

Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument



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The State of Iowa erected this monument, funded partially by refunded war taxes, to commemorate Iowans who fought during the Civil War. The monument, approved in 1888 and completed two years later, was dedicated nearly 50 years later in 1945 due to a controversy that developed over the location and artistic details of the monument. Iowa artist Harriet A. Ketcham's design for the memorial was chosen over 47 others, although she died before the monument was completed. Both real and symbolic figures are portrayed. "Victory" is the most prominent figure, topping the 135-foot structure. Nearly 80,000 Civil War military men were from Iowa. Noted Iowa generals and battle scenes are pictured along the base. On the north side, a statue portrays Iowa as a mother offering nourishment to her children. To the south, "History" gazes into the future, and "Iowa" is shown as a youngster.