

Shattering Silence Monument



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The sculpture, designed by James Ellwanger of Des Moines, is 30 feet tall and was designed to resemble shards of glass. It was dedicated in October 2009. The \$500,000 sculpture was paid for with private funds. This sculpture celebrates the tradition in Iowa's courts of ensuring the rights and liberties of all the people of the State. The story of Ralph, a Missouri slave hoping to buy his freedom in Iowa, is engraved around the base of the sculpture. In 1838, Iowa's Territorial Supreme Court ruled in Ralph's favor, allowing him to stay in the free Iowa Territory.