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Formal Analysis
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Formal Analysis of the Daughters of the Confederacy Monument in Knoxville, TN



The 1914 Daughters of the Confederacy statue stands tall in a perpetual state of remembrance. Tall, and heavy, this monument serves as a resistance to the suppression of the confederate cause, a memorial the lives of local soldiers lost in the union assault on Fort Sanders, as well as a glorious tribute to the Confederate States of America and their cause.

Standing next to the Fort Sanders monument, you are overwhelmed by the sheer size of it. Standing proudly at nearly seven feet high, this massive size of stone gives off the indication that it's not going anywhere anytime soon. Although viewers can't actually feel the heaviness of the monument, the viewers *know* the monument is heavy in the same way they know without feeling that other massive rocks and stones are heavy. Weight is further communicated to viewers through the solidity of the rock. This stone is not hollow, and it weighs, a lot. The monuments heavy weight is further emphasized by the height of the stone, which towers over viewers of average to tall height measurements. No human would be able to move this monument whose weight grounds the rock into the Earth. Through the height and weight of this monument, the implication left behind is that it would take a massive amount of force to move and is therefore not going anywhere.

The rock also has a sense of reliability, which is also reflected through the weight and consistency of this monument. This monument is unmoving, this monument is something you can rely on to be there, this monument is a solid constant. This monument may blend into the background, you may not always notice it due to the lack of grandiose embellishments, but it is there, a quiet, timeless reminder of the lives lost at the hands of union soldiers in the Civil War. This reliability would have further been emphasized by the location of the monument. Located in what used to be the heart of residential Knoxville, this statue would have been constantly passed

by and part of the lives of Knoxville's residents, weaving its presence and its reminders of the civil war into the daily life of locals, making the act of remembrance a daily activity and routine.

This timeless presence is also revealed through subtle the element of texture, as well as through the monument's allusions to antiquity. This stone monument is extremely reminiscent of classical stone pillars which stand to this very day. Much like the monument, they are constant reminders to the world's greatest civilization (or at least that is what was commonly accepted in the twentieth century). The way the flag is gently draped over the top of the stone monument also seems to allude to the way Greek sculptors draped fabric. Just like classical architecture, sculptures of antiquity are remnants of a genius and intellect currently lost from the world. It appears that through the comparison of the confederate states and the confederate cause to an ancient culture still universally lauded and appreciated, the daughters of the confederacy are imply that confederate ideals and genius of slavery will survive and will too be considered a pinnacle of culture and intellect. Furthermore, the natural texture of the stone monument produces the sense that this monument has been shaped by the natural processes of time. It's as if this monument has already stood the test of time, indicative through the sculptures rough and weathered texture, and will continue to do so well into the future.

It's also interesting to note that the monument's shape also seems to evoke ancient Egypt. The world ancient Egypt, which was particularly popular and also praised as one of the greatest ancient civilization, is home to the pyramids, monuments that also have stood the test of time. The sculpture appears to allude to the pyramids through its square base and sides that seem to meet at an invisible point above the monument. Egyptian culture, too, has survived the test of time and become a constant source of fascination and study for the Western world. Similar to the

confederacy, Egypt and its pyramids were built by slaves; this subtle comparison relates the idea of slavery with timeless greatness.

The text on the statue heavily emphasizes the monument's timeless feel. By stating that "nor wreck, nor change, nor winters blight/nor times remorseless doom,/shall dim one ray of glory's light/that guilds your glorious tomb," the text implies that no matter what sort of natural disasters or length of time impede upon this object, will diminish *even one once* of the roll this monument plays in preserving the remembrance of the lives lost in the assault on Fort Sanders.

Through the direct implication of the monument and confederacy's timeless existence, this monument heavily evokes the idea of the grandeur of the confederacy's cause. In an America struggling to recover and reconstruct after the devastation of the Civil War, this statue resists the quietening of confederate beliefs and challenges notions that the confederate cause has been lost. Not only does this monument ask viewers to remember the lives of local confederate soldiers, which most likely heavily impacted the Knoxville community emotionally, but it forces residents to constantly remember the confederacy as a glorious time in history, the third of the great civilizations of the world, whose greatness was directly attributed through the strength and value and potential that its slaves held in the Southern Economy.