

**Annie C. Stewart Memorial  
Fountain**

**BASIC INFORMATION**

Title of Work: Annie C. Stewart Memorial

Artist: Frederic J. Clasgens, Cincinnati, OH

Installer: F.M. Schlim Gino Monument Works of Madison

Execution Date: 1924

Installation: 1925

Media: Figures, White Italian Carrara Marble

Base: Base of statue Indiana Limestone; fountain ornaments -cast stone, fountain and base -interior brick coated in coarse aggregate cement with fine aggregate cement coated with Thorite and Thoroseal.

## Approximate Dimensions:

Sculpture:	Height 9'4"	Width 4'
Base:	Height 6'	Diameter 12'2"

Record the text of any associated nearby identification or commemorative plaques.

BASE OF (FORMER) EAST "TRITON" -ANNIE C. STEWART / MEMORIAL /  
FREDERICH J. CLASGENS SCULPTURE 1924 (This is one of 2 "Tritons" no longer at  
Erin St. site. Sections of the sculpture are missing. The Boy should be brought inside and  
cleaned and preserved.

**LOCATION/JURISDICTION INFORMATION**

The sculpture is currently located at: South of 632 Wingra Street (old pedestrian entrance of Vilas Zoo)

City: Madison

County: Dane

State: WI

Owner/Administrator: City of Madison

Department/Division: Department of Public Works, Parks Division

Street Address: 215 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.

City: Madison

State: WI

Zip Code: 53701

Contact Name: Karin Wolf

Telephone: (608) 261-9134

Location Type: Small residential park area (Vilas Zoo Park)

Immediate Locale: Off of sidewalk, 50' from road, children climb on statue daily in summer, empty fountain base collects rain, ice, snow, debris -year round. Madison Park Service cares for park area.

**CONDITION INFORMATION**

Surface Appearance: Base joints sealed with caulking opening and cracks repaired, fountain pool and base highly degraded, layers of cast stone flaked away. Many parts of ornamental stone, shells, lilies and cattails broken off. Many areas with heavy calcium deposits. Primary sculptures -pieces broken off and chipped (sugary appearance). Female nose chipped off, two figures missing.

## OVERALL DESCRIPTION

Original memorial's central figure was a mermaid who supplied water from a cornucopia. She and a little boy "Triton" who sits beside her ride a stylized dolphin (intact). The fountain sculpture included two more "tritons" (east and west) who were drinking fountains. Goldfish swam in pool and water ran from cornucopia to primary pool (base) and out four spouts on base's exterior. A cavity underneath pool base regulated the flow, which also carried the water underground to the zoo lagoon. The fountain was Madison's first outdoor sculpture (save the Capitol ones), and is in an extreme state of disrepair. The fountain has been nonfunctional for many years. The condition of the primary marble sculptures (mermaid and triton) is poor. The west "triton" was vandalized and destroyed. The east triton is missing an arm, foot and head. This sculpture is at a monument company with restoration incomplete.

The Triton has been in storage since 1988. There appears to be a lack of funding, just for the sculpture. The last estimate for total restoration of the fountain was \$160,000.00. Some repair was done around 1996, but has since failed.

## CONDITION NOTES

The fountain has standing water in the basin of the fountain as well as debris and dirt from the winter. In the summer of 1994, the fountain was resurfaced with a type of concrete. This was per the authorization of the Parks Department of the City of Madison. In addition, six large shells were replicated in concrete and reinstalled on the fountain base. The fountain is not in working order as noted in the additional information located in this document. A number of things should be noted: (1) That the resurfacing of the fountain as well as the basin with some type of concrete like material is in the process of cracking, the trowel marks are quite evident. In a number of areas, the original detail has been lost. That is, on the water lilies as well as the cattails that are found on the base of the fountain. The detail has been lost by the application of cement. In addition, some areas appear to have re-cracked over the past ten years. There is core material, probably soluble salts and calcium carbonate as well as iron that is migrating through the surface and bursting the surface of the reapplied concrete. There are white streaks in and around the fountain.

There had been extremely heavy deposits of calcium carbonate on many areas of the fountain probably because of the water in Madison contains so many minerals that when the fountain was in use, which it no longer is, these minerals were deposited onto the surface of the basin and made an extremely hard calcite like material.

In addition, the statue of the mermaid, the young boy, and the dolphin is in good condition. There are some areas of discoloration from moss and dirt, but the marble itself is in pretty good shape except for the sugaring of the surface. The mermaid's nose, by the way, was broken off many years ago and is still missing. One of the two trident figures that were on the base of the basin is in storage and my recommendation is that they **not** be placed here at the fountain again because they will simply be vandalized and stolen. Some moss and lichen growth which is green is noted on the statue in the crevices where it has an ambient temperature and environment to grow. The remaining trident boy should be put indoors.

Annie C. Stewart Memorial Fountain,  
Frederic J. Clasgens (Vilas Zoo)

Photo dated: 2007



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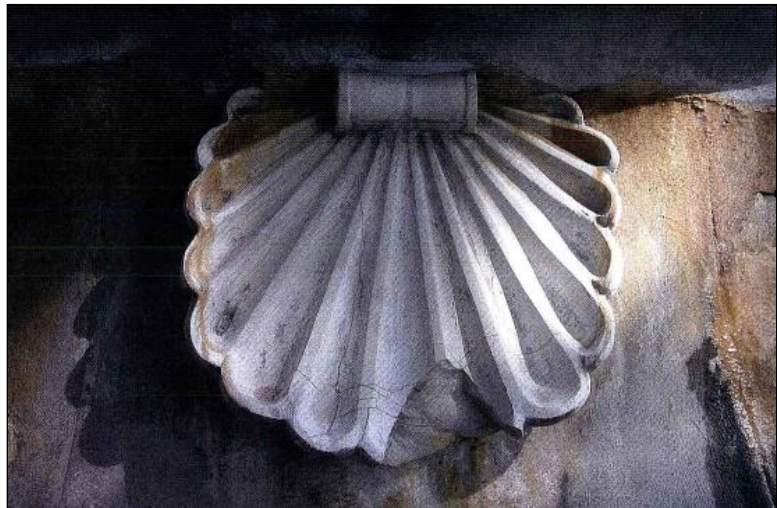
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Annie C. Stewart Memorial Fountain,  
Frederic J. Clasgens (Vilas Zoo)

Photo dated: unknown



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Frederic J. Clasgens (Vilas Zoo)

Photo dated: 2007



Annie C. Stewart Memorial Fountain,  
Frederic J. Clasgens (Vilas Zoo)

Photo dated: 2007





Annie Stewart Triton Figure

Photo dated: Unknown



Stone Fish in Fountain

Photo dated: March 4, 1973

Photo from the Wisconsin Historical Society Image Database,  
[www.wisconsinhistory.org](http://www.wisconsinhistory.org)



Memorial Fountain at Vilas Park

Photo dated: 1926 ca.

Photo from the Wisconsin Historical Society Image Database,  
[www.wisconsinhistory.org](http://www.wisconsinhistory.org)

