

Potlid Square Monument — Survey

An interesting topic of history has recently entered public discourse, providing Salisbury with an opportunity to show the larger world that we have something pretty special here in town. On Potlid Square, that small peninsula that appears at the intersection of Mudnock Road and Elm Street (at the library end of Mudnock), sits our town's humble Potlid Square Monument. Installed either in 1928 or very soon after, the monument has an interesting story (which you can read about on the Salisbury Historical Society's website's blog: <https://www.salisburyhistorical.org/blog>).

With its 100th anniversary rapidly approaching, many of us are reflecting on the issue of whether the monument should remain right where it is or be moved onto the Common. With confusion marring productive dialogue, we felt that a community-wide survey might help guide any future decision.

Please take a moment to consider the “pros” and “cons” for the following possible courses of action:

- Leave it completely alone (do nothing differently)
- Leave it where it is, but enhance its visual appeal
- Move it to the Common to be among our other war memorials



Let's look at the PROS and CONS for each:

I. Leave it completely alone

Pros	Cons
No cost involved	Out of sight, out of mind
No maintenance involved	Suggests that it's unimportant to Salisbury as it is in a remote setting and exhibits real signs of neglect.
It is at the site (or close to) where the purported activity of communal bullet-making happened.	Visitors (and community members) are less likely to observe it or appreciate its significance.
The monument, as best we can determine, is either at its original position (when placed between 1928 and 1930) or close to.	No one is taking responsibility for its preservation, upkeep and/or veneration
	Visitors (whether pedestrian or by motorized means) must contend with a less-safe location than the Common, either crossing Rt. 110 on foot or parking somewhere on Mudnock Rd. where there is no dedicated common parking.

II. Leave it where it is, but enhance its visual appeal

Pros	Cons
Less cost than if moved to the Common (but only if no roadway/parking/signage matters are addressed)	Cost will be greater than if nothing changes regarding the monument and its setting; cost will be even greater if roadway/parking matters are addressed
Improving its setting indicates that the community values it	It will still be apart from the locus of our war memorials
More visitors to the monument can be expected	Far greater numbers of visitors view our monuments on the Common
Satisfies those who wish to preserve and mark the original site of Charles M. Pike's installation	Visitors (whether pedestrian or by motorized means) must contend with a less-safe location than the Common, either crossing Rt. 110 on foot or parking somewhere on Mudnock Rd. where there is no dedicated common parking.

III. Move it to the Common to be among our other war memorials

Pros	Cons
It will be in the company of all our other war memorials	More costly than if we leave it alone and make no other changes
Will attract the attention of greater numbers of visitors	Removes it further from the original location of the purported bullet-making activity (on the original "Green")
Creates safer conditions for both pedestrians and those arriving by motorized means	Removes it from the original location of the siting of the monument (although proof is still being sought to determine if its current location is also its <i>original</i> position.)
Attention by DPW crew (as well as volunteer groups that provide "care") is more heightened where it concerns objects on the Common	The act of moving it risks damage to both the stone and plaque.

If you have an interest in the Potlid Square Monument, please choose one of the following to indicate your personal preference:

☐ Leave it completely alone

☐ Leave it where it is, but enhance its visual appeal

☐ Move it to the Common to be among our other war memorials



Survey sponsored by the Salisbury Historical Society