

**Historic Resources Survey
City of McMinnville
Yamhill County, Oregon**

Site Information

Site Address

City Park

Owner at Time of Survey

City of McMinnville

Map/Tax Lot

Current Zoning

Special Tax Assessment

Downtown Historic District

R-2

No

No

Subdivision Name

Block

Lot

Lot Size

Quadrant

NW

Site Number

Aerial Number

Resource Classification

Resource Number

Historic Significance

8.3a

J-11

B

399

Secondary Resource #137

Historic Information

Date of Construction

1928

Early Additions/ Remodels

Builder/Architect

Unknown

Historic Name

Soper Fountain

Original Use

Fountain,
Ornamental

Common Name

Fountain in the Park

Present Use

Ornamental

Condition of Structure

Comments (at time of Survey)

Building Type

Outbuildings

Building Style

Stories

N/A

Porch

Basement

Roof Style

Roof Type

Moved

Demolished

Year/Date

Permit Number(s)

Additions/ Alterations

Resource Information

Recorded By

Janine Rutherford

Date

6-1980

Sources

Tola Pounds, niece of Fred & George Soper

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Statement of historical significance and description of property:

B399

Fred T. Soper had this fountain built in memory of his brother, George W. Soper, in 1928. It is a shouldered elliptical base of concrete blocks in the center of which stands a pedestal font on axes, north-south. The font seems to be of stone and when activated sends a fountain of water up and over its sides into the basin.

The Sopers were farmers and owned a great deal of property in Yamhill. They were born in Nebraska, Fred in 1860. He died in 1925.

The fountain originally stood in the area of the park now occupied by the municipal swimming pool. When the pool was constructed in 1957-58, it was moved to its present location.

(Ward Sitton was chairman of the committee who picked the fountain.)

LORNE KNIGHT MONUMENT IN CITY PARK

Oregon Daily Journal, Nov. 15, 1932

MCMINNVILLE-Nov. 15. In tribute to E. Lorne Knight, who died in 1923 on Wrangel Island as a member of Stefansson Canadian Arctic expedition and around whose experience and adventures in the North has been written the book "Pechuck", a monument was dedicated and unveiled in the city park yesterday.

Lorne received his first taste of Northern life when he went North with Capt. Louis L. Lane as a member of the crew of the Whaler Polar Bear. He left Seattle in March of 1915 expecting to return in the fall but it was October of 1919 before he again touched U.S. soil. While in the Arctic they found Vilhjaur Stefansson on the shores of Banks Land where for two years they had been given up for lost. Stefansson bought the Polar Bear and instead of returning home as he had planned, Lorne remained with great explorer.

In 1919 Lorne returned to McMinnville where his parents were living. He accepted the work of motorcycle policeman. He became the police chief during 1920, resigning January 1, 1921, to join Stefansson in N.Y. for a nationwide lecture tour. It was on his last trip to the North that he was stranded on Wrangel Island where he perished.

Historic Resource No. B399



Photo October 2001



Original 1983 Survey Photo