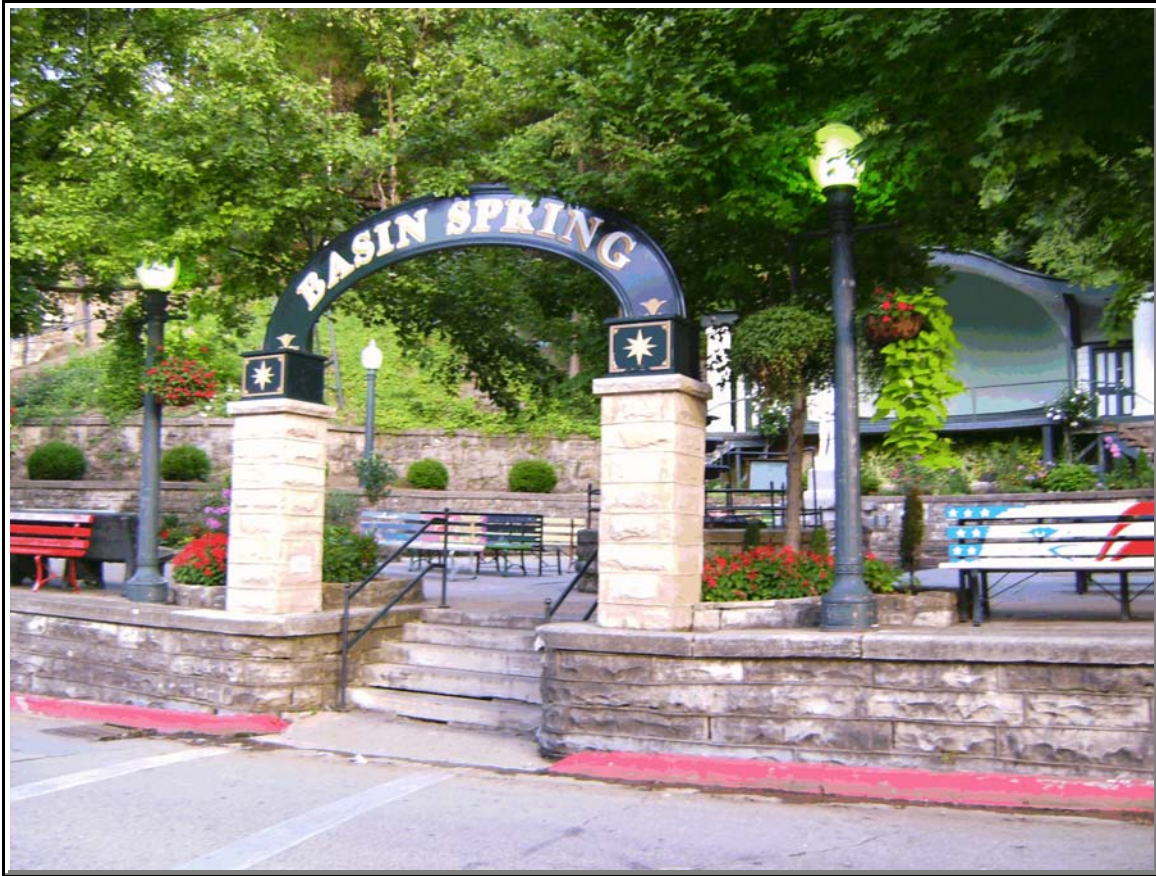


Basin Spring Park

as of
2008-2009



Large municipalities and small towns throughout the United States and the world — all have some central location where local citizenry and visiting dignitaries assemble. Such gatherings may be for entertainment or for official government proclamations. It may be called a park or a square or an arena such as a Coliseum. These assemblies may be officially called, brought forth spontaneously, or may be traditional, seasonal, or scheduled such as a regular day of the week.

Basin Spring Park of Eureka Springs, Arkansas became renowned for its healing waters from its early recorded days when attended by native American Indians who were followed by intervening White men.

This Eureka Springs Basin Spring Park has been relevant historically, since July 4, 1879, when some 400 people seeking healing had gathered at this water source. A town grew around this Basin when a Committee of Twelve was sworn in as officials to determine its future destiny. The Town was formalized on February 14, 1880.



By Ordinance/Resolution of April 30, 1880, the Town Council met at the Basin Spring at 6 o'clock p.m., June 5, 1880 to make plans to improve the Spring. Actions were finalized deeming that a circular embankment would be carved from the bluff at the Basin Spring.

Ever since, the Basin Spring Park has undergone several alterations and enhancements, however none more significant than the cutting into the mountain side that created the circle and the widening and elevation of Spring Street that borders its front. The first excavation was created in 1880-81 and a second was in 1890, which also formed most of the stone walls as they exist today and the construction of the cement platform raised above the level of the now enclosed "Basin."

Herein will be described an inventory of "Icons" that are installed in the circular park and an attempt to enumerate them with some historical significance. The most obvious is the arch at the entry way which is installed atop the two front columns. The rear of the arch sign has different lettering

which was the wording used on the very first sign in 1880 as seen at right.



Arch sign erected in 2004



1905 Rotary Seal 2005

In celebration of 100 years of
 Rotary International Service
 The Eureka Springs Rotary Club
 Presents this Arch
 Recognizing the 125th Anniversary
 of the Founding of
 Eureka Springs
 July 4, 1879 / July 4, 2004

Each of the two stone columns have historical plaques affixed on their rear sides.



Arch sign erected in 1880

The Text-Box plaque at left contains information pertaining to the contribution made by the local Rotary Club.

The Text-Box plaque on following page contains information pertaining to the projects performed by the Basin Park Improvement Committee commemorating July 4, 1879.



Basin Park Improvement Committee

Rick Armellini James DeVito
 Butch Berry Ray Dilfield
 Johnice Cross Leroy Gorrell

and

Eureka Springs Parks & Recreation
 Commission

Basin Spring 125th Anniversary
 July 4, 1879 / July 4, 2004

**The Basin Park Improvement Committee
 (2001 - 2006)**

Meeting on a monthly basis beginning in 2001, the following project reports were prepared.

BPIC 2002:– They reported on April 22, 2002 about their explorations below the Park Platform which they accessed by descending the Basin Well shaft exploring the tunnels beneath. They mapped the area and took photos and described in detail their findings. They also explored the ridge above the Band Shell and described their findings and suppositions with that.

BPIC 2003:– Report on the "Proposed Drinking Fountain, Basin Park Project" — Presley Engineering, Inc. 01/08/03

BPIC 2006:– They reported on January 15, 2006, the results of Phase One, which replicated and erected the

“Basin Spring/Balm of Life” sign which had originally graced the Spring from the early 1880s until the Park renovations of 1890. The current new Arch sign was a collaboration of the Basin Park Improvement Committee and the Eureka Springs Rotary Club. The two stone pillars and the Arch sign forming a gateway to the Park was dedicated on July 4, 2004.

Phase Two is a proposal to restore the Band Shell, revive the Basin Spring Basin, repair the Fountain stone work, increase the water flow, and install lighting with a design on creating a more dramatic water feature. This would include moving some of the icons including the Doughboy statue, installing a Promenade to improve traffic flow, installing new Park lighting, and installing a filter system on Basin Spring in order to provide potable drinking water.

(NOTE: These reports are attached in their entirety)

The Basin Park and its Reservation



Through a series of ordinances during the 1880s, the Circle Park and the Reservation above the cliff were declared public grounds with certain restrictions, in addition, moneys were legislated to improve the Park. The “Basin” is sometimes referred to as the “Old Basin Park Well” having a radius of 100 feet north and south of the “Basin,” creating its outer boundaries. The Old Basin Park Well remains today with a fence surrounding it. This is the Park’s principal icon.

The Park has undergone changes through the years as will be shown in this chapter. The various inventory of items that are referred herein as clones will be enumerated and detailed. An example of one Icon was the Sycamore Tree that once provided shade for the Park. When it was recommended that the tree be cut down for safety reasons, there was a large outcry and the city fathers acquiesced in favor of not taking down the tree. But the huge tree would have none of that, the favored Sycamore died of old age in April 2007.



*Some Park Icons are viewed from the Cliff above
Notice the trunk of the old Sycamore tree at lower right*



Sculpture

Some Icons are long time fixtures while others may undergo some changes, or become eliminated, or as the sculptured item at left, was purportedly set temporarily and was supposed to be relocated, which in its time may result. The Sign hanging from the well shown above, was removed when the fallen Sycamore claimed it.



The Basin Spring Park is maintained by the Department of Parks and Recreation and its employees are creative in caring of and decorating the property as well as laying out its flower gardens. A beautiful spot garden now adorns the area where the Sycamore once grew.

The Hallmark Plaque below the Band Shell, dates to 1890, and represents the significant improvements made to the Basin Spring Park, is encased within the stone wall that was erected at that time, and is a backdrop to the raised cement platform that effects the assembly area which affords seating and the placement for many of the Icons. More revelations on this committee will be forth coming.



*Basin Improvement Committee
1890*

**Basin Improvement Committee
1890**

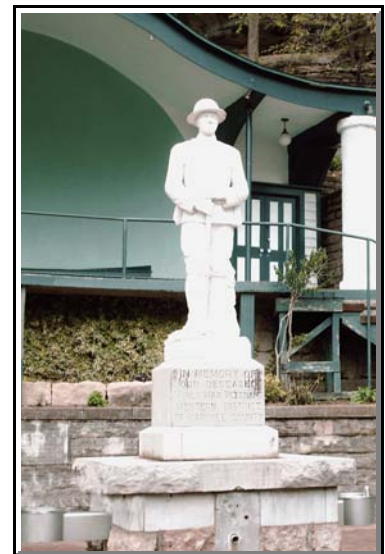
H.T. Shepherd	Powell Clayton
R.H. James	J.H. Hamilton
J.D. Jordan	B.J. Rosewater

Wording on Stone Plaque

A most prominent Icon is the Doughboy marble statue atop a raised stone works pedestal with fountains affixed on two sides. Reportedly, the Doughboy lost his nose on one occasion and had to be repaired.

The United Spanish War Veterans was an amalgamation of several Veteran groups doing battle from 1892 to 1902.

The Spanish American War began April 25, 1898 following the sinking of the Battleship Maine in Havana harbor on February 15, 1898 by Spain. This resulted in the U.S. becoming an International power upon annexing Puerto Rico, the Philippine islands, Guam, and other islands.



World War I – Doughboy

Seal – 1892-1902
In Memoriam
United Spanish War
Veterans
Erected by
Department of Arkansas
Aux. U.S.W.V. 1939

*Plaque appears on rear of
statue to honor Spanish War
era Veterans*

Furnished by
Eureka Springs Montl. Works
N.L. Burkhart, Mgr.

Wording at Rear Base

In Memory of
Our Deceased
World War Veterans
Western District
of Carroll County

Wording at Front Base

In addition, Cuba was occupied by the United States until 1903 with the U.S. assuming territorial control over Guantanamo Bay by a perpetual lease agreement.

The Plaque and the Seal of the United Spanish War Veterans are shown herein.

Actual dates of placement of these Icon items is yet to be determined. The Pedestal base is the oldest having been erected with the 1880 improvements — or near that year.



Seal of USWV Aux. as shown in top of Plaque



Rear of Doughboy showing bronze plaque and donor inscription at base.

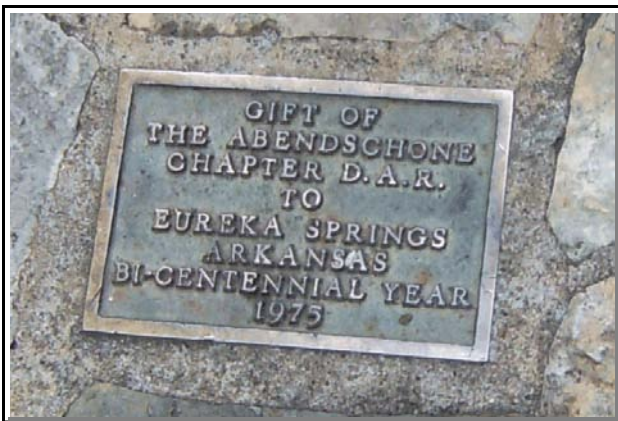


Also, very prominent, is the Flag Standard at center of the Basin Spring Park which was installed by the D.A.R. in 1975.

The Abendschone Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution of Eureka Springs, Arkansas was organized on December 5, 1951.



Doughboy pedestal with fountain and stepping stone for Kids



“For the Kiddies”
by Chas. I. Fuller

The family name Abendschone was adopted because some of the D.A.R. founding members were related to German ancestry in Pennsylvania – Abendschone means “Beautiful Evening.”



View of some Icons from the North side

The tall round column or obelisk houses a Time Capsule and was dedicated on July 4, 1979 as a Centennial Monument by the Centennial Committee enumerated below.

The capsule is within the stone base and not to be opened until July 4, 2079 during the Bi-Centennial Celebration.



Plaque inscription information is shown below in test box

This Historical Marker
 Placed and Dedicated
 October 25, 1979
 To commemorate
 The Centennial Year of
 Eureka Springs Arkansas
 Founded July 4, 1879
 Seal 100 Centennial Eureka Springs Arkansas
 1879 — 1979

Eureka Springs
 Centennial Committee
 John F. Cross Stephen D. Chyrche
 Co-Chair

R.E. Rennels	Madge Terrill	Alan D. Epley	Clio R. Miller
Mrs. Gerald Eicher	Renata Martz	Tilman Morgan	Tobert Chambern
Tony deLeuw	Ira H. Whitney	Dixie Worley Johnson	Charles Carpenter
Rev. Norman Clark	Phillip Bullock	Dr. Ross VanPelt	Marshall Johnson
Edd Jeffords	John Gaskin	Richard Kelley	Bob Davis
June Westphal, Executive-Secretary		Dan Underwood, Architectural Sempier	

Time Capsule Enclosed Within the Base
 Of This Marker to be Opened July 4, 2079



The Column base is of stone and the Column itself is of cement with a capstone atop as a finishing touch. The plaque is shown above and at right is an enlargement of the seal showing the engravement of a trolley.



Column holds a Time Capsule erected in 1979

One of the principal intended uses of the Park was and is as a place of assembly as well as meditation. Therefore, a number of movable benches are always about, including some that date back to the beginning of the park as well as a few more added during later years. These are cement benches and not easily movable.



K and L of S
Compliments of
P. Will Salmons

Cement bench at street side dating back to early 1880s



Residents of 1879 - 1880
Castillions Maker

Cement bench at street side dating back to early 1880s

Benches aligning the back parapet wall. As of this writing, installation dates are unknown.



Mary "Liz" Palmer



Play It Again Sam



*In Loving Memory of
Eddie Tomasziewicz*



Movable Benches



A Newest Addition — dedicated to the
downed Sycamore Tree

*I stood here growing so man years,
I shared your laughter, I shared your tears.
My Live was good, beginning to end,
And this is a wish I'd like to send.*

*Be Happy and kind to all around,
And let not sorrow be ever found,
The spirit of me is in this park,
I watch over you in light and dark.*

*The little old Bench is just a part,
I love you All with all my heart.
So please hold back your Tears for me,
And just go out and Plant a tree.*

The Basin Park Sycamore

Bench provided by: "Carving in the Ozarks"
Carved by Gary Keenan

More information is needed on the Millennium Dedication, Ceremonies, and Funding Organization



*Millennium Monument – 2000
Time Capsule incased*



*Brick Promenade on raised Parapet
alongside the Millennium Monument*

The Band Shell is a vital part of the Basin Spring Park in providing a raised arena for entertainers.





*One of 3 Flower Pots
with Pedestals*



Fire Bell carriage

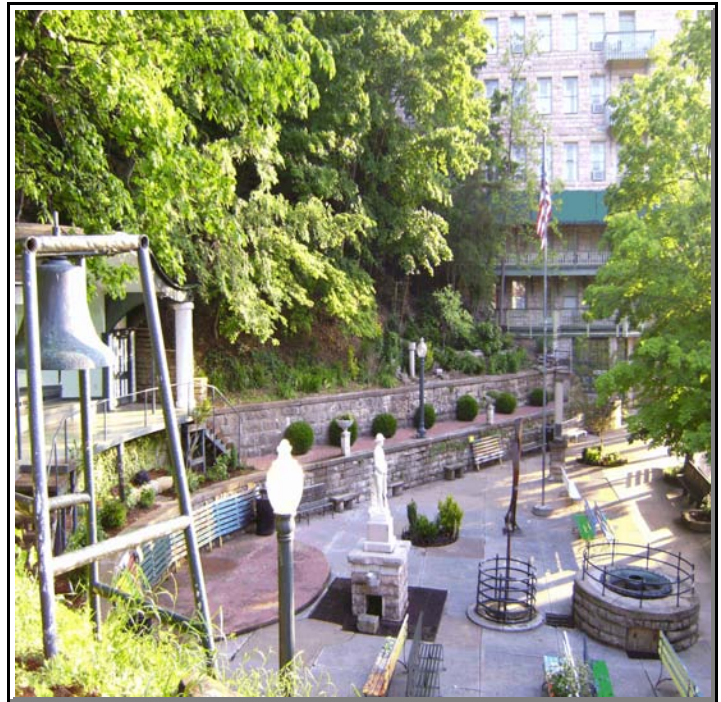


Fire Bell overlooks Park Circle

The Fire Bell above



*A steel wagon wheel atop landing of old
stairway that rose to the former Southern
Hotel*



Overlooking the Basin Circle from south side of Ridge

Along the Ridge of the Reservation Bluff overlooking the Basin Spring Circle Park is part of the Basin Spring Reservation and has its own beauty and vantage points..



This beautiful rock formation has wonderful aspects that are drawn out by sunlight and shadows



More Limestone highlights



The pathway on the Ridge



Marker shown at left



The Basin Spring Marker

Legend on Bronze Marker at the Ridge above

Basin Springs the legendary Indian healing spring known to Native Americans and early pioneer settlers, is the heart of Eureka Springs.

The first crowds of health seekers encamped here in 1879, drawn by the promise of near miraculous cures, the city was named on this site July 4, 1879.

The first governing body, the Committee of Twelve, was elected here in August 1879.

The first townsite survey was platted with the spring and surrounding reservation of protected land as its centerpiece.

A plan of lots, blocks and streets, extending in all directions, encompassed many other nearby springs.

In 1890, the Eureka Springs Board of Public Affairs created a formal setting for the spring with limestone walls, fountains, and walks.

About 1921, the original wood gazebo was replaced with the band-shell still regularly used for public performances.

Following World War I, the "Doughboy" statue was placed as a memorial to local men who served their country.