
19. **Materials:** The memorial is “constructed of Portland stone, and embellished with bronze and marble.”
20. The proposal to add additional plaques does not affect the construction and materials of the original memorial.

21. The additional plaque will be bronze as the original plaques.
22. The memorial and its gated area has evolved since it was created in 1922 with the addition of gated paved area, alterations to the bronze lamp standards and a plaque to remember the fallen of the Second World War and conflicts since; and the addition of the VC paving stone. It might be argued that some of the physical alterations demonstrate that the way we remember those who fell and served in conflict is also evolving and that the addition of new plaques with additional names might be considered as a further appropriate layer in that process.
23. **Plan and surrounding area:** The proposed additional plaques, might be considered as unobtrusive with regard to the curved plan of the memorial and its setting alongside the Grade II Guildhall and within the Market Place.
24. **Local Consultation:** the additional plaques has been unanimously approved by the Salisbury Royal British Legion Committee after the Remembrance Service 2021.
25. **Conclusion** - The addition of new bronze plaque listing those killed in WW2 will clearly change the memorial. However, it might be argued that the new plaques will not detract from the look or surrounds of the memorial and will add to the significance or meaning of the structure.

Annie Child
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Salisbury City Council

June 2022