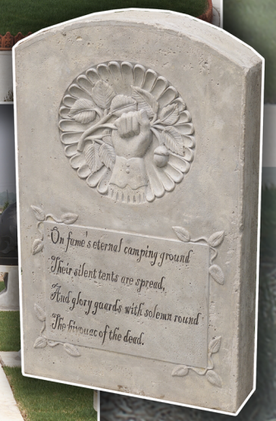
Iowa REST AREAS

Civil War
Dows

Franklin County
I-35 northbound and southbound
at milepost 159
Artist: David Dahlquist
Completed: November 2003



This Iowa rest area explores the prominent role Franklin County residents played in the Civil War. According to Civil War records, Franklin County documented Iowa's highest number of residents involved and most casualties suffered during the war.

Inside the structure blue and gray are used to show the division of the building into Union and Confederate sides. Depicted here are wall tiles with text showing the vast differences in resources and leadership of the North versus South. One wall mural shows a Union cap with a gold "I" for Iowa on the face. This side of the building is decorated in blues, reds and golds. On the other side, a canteen and wall colors of grays and yellows represent the confederate struggle. A chain connects the north and south to show how the sides are bound together throughout the site.

Outside, the west courtyard is designed to mimic a Civil War era park or garden. Around it are tombstones inscribed with snippets of actual civil war letters from soldiers back to families. A playground is located on the east side of the building. Lighting, reminiscent of Civil War ammunition, lines walkways throughout the site.

Iowa Department of Transportation MM019 11/06K