National Park Service
Cultural Landscapes Inventory

2003



Arlington Ridge Park
George Washington Memorial Parkway - Arlington Ridge Park

Table of Contents

Inventory Unit Summary & Site Plan

Concurrence Status

Geographic Information and Location Map

Management Information

National Register Information

Chronology & Physical History

Analysis & Evaluation of Integrity

Condition

Treatment

Bibliography & Supplemental Information

Inventory Unit Summary & Site Plan

Inventory Summary

The Cultural Landscapes Inventory Overview:

CLI General Information:

Purpose and Goals of the CLI

The Cultural Landscapes Inventory (CLI), a comprehensive inventory of all cultural landscapes in the national park system, is one of the most ambitious initiatives of the National Park Service (NPS) Park Cultural Landscapes Program. The CLI is an evaluated inventory of all landscapes having historical significance that are listed on or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, or are otherwise managed as cultural resources through a public planning process and in which the NPS has or plans to acquire any legal interest. The CLI identifies and documents each landscape's location, size, physical development, condition, landscape characteristics, character-defining features, as well as other valuable information useful to park management. Cultural landscapes become approved CLIs when concurrence with the findings is obtained from the park superintendent and all required data fields are entered into a national database. In addition, for landscapes that are not currently listed on the National Register and/or do not have adequate documentation, concurrence is required from the State Historic Preservation Officer or the Keeper of the National Register.

The CLI, like the List of Classified Structures, assists the NPS in its efforts to fulfill the identification and management requirements associated with Section 110(a) of the National Historic Preservation Act, National Park Service Management Policies (2006), and Director's Order #28: Cultural Resource Management. Since launching the CLI nationwide, the NPS, in response to the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA), is required to report information that respond to NPS strategic plan accomplishments. Two GPRA goals are associated with the CLI: bringing certified cultural landscapes into good condition (Goal 1a7) and increasing the number of CLI records that have complete, accurate, and reliable information (Goal 1b2B).

Scope of the CLI

The information contained within the CLI is gathered from existing secondary sources found in park libraries and archives and at NPS regional offices and centers, as well as through on-site reconnaissance of the existing landscape. The baseline information collected provides a comprehensive look at the historical development and significance of the landscape, placing it in context of the site's overall significance. Documentation and analysis of the existing landscape identifies character-defining characteristics and features, and allows for an evaluation of the landscape's overall integrity and an assessment of the landscape's overall condition. The CLI also provides an illustrative site plan that indicates major features within the inventory unit. Unlike cultural landscape reports, the CLI does not provide management recommendations or treatment guidelines for the cultural landscape.

Inventory Unit Description:

Arlington Ridge Park, in Arlington, Virginia, is situated on a ridge above the Potomac River. The 27.5-acre site lies within a much larger national park, the George Washington Memorial Parkway. Immediately to the west of Arlington Ridge Park stand high-rise residential buildings. The busy commuter highways of Arlington Boulevard (Route 50) and Route 110 bound the park on its north and east sides, with Route 110 separating the park from a direct connection to the parkway and the river. To the south across Marshall Drive lies Arlington National Cemetery, bordered by a historic red sandstone wall.

The parcel has been long recognized as providing the western backdrop for views from the National Mall and West Potomac Park. Though adjacent property west of the park was studied with the intent of protecting the ridgeline from development, no further land was acquired. With its elevated view of the District of Columbia, the site has been regarded as a prime location for several memorials. The national Shrine of Freedom, intended to celebrate 175 years of the nation's history, was planned to occupy the center of the site, with a memorial to either side serving as complementary, framing devices. These two structures were realized, while the central shrine never received funding and has been largely forgotten.

Today, Arlington Ridge Park contains two major memorials set within two distinct landscape treatments. To the north is the U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial (dedicated 1954), a monumental realistic sculpture by Felix de Weldon, closely based on the iconic World War II photograph by Joseph (Joe) Rosenthal showing five Marines and a Navy corpsman raising the American flag on the island of Iwo Jima. To the south is the Netherlands Carillon (dedicated 1960), designed by Dutch architect Joost W.C. Boks as a Modernist steel framework containing a memorial carillon. This was presented to the United States by the people of the Netherlands in gratitude for American aid given during and after World War II.

The different precincts around each memorial divide the park more or less into halves. The de Weldon statue is the main feature of a symmetrical, formal landscape developed by architect Horace Peaslee in consultation with two landscape architects. The statue stands on a raised plaza, paved in a decorative concrete developed by the John J. Earley Studios. North of this plaza lies the parade ground, a level, rectangular area of lawn used by the Marines for "sunset parades" held weekly during the summer months. On the far side of the parade ground rises a reviewing stand, partly constructed of the same decorative concrete as the statue's plaza. Plaza, parade ground, and reviewing stand are linked by tree-lined paths and surrounded by a loop road. Behind the stand, a line of sour gum trees is ranged in front of a grove of white pines planted on a berm. The deep red of the sour gum's fall coloring, seen in combination with the dark green of the pines, was meant to act as a screen or backdrop, throwing the statue into relief when viewed from across the river.

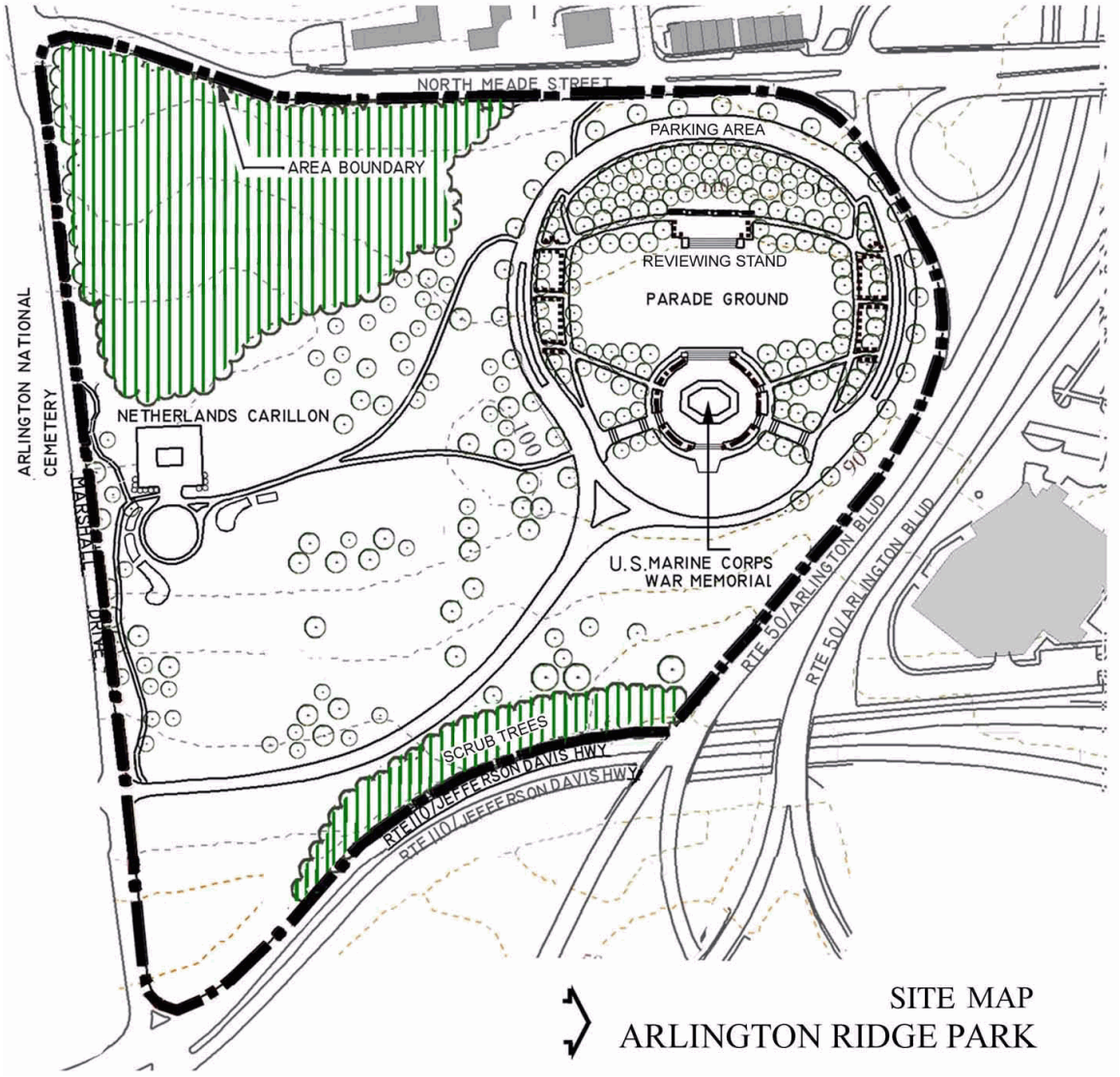
The Netherlands Carillon, on the other hand, stands in the center of a small plaza set at the top of a slope. Surrounding the carillon are open lawns planted with irregular lines and clusters of shade and ornamental trees, which create an meandering, naturalistic framework for the structure. The tree-planting plan was prepared by National Capital Parks landscape architects in the early 1960s. In front of the carillon at the entrance to the plaza are a pair of stylized lions executed by Dutch sculptor Paul Doning.

Views are integral to all aspects of Arlington Ridge Park, as it is located on axis with the National Mall, across West Potomac Park and the Potomac River, and just north of Arlington National Cemetery. Certain vantage points within the park were calculated to dramatize this visual connection, though invasive vegetation, highway signage construction, and heavy traffic interfere with some of these critical views.

Two separate archeological investigations carried out in 2001 and 2002 uncovered artifacts believed to be associated with the small farm properties that occupied the site from the mid-19th century until the mid-20th century, when the land was acquired by the federal government and all remnant structures were destroyed. The most significant findings, including a possible midden deposit, were located just east of the U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial precinct. Lack of integrity precluded National Register listing and no further investigation was recommended.

Arlington Ridge Park is one of the most heavily visited park sites in the nation's capital, with thousands traveling there yearly from throughout the United States and overseas. It also functions as a neighborhood park for nearby residents. However, highway construction and cemetery expansion have isolated the parcel and diminished its public accessibility to the point that it has adopted more of the characteristics of community use rather than national interest. (notes from Glenn DeMarr, Dec. 6, 2002) The U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial invites solemn contemplation of the sacrifices made in battle by Marines since the inception of the corps over 200 years ago. More casual activities, such as strolling and jogging, are enjoyed on the lawns around the Netherlands Carillon.

Site Plan



Site map, Arlington Ridge Park ("prepared by Alex Bao; Arlington Ridge Park/final maps/FINAL maps")

Property Level and CLI Numbers

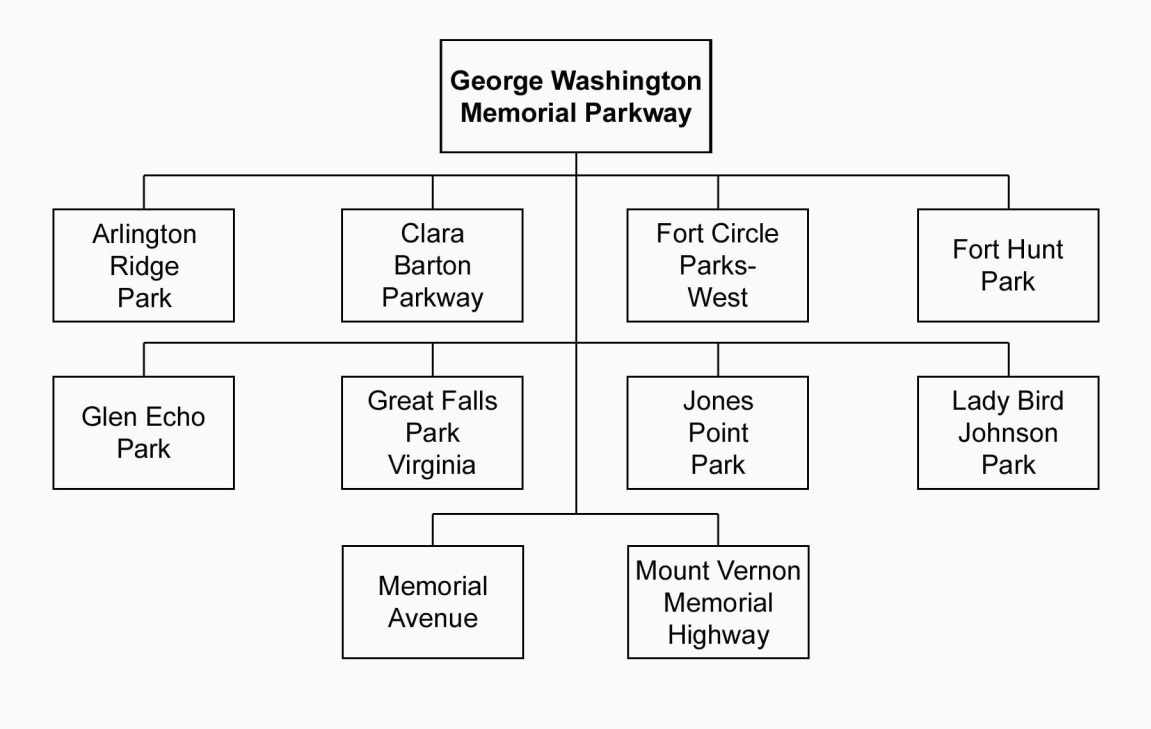
Inventory Unit Name:	Arlington Ridge Park
Property Level:	Landscape
CLI Identification Number:	600288
Parent Landscape:	600288

Park Information

Park Name and Alpha Code:	George Washington Memorial Parkway - Arlington Ridge Park -GWMP
Park Organization Code:	330B
Subunit/District Name Alpha Code:	George Washington Memorial Parkway - Arlington Ridge Park - GWMP
Park Administrative Unit:	George Washington Memorial Parkway

CLI Hierarchy Description

Arlington Ridge Park is one of 10 park units within the administrative unit of the George Washington Memorial Parkway which are considered individually significant cultural landscapes in the Cultural Landscapes Inventory. The 7.5-acre site of the U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial is a component landscape within Arlington Ridge Park.


George Washington Memorial Parkway
Arlington Ridge Park
Clara Barton Parkway
Fort Circle Parks-West
Fort Hunt Park
Glen Echo Park
Great Falls Park Virginia
Jones Point Park
Lady Bird Johnson Park
Memorial Avenue
Mount Vernon Memorial Highway

Concurrence Status

Inventory Status: Complete

Completion Status Explanatory Narrative:

The Arlington Ridge Park Level II CLI was completed by a two-person team from the National Capital Region (NCR) of the National Park Service. Kay Fanning, Landscape Historian with the Cultural Landscapes Program of NCR, served as team leader, assisted by Alex Bao, a landscape architect and intern with the U.S. International Council on Monuments and Sites (US/ICOMOS) International Summer Intern Program. Kay Fanning conducted primary and secondary research; edited notes; revised graphics; conducted site visits; and wrote and edited the site history and most of the text. Alex Bao conducted site visits and field surveys; took photographs, and analyzed photos and other graphic material; developed maps; and reviewed text.

Research material was gathered from the following collections: NPS NCR Land Use Coordination Files and Technical Information Center map files; GWMP Master Files and Cultural Resources files; Arlington County Library, Virginia Room (maps and books on state and county history); and NCR Cultural Landscapes Program files, maps, and library.

Concurrence Status:

Park Superintendent Concurrence: Yes

Park Superintendent Date of Concurrence: 09/29/2008

National Register Concurrence: Eligible -- SHPO Consensus Determination

Date of Concurrence Determination: 06/17/2004

National Register Concurrence Narrative:

The State Historic Preservation Officer for the Commonwealth of Virginia concurred with the findings of the Arlington Ridge Park CLI on 6/17/04, in accordance with Section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act. It should be noted that the Date of Eligibility Determination refers to this Section 110 Concurrence and not the date of National Register Eligibility, since that is not the purview of the Cultural Landscapes Inventory.

Concurrence Graphic Information:

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
National Capital Region
Office of Lands, Resources and Planning
1100 Ohio Drive, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20242

October 23, 2003

Memorandum

To: Regional Historical Landscape Architect, National Capital Region

From: Superintendent, George Washington Memorial Parkway

Subject: Statement of Concurrence, Arlington Ridge Park Cultural Landscape Inventory

I, Audrey Calhoun, Superintendent of George Washington Memorial Parkway, concur with the findings of the Arlington Ridge Park Cultural Landscape Inventory as submitted on October 23, 2003.

Audrey Calhoun
Superintendent, George Washington Memorial Parkway

11/12/03
Date

Concurrence memo signed by the park superintendent on 11/12/2003.

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
National Capital Region
1100 Ohio Drive, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20242

September 25, 2008

Memorandum:

To: Cultural Landscape Inventory Coordinator, National Capital Region

From: Acting Superintendent, George Washington Memorial Parkway

Subject: Statement of Concurrence, Arlington Ridge Cultural Landscape Condition Reassessment

I, Jon James, Acting Superintendent of George Washington Memorial Parkway concur with the condition reassessment for the Arlington Ridge Park cultural landscape:

CONDITION REASSESSMENT: Good

Good: indicates the inventory unit shows no clear evidence of major negative disturbance and deterioration by natural and/or human forces. The inventory unit's cultural and natural values are as well preserved as can be expected under the given environmental conditions. No immediate corrective action is required to maintain its current condition.

Fair: indicates the inventory unit shows clear evidence of minor disturbances and deterioration by natural and/or human forces, and some degree of corrective action is needed within 3-5 years to prevent further harm to its cultural and/or natural values. If left to continue without the appropriate corrective action, the cumulative effect of the deterioration of many of the character defining elements, will cause the inventory unit to degrade to a poor condition.

Poor: indicates the inventory unit shows clear evidence of major disturbance and rapid deterioration by natural and/or human forces. Immediate corrective action is required to protect and preserve the remaining historical and natural values.

The cultural landscape condition reassessment for Arlington Ridge Park is hereby approved and accepted.

Acting Superintendent, George Washington Memorial Parkway — Date 9-29-08

Concurrence memo for condition change, signed by the park superintendent (acting) on 9/29/2008



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
National Capital Region
Office of Lands, Resources and Planning
1100 Ohio Drive, S.W.
Washington, DC 20242

February 19, 2004

Memorandum

To: Cultural Landscape Inventory Coordinator, National Capital Region

From: State Historic Preservation Officer, Commonwealth of Virginia

Subject: Statement of Concurrence, Arlington Ridge Park Cultural Landscape Inventory

I, Kathleen S. Kilpatrick, Virginia State Historic Preservation Officer, concur with the findings of the Arlington Ridge Park Cultural Landscape Inventory as submitted on February 19, 2004.

Kathleen S. Kilpatrick
Virginia State Historic Preservation Officer

6/17/04
Date

Concurrence memo signed by the VA SHPO on 6/17/2004.

Revisions Impacting Change in Concurrence: Change in Condition

Revision Date: 09/29/2008

Revision Narrative:

The condition of this landscape was reassessed in 2008. Due to changes made by the park since the last update, the condition has been changed to Good.

Revision Date: 10/23/2003

Geographic Information & Location Map

Inventory Unit Boundary Description:

Arlington Ridge Park is bounded on the west by North Meade Street; on the north by Arlington Boulevard (Route 50); on the east by Route 110; and on the south by Marshall Drive and Arlington National Cemetery. Beyond Route 110 lies George Washington Memorial Parkway, and a small parcel of parkland, part of the original Nevius Tract, lies west of North Meade Street. The park adjoins the section of the parkway lying directly across the Potomac River from West Potomac Park and the grounds of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C.

State and County:

State: VA

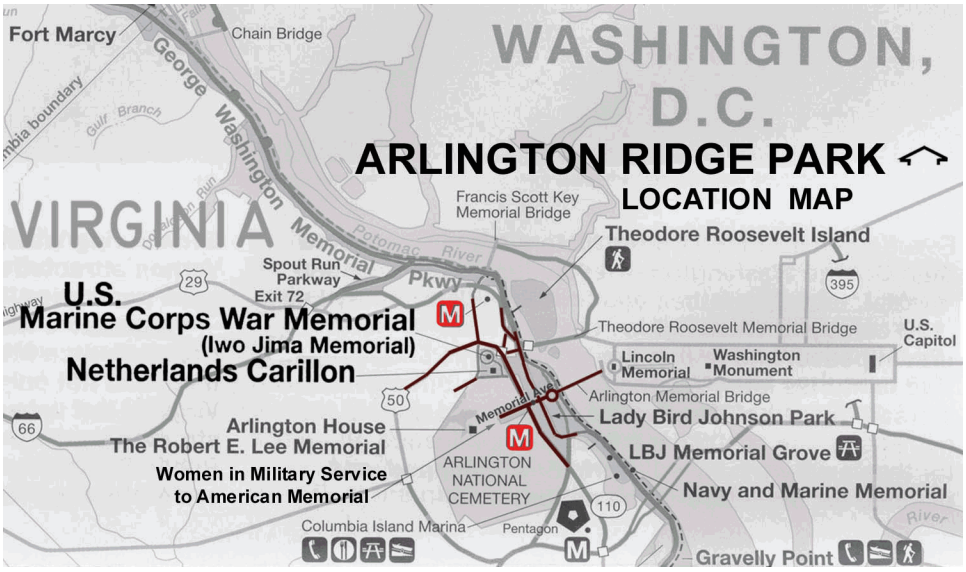
County: Arlington County

Size (Acres): 27.50

Boundary UTMS:

Source:	GPS-Differentially Corrected
Type of Point:	Point
Datum:	NAD 27
UTM Zone:	18
UTM Easting:	320,351
UTM Northing:	4,306,779
Source:	GPS-Differentially Corrected
Type of Point:	Point
Datum:	NAD 27
UTM Zone:	18
UTM Easting:	320,647
UTM Northing:	4,306,367

Location Map:



Regional Context:

Type of Context: Cultural

Description:

Arlington Ridge Park is a unit of the George Washington Memorial Parkway. This road was constructed from 1932 through 1965 as an extension of the Mount Vernon Memorial Highway, the first federally-funded parkway and a model scenic road linking the District of Columbia with George Washington's estate, 15 miles to the south. The George Washington Memorial Parkway continued the roadway along the river north to U.S. I-495, the Washington Beltway, and the name is now used for the entire stretch of road. The parkway is intended to protect the natural resources and scenic beauty of the Potomac watershed, and to preserve several sites important to the life of George Washington. To the south of Arlington Ridge Park lies Arlington National Cemetery.

Type of Context: Physiographic

Description:

Arlington Ridge Park is situated on the edge of a river terrace on the western shore of the Potomac River. The location lies at the southeastern edge of the Fall Line, where the sandy soils of the Coastal Plain meet the rocks and rolling hills of the Piedmont Plateau. The site has been extensively regraded, particularly in its northern half – the 7.5-acre U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial precinct – where much of the natural soil has been covered with topsoil obtained from local sources. Areas east of this precinct, however, have recently been determined to conform closely to historic topography as delineated in 1860s Civil War maps.

Type of Context: Political

Description:

Arlington Ridge Park is administered by the George Washington Memorial Parkway (GWMP), a federal park, and administrative unit, under the jurisdiction of the National Capital Region of the National Park Service. It is located within Arlington County, Virginia.

One of the two smallest counties in the United States, Arlington County, Virginia includes the western part of the original territory of the District of Columbia, which was ceded back to the state in the 1846. The Potomac River forms the county's eastern border. The George Washington Memorial Parkway winds along the Fairfax and Arlington county shorelines for 24 miles, passing from I-495 south through Alexandria to Mount Vernon. The District of Columbia, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the National Park Service have jurisdiction over the river up to the "mean tide line" of the Virginia shore within the original limits of the District of Columbia.

South of the park is Arlington National Cemetery, the national military cemetery administered by the Department of Defense, the resting place of thousands of officers and enlisted men from all branches of the Armed Services. Adjacent to the cemetery on the west is the Army's Fort Myer Military Community. Upper middle-class residential developments lie immediately west of the parkway for most of its length. North of Arlington Ridge Park are the dense

multi-unit residential high-rises and commercial structures of Rosslyn. Other high-rise apartment blocks line North Meade Street along the park's western boundary.

The primary use of Arlington Ridge Park is commemorative. The park also provides recreational space for the community, a use it shares with George Washington Memorial Parkway as a whole. Commuting is another major use of the parkway and of lands immediately adjacent to Arlington Ridge Park, particularly the route 50 and 110 corridors. The park lies under the flight path to Reagan National Airport, located a few miles to the south. Pedestrian and bicycle trails pass through the parkway near Arlington Ridge Park.

The park has few utilities – a water line for drinking fountains and maintenance uses, and an electrical line to supply power for night lighting, particularly around the U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial. An interceptor sewer line for Arlington County runs through the eastern half of the park and studies are currently underway to replace this with a larger conduit, which may also pass through the park.

Management Unit: George Washington Memorial Parkway

Tract Numbers: Reservation 404V

Management Information

General Management Information

Management Category: Must be Preserved and Maintained

Management Category Date: 11/12/2003

Management Category Explanatory Narrative:

The Management Category Date is the date the CLI was first approved by the park superintendent.

NPS Legal Interest:

Type of Interest: Fee Simple

Explanatory Narrative:

This site, originally known as the Nevius Tract, was conveyed from the General Services Administration to the Department of the Interior in January 1953. In March 1953, the National Park Service accepted jurisdiction over the site as part of George Washington Memorial Parkway.

Public Access:

Type of Access: Other Restrictions

Explanatory Narrative:

The only enclosed structure at Arlington Ridge Park, the Netherlands Carillon, is open to the public only during concerts.

Type of Access: Unrestricted

Explanatory Narrative:

Visitors are allowed to visit these two memorials at any time during the day or night.

Adjacent Lands Information

Do Adjacent Lands Contribute? Yes

Adjacent Lands Description:

Lands adjacent to Arlington Ridge Park include the western end of the National Mall, to the east across the Potomac River; the George Washington Memorial Parkway corridor, also to the east; and Arlington National Cemetery, directly to the south. Both landscape precincts of Arlington Ridge Park were designed with the National Mall in mind. The park as a whole forms the terminus of the Mall axis as extended due west across the Potomac River on a straight line. (To be strictly accurate, the area with the Lincoln Memorial is actually East Potomac Park and not the western end of the historic National Mall of L'Enfant, which terminates at the Washington Monument grounds.) The Freedom Shrine would have occupied the terminal site that lies directly on axis with the Lincoln Memorial, and the two flanking structures of the U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial and the Netherlands Carillon would have occupied either end of a cross-axis to this Mall axis.

While the Freedom Shrine was never built, the two existing memorials define the cross-axis and thus their placement addresses the Mall axis as well. The park's designers sought to exploit this relationship through the design of their respective landscapes: trees frame the views east to the Mall, while other plantings of trees were used to screen views of the discordant development which closely surrounds the park on the west and north sides. On the west rise large residential apartment buildings and townhouses. On the north loom high-rise towers in the city of Rosslyn and, immediately bordering the park, the busy highway known as Arlington Boulevard (Route 50). Multiple rows and groups of trees and the small successional woodland in the southwest create a sense of enclosure and allow park visitors to enjoy a contemplative atmosphere. At the same time, drivers can glimpse the park from a few vantage points along routes 50 and 110. Immediately south of the park lies Arlington National Cemetery, partially visible through the trees from the grounds of the Netherlands Carillon. Southwest of the park is the U.S. Army's Fort Myer Military Community.

National Register Information

Significance Criteria:	A - Associated with events significant to broad patterns of our history
Significance Criteria:	C - Embodies distinctive construction, work of master, or high artistic values
Criteria Considerations:	F -- A property primarily commemorative in intent if design, age, tradition, or symbolic value has invested it with its own historical significance G -- A property achieving significance within the past 50 years if it is of exceptional importance

Period of Significance:

Time Period:	AD 1953 - 1960
Historic Context Theme:	Expressing Cultural Values
Subtheme:	Architecture
Facet:	International (1915-1945)
Other Facet:	None
Time Period:	AD 1953 - 1960
Historic Context Theme:	Expressing Cultural Values
Subtheme:	Landscape Architecture
Facet:	Modern Landscape Design And Site Planning
Other Facet:	None
Time Period:	AD 1953 - 1960
Historic Context Theme:	Expressing Cultural Values
Subtheme:	Painting and Sculpture
Facet:	World War II To The Present, 1939-
Other Facet:	None

Area of Significance:

Area of Significance Category:	Art
Area of Significance Subcategory:	None
Area of Significance Category:	Architecture
Area of Significance Subcategory:	None
Area of Significance Category:	Landscape Architecture
Area of Significance Subcategory:	None
Area of Significance Category:	Military
Area of Significance Subcategory:	None
Area of Significance Category:	Transportation
Area of Significance Subcategory:	None

Statement of Significance:

There are compelling reasons why Arlington Ridge Park should be listed separately on the National Register under Criteria A and C and Criteria Considerations F and G. The two memorials and their landscaping possess national significance, and retain a high degree of integrity.

The U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial honors the sacrifice of all Marines who have given their lives for their country. Based on a renowned photograph illustrating the capture of Mount Suribachi on the Japanese island of Iwo Jima, it recalls for many American visitors this particular action in World War II, which marked a turning point in the war in the South Pacific. The Netherlands Carillon was a gift from the people of Holland to the citizens of the United States in gratitude for American aid received both during and after the war. The realistic, monumental statue of the Marine Corps War Memorial, by the academic sculptor Felix de Weldon, forms the centerpiece of a formal landscape plan, with vegetation used to line circulation routes and to frame and direct views. The landscape was designed by architect Horace Peaslee, aided by at least two consulting landscape architects. The modernism of architect Joost Bok's carillon tower stands amid a romantic, picturesque landscape of rolling lawns and varied groupings of shade trees. This landscape plan was devised by landscape architects on the

staff of National Capital Parks.

Historically, the park has been conceived of as comprising three commemorative zones, with the Marine Corps War Memorial occupying the northern section and the Netherlands Carillon the southern part, while the center of the site was reserved for the Freedom Monument (also called the Freedom Shrine). This large, auditorium-like structure was never built. In the late 1990s, a proposal to construct a new Air Force Memorial in this central area almost became a reality before being halted by congressional action. However, the park today is experienced as two distinct landscape zones or areas (not to be taken as synonymous with the term "component landscape" as used by the National Park Service's Cultural Landscape Program).

While the main features of the U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial are contained within the bounds of its circular road, the larger landscape also plays a role in the design. The main approach road, leading from the entrance in the park's southeast corner and curving up to the circular road, was meant to provide visitors with a dramatic view of the statue from the moment they enter the park, and suggests that Horace Peaslee was thinking of the broader landscape picture.

Arlington Ridge Park occupies the slope of a river terrace on the western shore of the Potomac River. In the 1950s, the 7.5-acre site of the U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial was extensively filled and leveled to create an even grade. The smaller area occupied by the Netherlands Carillon and its plaza was also leveled before construction in began about 1960. A short but steep ridge runs across the center of site from north to south, along the south side of the circular road surrounding the Marine Corps War Memorial.

In 2002, archeological investigation along the proposed route of a new sewer interceptor line east of the Marine Corps War Memorial precinct revealed historic domestic debris and a possible midden deposit. Recovered artifacts were believed to date from the late 19th or early 20th centuries, and to have been associated with the small farm or domestic properties that lay west of Arlington Ridge Road, or with their demolition after the land was acquired by the federal government between c. 1937-1953. The site of the possible midden was designated "Iwo I, 44AR36," but deemed ineligible for National Register listing because the removal of the historic houses and subsequent site disturbance indicated a lack of integrity. No further archeological testing was recommended.

The chief purpose of Arlington Ridge Park is commemorative and ceremonial. Visitors come to the U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial to pay their respects to the sacrifices made by Marines in battle. Marines hold weekly sunset parades in the summer months, and an annual ceremony commemorates the founding of the Marine Corps. Each October, the park serves as the finish line of the Marine Corps Marathon.

The major feature of the U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial is the monumental bronze statue by Felix de Weldon. Based on Joseph (Joe) Rosenthal's famous photograph of the second flag-raising on Iwo Jima, the statue is a 78-foot-high pyramidal composition of six soldiers plunging a flagpole into the stony ground of Mount Suribachi. An eight-sided granite base carries a frieze that lists chronologically the names of battles in which Marines have fought. Architect Horace Peaslee was

responsible for the composition of reviewing stand, to the west; the rectangular parade ground, in the center; and the statue on its raised concrete plaza, to the east – all linked by a circulation network that includes pedestrian paths, entrance drive and circular road, and parking.

The John J. Earley Studios of Washington, D.C. – known for their unusual concrete work – developed a special type of exposed concrete aggregate for the plaza around the statue, the reviewing stand, and their related features. The concrete was laid in pre-cast panels. Around the statue, the panels form a multi-pointed star, depicted in two shades of dark gray or black, radiating out from the statue's base. The wide main flight of stairs on the east leading up to the slightly raised plaza is flanked by low cheek blocks terminating in scrolls, also constructed of the Earley Studios concrete (though some steps have been replaced with a different, lighter, coarser concrete).

Peaslee designed the "entourage," or site plan, for the Marine Corps War Memorial and guided its overall landscape design. He was assisted by landscape architect Markley Stevenson, who helped create certain design features and selected plants. Some design help was provided by landscape architect Elbert Peets, though the specific nature of his contribution is not known.

The strictly symmetrical arrangement of trees, hedges, and paths around the U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial helps control pedestrian circulation and direct views, and imparts a suitably solemn atmosphere to this monument honoring Marine dead. Stevenson developed a limited plant palette that relied on a few species of trees to define particular areas: scarlet oaks line the entrance road; willow and laurel oaks border the circular roadway and help screen views of adjoining highways; lindens line the paths, thus framing the parade ground; hornbeams fill the narrow medians northeast and southeast of the statue; and hedges of yew outline the plaza immediately around the statue, while hedges of prickly osmanthus line the paths north and south of the parade ground. A knoll or berm behind the reviewing stand is planted with a grove of white pines, which screens the parking lot from view, and creates a dark green background for a line of sour gum trees placed directly behind the reviewing stand. The intense red fall coloration of the sour gums see against the pines was meant to highlight views of the statue from across the river.

In 1961, under orders from Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy, a few oaks were removed from in front of the U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial because they were felt to be blocking views from the highways to the statue. The statue is therefore more exposed than intended, and the visual cone to the Mall has been substantially widened. The entry road is missing several oak trees.

The Netherlands Carillon was installed in 1960 within an open steel structure designed by Dutch architect Joost W.C. Boks. The 127-foot-high tower bears an abstract composition of steel plates, currently painted a greenish-bronze hue. It stands in the center of a small paved plaza. Flanking the entrance ramp to the plaza is a pair of stylized bronze lions by Dutch sculptor Paul Doning. Forty-nine of the carillon's 50 bells represent each of the Dutch provinces, along with the Antilles and Surinam. The last bell, installed in 1995, commemorates the 50th anniversary of the liberation.

The Netherlands Carillon stands at the far south side of an open, informal landscape of sloping lawns planted with a wide variety of mostly native deciduous trees and a few evergreens. Grouped in

clusters and irregular lines, these trees frame the tower and block almost any direct view to the Marine Corps War Memorial. The overall effect of the Netherlands Carillon grounds is of a picturesque English park landscape. Flower beds, planted with seasonal displays, were created in front of the carillon in the 1960s and 1970s as part of First Lady Lady Bird Johnson's Beautification Program. Behind is a small successional woodland, adjacent to Fort Myer. On the sloping lawns surrounding the carillon, visitors enjoy strolling, jogging, picnicking, and listening to carillon concerts.

Circulation, as well as landscape, also reflects a difference in treatment between the two halves of the site. The Marine Corps War Memorial is defined by a one-way ring road and a bilaterally symmetrical system of paths that link the monument's plaza with the parking area, reviewing stand and parade ground. Asphalt paths and vegetation were designed in concert to discourage visitors from walking across the smooth lawn of the parade ground, carefully maintained for ceremonial drills. Beyond this monumental precinct, a gently curving, Y-shaped paved path – known as the Ridge Path – leads south to the carillon, complementing the gradual curve of the entrance road up the slope to the west.

Views from the Marine Corps War Memorial out to the National Mall – though of fundamental importance to the design of the memorial, and to the park as a whole – are more compromised than those from the Netherlands Carillon, because of its location at the north end of the site, immediately adjacent to two highways and the ramps of Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Bridge. The park was conceived, in part, as a site for the Freedom Shrine, which would have replaced the Lincoln Memorial as the western terminus of the National Mall. Though the Freedom Shrine was never built, the axial relation of the park to the Mall is still clear. Vistas were vital to understanding this relationship, and the ramps, highway signs, and volunteer trees which today intrude on the view obscure this intent.

The only contributing small-scale feature in Arlington Ridge Park is the pair of identical bronze lions at the Netherlands Carillon, a modern, stylized design by Dutch sculptor Paul Doning. Lions are a symbol of the Dutch royal family and may also have been chosen to serve as guardian figures. There are a few other typical park features: handicap accessible drinking fountains, benches, trash receptacles, signs, and portable toilets. All are standard designs often selected for park or municipal use; none was designed specifically for Arlington Ridge Park. Two interpretive waysides stand at the Netherlands Carillon, and four new waysides were installed near the statue at the Marine Corps War Memorial in late 2002.

Chronology & Physical History

Cultural Landscape Type and Use

Cultural Landscape Type: Designed

Other Use/Function	Other Type of Use or Function
Outdoor Recreation-Other	Both Current And Historic
Outdoor Sculpture (Statuary)	Both Current And Historic
Leisure-Passive (Park)	Both Current And Historic
Vista	Both Current And Historic
View	Both Current And Historic
Parkway (Landscape)	Both Current And Historic

Current and Historic Names:

Name	Type of Name
Nevius Tract	Historic
Netherlands Carillon	Both Current And Historic
Arlington Ridge Park	Current
U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial	Both Current And Historic

Ethnographic Study Conducted: No Survey Conducted

Chronology:

Year	Event	Annotation
AD 1945	Military Operation	The American invasion of the Japanese island of Iwo Jima began on February 19.
	Military Operation	The second flag-raising on Iwo Jima occurred on February 23 and was photographed by Associated Press photographer Joseph (Joe) Rosenthal.
		Joseph Rosenthal
	Military Operation	The surrender of Japan on September 2, 1945 marked the end of World War II.
	Military Operation	The United States gave aid to the Netherlands through the Marshall Plan as part of post-war rehabilitation.
AD 1946	Platted	A topographic survey was made of the Nevius Tract in Arlington, Virginia, as part of plans to build a Veterans Administration hospital on the site.

AD 1949	Purchased/Sold	Final decree of condemnation entered for Nevius Tract on July 19. Notice of condemnation had been filed by U.S. for Veterans Administration on May 29, 1947. Condemnation of jury award was set at $1.6 million on Feb. 27, 1948.
AD 1947	Established	President Truman approved Public Law 157-80th Cong. (60th Stat. 242), a Joint Resolution authorizing erection of a memorial to Marine Corps dead of all wars to begin at private expense on a site located on public grounds in D.C.
	Established	The Marine Corps League was authorized by Public Law 157-80th Cong. (61 Stat. 242) to raise money and construct the U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial.
AD 1948	Built	A six-inch water line was laid across the Nevius tract.
AD 1950	Land Transfer	The Nevius Tract was transferred from the Veterans Administration to the Public Buildings Service of the General Services Administration (GSA).
AD 1952	Established	Queen Juliana of the Netherlands presented a scale model of the proposed Netherlands Carillon to President Truman in a ceremony held at Meridian Hill Park on April 4.
	Altered	On July 7, President Truman approved Public Law 462-82nd Cong. (66 Stat. 441), changing name of Marine Corps League to Marine Corps War Memorial Foundation, and allowing ten years for construction of memorial to begin.
AD 1953	Land Transfer	Under a directive from President Truman, on Jan. 16 the Nevius Tract was transferred from the GSA to the Dept. of the Interior for administration as part of George Washington Memorial Parkway, and to be considered as a site for Netherlands Carillon.
	Established	On March 2, the National Park Service accepted jurisdiction over the Nevius Tract as part of George Washington Memorial Parkway. The acquisition was recorded as Land Record 91, GWMP, Res. 404V, of National Capital Parks on March 12.

	Altered	President Truman approved Public Law 66 - 83rd Cong. (67 Stat. 644) on June 16, amending the Act of July 1, 1947, to permit a memorial to the Marine Corps dead of all wars to be built either in the District of Columbia or in the "immediate vicinity."
	Established	On Dec. 15, the Secretary of the Interior granted the Marine Corps War Memorial Foundation permission to erect a memorial on part of the Nevius Tract. The foundation was directed to consult with the National Park Service on location, development, etc.
	Established	The Secretary of the Interior sent a letter to the Netherlands Ambassador on Dec. 17, stating that the site for a carillon at the south end of the Nevius Tract had been approved; final authority would be granted by Congress.
	Altered	The National Park Service cleared the Nevius Tract in December. Some large trees were retained.
AD 1954	Established	The Director of the National Park Service issued a permit to the Marine Corps War Memorial Foundation in the form of a letter dated Jan. 5, allowing them to built a memorial on the Nevius Tract.
	Planned	A plan by architect Horace Peaslee (the "entourage") for the 7.5-acre site of the Marine Corps War Memorial on the Nevius Tract was approved on January 26.
		Horace Peaslee
	Established	The specific site on the Nevius Tract for the Marine Corps War Memorial was selected on January 26.
	Built	Groundbreaking for the Marine Corps War Memorial was held on February 19, the 9th anniversary of the invasion of Iwo Jima.
	Planned	A planting plan for the Marine Corps War Memorial site by landscape consultant Markley Stevenson was completed in June.
		Markley Stevenson
	Graded	Grading of the Marine Corps War Memorial site was carried out from June through July or August.

	Planted	Tree planting on the Marine Corps War Memorial site was begun in July or August.
	Established	President Eisenhower approved Public Law 628-83rd Cong. (68 Stat. 769) on Aug. 23, authorizing construction of Netherlands Carillon, built on public ground, under jurisdiction of Sec. Interior, who would select site; construction to begin in 5 years.
	Built	Construction of Marine Corps War Memorial began in September.
	Expanded	The Marine Corps War Memorial was dedicated on November 10, the 179th anniversary of the Marine Corps' founding.
AD 1955	Planted	Most of the tree planting on the Marine Corps War Memorial grounds was completed in January.
	Land Transfer	The Marine Corps War Memorial Foundation turned the monument over to the National Park Service on July 1.
AD 1954	Established	Use of the Nevius Tract as a site for the Netherlands Carillon was approved by President Eisenhower on August 23 with Public Law 628, 83rd Cong.
AD 1960	Expanded	The Netherlands Carillon was officially dedicated on its permanent site, the southern half of the Nevius Tract, on May 5, the 15th anniversary of the liberation of the Netherlands from Nazi Germany.
AD 1961	Altered	In March, trees were removed on the east side of the Nevius Tract at the request of Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy, to provide a clear view of the Marine Corps War Memorial from Arlington Memorial Bridge and Route 50.
		Robert F. Kennedy
	Established	President John F. Kennedy issued a proclamation on June 12 authorizing the American flag to be flown over the Marine Corps War Memorial 24 hours a day, except in inclement weather, when a weatherproof flag is flown (Public Law 77-623, 56 Stat. 377).
		John F. Kennedy

AD 1964	Built	The completed Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Bridge was opened for traffic on June 23. The bridge and its many ramps obstruct a clear view of the National Mall from the Marine Corps War Memorial.
AD 1967	Demolished	The section of Arlington Ridge Road crossing the Nevius Tract was removed c. 1967.
AD 1994 - 1995	Rehabilitated	The Netherlands Carillon was cleaned of rust and other damage and repainted green. The bells were retuned. A 50th bell was dedicated on May 5, 1995, 50th anniversary of Dutch liberation. The automatic chime system was upgraded.
AD 1937	Established	Public Act No. 243 - 75th Cong. (Chap. 564, 1st sess., S. 774) established the Marine Corps League. After the war, the League raised funds and secured design for Marine Corps War Memorial. Name changed to Marine Corps War Memorial Foundation in 1952.

Physical History:

Introduction and Prehistory to 1608

Introduction

On a ridge northwest of Arlington National Cemetery, on a site overlooking the National Mall and its monuments, stand two structures which commemorate American actions in World War II. The U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial and the Netherlands Carillon present an unusual juxtaposition of grandiose realism and European Modernism. The landscape is similarly disjunct. The formal, strictly symmetrical planting around the Marine Corps memorial and its adjoining parade ground at the north end of the site stands in stark contrast to the asymmetrical, picturesque character of the rolling lawns and shade trees surrounding the carillon to the south. The 27.5-acre site was known for many years as the Nevius Tract. It is now referred to as Arlington Ridge Park (a decision made in the late 1990s by Audrey Calhoun, GWMP Superintendent, and John Parsons, Associate Regional Director, Lands, Resources and Planning, National Capital Region) .

The Marine Corps War Memorial was built as a monument to the Marines of all wars who have died in service to the United States, and was paid for with private funds raised by the Marine Corps War Memorial Foundation (founded by congressional act as the Marine Corps League in August 1937 and disbanded in the 1950s, after the memorial was completed). The Netherlands Carillon was a gift of the Dutch people to the people of the United States in gratitude for aid given during and after the war. The steel tower which holds the carillon was paid for by American citizens of Dutch descent. (Paul Hume, Washington Post, Dec. 29, 1963, reprinted without title in Congressional Record – Senate, Dec. 30, 1963, in "The Netherlands Carillon Should Be Played," Remarks by Hubert H. Humphrey; copy in GWMP Master Files K1400B.)

In the 1940s and 1950s, various individuals and the planning agencies of the District of Columbia were promoting the Nevius Tract as a potential new western end for the National Mall. Since the Mall axis, if extended due west over the Potomac River, passes directly through the site, some felt it offered the opportunity for a last great addition to the monumental core, and a monument built there would complement, or supercede, the Lincoln Memorial. To establish the reciprocal relationship, a design would need to emphasize the view to the Mall. While the grandiose memorial envisioned for this central place was never realized, the U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial and the Netherlands Carillon define either end of a cross axis to the extended Mall axis.

Prehistory to 1608

(Much of the following early history of Arlington County is taken from Paul B. Cissna, "Historical and Archeological Study of George Washington Memorial Parkway, Arlington County, Virginia," Occasional Report # 4, Regional Archeology Program [National Capital Region, National Park Service, Washington, D.C., 1990].)

Prehistoric occupation of the Arlington area may have begun as early as the Late Archaic period, c. 3000-1000 B.C. Occupation by Algonquian-speaking tribes extended up through the Late Woodland period, from c. A.D. 800/900 to 1608, the time of European contact.

This area offered many natural attractions for native inhabitants. Arlington County encompasses the Fall Line zone, an irregular boundary running through the East Coast states, from Georgia to New York, where the soft, sedimentary rocks and sandy soils of the Coastal Plain physiographic region meet the Piedmont Plateau's rolling uplands underlain by harder metamorphic stones. In the Washington area, this region supported a rich diversity of ecological resources – woodlands, marshlands, and coastal flats – common to both the northern and southern regions of the Eastern seaboard, and allowed for abundant game and waterfowl. Annual runs of anadromous fish up the Potomac River had become heavy by c. 2000-1500 B.C., and formed an important part of the seasonal food supply for Native Americans. (Cissna 1990:5 and Hanna 2003:2ff.)

The Archaic period in the Mid-Atlantic region was characterized by a temperate ecosystem. Gradually the climate became warmer and wetter, with pronounced seasonal differences and forests dominated by pine and spruce. From the Early Archaic period (c. 8000/7500 B.C.–5300 B.C.), native peoples in the Mid-Atlantic typically gathered in small camps on river terraces, and at the mouths of tributaries and along their courses. They obtained food by hunting, fishing, and foraging for wild plants. In the Late Archaic period, the climate became warmer and drier, and deciduous forests of oak, hickory and chestnut began to supplant evergreens. Indians set up permanent villages next to swamps and on bluffs along major rivers and tributaries. They may have begun cultivating such crops as squash and sunflower. Through the Late Archaic and into the Early Woodland period, settlement moved further inland, to uplands near tributary headwaters. Indians set up base camps near the "estuarine zone" with temporary camps inland for hunting and foraging. In Arlington County, camps were sited on hills overlooking the Potomac and its numerous closely-spaced tributary streams. (Hanna 2003:3.)

The Middle Woodland saw the establishment of permanent villages inhabited by Algonquian-speaking tribal groups along rivers and estuaries. Increasingly these peoples practiced agriculture, growing corn in small fields cleared from the woods while continuing to hunt, fish, and forage. By the Late Woodland, different tribal groups had established trade relations. Near the time of European contact, increasing tribal conflict had led to the fortification of villages and a decline in native populations. (Hanna 2003:4.)

No archeological evidence of early activity has been found at Arlington Ridge Park. However, this site possesses some natural factors which may have made it attractive to prehistoric inhabitants, notably its location on a plateau overlooking the Potomac, which is also near feeder streams to the river.

Early History and European Settlement, 1609-1800

Indians in the early 17th century lived mostly near fresh-water springs close to the river, clearing small fields out of the surrounding woodlands, and practicing a slash-and-burn cultivation of such crops as beans, corn, squash, pumpkins, and tobacco. Indian occupation of

the area was noted by Captain John Smith on his famous voyage up Chesapeake Bay in 1608. In June, Smith sailed up the Potomac as far as Analostan Island (now Theodore Roosevelt Island), where the Fall Line begins and rocks begin to impede further navigation upriver. Smith noted the presence of two Indian villages inhabited by members of the Nacotchtanke tribal grouping, part of the Conoy chiefdom, near the island: Namoraughquend, probably located somewhere on the Potomac's western shore between Analostan Island and the current site of the Pentagon; and the chief's village of Nacotchtanke on the eastern shore, at a point near where the Anacostia River empties into the Potomac. (Hanna 2003:7.)

For many years, conflicts with the native inhabitants hindered the spread of English settlement north through Virginia. The first Powhatan War occurred in 1609. In 1610, Virginia's colonial government began to establish a "trade network" with the Patawomeke Indians, who lived somewhat south of the Washington area. Colonists probably traded goods with neighboring tribal groups as well. The second Powhatan War, fought from 1622 to 1632, erupted when the English, allied with the Patawomeke, attacked and burned the village of Nacotchtanke.

When the Maryland Colony was founded in 1634, Nacotchtanke became the most remote Algonquian village from the colony's center of government. The Treaty of 1666 between native inhabitants and Maryland's colonial government sought to create more stable relations between settlers and natives. In 1669, Maryland established a reservation for the Piscataways and their confederates, including the "Annacostancke," on the Maryland shore of the Potomac between Piscataway and Mattawoman creeks, several miles south of the future site of Washington, D.C. It is not known whether the Nacotchtanke were involved in the Susquehannock Wars of the late 17th century. When the Maryland colony offered a reward for the capture of the "king of the Anacostin" in 1696, this was perhaps the last known historical mention of the Nacotchtanke.

English colonization of Virginia north of Jamestown and Williamsburg proceeded slowly through the late 17th century. Throughout the southern Tidewater, large plantations for the growing of tobacco became established along rivers, the major transportation routes in the colonies. Northumberland County, established in 1648, included all of the Northern Neck – that area of Virginia lying between the Rappahannock and Potomac rivers and extending west to the Blue Ridge mountains, and including the future Arlington. In 1649, England's Charles II created the Northern Neck Proprietary, ceding control of these lands to seven Englishmen; all eventually passed into the hands of the Fairfax family. The section of Northumberland County including the future Fairfax and Arlington counties was further subdivided into Westmoreland County in 1653, and then into Stafford County in 1664.

The first land grant in Arlington was probably the 700-acre tract along Great Hunting Creek, near present-day Alexandria, given to Margaret Brent in 1654. More grants followed, and in 1669, shipmaster Robert Howsing received a 6000-acre tract extending from Great Hunting Creek north along the Potomac to Rocky Run, a stream draining into the river across from Analostan Island. The Howsing tract included the Arlington Ridge Park site at its northern end. Within a month, Howsing had transferred his lands to John Alexander.

Steadily through the 18th century, substantial patents of 100 acres or more were given for lands along the Potomac up to Little Falls. In 1744, Daniel Jennings received a grant for 50 acres of land across from the south end of Analostan Island (the author has not determined whether Jennings' grant included part of Arlington Ridge Park).

As lands were seated, a transportation network grew up. In 1738, the Virginia colonial government established four new ferries connecting Maryland and Northern Virginia, including Mason's Ferry across Analostan Island, which became a particularly important transportation artery. Another ferry, with an inn for travelers nearby, was located a few miles north, at Pimmit Run. (Cissna, citing Montague 1970:34.)

Further redrawing of Virginia county boundaries resulted in the creation of Prince William County in 1730, and the formation of Fairfax County from Prince William in 1742. In 1789, the Commonwealth of Virginia ceded jurisdiction of land within its boundary to the federal government for creation of the District of Columbia, the new seat of government for the United States. Acts were passed that prohibited the construction of public buildings along the Virginia side of the river. In 1790, the eastern portion of Fairfax County became Alexandria County, after the establishment of the District of Columbia and the formation of its court system in 1800. Until 1846, the future Arlington County – along with Washington County, the City of Washington, and Georgetown in Maryland, and Alexandria in Virginia – formed part of the District of Columbia.

In the 1740s, Gerard Alexander began building a large house on his Abingdon plantation (on land now occupied by Ronald Reagan National Airport). Tobacco warehouses were constructed at key points, including Alexandria and the Little Falls of the Potomac. The port city of Alexandria, Virginia, was chartered in 1749. A second port, Georgetown, located in Maryland about seven miles north of Alexandria, followed in 1752. The towns became rival centers for the shipping of tobacco.

Virginia's early economy had been founded on tobacco. Over the years, reliance on this single crop began to damage the soil and led to steadily decreasing yields, most likely through an accumulation of fungi, nematodes, and other microscopic pests whose growth is encouraged by monocultures. (Sharrer, 2000-2001:1+.) By the mid-18th century, wheat had begun to supplant tobacco as Northern Virginia's primary agricultural crop.

By the late 18th century, many of the land grants along the Potomac between Analostan Island and Little Falls had been consolidated under the single ownership of George Mason IV, owner of Gunston Hall, author of the Virginia Declaration of Rights, and one of Virginia's leading citizens. When Mason died in 1792, he left 2000 acres of his lands in Northern Virginia, including Analostan Island, to his son, John. John Mason developed the island into a small plantation – essentially a pastoral summer retreat, where he soon built a grand Neoclassical house and experimented with the raising of sheep and grains. Analostan Island became known as Mason's Island. In 1798, John Mason petitioned Virginia for the right to establish a town, "South Haven," on 90 acres he owned on the high bluffs across from the island, land later occupied by the town of Rosslyn. South Haven never materialized, but Mason continued to operate the family's ferry route between Georgetown and the northern end of the island, and

he built a causeway to the Virginia shore in 1807. (Fanning, Theodore Roosevelt Island National Register Nomination:Section 8.)

A network of roads crossed through Arlington by the late 18th century, with many leading to the future site of Rosslyn, just north of the study site. Activity along the river increased; many quarries were established. The first Chain Bridge was built over Little Falls in 1797, and a mill was probably soon built nearby. Another mill apparently was built at Spout Run, a major tributary to the Potomac, which runs through a deep gorge about a mile north of Arlington Ridge Park. (Cissna 1988:44.)

Antebellum Decades, 1801-1860

George Washington Park Custis, the adopted grandson of George Washington, inherited an estate of a couple of thousand acres on the heights immediately south of the study area. He moved there in the early 19th century and named the plantation "Arlington." At this time, much of Arlington, and probably the site of Arlington Ridge Park as well, was covered by an old-growth forest dominated by oak, hickory, and chestnut. Little of the land was improved; tenant farmers had cleared a few rough fields on flat lands along the river, at the base of the Arlington hills. These river flats were covered by a rich alluvial soil, in contrast to the thin clays on the hills above. A few simple structures had been constructed there and 57 slaves lived on the estate. Across the river, Washington, D.C. had begun to be laid out on tidal flats and surrounding hills. The city's few imposing houses dominated large tracts, and rough structures stood along roads carved through a forest wilderness. (Hanna 2003:28ff.)

In 1802 George Washington Parke Custis began building a large Neoclassical mansion, designed by architect George Hadfield, on the crest of the hill which prominently overlooked the river and the new capital city. Throughout his life Custis focused most of his energies on experimenting with progressive farming techniques. He was especially interested in improving the quality of American sheep, and, as part of this endeavor, in 1824 he began holding annual July 4 sheep shearing days on his estate, at springs near the river shore. Open to the public, these festivities included a picnic and dancing. Custis built several structures near the springs to accommodate his guests. (Hanna 2003:31 and Netherton and Netherton 1987:52.)

Custis's daughter, Mary Ann Randolph, married Robert E. Lee of the U.S. Army in 1831. When George Washington Parke Custis died in 1857, the Arlington Estate passed to the Lees.

Long Bridge was built over the Potomac River in 1809, roughly in the current location of the 14th Street Bridge, terminating on the Virginia side on marshland south of the Arlington estate. Over a mile in length, this major structure signaled the decline in the importance of ferries to the Washington area. Development in eastern Arlington began to cluster around three major nodes along the river: Long Bridge, Mason's Island and Rosslyn, and Chain Bridge and Pimmit Run. The first Long Bridge was destroyed in February 1831, when a major flood washed out many properties between Seneca, Maryland, and Georgetown. Rebuilt four years later, the bridge continued to be washed out and rebuilt throughout the 19th century.

Two turnpikes passing through northern Alexandria County were chartered in 1808: Columbia

Turnpike ran west from Long Bridge, while the Washington-Alexandria Turnpike led south from the bridge to Alexandria. In 1809, John Mason established his own private toll road, the "Alexandria Turnpike," also known as the Alexandria and Georgetown (or Georgetown and Alexandria) Turnpike and later as Arlington Ridge Road. This road connected Mason's Ferry with the other two turnpikes via a route that cut straight across the Arlington estate.

Along with the new roads, canals were built. Work on the Chesapeake and Ohio (C & O) Canal was begun in 1825. From its beginning in Georgetown, the canal ran north along the Maryland side of the Potomac River. It was intended to terminate in Ohio, but construction finally ended in Cumberland, Maryland, 180 miles to the north. Not to be outdone, Alexandria chartered its own canal in 1830, constructed from 1831 to 1843. The Alexandria Canal connected with the C & O by the Aqueduct Bridge, built 1833-43 in the vicinity of the modern Key Bridge.

An agricultural depression afflicted much of the South in the mid-19th century, and immigrants from the North began purchasing lands in Fairfax County. Arlington County was retroceded from the District of Columbia to Virginia in 1846.

The Civil War, 1861-1865

In April 1861, upon hearing that Virginia had seceded from the Union, Robert E. Lee resigned from the United States Army – in which he had served for more than 30 years – to accept the command of Virginia's Confederate forces. The Lees left Arlington and their estate was occupied by federal troops on May 24.

The area around the Arlington estate became a focus of Union military activity and played a vital role in the defenses of Washington. At this time, the population of the county, outside of Alexandria City, numbered only about 1400. Federal soldiers established a garrison of 18,000 soldiers at Arlington Heights. (Cissna 1990:46) Encampments were set up on the high ridge of Rosslyn, and a circle of earthen forts was constructed around D.C.; a few were located just north of Arlington Ridge Park, guarding the vital crossing of the Aqueduct Bridge and Mason's Ferry (a Union Army ferry during the war): Fort Haggerty in Rosslyn, and forts Smith, Strong, and Bennett around Spout Run. The Army built an extensive road network to connect the forts, and cleared surrounding land of vegetative cover for a distance of up to two miles. (Cissna 1990:48-50.) An Army camp was set up on Mason's Island in 1862, and from May to September 1863 was used for the training of African American "contraband" soldiers. (Fanning 1999:Section 8.)

Northern Virginia at this time was sparsely populated. Between Long and Aqueduct bridges stretched a mostly wooded landscape, with marshes along the river shore and fields laid out on the hills above. Woodland unbroken by roads or houses extended between Aqueduct Bridge and Spout Run. Development on the Virginia shore was concentrated around the ends of bridges. A small farmstead was located in the vicinity of the future Arlington Ridge Park site (1861 U.S. Coast Survey). Several structures stood on and below the Rosslyn hill, with two structures, probably houses, standing next to the Alexandria Canal near Fort Haggerty. Other houses were scattered around Spout Run, but there were no buildings along the river between Aqueduct Bridge and Spout Run.

Robert E. Lee freed the slaves of Arlington on December 29, 1862. In 1863, a planned community for the housing of contraband slaves, known as Freedmen's Village, was laid out in the southern part of the Arlington estate. Many of the Arlington slaves also settled there. A cemetery for this community became established to the north, near the route of the Alexandria and Georgetown Turnpike, a short distance south of the Arlington Ridge Park site. Freedmen's Village was disbanded in the 1880s. (Hanna 2003:82-84ff.)

The first burial of a soldier on the grounds of the Arlington estate, near the Freedmen's cemetery, occurred in May 1864. Others soon followed, and on June 15, Arlington House and 200 acres of the estate's land was appropriated for a national military cemetery by order of Quartermaster General Montgomery C. Meigs. By 1868, 14,000 men had been buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

Post War, 1865-1900

After the war ended, the Arlington estate remained under federal jurisdiction. Mary Custis had inherited only a life estate, and when she died in 1873, three years after Robert E. Lee, legal ownership passed to their son, George Washington Custis Lee, who soon brought suit against the government to regain Arlington. In 1882, the Supreme Court declared the federal taking of Arlington illegal, and ordered that compensation be paid. Lee received $150,000 and the federal government became the legal owner of Arlington. A sandstone wall was built around the perimeter of Arlington National Cemetery between 1867 and 1897. (Hanna 2003:110-111.)

Alexandria became an independent city in 1870, at which time the remaining portion of Alexandria County became essentially equivalent to modern Arlington County. Though its population had reached about 3200, more or less double what it had been before the war, the county remained agricultural for a few more decades. Both Rosslyn and a settlement known as Jackson City, at the west end of Long Bridge, were locally notorious as centers of drinking and debauchery. (Cissna 1990:50.)

The 1879 Hopkins Atlas shows that a man by the name of Randolph Birch owned five houses on the site of Arlington Ridge Park; these may have been situated on small farmsteads. Six houses are depicted on the Virginia shore opposite the south end of Mason's Island, on land just outside the boundaries of Arlington Ridge Park. Four names are listed on the map, though it is not known whether these represent the names of owners or tenants. The map shows four other houses near the island – two just north of Rocky Run, on the inland side of the Alexandria Canal, and two adjacent to Mason's Causeway. Though the 1879 Hopkins map shows nine buildings standing in Rosslyn, no structures appear along the river between Rosslyn and Chain Bridge. (Cissna 1990: 51 and O'Neill 2001:7-10.)

The 1894 Hopkins map depicts four houses on tracts located along the west side of the Georgetown and Alexandria Road, including a 7¾-acre tract owned by Randolph Birch. Six years later, at the turn of the century, Birch still owned the 7¾-acre tract, and to its north lay tracts owned by Joseph Palmer and Susan Fletcher. Two rail lines built in the late 19th century bordered the park site: the Washington, Arlington, and Falls Church Railway passed

on the west, and the Washington, Alexandria, and Mount Vernon Electric Railway lay along the east side of the Georgetown and Alexandria Road. (Howell and Taylor map 1900) The two rail lines and the Palmer, Fletcher and Birch tracts also appear on the 1900 USGS topographic map for the Washington Quadrangle. These three tracts were later consolidated into a single 25½-acre tract, which by the 1930s was known as the Nevius farm. (Some historic maps seen at Virginia Room, Arlington County Library; see Supplemental Information for list. Information on others comes from discussion in O'Neill 2001:6-10). In 1900, the Department of Agriculture established the Arlington Experimental Farm on the southern part of the Arlington Estate, near the river.

Arlington County in the Early 20th Century, 1901-1940

Arlington's population exploded in the 20th century, growing from 26,600 in 1930 to 135,000 by 1950, 163,000 by 1960, and 174,284 by 1970. It then declined somewhat, falling to 152,599 in 1980. Farmland was rapidly converted into suburban residential communities housing people who flocked to Washington to find employment in an expanding federal government. (Cissna 1990:57.)

Alexandria County was renamed Arlington County in 1920. Key Bridge was completed between Georgetown and Rosslyn in 1923, and three years later, Hoover Airport was built on the Arlington Experimental Farm, which occupied many acres in the south part of Arlington Estate. The farm closed in 1940, and Hoover Airport was soon replaced by the Pentagon and the much larger National Airport, built on Hunters Point, south of Arlington National Cemetery, in 1941. (Cissna 1990:58.)

Beginning in 1915, fill dredged from the river bottom was deposited in the river east of the Arlington estate, eventually taking the form of a long, linear island known as Columbia Island (now Lady Bird Johnson Park). Oriented north to south and separated from the Virginia shore by a narrow channel of water, Columbia Island lay within the District of Columbia boundaries. It served as a terminus for Arlington Memorial Bridge (completed 1932), a grand link between the Lincoln Memorial and the Arlington Estate, which symbolized the reunification of North and South after the Civil War. The island also provided a broad green park along the river, complementing East and West Potomac parks on the eastern shore. An extensive network of roads was built over Columbia Island: Route 50/Lee Boulevard (soon renamed Arlington Boulevard) was extended to connect Mount Vernon Memorial Highway, a parkway built between 1929 and 1932, and Arlington Memorial Bridge. From 1929, the Bureau of Public Roads began to extend Mount Vernon Memorial Highway north under the name George Washington Memorial Parkway, with a planned termination at the Great Falls of the Potomac. Work on the parkway was not finally completed until 1965, ending several miles short of the falls, at U.S. I-495, the Capital Beltway. (See Lady Bird Johnson Park Cultural Landscape Inventory.)

In 1931, the Roosevelt Memorial Association purchased Mason's Island and renamed it Theodore Roosevelt Island, with the intention that it would serve as a living forest memorial to the late president. The following year, the association presented the island to the federal government, and it is now part of the National Park System under the National Capital Region. Construction of the starkly functional Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Bridge, across the

southern end of Theodore Roosevelt Island, began in the early 1960s; the bridge opened for traffic on June 23, 1964. (Fanning 1999:Section 8.)

No significant new development seems to have been carried out on the site of Arlington Ridge Park in these years. The land was purchased by Avon Nevius and Lt. Col. Sherrill, first executive officer of National Capital Planning Commission, whose idea it was "to keep it out of speculative development and later sell it to the Government, when funds could be obtained for that purpose." (Raymond L. Freeman, Advance Planning Officer, to Superintendent National Capital Parks, "Land Adjacent to Nevius Tract, Arlington, Virginia," March 19, 1959, FRC-Nevius Tract, LUCE files.)

Origin of Arlington Ridge Park, 1941-1960

(The author's guide to abbreviations regarding Land Use Coordination Files, frequently cited in the following section, can be found in Supplemental Information at the end of this document.)

Arlington Ridge Park became the property of the National Park Service in 1953. It was acquired to protect the west end of the National Mall from the visual intrusion of development in Virginia. The first memorial to be built was the U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial, situated in the northern half of the site. The National Park Service obtained the acknowledgement of the corps that the Marine Corps War Memorial would be but one component in a plan that would ultimately have three memorial structures.

Though built to honor all Marines, the U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial is directly based on what may be the most renowned photograph of American forces in World War II, the image by Associated Press photographer Joseph (Joe) Rosenthal showing American Marines raising the flag on Mount Suribachi on the Japanese island of Iwo Jima, in February 1945. The photograph inspired the creation of the national memorial. It is necessary to discuss briefly the battle of Iwo Jima, and the controversy surrounding the flagraising photograph, to understand Arlington Ridge Park.

The Battle of Iwo Jima and the Rosenthal Photograph

Located about 650 miles south of Tokyo, Iwo Jima was home to a small permanent population of farmers and factory workers. An extinct volcano, Mount Suribachi, stood at the island's narrow southern tip and formed its only prominent landmark. North of the mountain stretched a wedge of land, which broadened out at the northern end. In 1944 the Japanese built an airstrip on the island, dozens of blockhouses, and 750 gun emplacements, and excavated a vast complex of tunnels through the volcanic rock. On the slopes of Mount Suribachi they constructed 1000 pillboxes, and beneath its surface they built a hospital and other structures. (Marling and Wetenhall 1991:21-23.)

From November 1944 to March 1945, American strategy for the Japanese mainland and in the Central Pacific focused on the precision bombing of Japanese industrial centers. Incendiary bombs were delivered beginning in March 1945. B-29 superfortresses, the largest bomber of the Second World War, led these air strikes, flying from bases located more than 1000 miles

from their Japanese targets. However, the more fuel the planes carried, the fewer bombs they could hold; and the farther distances were beyond the range of their escorts of fighter planes. Also, the B-29s had to drop their payloads from a high altitude, resulting in a loss of accuracy and greater fuel consumption. An American airstrip on Iwo Jima would solve these problems, providing a base for covering fighter planes and a haven for injured airmen and damaged B-29s. (Hart "History of the Second World War," 1970:630ff; Marine Corps War Memorial Foundation, Press Memorandum, date unknown, in FRC file "1430/Marine Corps War Memorial-Suppl.," Land Use Coordination Files [LUCE files]; Marling & Wetenhall 1991:24-25.)

The United States planned a Marine invasion of Iwo Jima to begin on February 19, 1945. For many weeks before the Marines landed, American forces bombed Iwo Jima daily, but this likely just encouraged the Japanese to strengthen their position. In the three days before the assault, the Navy inflicted an especially intensive bombardment.

On February 23, four days after the landing and before few gains had been made, a four-man detachment from Company F of the 28th Marines was sent on a reconnaissance mission up the north side of Mount Suribachi, where they discovered empty gun emplacements. Before this first group had returned, a 40-man platoon from Company E also began the ascent. While the Iwo Jima operation was being planned, this company had decided that they would raise a flag from the mountain's summit, and they carried with them a small 54-inch by 28-inch flag. Photographer Lou Lowery, from the Marine newspaper Leatherneck, accompanied them. (Beginning with the Iwo Jima campaign, the Navy – which up till then had kept a tight lid on information – began to allow increased news coverage of the war, and even to encourage favorable publicity, to raise soldiers' morale as well as to bolster support back home. Marling & Wetenhall 1991:27, 42-43.)

At about 10:35 a.m. on the 23rd, three men of Easy Company raised this flag on a short pole they found among the debris littering the summit. The sight of the flag waving in the breeze inspired cheers from the Marines gathered on the beaches and ships below. Broadcast over the radio, this event signaled that the Marines had captured Suribachi; but it infuriated the Japanese soldiers who were still entrenched in the mountain, just beneath the peak, and they opened fire on the flagraisers. The Americans retaliated, firing into caves and sealing their openings, trapping many dozens of Japanese. (Marling & Wetenhall 1991:43-53.)

An officer who witnessed the first flagraising from below decided that a larger and more visible flag was called for, and he secured a 96-inch by 56-inch flag, which originally came from a salvage depot on Pearl Harbor. At the same time, a young Associated Press photographer, Joseph Rosenthal (known as "Joe"), saw the flag being carried up the mountain. He gathered a small group of Marines and two Marine combat photographers to follow the men from Company E, hoping to be in time for the flagraising. The larger flag was delivered by a runner to the Second Platoon of Company E while Rosenthal's small party was ascending the mountain. Rosenthal reached the summit in time to see Marines taking down the first flag and preparing to raise the second on its own pole, an action coordinated so the flags would succeed each other smoothly, one being lowered while the other was raised. Six men were hurriedly selected to raise the second flag: Pfc. Franklin R. Sousley of Ewing, Kentucky; Cpl.

Ira H. Hayes, Bapchule, Arizona; Sgt. Michael Strank, Conemaugh, Pennsylvania; Cpl. Rene A. Gagnon, Hookseet, New Hampshire; Cpl. Harlon H. Block, Weslaco, Texas; and Pharmacist's Mate 2nd Class John H. Bradley of Appleton, Wisconsin, a Navy corpsman attached to the Marines. Sousley, Strank, and Block were killed on Iwo Jima in the days following. (Marling & Wetenhall 1991:64-67.)

Rosenthal snapped two photographs of this second flagraising. The first shot caught the men straining to raise the pole, grouped in a striking pyramidal arrangement, the lead figure thrusting the pole into the ground while the others reached to support it. The second depicted Marines wiring the pole in place. Rosenthal then staged two photos of Marines gathered under flag and cheering. Having taken 18 photographs in all, Rosenthal was back at the base of the mountain by 2 p.m., and his film was shipped to the armed services processing lab on Guam that afternoon. (Marling & Wetenhall 1991:67-72.)

Rosenthal's photo of the six Marines raising the second flag ran in morning papers across the United States on February 25. The image immediately inspired a profound emotional reaction among a broad cross-section of the American public. Life magazine wrote that the photo had "arrived on the home front at the right psychological moment to symbolize the nation's emotional response to great deeds of war." (Marling and Wetenhall 1991:74.) After seeing it on the front page of the Washington Post, a congressman introduced a bill on March 1 authorizing construction of a monument based on the photograph (this first bill does not seem to have passed). Newspapers and magazines printed the photo as a color image in special issues, and "the Marine Corps was deluged with requests for copies and questions about the identity of the raisers". (Marling & Wetenhall 1991:75.) A stamp based on the photo was issued July 11, and the image was used for the Treasury Department's Seventh War Bond drive the same month. The three surviving flag-raisers – Bradley, Hayes, and Gagnon – became celebrities, and were sent on a War Bond tour. The photo became the basis for a regular industry – posters, advertisements, even movies were based on the image. (Gerald D. Morgan to Sen. Clements, Letter, Nov. 29, 1954, LUCE files; Marling & Wetenhall 1991: chapters 5 & 6.)

The photograph reflected the "new symbolic weight" of the American flag promoted during the war, symbolized by Congress' passing of the Flag Code in 1943. (Marling & Wetenhall 1991:76) Though rumors circulated that the photo had been staged, Joe Rosenthal found himself widely celebrated, and he won the Pulitzer Prize that year. Life published Lou Lowery's photo of the first flagraising on March 26, but the earlier event was quickly forgotten.

After the two flagraisings, the battle on Iwo Jima continued for another three weeks. An "official," though anticlimactic, flagraising was held on March 14, signaling the imminent, actual end of the battle, which was finally captured 48 hours later. Meant only to inspire the troops, the first and second flagraisings were taken by the American populace as the real moment of victory.

Three divisions of Marines had participated in the 36-day assault on Iwo Jima. There were more than 26,000 American casualties, with 6800 men killed. Five-thousand nine-hundred

and thirty-one Marines were killed and 17,372 were wounded, the most in the history of the Marine Corps. (Figures provided by Reference Section, Marine Corps Historical Society.)

The end of the battle of Iwo Jima marked the first American capture of Japanese territory during the war. It was followed by American victory in the battle of Okinawa in June, the dropping of the atomic bomb on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August, and the Japanese surrender in September.

Felix de Weldon's First Statues

The night the Rosenthal photo was first sent over the wires, a Navy officer handed the image to Felix de Weldon, a young, Viennese-trained sculptor assigned to the Navy artists' corps at Patuxent Air Station in Maryland. The officer noted it "might make a great statue" and de Weldon immediately began crafting a model out of wax and balsa wood. (Marling and Wetenhall 1991:89.)

This small statue attracted attention from the Marine command, who outfitted de Weldon with a studio at Marine headquarters and supplied him with materials and Marines to model for him – including the three surviving flag-raisers. De Weldon made certain adaptations to the image in the photo, grouping the figures more tightly together for greater cohesion. On June 4, he presented a larger clay maquette to President Harry S Truman in the Oval Office. (Marling and Wetenhall 1991:90-92.)

Enabling Legislation for the U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial

For two years, attempts were made to pass legislation creating a national Marine memorial based on the Rosenthal statue. Finally, in June 1947, Congress passed a Joint Resolution authorizing the erection in Washington, D.C. of a memorial to the Marine Corps dead of all wars. The law stipulated that the memorial should be built on public grounds, with private funds, somewhere in the District of Columbia. A private body called The Marine Corps League (established 1937) was granted authorization to build the memorial. The approval of the Commission of Fine Arts was required, and if work had not begun within five years and funds were not available, authorization would lapse.

This bill said nothing about the type of memorial to be built or use of the Rosenthal photo, though it clearly appears to have been understood that this was the form the memorial would take. No other image or artist seems to have been considered. (A more thorough investigation of the sequence of events is beyond the scope of the Cultural Landscape Inventory.) The resolution became law on July 1, 1947 (Public Law 157 – 80th Cong.). Later amendments extended the deadline to ten years; authorized a site either in the District or its immediate vicinity; and called for the approval of the National Capital Park and Planning Commission (NCPPC) and the Secretary of the Interior.

In the late 1940s and early '50s, several sites were considered for the Marine memorial. Gilmore Clarke, a landscape architect and the powerful chairman of the Commission of Fine Arts from 1937 to 1950, discussed with National Park Service officials the suitability of a site

at the tip of Hains Point, in East Potomac Park. However, the small, flat, often flooded location was deemed to present too many difficulties, and it was feared that its 100-foot height would obstruct the flight paths to Bolling Air Force Base, Anacostia Naval Air Station, and National Airport, the latter almost directly across the river on the Virginia shore. (See Hayward S. Florer, Air Carrier Inspection Office, to Bennett H. Griffin, Administrator, National Airport, Letter, Sept. 8, 1947; Griffin to Gilmore D. Clarke, Sept. 9, 1947; and Jackson E. Price, Acting Assoc. Director, DOI, to Clarke, Sept. 23, 1947, all in FRC box "1430/Marine Corps War Memorial [Iwo Jima]" in LUCE files.)

Though locating an appropriate site was a process that took several years, design development of the statue proceeded in the meantime. The statue initially was conceived as an immense monument, with the flagpole rising to 100 feet and helmets 3 feet in diameter. (NCPPC Minutes, June 19-20, 1947.) Probably in 1947, the Marine Corps League retained architect Paul Franz Jaquet to develop a suitable setting for de Weldon's statue.

Jaquet designed a base and plans for the approach, circulation, and lighting. He placed the statue within a formal plaza, situated at the north end of a pair of reflecting pools which formed the unifying feature of an elaborate memorial complex that included a Memory Walk, the flags of all 48 states plus the American territories, and, most importantly, a Court of Four [sic – Five] Freedoms. This may be one of the first references to the idea for the so-called Freedom Shrine, or Freedom Monument, dedicated to the basic rights guaranteed by the Bill of Rights (see below). Evergreen hedges were to symbolize "the uniforms of the Corps." The base of the statue contained an elliptical, domed shrine room. ("The Marine Corps Memorial," date and author unknown. Six-page ts. with photostats of drawings showing de Weldon and Jaquet conception, FRC files, LUCE files; Marling & Wetenhall 1991:150-151. Marling & Wetenhall provide an illustration of the Jaquet model on p. 152; the source is given as "United States Marine Corps photo, National Archives.")

The American Battlefield Monuments Commission submitted the project of de Weldon and Jaquet to the Commission of Fine Arts in July 1947. Jaquet's design for the base minus the shrine room, and perhaps for certain features of the plaza, may have been retained in the final plan. However, Jaquet was soon dismissed from the project and the Marine Corps League retained Washington architect Horace Peaslee to provide overall planning and direction. Peaslee, in turn, hired landscape architect Markley Stevenson to assist in developing landscape and planting plans.

The CFA also considered placing the statue on Columbia Island (now Lady Bird Johnson Park), on a site about 1000 feet north of Memorial Circle, the western terminus of Arlington Memorial Bridge. But attention soon focused on a parcel of land owned by the government, known as the Nevius Tract. One problem interfering with consideration of the Nevius Tract was the memorial's enabling legislation, which specified use of a site in the District of Columbia; an amendment soon solved this difficulty. (Merel S. Sager, Chief, Planning Division, to H.T. Thompson, Acting Superintendent, Memo, Nov. 13, 1951, in FRC box "1430/Marine Corps War Memorial [Iwo Jima]" in LUCE files.)

The Nevius Tract

The Nevius Tract – 25.406 acres immediately northeast of Arlington National Cemetery, across from the military road to Fort Myer – was a parcel that had been acquired in the years immediately following World War I by Avon M. Nevius, a clerk for Washington's Riggs Bank. (The tract actually comprised three parcels; other small parcels have since been added around the edge. Information from Glenn DeMarr, Regional Land Use Liaison, conversation with author, June 18, 2002.) There is some suggestion that Lt. Col. C.O. Sherrill, the first executive Officer of the National Capital Park Commission, was involved with Nevius in these transactions, and that it was their intention to keep the land out of speculative development and later, when funds were available for the purpose, sell it to the federal government. Nevius may have anticipated that the government would eventually want the land for a memorial to Woodrow Wilson. (George Kennedy, "Mr. Nevius had a Sharp Eye for Scenery – and It Paid Off," Evening Star, Aug. 26, 1951; Raymond L. Freeman, "Land Adjacent to Nevius Tract," March 19, 1959, Nevius Tract file, FRC file, LUCE files; and Land Record 91 in Land Records files of NCR.)

As related in a 1951 newspaper article, Nevius

"bought the first part of the tract from the Palmer family of Georgetown for 6 cents a square foot . . . [and] acquired the 16 adjoining acres for $50,000. The National Capital Parks and Planning Commission finally recommended that land should be acquired for a Woodrow Wilson memorial. That was in 1931. But the site recommended was Radnor Heights, just above or west of the Nevius tract. This did not bother Mr. Nevius. He knew if the Government built a memorial on the hill behind his property it would have to take his land too, to protect the view to Washington." (Kennedy 1951: n.p. on copy.)

The government acquired the land for almost $1.7 million through condemnation in February 1948 as a possible site for a Veterans Administration hospital, for which a topographic survey had been prepared in December 1946 (NCR drawing #850/80485). The tract was placed under the Public Buildings Service of the General Services Administration (GSA), and the Veterans Administration was informed by the House Appropriations Committee that they could not build their hospital on such a valuable property. (Kennedy 1951:n.p. on copy.)

At the time, the Nevius Tract was occupied by a small wood-frame house, and a few dilapidated outbuildings – two greenhouses, a privy – and three wells. A driveway led to the house from Arlington Ridge Road. From 1950 to 1952, the house was rented by Army Master Sergeant William Merrill, who lived there without bathroom plumbing and dumped his trash in a ravine about 200 feet from the house. The Army conducted small troop maneuvers on the site. The government soon demolished the buildings, and filled the wells and several test pits that had been bored for the hospital. ("Report on Sanitary Survey at Nevius Tract, Arlington County, Virginia," undated report in "1460/Nevius Tract," FRC file in LUCE files.)

In May 1951, the National Park Service was recorded as having no interest in the Nevius Tract. The Department of Defense was eyeing the tract as a potential addition to Arlington National Cemetery, while Arlington County was hoping to use the land for recreation. Eventually, the tract was placed under the jurisdiction of the Interior Department as a site for a

planned church memorial to the military chaplains of the United States. (Sen. John Marshall Butler to Douglas McKay, Sec. of Interior. Letter, Feb. 27, 1953 in unlabeled file in FRC box, LUCE files.) Nothing came of this, and by early 1953, it had been decided to use a portion of the tract for the Netherlands Carillon.

The director of the National Park Service officially accepted the Nevius Tract as part of George Washington Memorial Parkway on March 2, 1953. It was transferred from the GSA without reimbursement. (See series of letters in file "1460/Nevius Tract" in FRC box LUCE files dated Jan. 16, Feb. 5, and March 2, 1953.) The heavily overgrown land was cleared in December 1953, its condition recorded in a series of photographs taken by NPS photographer Abbie Rowe. It seems that at least some large existing trees were retained. (Harry T. Thompson, comments before CFA, Dec. 17, 1953, 1430-2, and H.W. Peaslee to H.T. Thompson, Memo, Nov. 29, 1954, 1430-2, LUCE files.)

The Netherlands Carillon

In the early 1950s, a Dutch businessman conceived the idea of presenting the United States with the gift of a carillon tower to symbolize the gratitude of the Dutch people for aid given during World War II, when American forces helped free the Netherlands from Nazi occupation, and in the years of reconstruction following, when aid was given through the Marshall Plan. In April 1952, on a trip to the United States, Queen Juliana of the Netherlands presented President Truman with a small silver bell, a token of the carillon, in a ceremony sponsored by the Department of the Interior and held in Meridian Hill Park. Three leading Dutch bell foundries started casting the bells that year. In October, the Netherlands Ambassador to the United States began making inquiries of the Secretary of the Interior regarding a location. Noting that certain sites had already been discussed "informally," he stated that the Nevius Tract "appears to be by far the most attractive and suitable," and asked whether it could be secured for the carillon. (Dr. J.J. van Roijen, Netherlands Ambassador, Netherlands Embassy, to Sec. of Interior, Letter, Oct. 23, 1952, 1460-1, LUCE files.)

A letter was soon drafted for the President's signature by Harry T. Thompson, Acting Superintendent of National Capital Parks, requesting the GSA to transfer the Nevius Tract to the Department of the Interior so that it could be evaluated for the carillon tower. Duly sent by the President on January 16, 1953, the letter transferred the tract to the jurisdiction of the National Park Service, to be administered as part of George Washington Memorial Parkway. (See letters of Nov. 17 & Dec. 6, 1952, Jan. 9 & Jan. 16, 1953, in 1460-1, LUCE files.)

Early Siting of U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial

Fearing that the Marine memorial might be placed directly on the Mall axis, sometime around June 1953 the Commission of Fine Arts asked the Marine Corps War Memorial Foundation to quickly prepare a landscape plan. The foundation secured the services of landscape architect Elbert Peets, at that time the landscape architecture member of the CFA. (Peets was assured that he would be asked to do the "final landscaping" if the site were approved. While this did not happen, he did continue to provide some direction. See David E. Finley to Maj. Gen. Merritt A. Edson, 1430-2, and Edson to Peets, July 28, 1953, in 1460-1, in LUCE files.) In

July, the foundation formally requested authorization from the Secretary of the Interior to use the site. (Edson to Hon. Douglas McKay, Sec. of Interior, July 7, 1953; 1430-2, LUCE files.) However, it was recommended that no decision be made until a decision had been reached on the carillon. (Thompson to McKay, Memo, re: "Possible Use of Nevius Tract for Netherlands Memorial Carillon Tower," July 10, 1953, 1460-1, LUCE files.) Orme Lewis, the Assistant Secretary of the Interior, wrote:

"[The tract] is high in elevation, and overlooks the Mall axis. Its position is unique, it is extremely important to the Nation's Capital from an aesthetic standpoint, and therefore should be devoted to the highest public benefit to the Nation." (Orme Lewis to A.L. Miller, Dec. 12, 1953, FRC-1460/Nevius Tract, LUCE files.)

On December 15, 1953, the Secretary of the Interior formally granted the foundation permission to erect the U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial on the Nevius Tract, directing them to consult with the National Park Service on its location, development, and other details. (McKay to Edson, Dec. 15, 1953, 1430-2, LUCE files.) It was also directed that the memorial was to form one part of a composition with other memorials.

The Freedom Shrine and the Extension of the National Mall Axis

A complicating issue affecting the placement of the two memorials on the Nevius Tract arose in the early 1950s. For several years, the Marine Corps War Memorial and the Netherlands Carillon were considered as potential components of a larger composition to be focused on an extraordinarily large and ambitious monument to the five political freedoms guaranteed by the Bill of Rights – speech, religion, press, assembly, and petition. (Orme Lewis, Assistant Sec. of Interior, to A.L. Miller, Chairman, Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, House of Representatives, Dec. 22, 1953, 1460-1, LUCE files.) Called variously the National Monument and the National Freedom Shrine, the project seems to have evolved from an idea put forward by architect Eric Gugler and First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt in the 1940s for a structure referred to as the "Hall of Our History." The Freedom Shrine was intended to be a living memorial, a building providing some community use – perhaps including meeting rooms, an auditorium, or the like. A cross-axis to the extended Mall line was shown on a topographic survey prepared in about January 1954. (Haussmann to Thompson, Sept. 27, 1954, Nevius Tract, and Thompson to Peaslee, Jan. 14, 1954, 1430-2, LUCE files.)

By October 1953, the Netherlands Ambassador was seeking to have the carillon considered as a possible addition to this larger ensemble. This idea may have already occurred to some of the people involved, at least in National Capital Parks. (Netherlands Ambassador, Oct. 23, 1953, 1460-1, LUCE files.)

Speaking before a meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts in December, Harry Thompson of National Capital Parks outlined the major design considerations for organizing the three memorials on the Nevius Tract. The key thing, Thompson said, was to consider the Nevius Tract as an extension of the National Mall axis. At the same time, it was important that the Marine Corps War Memorial and the Netherlands Carillon should both be placed off the Mall axis, though on a line perpendicular to it. The prime site at the end of the axis – the actual

new termination of the western end of the Mall – would be reserved for the Freedom Shrine.

Thompson then briefly described the plan for the ensemble: a pair of reflecting pools would lie in front of the Freedom Shrine and link the Marine Corps War Memorial on the north with the carillon on the south. Referring to the Marine Corps Memorial specifically, Thompson stressed that this plan would enable visitors to see the memorial in three ways: in the round, silhouetted against the sky, and reflected in the pools.

A National Monument Commission for the shrine was created by act of Congress in August 1954 (Public Law, 742, 83rd Cong., 68 Stat. 1029). Charged with developing designs, the commission selected John Harbeson of the Philadelphia firm Harbeson, Hough, Livingston, and Larson as project architect, while Gilmore Clarke designed the landscape.

Chief NCP architect Haussmann wrote an analysis of the site in September:

". . . the site is of a degree of importance unique in the city and its environs. The Mall axes are centered and terminated by structures of an importance equaled by no others in the Nation and this site presents the last remaining opportunity for development on a broad and splendid scale."

Therefore, Haussmann believed, the axial relation of the Nevius Tract to the Mall and to its central axis "should be acknowledged, but not necessarily rigidly adhered to." The architectural setting of the National Monument should unify the two other memorials. Haussmann emphasized the vital role that would be played by reciprocal views between the Mall and the new monuments in ensuring that visitors would understand the relationships among them. (Haussmann to Thompson, Sept. 27, 1954, Nevius Tract, LUCE files-FRC.)

Construction of the Marine Corps War Memorial and Its Landscape

In the meantime, plans went ahead for the Marine Corps War Memorial. The conditions under which the foundation was authorized to build the monument on the Nevius Tract were outlined in a letter from the director of the NPS dated January 5, 1954. They were to consult with the NPS on the monument's "location, orientation, and elevation" in relation to the site as shown on a study prepared in December 1953 (NCR drawing #117.3-110); to secure NPS approval on any drawings; to obtain top soil and fill from the immediate site or from off the property; and to protect other parts of the site from damage. (Conrad L. Wirth to Edson, Jan. 5, 1954, 1430-2, LUCE files.)

The foundation hired the Washington architect and park designer Horace W. Peaslee to design the memorial "entourage" (his term for the ensemble). Peaslee (1884-1959) had served as architect for the Office of Public Buildings and Grounds (1917-1922), was one of the principal designers of Meridian Hill Park (1917-36), and was appointed Director of Housing for the Public Works Administration. Apparently it was Peaslee who then secured the services of landscape architect Markley Stevenson as a landscape consultant for the project, responsible for developing the planting plan. (Whether Peets remained involved with the project is not clear.) The representatives of National Capital Parks who were most closely involved were

Acting Superintendent Harry T. Thompson, NCP Chief Architect William Haussmann, and landscape architect B.C. Howland.

The specific location on the tract was selected in a meeting held on site in late January between representatives of the foundation (including Peaslee and Peets), National Capital Parks, and the Commission of Fine Arts. The men decided that the memorial should be generally oriented north to south, with its long axis approximately perpendicular "at its mid-point to the line of sight of the Washington Monument," and that the elevation of the base should be 100 feet above sea level, plus or minus five feet. (Edson to Wirth, letter, jan. 27, 1954, 1430-2, LUCE.) Peaslee's general scheme for the entourage was approved.

Work began the next month. Fill was used to create a berm – called variously the "enframing crescent terrace" and the "pine knoll" – at the west end of the site. Situated behind the area reserved for a reviewing platform, the berm helped form a secluded precinct for the memorial, partially blocking views of the roadways and apartment buildings which pressed closely around the site to the north and west. Peaslee was adamant that the memorial should face south and approach should be off-axis (presumably so that visitors would see the statue to its advantage, at an oblique angle). The main entrance would be from the east, with parking provided at the west and egress via North Meade Street. (Peaslee to John Nolen, NCPPC, Feb. 1, 1954, 1430-2, LUCE files.)

Groundbreaking was held on February 19th, 1954, the ninth anniversary of the invasion of Iwo Jima. Presiding over the ceremony was Secretary of the Interior Douglas McKay and Commandant of the U.S. Marine Corps Gen. Lemuel C. Shepherd, Jr. The shovel employed had been used for the groundbreaking of the Lincoln and Jefferson memorials. By this date, the Marine Corps War Memorial Foundation had already raised $500,000 in donations from current and former Marines. About $250,000 was still needed.

Plans for the design and grading were approved by the Commission of Fine Arts in March 1954. The same month, the National Capital Park and Planning Commission and Arlington County approved plans for the connecting roads. Other approvals were soon secured from National Capital Parks and Virginia State Highways. The National Park Service formally accepted plans for the general layout, grading, and roads in April. (Arthur B. Hanson, Counsel, MCWMF, to Wirth, April 13, 1954, and Thompson to Edson, c/o Hanson, April 29, 1954, 1430-2, LUCE files.)

Since Peaslee wanted the new grade to be smooth and continuous, a ravine between the memorial site and Arlington Boulevard had to be filled. New planting may have been extended into the highway's right-of-way. Specifications for roadways, walks and steps were ready by May, with drawings prepared by Clarke-Yarus Associates, Architects and Engineers, and grading was underway the next month. Plants were purchased from Rock Creek Nurseries. (Peaslee, Memo, April 28, 1954; also Peaslee to Thompson, April 28, 1954; Peaslee office, Specifications for the Construction of Roadways, Walks and Steps, Marine Corps War Memorial, May 4, 1954, 1430-2, LUCE files.)

Markley Stevenson had developed the planting plan for the memorial by June. He used a

limited plant palette, relying primarily on a few species of trees, such as willow and scarlet oaks, white pines, lindens, hornbeams, and sour gums, with individual species defining particular areas. Hedges of yew (Taxus) and osmanthus defined the plaza immediately around the statue. (B.C. Howland to Merel S. Sager, June 14, 1954, 1430-2, LUCE files.) Immediately behind the reviewing stand, Stevenson placed a "thin red line" of sour gums to form a brilliant red backdrop to the statue in the fall, especially when viewed across the river from the Lincoln Memorial and the Watergate Steps. (See Analysis and Evaluation: Vegetation.)

Grading and tree planting were carried out in the summer of 1954. In September, the statue was shipped in pieces from its Long Island foundry on three flatbed trucks. Erection of the statue on site began on September 13 in preparation for the dedication on November 10. Buried in the concrete foundation was a lead box containing Marine Corps memorabilia. (Henry G. Weeden to Robert Horne/Thompson, Sept. 16, 1954, and letter, Marine Corps War Memorial Foundation to Joe D. Probst, Feb. 15, 1955, 1430-2, LUCE files.)

The contractor was Charles Tompkins Company, and the subcontractor for paving was Helsing Brothers. John J. Earley Studios prepared a special concrete paving system for the black plaza around the statue and for the reviewing platform. (See Analysis and Evaluation: Buildings and Structures, and also Circulation.) An original concrete reviewing stand at the west end of the site was demolished, replaced by a new Earley Studios stand in the fall of 1954. (Howland to Sager, Sept. 22, 1954, 1430-2, LUCE files.)

The U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial was dedicated on November 10, 1954, the 179th anniversary of the founding of the Marine Corps. Presiding officials included President Dwight D. Eisenhower, Vice President Richard M. Nixon, the Deputy Secretary of Defense (honorary Chairman of the Day), the president of the Marine Corps War Memorial Foundation, the Assistant Secretary of the Interior, and sculptor de Weldon. The foundation turned the memorial over to the National Park Service on July 1, 1955.

In the first year after the memorial's dedication, National Capital Parks had to deal with parking pressures and traffic problems at the site. Parking seems to have originally been on the "east slope ridge" before Peaslee recommended moving it to the more secluded slope at the west to "preserve the character of the present approach." (Peaslee to Thompson, June 28, 1955, 1430-2, LUCE files.) While Peaslee advised against installing any permanent parking controls, National Capital Parks may have added "interceptors" placed at right angles in places where buses tended to run over curbs. (Howland and Sager to Thompson, July 26, 1955, and Peaslee to Thompson, July 26, 1955, 1430-2, LUCE files.) There were troubles with people trespassing over the site – damaging ground and turf by driving or clambering on foot down the slope from North Meade Street, or walking over the pine knoll and parade grounds – and Peaslee felt more controls were needed. (Peaslee to Thompson, Jan. 10, 1955; 1430-2.) Pylons of some kind which stood at the east side of the reviewing stand were removed in June 1955. Changes to the walks were also made at this time – some were removed, while others were added later. (Thompson to Haussmann [name illegible] and Sager, June 10, 1955, 1430-2, LUCE files.)

By presidential proclamation, the American flag was to be flown above the monument twenty-four hours a day, and National Capital Parks faced problems in devising a suitable lighting system for the statue. The first arrangement of lights shone into the windows of apartment buildings along North Meade Street. When residents complained, NCP tried to correct the problem by developing a system of lighting that did not shine into nearby buildings or directly into the eyes of visitors. A expert consultant was appointed, various experiments made, and a new system of indirect lighting was installed in 1957-58. Forty floodlights were concealed among the rocks on the base of memorial (which was meant to recall the stony summit of Mount Suribachi). Some lights were installed on the figures themselves, and others were placed in eight enclosures at points around the statue to shine on the base and its inscriptions. (Haussmann to Associate Superintendent, March 18, 1955, 1430-2; Thompson to Wirth, May 24, 1955, 1430-2; Thompson to Wray, June 10, 1955, 1430-2; "Technical Specifications for Floodlighting the U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial in Arlington, Virginia," Jan. 20, 1956, 1430-1, LUCE files.) Only a few years later, however, this system also was found to be unsatisfactory and the sixteen floodlights which shone on the base were removed. (Haussmann to Associate Superintendent, March 18, 1955; Thompson to Wirth, May 24, 1955; Thompson to Maj. Ralph Wray, June 10, 1955, 1430-2, LUCE files. Also "Technical Specifications for Floodlighting the U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial in Arlington, Virginia," Jan. 20, 1956, 1430-1, LUCE files.)

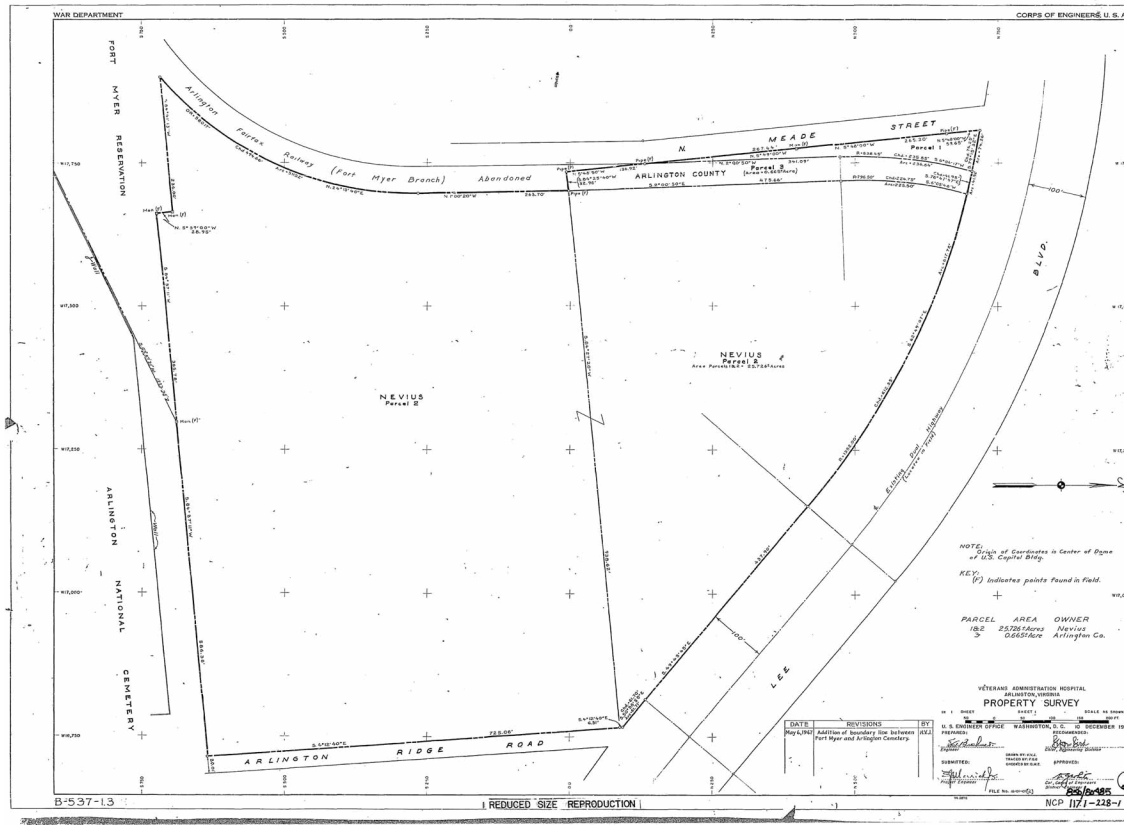
Construction of the Netherlands Carillon

By October 1953, all forty-nine bells of the Netherlands Carillon had been cast, and the carillon had been hung in a temporary structure in Rotterdam. (Netherlands Ambassador, Oct. 23, 1953, and McKay to Ambassador van Roijen, Nov. 24, 1953, 1460-1, LUCE files) In 1954, while the site for the U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial was being prepared, the Commission of Fine Arts was attempting to secure a location for the Netherlands Carillon in Meridian Hill Park. Both Elbert Peets and Horace Peaslee seem to have hoped that the carillon would go there. However, use of the Nevius Tract for as a site for the carillon was finally approved by the President on August 23, 1954 (Public Law 628 – 83rd Cong., 68 Stat. 769).

A couple of organizations objected to this location. The National Commander of AMVETS, a national veterans' service organization, wrote the Secretary of the Interior about their fears that a carillon in the park would conflict with the AMVETS carillon in the Amphitheater of Arlington National Cemetery. (Aandahl to Mahady, Sept. 23, 1954, 1460-1, LUCE files.)

By February 1956, the carillon had been shipped to the United States and hung in a temporary steel tower located on the polo grounds in West Potomac Park. National Capital Parks staff studied the sightlines from the Mall to the tower's proposed permanent location on the Nevius Tract (NCP drawing 117.1-304). The study suggested that the tower would only be visible above the Lincoln Memorial when seen from as far away as the base of the Washington Monument, and even then it would be a distant feature. When seen from directly behind the Lincoln Memorial, the tower would be "silhouetted against the sky over hill behind it for about half its height." (Haussmann to Thompson, Feb. 26, 1956, and Haussmann to Wilson, Jan. 3, 1957, 1460-1, LUCE files.)

The first plans prepared by Dutch architect Joost W.C. Boks called for a 250-foot-high open tower. After objections from the Commission of Fine Arts – which was concerned about the tower seen in relation to the Lincoln Memorial – the height was reduced to 150 feet, and the steel plates were added to partially enclose the skeletal steel framework. (Finley to Wirth, April 23, 1957, 1460-1, LUCE files.) The revised design was approved by the CFA in May 1957. Funds were donated by Americans of Dutch descent; it may be that fundraising had delayed construction. The final design was for a tower 127 feet high standing in the center of a square plaza, paved with quartzite and surrounded by a low lava-stone wall (see Analysis and Evaluation: Buildings and Structures). The tower was given a "baked lacquer finish" in a "rather neutral dull brownish bronze" color. (Haussmann to Sup. NCP, Oct. 14, 1958, 1460-1, LUCE files.) Two stylized bronze lions designed by Dutch sculptor Paul Doning flanked the low entrance steps on the east side. The Netherlands Carillon was officially dedicated on May 5, 1960, the 15th anniversary of Holland's liberation from Nazi Germany.



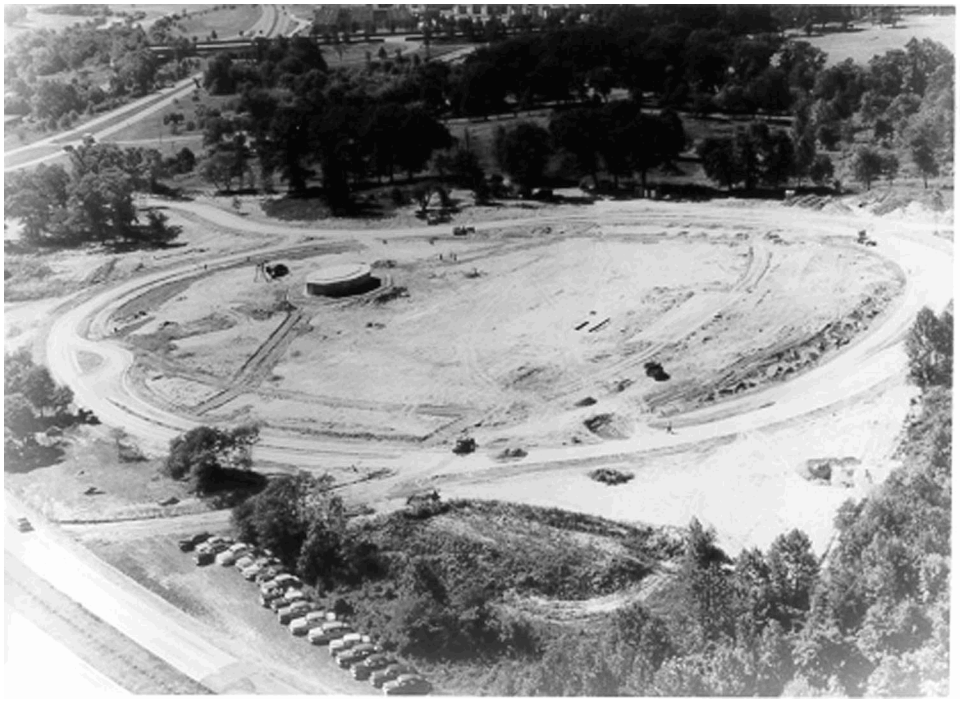
Tract map showing main portion of Nevius tract, TIC files 850_80512. ("final CLI illus/History/850_80512 - Nevius Tract 150")



Nevius Tract, c. Dec. 1953, showing scrub vegetation and condition of outbuildings, presumably those near the house. (Photo by Abbie Rowe, MRCE; photocopy in GWMP Cultural Resource file "Iwo, 2")



Nevius Tract being cleared, Dec. 1953. Trees in background may include some on site today. (Photo by Abbie Rowe, MRCE, photocopy in GWMP Cultural Resource file "Iwo-2")



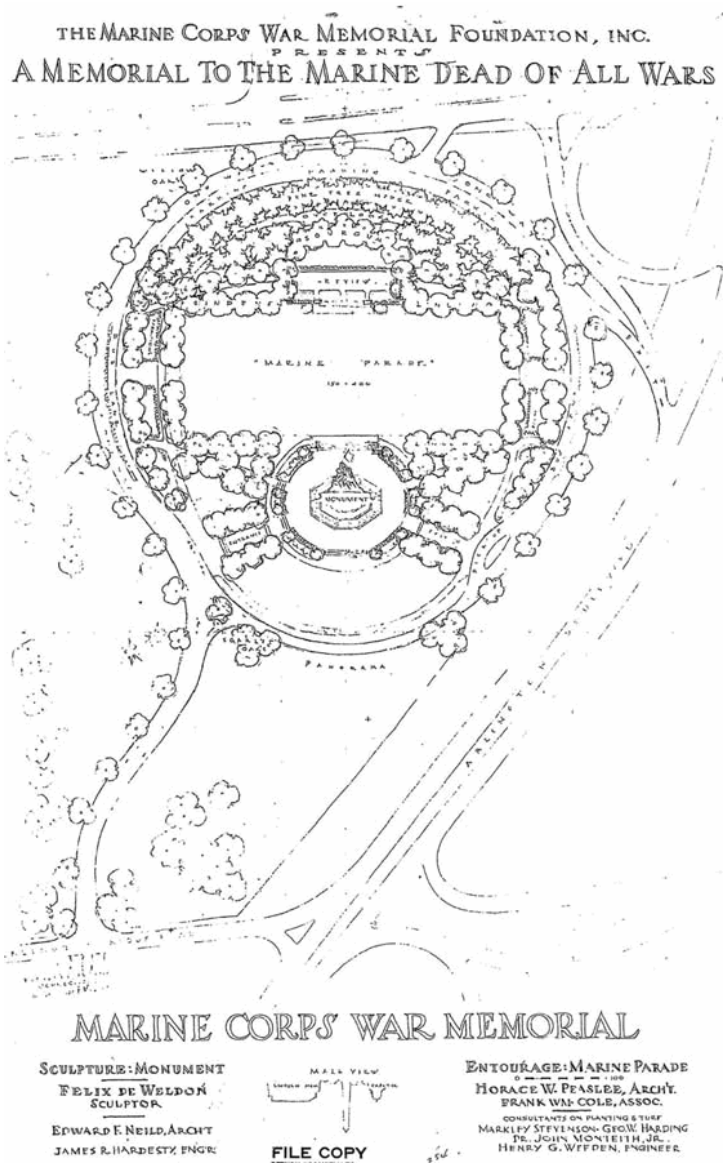
Site of U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial being prepared for installation of statue and landscaping. View to south, July 1954. (Defense Dept. photo 400925, print in GWMP library, "USMCWM 1954-1959.")



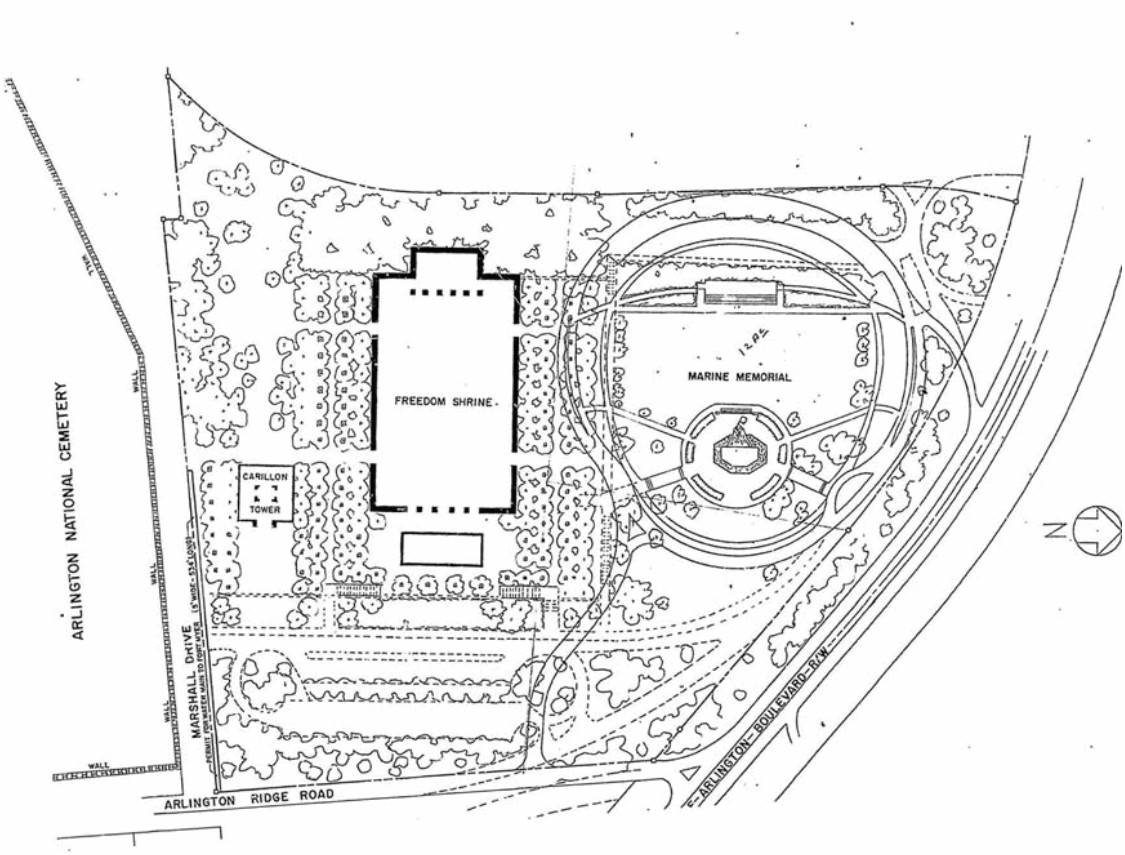
Birdseye view, dedication of U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial, Nov. 10, 1954, looking southeast. Note Norway spruces at right. (Defense Dept. aerial photo KVI-537, print in GWMP library, "USMCWM 1954-1959.")



Tourists visiting Marine Corps War Memorial in 1950s. Yews not yet clipped, and asphalt walk around plaza not yet installed. (GWMP files, "USMCWM 1954-1959.")



Horace Peaslee's "Entourage" plan, showing locations of trees and shrubs but not species. ("final CLI illus./History/850_80512 Entourage 150")



One scheme for inserting a massive Freedom Shrine between Peaslee's Entourage plan for the U.S. Marine Corps Memorial and the Netherlands Carillon. ("final CLI illus./History/850_80647 - plan with Shrine 150")

Continuity amid Change, 1961-2003

Abandonment of Freedom Shrine

Plans for the Freedom Shrine were abandoned when President Eisenhower left office. The site at the center rear of the park may have been graded; further information is not yet known. There are no other physical indications – in the arrangement of vegetation or circulation – that any structure was intended to be built here.

Landscaping of Netherlands Carillon Grounds

At the time the Netherlands Carillon was erected, no funds were available for landscaping its grounds. Immediately to the south, Arlington Ridge rose higher than the carillon site. It was planned that the ridge grade would be lowered, and the removed soil deposited on the low point of the southwest side of the tract. (Haussmann, Memo, Oct. 21, 1959, and report, Oct. 27, 1959, 1460-1, LUCE files.) Before the dedication, the National Park Service laid sod and planted grass seed on the site. In response to a citizen's letter expressing concern about the

landscape's bare appearance, Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall wrote: "National Capital Parks will undertake additional grounds work at the Carillon to reseed and improve the turf surrounding the memorial." (Udall to Davis, Oct. 30, 1961, 1460-1.) Grading, seeding, and sodding land between Ridge Road and the carillon was carried out.

In the early 1960s, following plans prepared by National Capital Parks landscape architects, dozens of trees were planted following an irregular, picturesque, meandering horseshoe shape around the carillon to the south, west, and north. Small clusters were installed to the east, apparently disposed so as not to interfere with the view east. Trees seem to have been added to a line of existing large trees at the north, in the center of the park, including a group of three Norway spruce. Additional trees may have been planted in the early 1980s following an assessment of the earlier plan.

Under the Johnson administration, as part of First Lady Lady Bird Johnson's Beautification Program in the mid-1960s, flowerbeds were installed in front of the carillon plaza. These appear to have been designed in the form of two musical notes, each composed of three beds; one composition runs east-west, the other north-south along Ridge Path. A circular plot between the two groups that first may have been grassed was later, in 1970, designed to be a Tulip Library. This has since become a Floral Library, with 50 small beds planted successively with different varieties of tulips in the spring, annuals in the summer, and chrysanthemums in the fall. (Freeman to Shoup, Sept. 28, 1962, 1460-1, plan for Tulip Library, 850/80902.)

Removal of Trees at Marine Corps War Memorial

In 1961, Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy was passing the Marine Corps War Memorial on his daily commute. Kennedy became concerned that trees east of the monument blocked a clear view from the surrounding highways, and in late February he had his legislative aide call the National Park Service. As a result, the National Capital Parks Maintenance Division removed several trees along Arlington Boulevard and Arlington Ridge Road, among them several medium-size willows and a large oak. (Horne to Director, NPS, late Feb. or early March 1961, 1430-1, LUCE files.)

However, this apparently was not sufficient. Kennedy himself called the Commandant of the Marine Corps, and further meetings were held on site in March and April, among representatives of the National Park Service, the Marines, and the Attorney General's office. Conrad Wirth, Director of the NPS, detailed the progress of these meetings in a series of memos to the Secretary of the Interior. Stating that he believed Kennedy's aim was to obtain a clear view of the monument from Arlington Memorial Bridge, he wrote: "We will move forward to achieve the objectives which the Attorney General desires." (Wirth to McKay, March 31, 1961, 1430-1, LUCE files.) Additional trees at the intersection of the entrance road with Arlington Ridge Road were identified for removal. Wirth seems to have attempted to inform Kennedy about the importance of trees as framing elements and that "the growth of trees now being considered for removal frame the southerly side of this great axial view [to the Mall] and their removal would minimize this concept." (Wirth to McKay, April 20, 1961, 1430-1 LUCE files.) After a further meeting on site, with both Wirth and the Attorney

General attending, only a single large oak was removed. (Wirth to McKay, April 20, 1961, 1430-1, also Wirth to McKay, April 20, 1961, 1460/Nevius Tract, LUCE files.)

The Attorney General involved himself in other matters regarding the Marine Corps Memorial. He prepared a proclamation for President John F. Kennedy's signature, authorizing the American flag to be flown over the monument twenty-four hours a day except during inclement weather. The proclamation, an amendment to Public Law 77-623 (56 Stat. 377), was issued on June 12, 1961. He also expressed interest in the "cleaning and lighting of the memorial," though the author has not determined whether any actions resulted. (Wirth to McKay, April 11, 1961; also Presidential Proclamation of June 12, 1961, 1430-1.)

Changes and Additions to U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial

In about the late 1960s, as part of implementation of the Master Plan for Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington Ridge Road was removed. The road had been severed by construction of the bridge ramps and the connection of various roadways to Theodore Roosevelt Bridge. Though the access road follows its course for a short distance from Marshall Drive, no traces of the historic road are visible in the park today. About the same time, the entrance to Fort Myer was moved west along Marshall Drive to a new intersection with North Meade Street, which had been extended across a short spur of Arlington Ridge Park land that extends to the southwest. (T. Sutton Jett to Jerry T. Verkler, 11 April 1967, Iwo-2.) The Wright Gate into the fort, which had stood at the intersection of Marshall Drive and the entrance road to Arlington Ridge Park, was shifted to this new entrance. Late in 1968, traffic flow was reversed at the circle around the Marine Corps War Memorial to move in a counter-clockwise direction. (Russell E. Dickenson to Assistant Director, Design and Construction, WSC, Oct. 25, 1968, Iwo-2.)

Only three times since 1945 have names of military engagements where Marines lost their lives have been added to the memorial. (Col. Michael F. Monigan, USMC, "New Battle Honors Added to Marine Corps Memorial," Fortitudine, Winter 1996-97:
7.) Panama and Somalia have been added most recently, carved in a gilded, V-cut Roman lettering style by master carver John Howard Benson to match the original. By public law, the name of photographer Joseph Rosenthal was added in the 1990s on the west face of the statue base, balancing the name of sculptor Felix de Weldon on the same panel and using the same ornate lettering style de Weldon had developed for his own name. The Rosenthal inscription, however, has not been gilded.

Rehabilitation of Netherlands Carillon

Since its construction, the Netherlands Carillon has been repainted twice. The original mustardy-brown color was changed to a gray-blue in about 1973. Most recently, in the early 1990s, the color was changed with the approval of the Commission of Fine Arts, to a greenish bronze, close to the color originally intended. This last repainting was part of a major rehabilitation project carried out in 1994-95, after the Netherlands Carillon was determined to have suffered greatly from deterioration. Many of the steel panels had rusted. There were also continuing problems with the bells themselves because not all had been cast to the same

quality. In anticipation of the 50th anniversary of the liberation of Holland, Dutch businessmen associated with The Netherlands Chamber of Congress in the United States spearheaded a fundraising drive to enable the National Park Service to correct these problems. They incorporated a fundraising body, the "Foundation Nederlands Carillon Washington D.C. 1945-1995," which succeeded in raising $1.4 million, and established a maintenance endowment for the bells. (Information from documents in GWMP Cultural Resource and Master files and from the gwmp website.)

Thirty of the bells were dismantled and shipped to the Netherlands for retuning. The slate of the plaza, which been laid without expansion joints and subsequently damaged by freeze/thaw cycles over the years (a problem exacerbated by the low surrounding wall) was replaced at the same time. A 50th bell, symbolizing fifty years of freedom, was dedicated on May 5, 1995, the 50th anniversary of the liberation. An automatic chime system, added to the carillon in previous years, was computerized at this time. Today, concerts are played on the Netherlands Carillon on Saturdays and national holidays from May through September.

U.S. Air Force Memorial

In 1993, Congress authorized the establishment of a memorial to the United States Air Force and its predecessors. Though the history of the U.S. Air Force had begun in 1907, it did not become an autonomous military force until 1947. The memorial will commemorate the pioneers of aviation, and those who have served in the Air Force and those (more than 54,000) who have died in service. It will also help to inspire those who will serve in the future. A further motivation was the realization that, though the 50th anniversary of the service was approaching, there was no public commemoration of the Air Force or its personnel in Washington. The absence was notable in view of memorials to the Navy, the U.S. Marine Corps, the United States Coast Guard, the Seabees, the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Divisions, numerous Army generals, and to women of the military through the Women in Military Service for America memorial (located at the western end of Memorial Avenue). (NCR Regional Land Use Liaison Glenn DeMarr provided much of the information and writing for this section.)

The Air Force Memorial Foundation worked closely with the National Park Service, the National Capital Memorial Commission, the Commission of Fine Arts, and the National Capital Planning Commission in 1994 and 1995 to identify and evaluate thirty potential sites. The site determined to possess the best attributes was located in Arlington Ridge Park, about 600 feet south of the U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial and a similar distance northeast of the Netherlands Carillon. It was situated, of course, within a landscape that, on its acquisition in 1954, was deemed sufficient in size and location to support three memorials. Further, the Marine Corps War Memorial and the carillon had both been developed with the signed recognition that a third memorial – the Freedom Shrine – was part of the future plan of Arlington Ridge Park.

Several other characteristics made the site appealing. The first military flights are believed to have occurred within the grounds of Fort Myer, not far from the proposed site. Further, the servicemen and women of the Air Force considered that the site and memorial would be an

appropriate neighbor to the military memorials associated with the heights of Arlington. This ridge, running north-south through and beyond Arlington National Cemetery, serves as a location for memorials to the U.S. Coast Guard, the U.S. Marine Corps, and to Women in Military Service, as well as providing the final resting sites for generals, majors, admirals, and servicemen and women from all branches of the services.

In 1995, the use of Arlington Ridge Park was approved by the National Park Service, the Commission of Fine Arts, and the National Capital Planning Commission, with the conditional approval of a specific two-acre site. This was to be landscaped to complement the existing grassy slopes and park atmosphere. The Foundation interviewed several potential designers before selecting the firm of Pei Cobb Freed & Partners of New York. Architect James Ingo Freed's proposal, approved in early 1996, was for an unroofed structure, star-shaped in plan and derived from the five-pointed star that appears on all Air Force aircraft and in all enlisted rank insignias. Approach would have been from the west, and beneath the structure there would have been an underground exhibit hall and a Meditation Room.

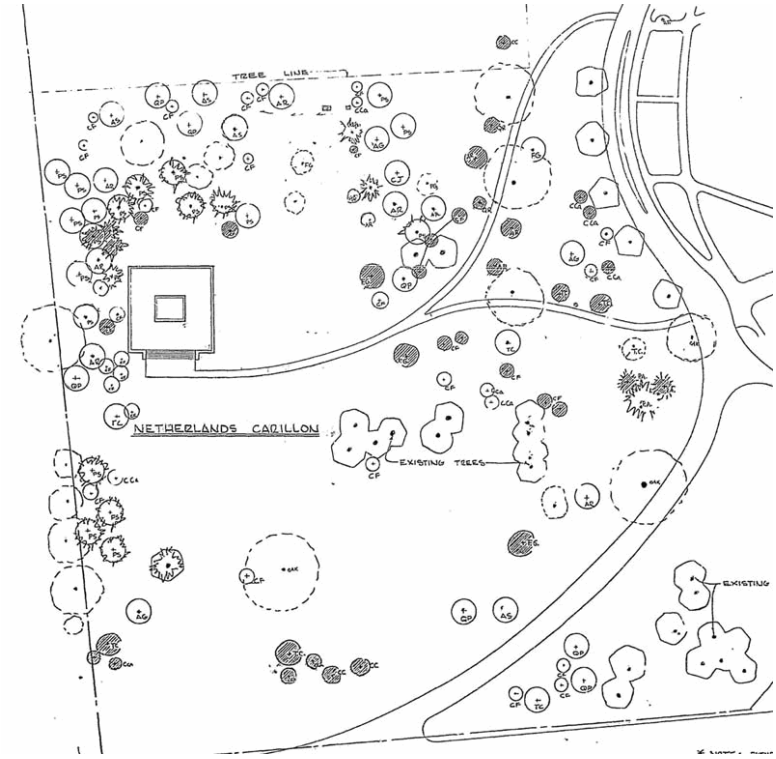
Members of the public and representatives of the United States Marine Corps recognized that the character of the site and accustomed local recreational uses of the park might change because of the new monument. They formed a coalition, which led to extensive, vociferous efforts to have the memorial built in another location, removed from the ground long associated with the U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial site and considered hallowed by the Marine Corps. Legal action by the dissenting coalition was filed in 1997 during the 50th anniversary of the United States Air Force. Legal action and appeals continued for nearly two years until dismissal by the court in May 1999.

During this extended period of controversy, the Air Force Memorial Foundation reevaluated its original concept and ultimately deleted the memorial's proposed underground space. In 1999, before proceeding further, Congress decided (Section 2881 of Public Law 106-65, approved October 5, 1999) that the site known as the Navy Annex, located on Arlington Ridge west of the Pentagon, could be made available for expansion of Arlington National Cemetery and other purposes. In December 2001, Congress enacted the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2002, Public Law 107-107. Section 2863 stipulated that the Secretary of Defense would make up to three acres of the Arlington Navy Annex available to the Air Force Memorial Foundation as the location for the Air Force Memorial in lieu of the previously approved location in Arlington Ridge Park.

Following the tragic events of September 11, 2001, and in the interest of preventing further inter-service dissension, the Air Force Memorial Foundation decided against building their memorial in Arlington Ridge Park, and to instead study the Naval Annex site. Once again Pei Cobb Freed was selected as project architects, and James Ingo Freed created a new design composed of three soaring stainless-steel spires, along with a parade ground, inscribed walls, and other features, all set within a park-like landscape. This memorial is scheduled for completion at the Naval Annex in 2006.

Current Studies of Arlington Ridge Park

Several studies are currently being conducted which may affect Arlington Ridge Park in the near future. Though plans have been drawn up for a long-needed visitor contact station with restrooms, this project is on indefinite hold because of the legislation halting further construction in the park. Arlington County has been examining improvements to the sewer line which runs beneath Arlington Ridge Park and adjoining properties. Three alternative routes are being considered. Reports so far completed include a cultural resource study and an environmental assessment. (R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates, Inc, for Camp Dresser & McKee [CDM] and National Park Service, "Phase 1A Cultural Resource study for the Arlington County Virginia Potomac Interceptor Sewer System Improvements Project," November 2002, and CDM & Arlington County, Virginia, "Environmental Assessment for the Arlington County Virginia Potomac Interceptor Sewer System Improvements Project," Draft Report, December 2001.)



1980 plan for the restoration of the 1960 Netherlands Carillon landscape planting. ("final CLI illus/History/850_807592 - NC landscape resto 1980 200")

Analysis & Evaluation of Integrity

Analysis and Evaluation of Integrity Narrative Summary:

Ten landscape characteristics were found to be relevant to Arlington Ridge Park: Natural Systems and Features, Topography, Spatial Organization, Archeology, Land Use, Buildings and Structures, Vegetation, Circulation, Views and Vistas, and Small-Scale Features. The following sections analyze the park's landscape in relation to each of these characteristics. This summary discusses the highlights.

The main features of Arlington Ridge Park are its two monuments, the U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial and the Netherlands Carillon, each quite different in style and occupying its own landscape zone; the Marine Corps war Memorial is a component landscape within the CLAIMS database, while the Netherlands Carillon is not. In fact, perhaps the most striking feature of the park's landscape is its division into these two distinct areas, one formal and highly designed, the other informal, simple, and open. The landscape of the Marine Corps War Memorial was designed by architect Horace Peaslee, aided by at least two consulting landscape architects. The landscape surrounding the Netherlands Carillon, on the other hand, is a picturesque composition of sloping lawns and irregular clusters of ornamental and shade trees.

The only remaining natural feature of any distinction is the park's location on the edge of a terrace overlooking the river. A small natural stream runs south along the eastern edge of the woodland in the park's southwestern portion before flowing into a culvert and out of the park.

From a level plateau on the west, the park slopes down towards the river (located on the other side of Route 110 and the George Washington Memorial Parkway). The 7.5-acre site of the Marine Corps War Memorial was extensively filled and leveled in the 1950s to create an even grade. The much smaller area occupied by the Netherlands Carillon and its plaza was also leveled before construction. A short but steep ridge runs across the center of the site from north to south (along the south side of the circular road around the Marine Corps War Memorial), a topographic feature that helps to further divide the site into two halves.

Two separate archeological investigations were carried out at Arlington Ridge Park in 2001 and 2002. The first, in preparation for the new jogging trail along Marshall Drive, revealed only evidence of refuse dumping, possibly associated with 19th-century habitation, in the southwest woodland. The second investigation, part of research into alternate routes for a new county interceptor sewer line, was undertaken along a north-south line running past the eastern boundary of the U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial precinct and then along the park's entrance road. Soil borings indicated a "moderate potential for prehistoric and historic resources, including small Archaic or Woodland procurement sites cited by Cissna [1900] and remnant deposits related to c. 1900 [small farms]". (Goodwin 2002:52) Shovel tests in the northern part of this corridor, near the memorial, revealed historic domestic debris and a possible midden deposit. Recovered artifacts were believed to date from the late 19th or early 20th centuries, and to also have been associated with the small farm or domestic properties that lay west of Arlington Ridge Road, or with their demolition after the land was acquired by the federal government between c. 1937-1953.

The chief purpose of Arlington Ridge Park is commemorative and ceremonial. Veterans and other visitors come to the U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial to pay their respects to the sacrifices made by Marines in battle. Marines hold weekly sunset parades there in the summer months and an annual ceremony commemorates the founding of the Marine Corps on November 10, 1775. Each October, the park serves as the finish line of the Marine Corps Marathon. The grounds around the around the Netherlands Carillon are favored for such pursuits as strolling, jogging, picnicking, and listening to carillon concerts.

The major feature of the U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial is the bronze statue by Felix de Weldon. Based on Joseph (Joe) Rosenthal's famous photograph of the second flag-raising on Iwo Jima, the statue is a monumentally scaled, seventy-eight-foot-high pyramidal composition of six soldiers plunging a flagpole into the stony ground of Mount Suribachi. An octagonal granite base provides a frieze for a chronological listing of the names of all battles in which Marines have fought and died since the inception of the Corps. Architect Horace Peaslee was responsible for the composition of elevated plaza, parade ground, reviewing stand (a raised, rectangular concrete platform), pedestrian paths, vehicular roads, and parking.

The John J. Earley Studios of Washington, D.C. – known for their unusual concrete work – developed a special type of exposed concrete aggregate for the plaza around the statue, the reviewing stand, and their related features. The concrete was laid in pre-cast panels. Around the statue, they form a multi-pointed star radiating out from the statue's base. Other plaza features constructed of the Earley Studios concrete include the very low boundary walls, the main flight of stairs up to the plaza on the east, and the low, scrolled cheek blocks that flank these stairs (some of the risers, and other sections of concrete on the plaza, have been replaced with different concrete).

The Netherlands Carillon was presented to the United States as a gift from the people of the Netherlands in appreciation for the American liberation of their country during World War II and for American assistance supplied during post-war reconstruction. Forty-nine of the carillon's fifty bells represent each of the Dutch provinces, along with the Antilles and Surinam, as well as different segments of Dutch society. The last bell, installed in 1995, commemorates the fiftieth anniversary of the liberation. Each bell bears a symbolic bas-relief and a verse specially composed for the bell's theme.

In 1960, the carillon was installed in an open steel structure designed by Dutch architect Joost W.C. Boks. The 127-foot-high tower bears an abstract composition of steel plates, currently painted a dark greenish-bronze hue. It stands in the center of a small paved plaza surrounded by a low, broad wall. Flanking the entrance to the plaza are two stylized bronze lions by Dutch sculptor Paul Doning.

Architect Horace Peaslee designed the "entourage" or site plan for the U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial and guided its overall landscape design. He was assisted by landscape architect Markley Stevenson, who helped create certain design features and selected plants. Some guidance was provided by landscape architect Elbert Peets, though the specific nature of his contribution is not known.

The strictly symmetrical arrangement of trees, hedges, and paths around the Marine Corps War

Memorial helps control pedestrian circulation and views, and imparts a suitably solemn atmosphere to this monument honoring Marine dead. Stevenson developed a limited plant palette that relied on a few species of trees to define particular areas: scarlet oaks line the entrance road; willow oaks border the circular roadway and help screen views of adjoining highways; lindens line the paths, thus framing the parade ground; hornbeams fill the narrow medians northeast and southeast of the statue; hedges of yew outline the plaza immediately around the statue; and hedges of osmanthus at the north and south ends of the parade ground help limit movement. A knoll or berm behind the reviewing stand is planted with a grove of white pines, which screens the parking lot from view, and creates a dark green background for a line of sour gum trees place directly behind the reviewing stand. The intense red fall coloration of the sour gums seen against the pines was meant to highlight views of the statue from across the river.

Several oaks were removed from in front of the U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial in 1961 under orders from Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy because it was felt that they blocked views from nearby highways to the statue. The statue is therefore more exposed than intended, and the visual cone Peaslee had defined from the plaza to the Mall has been substantially widened. The entry road is also missing several oak trees.

The Netherlands Carillon stands at the far south side of an open, informal landscape of sloping lawns and large shade trees. The tree planting was a result of a 1960 National Capital Parks planting plan, which apparently augmented existing trees with dozens of native species, varied in size and growth habit. Grouped in clusters and irregular lines, these trees block almost any direct view from one side of the site to the other. The overall effect resembles a picturesque English park landscape. This looser arrangement encourages more relaxed behavior on the part of visitors, who picnic on the lawn and enjoy the dramatic, unobstructed view of the National Mall possible from many locations. Flower beds, planted with seasonal displays, were created in front of the carillon in the 1960s and 1970s, as part of First Lady Lady Bird Johnson's Beautification Program.

Behind the carillon, and acting as a visual backdrop for it, is a successional woodland, covering several acres in the southwest corner of the site, adjacent to Fort Myer. This woodland, the lines of oaks along the circular drive of the Marine Corps War Memorial, and a narrow line of volunteer trees at the east along Route 110 all shield the site somewhat from the sight and noise of surrounding buildings and traffic.

Circulation also reflects the difference in treatment between the two halves of the site. The entrance road, designed by Peaslee, serves as a unifying device. From the park's entrance in the southeast corner, the road curves uphill to join the circular road around Marine Corps War Memorial, providing a gradual, sweeping view of this monument for visitors arriving by car. The U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial is defined by a one-way ring road and bilaterally symmetrical system of paths that link the monument's plaza with the reviewing stand, parking lot, and the Ridge Path, which leads to the carillon and complements the gradual curve of the entrance road. Asphalt paths and vegetation were designed in concert to discourage visitors from walking across the smooth lawn of the parade ground.

Views from the Marine Corps War Memorial out to the National Mall – though of fundamental importance to the design of the memorial, and to the park as a whole – are more compromised than

those from the Netherlands Carillon, because of its location at the north end of the site, immediately adjacent to the two highways and the ramps of Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Bridge. The park was conceived, in part, as a site for the planned Freedom Shrine, a memorial to the five freedoms guaranteed to Americans by the Bill of Rights (speech, religion, press, assembly, and petition), which would have replaced the Lincoln Memorial as the western terminus of the National Mall. Though the Freedom Shrine was never built, the axial relation of the park to the Mall remains, and the two memorials define either end of a cross-axis to the extended Mall axis. Clear vistas were vital to understanding this relationship, and the ramps, highway signs, and volunteer trees which today intrude on the view interfere with this intent.

The only contributing small-scale features in Arlington Ridge Park are the pair of identical bronze lions at the Netherlands Carillon, a modern, stylized design by Dutch sculptor Paul Doning. Lions are a symbol of the Dutch royal family and may also have been chosen to serve as guardian figures. The park has several different types of other common park features: handicap accessible drinking fountains, benches, trash receptacles, and signs. All are designs often selected for park or municipal use; none were designed specifically for Arlington Ridge Park. There are no permanent visitor facilities in the park, and ranks of portable toilets are an intrusive element. Two interpretive waysides stand at the Netherlands Carillon, and four new waysides were installed around the plaza at the Marine Corps War Memorial in late 2002.

Landscape Characteristic:

Land Use

The main purpose of Arlington Ridge Park is commemorative and ceremonial. Veterans and many other visitors come to the U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial to pay tribute to the Marines, and it is one of the most visited sites in the D.C. area. Various groups hold events there, such as the annual ceremonies held by the Marines on November 10, the anniversary of the founding of the U.S. Marine Corps in 1775. The parade ground just north of the statue is used by the Marines for ceremonial maneuvers – "sunset parades" – held weekly from May through August. Arlington Ridge Park serves as the finish line of the Marine Corps Marathon, an NPS-permitted event held each year in October. The park is also popular as a place for the public to view the Fourth of July fireworks set off on the National Mall.

Like the Marine Corps War Memorial, the Netherlands Carillon also stands as the centerpiece of a commemorative landscape, a gesture of gratitude to America's liberation of the Netherlands from Nazi Germany in World War II. However, formal ceremonies seldom occur here. More commonly, this half of the site is used for recreation: strolling, jogging, viewing the Mall, picnicking, and listening to carillon concerts. More active recreation, such as ball playing and dog walking, are not permitted.

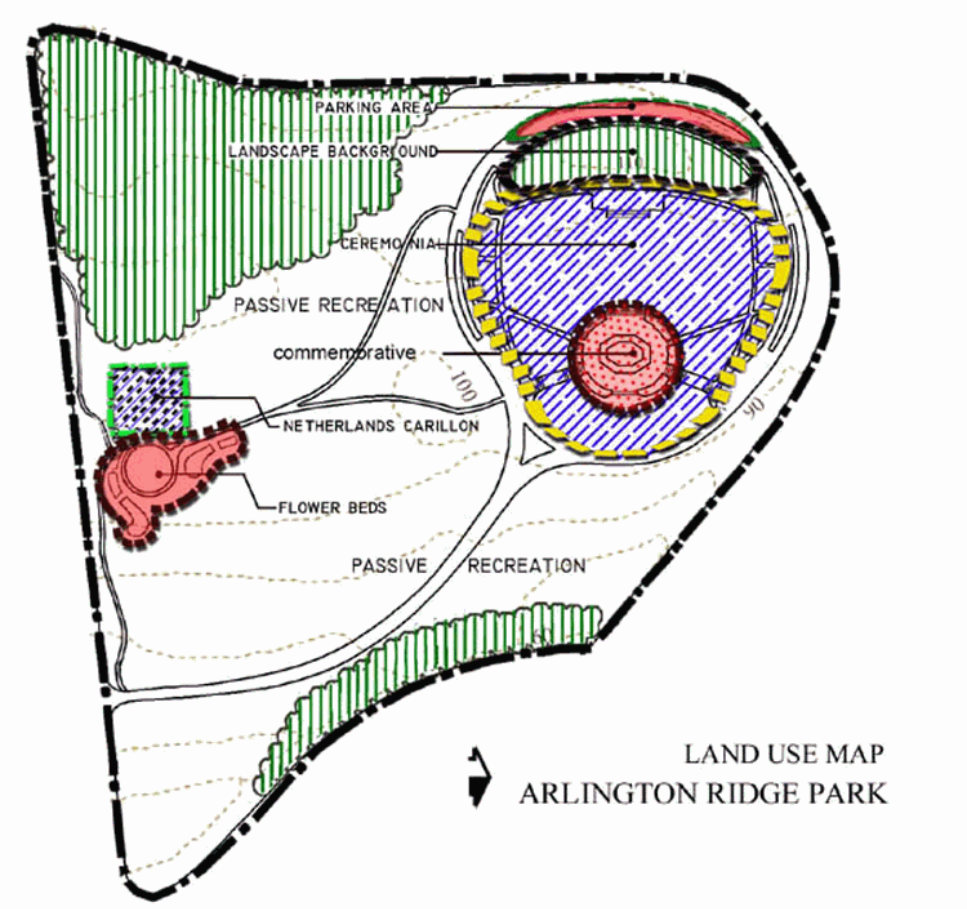
Visitors to Arlington Ridge Park travel from throughout the United States and overseas, with the majority of visitors coming at night. People stroll around the memorials and their grounds, staying primarily on the paved paths, and walk over the lawns to the east, between the entrance road and Route 110. Personnel from nearby Fort Myer and the Pentagon jog through on their lunch hours or after work. The park also functions as a local park for the residential neighborhoods immediately to the west and in Rosslyn.

Character-defining Features:

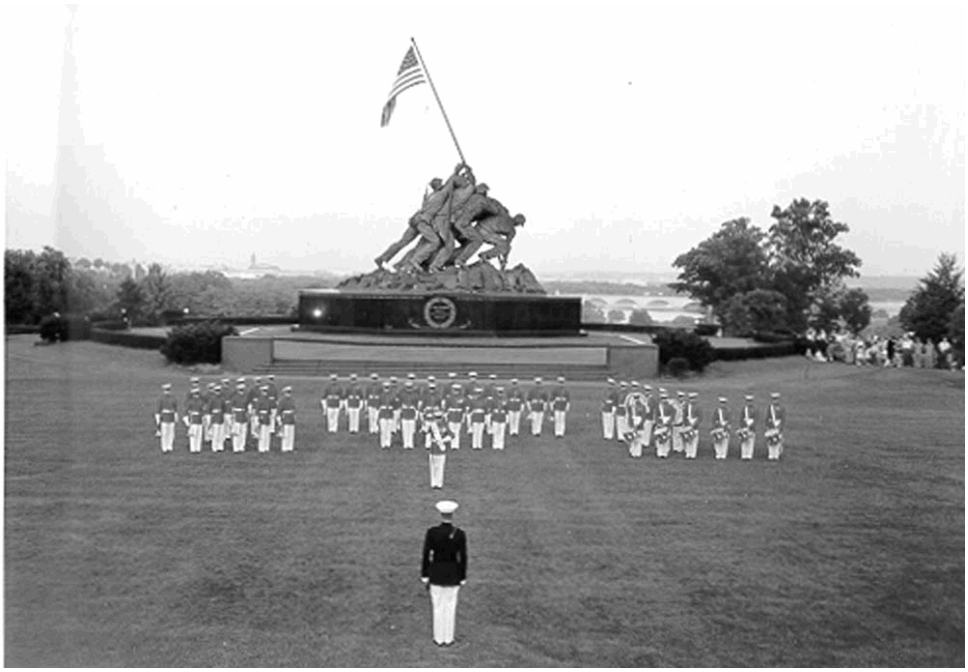
Feature Identification Number: 105882

Type of Feature Contribution: Undetermined

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Map depicting major uses of Arlington Ridge Park (Alex Bao et al., "final maps/FINAL maps")



Sunset parades have long been a summer tradition on the parade ground of the Marine Corps War Memorial, as evidenced by this parade held on August 28, 1961. ("scanned images")



Ceremonies at the U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial frequently include the laying of wreaths at the base of the statue. June 2002. ("wreaths")



Spreading lawns near the Netherlands Carillon invite casual activities. Because of topography, the Marine Corps War Memorial is not visible in this view to north. April 2003. ("tulips and sunbather")

Natural Systems And Features

Arlington Ridge Park has few remaining natural features. After it was transferred to the National Park Service in the early 1950s, the site was cleared and extensively regraded, at least around the site of the U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial. Research undertaken for recent archeological investigations, however, comparing existing topography with topography recorded in 1860s Civil War maps, suggests that land east of the Marine memorial may remain similar to historic elevations. (Goodwin 2002:52.) Several existing large trees were retained during the 1950s clearing; these may include many of the mature trees that today grow east and north of the Netherlands Carillon. A successional deciduous woodland in the southwest corner of the site also was retained and has been left largely undisturbed, except for the clearing of undergrowth in recent years. In a 1928 aerial photograph, this woodland appears as light, probably scrub, growth, with denser riparian vegetation growing along the stream. (GWMP aerial map collection) A stream runs through these woods and enters a culvert, eventually draining into the Potomac River. The rest of the vegetation in the park consists of a limited variety of introduced trees and shrubs, bulbs, and annual flowering plants. Only animals common to urban environments inhabit the park: sparrows, pigeons, squirrels, etc. There are no rare or endangered plant or animal species.

Character-defining Features:

Feature Identification Number: 105883

Type of Feature Contribution: Undetermined

Spatial Organization

The north and south halves of Arlington Ridge Park are both largely open. They differ markedly, however, in their spatial character. The Netherlands Carillon, to the south, is informal and relatively undefined, while the U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial area, to the north, is formal and controlled.

The carillon and its geometric flowerbeds are placed at the park's far south end. The woodland in the southwest corner forms a large, irregular mass at the rear of the site. The landscape in front of the carillon, to its east, is an open slope, planted with relatively few small trees. Dozens of deciduous trees of various sizes and different species have been planted in a broad, irregular U-shape around the carillon to its south, west, and north, acting as a subtle framing device. Groups of particularly large deciduous trees, mostly oaks, to the north and northeast – many possibly dating from before the park was created – form an irregular, meandering line that serves to visually separate the site into its two distinct zones.

In contrast, the spatial organization of the U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial precinct to the north is tightly controlled. It comprises four main divisions. The level lawn of the parade ground, 150 feet by 400 feet, separates the elevated precincts of the statue and plaza to the east and reviewing stand to the west. Surrounding this central composition is a circulation system, including the circular access road and the pedestrian walks, all lined by trees and hedges, are all disposed in strict symmetry around the axial alignment of the three main elements, creating a compartmentalized yet unified space. The land sloping away to the east and south, though, beyond the ring road, bears more relation to the open character of the south side of the park.

Character-defining Features:

Feature Identification Number: 105893

Type of Feature Contribution: Undetermined

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



This view of the Marine Corps War Memorial shortly after its dedication clearly conveys major spatial divisions of this component landscape. Pattern of Early Studios concrete on plaza is also distinct. ("scanned images")

Topography

Arlington Ridge Park sits at the eastern edge of a terrace above the Potomac River. It lies within the Atlantic Coastal Plain, a physiographic region along the Eastern seaboard that is "underlain with unconsolidated sand, gravel, silt and clay deposits of various ages ranging back to the Cretaceous period." ("Environmental Assessment for Proposed Air Force Memorial" 1999:53.) The soils are composed of lowland terrace deposits, "gray to gray-brown and crudely bedded to well bedded. Terrace deposits are typically 35 to 65 feet thick, deeply weathered, and expose relatively fresh minerals." ("EA for Proposed Air Force Memorial" 1999:53.) The park is near the beginning of the Fall Line, the area where the Coastal Plain meets the harder metamorphic rock of the Piedmont Plateau, and where exposed rocks in rivers mark the end of tidewater. Theodore Roosevelt Island, directly northeast of the park, marks the beginning of the Fall Line in the river.

The west side of Arlington Ridge Park, where the two monuments are situated, is a fairly level plateau. The plateau slopes to the east towards the river, becoming steep in the area between the entrance drive and Route 110. At the north end, extensive regrading in the 1950s provided a more level area for the U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial and its parade ground, reviewing stand, and complex system of pedestrian paths. A ravine and streambed lying north of the Marine Corps War Memorial, just outside the park boundary, has been cut and filled in to create a smooth transition between park lands and the right-of-way along Route 50 (and to the since-removed route of Arlington Ridge Road).

Regrading resulted in the Marine Corps War Memorial site being set at a somewhat lower level than the Netherlands Carillon site to the south. Running north to south across the center

of the park is an abrupt ridge, sloping steeply to the north, the result of the cutting through of the Marine monument's circular drive. From the top of this cut, the land slopes gently south towards the carillon. A short, steep slope leads up to North Meade Street along the west side of the park. Apparently, somewhat less regrading was carried out at the south end in preparation for the Netherlands Carillon, other than the leveling of a relatively small area for the structure and the lowering of Arlington Ridge to east of this area. Regrading may have also been done in the center of the site, towards the west, in preparation for the never-built Freedom Shrine.

Character-defining Features:

Feature Identification Number: 105894

Type of Feature Contribution: Undetermined

Buildings And Structures

Only three permanent structures stand in Arlington Ridge Park. The U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial, with its accompanying reviewing stand, occupies the north end of the site, and the Netherlands Carillon stands at the south.

U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial

The bronze statue by Vienna-born sculptor Felix de Weldon, officially known as the "U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial" and popularly called the "Iwo Jima memorial," is based on Joseph (Joe) Rosenthal's famous photograph of the second flag-raising on the Japanese island of Iwo Jima. The statue is a seventy-eight-foot-high pyramidal composition of six male figures on a heroic scale. Five men support and raise the flag, while the sixth, crouching at the front, thrusts the end of the pole into the stony ground of Mount Suribachi, represented by rough, broken stones. The severely plain, octagonal granite base supporting the sculptural group, designed by architect Paul Jaquet, provides a frieze that allows the chronological addition of battle honors to the memorial. The base stands on a raised grass bounded surrounded by a low granite wall, six-and-a-half inches high and eighteen-inches wide. Architect Horace Peaslee was retained by the Marine Corps War Memorial Foundation to create a setting (which he termed the "Entourage") for the statue, which he placed within an ensemble of reviewing stand, parade ground, pedestrian paths, vehicular roads, and parking. (Landscape architects Elbert Peets and Markley Stevenson also consulted on the site's design, along with National Capital Parks staff; see History: Creation of Arlington Ridge Park, 1941-1960 and Analysis and Evaluation: Vegetation for more information on their respective roles.)

Immediately on publication, Rosenthal's photograph garnered widespread fame as the iconic image of the American fighting man in World War II. In part, this was because of its fortuitous classical composition – a pyramid of cascading figures, a stable geometric shape given dynamism by the diagonal, thrusting movement of their action towards one corner, underscored by the raking line of the flagpole above. In adapting the photograph for a monumental sculpture, the academically-trained de Weldon may have had specific historic references in mind, such as the Hellenic figure of the "Winged Victory of Samothrace" or the nineteenth-century painting by Delacroix, "Liberty Leading the People." (Marling and

Wetenhall 1991:89) De Weldon grouped the six figures more tightly and turned the crouching front figure to align it more closely with those behind. While the sculptor made portrait studies of the three surviving flagraisers in the months after the battle, none of the figures is meant to be an exact likeness. The statue, in fact, is not meant to illustrate this particular event on Iwo Jima, but to symbolize the heroic military actions of the Marines throughout American history.

A frieze circling the base bears the names of every principal action in which Marines have fought since the founding of the corps in 1775. These inscriptions (paid for by the U.S. Marine Corps) are executed in a four-inch-high gilded V-cut Roman lettering style developed specifically for the memorial by John Howard Benson. Stars are used as spacer marks between names; fleur-de-lis appear after each name or series of names to indicate that a military action was completed. New inscriptions have been added only three times since the monument was first erected. (Col. Michael F. Monigan, USMC, "New Battle Honors Added to Marine Corps Memorial," Fortitudine, Winter 1996-97: 7)

Originally there was to be just a single band of words encircling the base as a frieze. A second band has been added, beginning with Vietnam. No names are ever added to the three front panels on the east side, where wreaths surround a legend which reads: "In honor and memory of the men of the United States Marine Corps who have given their lives to their country since 10 November 1775." Inscribed on the west elevation is an encomium given by Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, on March 16, 1945, in honor of the Marines' action on Iwo Jima: "Uncommon valor was a common virtue." Also on the west elevation appear the names of de Weldon and photographer Rosenthal, inscribed in an unusual lettering style developed by de Weldon himself.

Felix de Weldon served as the sculptor member of the Commission of Fine Arts from 1950-63, the years when his statue was being erected in Virginia. He created numerous versions of his most famous work. A plaster version, painted to resemble bronze, stood in Washington on Constitution Avenue between 18th and 19th streets, N.W., for about two years before being moved to the Marine Reservation at Quantico, Virginia, 35 miles south of Washington, in the early 1950s. When the statue deteriorated, de Weldon replaced it with a replica in limestone, which still stands near the entrance to the base. (Sunday Star, Nov. 11, 1951, front page, reference in memo from Sager to Thompson, Nov. 13, 1951, LUCE files; see also Marling and Wetenhall 1991:149-150, 160-162, and Frank T. Gartside to James A. Needham, Sept. 30, 1953, LUCE files.)

John J. Earley Studios of Washington, D.C. – known for their unusual concrete work – developed a special type of exposed concrete aggregate for the reviewing stand and the plaza around the statue. This concrete was composed of a coarse aggregate of a diabase (a micro gabbro) and a fine aggregate of crushed bottom ash. The pre-cast panels, manufactured and laid in 1954, form an elaborate, multi-pointed star radiating out from the statue's base. De Weldon is believed to have designed the star pattern. It appears that the design intent of the Earley Studios was to recall the character of the stone found on Iwo Jima and Mount Suribachi.

Around the edge of the plaza are very low, five-and-a-half-inch high wall segments made of the exposed-aggregate concrete and planting beds containing yew hedges. Also composed of the Earley Studios aggregate are the six low flights of stairs leading from the pedestrian walks up to the slightly elevated plaza. The flights on the west and east sides are considerably wider than the two pairs at the north and south, and the east flight – the primary approach – is composed of three steps flanked by low concrete cheek blocks which terminate in scrolls.

The decorative concrete panels have deteriorated over the years and been patched with a variety of dissimilar materials. The chemical composition of the black cement concrete binding the aggregate has not been determined. Currently, plans are underway to replace in-kind all the deteriorated paving with new concrete paving. (Stone Products Consultants, "Results of Petrographic Analysis," July 8, 1994, GWMP Master file, "S7417A – survey of Iwo Jima/Netherlands Carillon.") There are also plans to replace the current lighting system. (Other rehabilitation projects are in the works; see Treatment and Stabilization sections for further details.)

The reviewing stand, a viewing platform placed on axis north of the statue, on the far side of the parade ground, is also partially constructed of the decorative concrete. This simple rectangular platform has a broad flight of six low steps leading down to the parade ground, with plain rectangular plinths or pedestals at either end. In front of the steps before the parade ground spreads an asphalt apron with three holes at either side. Along the back of the platform runs a low, eighteen-inch-high concrete wall, backed by a hedge of privet. Sections of wall run along the sides as well. Directly behind the platform is the row of sour gum trees meant to highlight the statue with intense fall color for people viewing it from across the river. Behind the sour gums curves the berm planted with white pine trees, which helps shield the precinct from the small parking area and from traffic on North Meade Road.

Steps, walls, and plinths are all constructed of Earley Studio concrete; the main platform is asphalt, presumably a replacement for the decorative concrete. While both materials are black, the difference in visual character is striking. The coarse character of the asphalt highlights the subtle coloration and fine grain of the material Earley Studios developed specifically for this memorial.

It is not certain just when the reviewing stand was given its current form. There is some indication that it may originally, at the time of the memorial's dedication in November 1954, have been simply a slope, or that it might have had had six stepped levels. (See Haussmann to Associate Superintendent, NCP, "Points to be Considered," Sept. 27, 1954, FRC-Nevius Tract, LUCE files, and Peaslee to Mr. Jeff [?], memo, Sept. 24, 1954, which file?) Perhaps a temporary structure was built before the current concrete and asphalt platform. It is also not known whether the main platform – the area that is now asphalt – was ever paved with the Earley Studios decorative concrete, as its front apron and front steps are, or when the concrete may have been replaced by asphalt.

There is also reference in period documents to "pylons" at the reviewing stand. (Peaslee to

Mr. Jeff [?], memo, Sept. 24, 1954, and Peaslee to Thompson, memo, July 27, 1955, 1430-2, LUCE files) It is not clear whether these are the cheek blocks which flank the stairs today – "pylon" seems like a somewhat ambitious term for these piers – or other structures entirely. An identical pair of cheek blocks flank the west-facing stairs of the statue plaza.

(Most of the information on the U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial is drawn from National Capital Region and George Washington Memorial Parkway files; Karal Ann Marling and John Wetenhall, "Iwo Jima: Monuments, Memories, and the American Hero," Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1991; Gary Scott and Richard Quin, "Determination of Eligibility: Arlington Ridge Park," 1999; and "U.S.M.C. Memorial" under "George Washington Memorial Parkway" on the National Park Service web site – nps.gov/ gwmp/usmc.htm.)

Netherlands Carillon

The Netherlands Carillon was a gift from the people of the Netherlands to the people of the United States in appreciation for the American liberation of Holland during World War II, and for American assistance rendered during post-war reconstruction through the Marshall Plan. The carillon symbolizes the friendship between the peoples of the two countries.

On a visit to the United States in April 1952, Queen Juliana of the Netherlands, in a ceremony at Meridian Hill Park, presented President Harry S Truman with a small silver bell in token of the future gift. The queen's remarks on this day alluded to the symbolic intent of the carillon:

"To achieve real harmony, justice should be done to the small and tiny voices, which are not supported by the might of their weight. Mankind could learn from this. So many voices in our troubled world are still unheard. Let that be an incentive for all of us when we hear the bells ringing."

The carillon contains a bell from each of the Dutch provinces, plus the Antilles and Surinam, along with bells representing different segments of Dutch society, such as youth. Originally there was a total of forty-nine bells; a fiftieth was added in 1995 to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the liberation. Each bronze bell is inscribed with a verse by the Dutch poet Ben van Eysselsteijn and a symbolic emblem.

After casting was completed, the carillon stood in a temporary structure in the city of Rotterdam before being shipped to the United States in 1954. On arrival in Washington, it was hung in another temporary tower erected on the polo grounds in West Potomac Park, where it was dedicated on May 5 of that year. The carillon remained in this location while funds were being raised in the Netherlands for a permanent tower. The carillon was finally installed in a structure designed by Dutch architect Joost W.C. Boks, at the southern end of the Nevius Tract in 1960. (Boks's first design, for a tower 250 feet in height, was considered too tall and prominent in relation to the Lincoln Memorial. His second design for a smaller tower was approved by the Commission of Fine Arts on May 23, 1957.) The tower and carillon were officially dedicated on May 5, 1960, the fifteenth anniversary of Holland's liberation.

The tower is an open steel frame, 127 feet high, twenty-five feet deep, and thirty-six feet wide. Attached to the frame are steel plates, which originally had a baked enamel finish. The design recalls the abstract compositions based on grids and squares developed by Dutch artist Piet Mondrian in his late paintings of the 1930s and 1940s. The carillon is thus an example of European modernism, unique in Washington memorial architecture. Within this framework, the carillon and its decorative features are visually prominent.

The tower stands in the center of a ninety-three-feet-square plaza, paved with square quartzite tiles and surrounded by a broad, fourteen-inch-high wall made of a volcanic stone. Two stylized bronze lions by Dutch sculptor Paul Doning flank the short ramp leading to the plaza on the east (see Small-Scale Features). Inside the tower, a rectangular stair leads to a viewing platform; from here, a circular stair ascends to the glass-enclosed playing cabin, eighty-three feet above the ground, which houses the carillon.

In the early 1990s, it was determined that the tower, the plaza, and the bells themselves were severely deteriorated. The steel plates and structural members were rusting. The slate tiles of the plaza had been laid without expansion joints, and over the years freeze-thaw conditions, along with the restriction of the surrounding stone wall, had caused the tiles to buckle and water to pool beneath them. The bells, which had been cast by three different Dutch bell foundries, had been found to be of uneven quality and tone.

A rehabilitation program was developed to ensure that rededication of the restored structure could coincide with the fiftieth anniversary of the liberation of Holland in 1995. Dutch businessmen launched a drive to raise funds for the project and to establish a maintenance fund. Working with the Netherlands Chamber of Congress in the United States, based in New York, they incorporated a fundraising body called the “Foundation Nederlands Carillon Washington D.C. 1945-1995.” Additional financial support was given by the government of the Netherlands.

The tower was cleaned, repaired, and repainted, with the color changed from a gray-blue to a dark greenish-bronze, resembling the color originally intended. The plaza was relaid with expansion joints inserted between tiles. The tiles still buckle somewhat, and the ideal ratio between joints and tiles has not yet been found. All the bells of the carillon were “reworked”. Work on the larger bells was done at the carillon, while the smaller bells were removed and shipped to the Netherlands.

The rehabilitation was completed by May 5, 1995, the fiftieth anniversary of the liberation. In a ceremony on site marking this occasion, the fiftieth bell of the carillon, symbolizing fifty years of freedom for Holland, was dedicated.

The bells of the carillon range from the largest, six feet, nine inches in diameter and weighing 12,654 pounds, to the smallest, 8 inches in diameter and 35 pounds. The bells are tuned to the chromatic scale and play concerts on Saturdays and national holidays from May through September. The carillon now has automatic chimes as well.

Several flower beds arranged in the shape of two musical notes centered on a large circle are laid out in front of the carillon. See Vegetation for further information.

(Most of the information on the carillon is taken from the following sources: No author, "Introduction, The Netherlands Carillon, George Washington Memorial Parkway," draft report, no date, and Edward Nassor, "The Automatic Chimes of the Netherlands Carillon," March 14, 1997, both in Cultural Resource files, "Netherlands Carillon," folder 1 of 2; and "The Netherlands Carillon" under George Washington Memorial Parkway" on the National Park Service web site – nps.gov/ gwmp/carillon.htm.)

Character-defining Features:

Feature: U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial with base

Feature Identification Number: 105876

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: reviewing stand

Feature Identification Number: 105874

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Netherlands Carillon and plaza

Feature Identification Number: 105873

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial plaza with walls and stairs

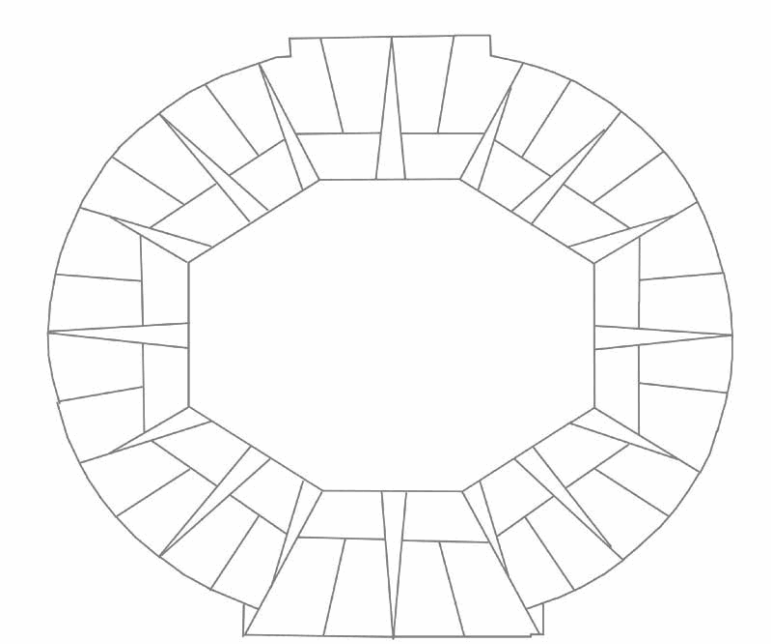
Feature Identification Number: 105875

Type of Feature Contribution: Undetermined

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



The primary view of the U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial, by sculptor Felix de Weldon, is from the east. Trees, mostly littleleaf lindens, provide a green backdrop. May 2003. ("statue from east")



Pavement pattern surrounding the Marine Corps War Memorial, probably designed by de Weldon, revised in Sept. 1954 by Peaslee, executed by Earley Studios in pre-cast decorative concrete panels; 850/80507. ("pavement")



The main stair at the east side of the Marine Corps War Memorial plaza is flanked by scrolled cheek blocks made of Earley Studios concrete. Note clipped yew shrubs. April 2003. ("front steps")



The low wall surrounding the plaza aat the Marine Corps War Memorial is also constructed of Earley Studios concrete. Yew hedges back the wall. View looking north. May 2002. ("pavement, low wall, hedge")



Reviewing stand seen from front. The composition comprises repeated horizontal elements. ("reviewing stand from front")



Detail of reviewing stand, looking southwest. Stairs and cheek block are made of Earley Studios concrete; the platform, originally concrete, is now asphalt. May 2002. ("reviewing stand, stairs, and hedge")



The Netherlands Carillon, designed by Dutch architect Joost W.C. Boks, seen from the southeast. A low stone wall surrounds the square plaza. Behind is the southwest woodland. June 2002. ("NC from south")



A low, broad stone wall surrounds the paved Netherlands Carillon plaza. ("low wall around plaza")

Circulation

Arlington Ridge Park has a simple circulation system of walks and roads, the characters of which differ in accord with the different characters of the park's two halves. At the U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial, the circular road encloses a complex network of walks within a relatively small area. In contrast, only a gently curving Y-shaped walk, the Ridge Path, lead south to the Netherlands Carillon.

Though it was designed as part of the U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial, the entrance road into the park over this end of the park.

Roads

The park is closely bordered by Route 50 (Arlington Boulevard) on the north and Route 110 (Jefferson Davis Highway) on the east. The park is part of the administrative unit of George Washington Memorial Parkway, which lies east of Route 110.

Most motorists now reach the park via North Meade Street, running just outside the park's western boundary. North Meade Street intersects with Marshall Drive outside the Wright Gate into Fort Myer. In 1968-69, this local road was extended across the small southwest spur of park land to accommodate access concerns at Fort Myer, and to reestablish public access to the park after Arlington Ridge Road was eliminated. These actions have dramatically affected the designed access and historic approach to the site. (Regional Land Use Liaison Glenn DeMarr, notes, Dec. 6, 2002.)

Turning left onto Marshall Drive takes motorists to the two-way entrance road into the park. This road curves gradually up to the northwest, joining the one-way circular road around the U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial precinct in a triangular intersection. The straight, beginning section of the road probably follows the alignment of the historic Arlington Ridge Road. The historic road was removed in about 1967, and today is not evident on the site. Visitors can also enter the park by turning left from southbound Route 110 onto Marshall Drive.

Traffic on the circular road originally ran clockwise. This was changed to counter-clockwise in late 1960s, at the same time a direct connection to Route 50 (Arlington Boulevard) was removed. Bus discharge areas were designed and built as part of the original design. Following the traffic rerouting, bus drivers stop and discharge passengers into the street. Visitors then return to their buses on the north side of the memorial, or walk to the south side of the memorial and into the street again to reboard the bus. (Glenn DeMarr, notes, Dec. 6, 2002.)

The speed limit within the park is 15 miles per hour. Parking for 38 cars is located at the west, outside the pine knoll which curves behind the reviewing stand. Additional parking is provided along North Meade Street immediately outside the park's boundaries.

Leaving the park, motorists can turn south from Marshall Drive directly onto Route 110, and southbound vehicles on 110 can turn onto Marshall Drive. Alternatively, motorists can turn right onto Marshall Drive and proceed west to North Meade Street to enter Rosslyn or access Route 50 leading to Washington, D.C.

The Environmental Assessment for the Proposed Air Force Memorial contains detailed information on traffic at Arlington Ridge Park, taken from Arlington County traffic counts conducted between February and September 1998 (EA for Proposed Air Force Memorial, 1999:41). In brief, over 130,000 vehicles pass by the park daily, with an average of 375 vehicles visiting the park each day in February (more on weekends) and an average of 825 in May. Private cars account for about 90% of these numbers; the rest are tour buses. For special events, shuttle buses run between the park and lots at Arlington National Cemetery and the Pentagon. Metrorail and Metrobus stops are located within a convenient walking distance of the park, with the nearest subway stops at Arlington Cemetery (Blue Line) and in Rosslyn (Orange Line).

The rail bed of the late 19th-century Washington, Arlington, and Falls Church Railway lay along the west boundary of the park, just east of North Meade Street, passing through the southwestern tip of the successional woodland. The Washington, Alexandria, and Mount Vernon Electric Railway lay along the east side of the Georgetown and Alexandria Road. No evidence of either railbed is readily apparent today.

Walks

Numerous asphalt walks link the different features of the U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial. A walk circles the entire area just inside the ring road; from this, four short walks lead to a walk which circles the plaza around the statue. This walk is squared off at the west side, next to the parade ground. On the opposite side, in front of the main, east-facing stair, is a viewing area or apron; this proved to be such a popular spot to take photographs that the grass was soon worn away and the ground paved with asphalt.

All these walks near the memorial are seven- to eight-feet wide. The two walks at the northeast and southeast corners, leading from the bus pull-offs, were meant to be the major approaches to the statue, and are given prominence by their greater width.

Another walk, about seven-and-a-half-feet wide, circles around either side of the parade ground to the reviewing stand, and numerous short spur walks link this internal circular walk to the walk adjoining the ring road.

The designers provided such a large number of walks in this small site in an attempt to control pedestrian movement, to direct views to the most important features, and to protect the landscape from damage – particularly the lawn of the parade ground, which needs to be smooth and level for the Marine Corps' summer evening parades. Vegetation was designed in concert with the circulation, with trees lining walks with almost military regularity and hedges composed of prickly-leaved osmanthus (Osmanthus sp.) enclosing the ends of the parade ground.

Leading between the two memorials is the Y-shaped asphalt Ridge Path, installed in the late 1960s. In contrast to the rigid order of the walks within the Marine Corps War Memorial, the two branches of the Ridge Path follow a gently curving course south from the circular road to a point more or less halfway to the carillon, where they join into one walk leading straight to a small asphalt-paved area in front of the carillon tower. All sections of the Ridge Path are about nine-and-a-half-feet wide. Though not part of Peaslee's original design, the Ridge Path is in keeping with the character of the site.

Lying on the park's southern boundary, traversing land belonging to the National Park Service and Fort Myer Military Community, is the Fort Myer Jogging and Fitness Trail, a non-contributing feature built in 2001. This eight-foot-wide asphalt walk runs 1300 feet along Marshall Drive from the Arlington Ridge Park entrance road, past the Netherlands Carillon and the successional woodland, to the Wright Gate into Fort Myer. The fitness trail is connected via a short spur path to the paved area in front of the carillon, and thus to the

internal path system of Arlington Ridge Park.

Pedestrian and bicycle circulation beyond the park presents some difficulties because of the busy highways to the north and east, and the steep slopes on all sides but the south. Slopes along North Meade Street, though short, have a grade greater than 15 percent.

Character-defining Features:

Feature: entrance road

Feature Identification Number: 105878

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: circular road around Marine Corps War Memorial

Feature Identification Number: 105877

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: walk system at Marine Corps War Memorial

Feature Identification Number: 105881

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Ridge Path

Feature Identification Number: 105879

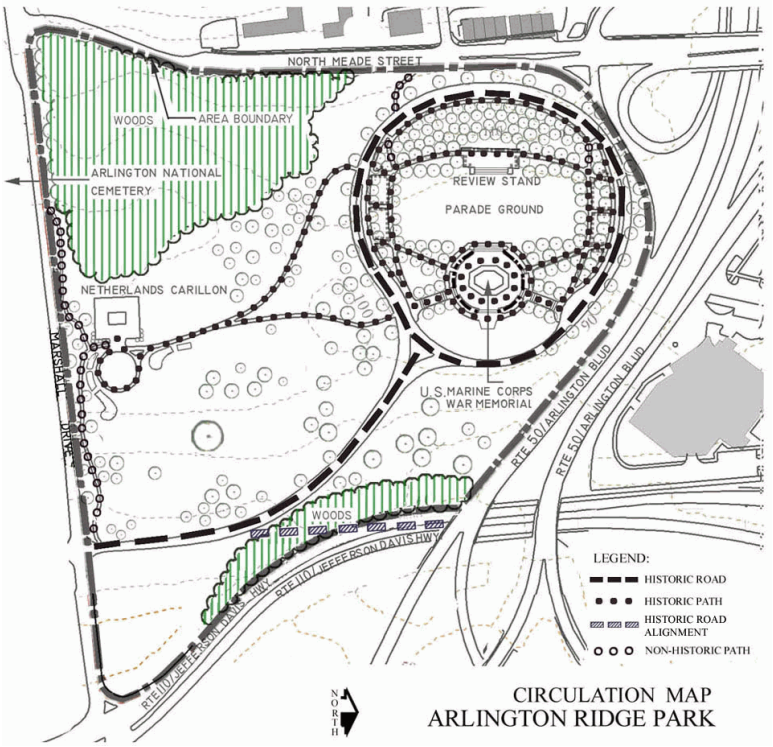
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: short social trail leading down from North Meade Street to park

Feature Identification Number: 105880

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:





The curving entrance drive, seen at right, joins the circular road around the Marine Corps War Memorial precinct. Some oaks along the road in this area were removed in 1961 at the request of RFK. May 2002. ("entrance road")



Immediately west of Arlington Ridge Park lies Route 50, with the buildings of Rosslyn visible beyond. June 2002. ("circular road, Route 50, and Rosslyn")



Handicap accessible ramps have replaced two original stairs made of Earley Studios concrete at the Marine Corps War Memorial plaza. Original low border walls remain. May 2002. ("SE ramp to plaza")



Visitor parking for the U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial and Arlington Ridge Park lies at the west end of the circular road, behind the white pine knoll. View to northwest. June 2002. ("parking area")

Views And Vistas

Views and vistas played a primary role in the design of Arlington Ridge Park. The park's relationship to the National Mall axis was a key factor in its selection as a site for the grandiose Freedom Shrine, and for the U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial as well. Designers, planners, and park personnel considered the tract the new western terminus of the Mall, and the establishment of a clear view between it and the monuments of the Mall – particularly the Lincoln Memorial – was vital to ensuring that the public would understand this. Beyond the Lincoln Memorial, the Washington Monument and the dome of the U.S. Capitol would also be clearly visible from the park. This role as the western terminus would have been clarified by construction of the National Freedom Shrine, planned for the central section of the site. Since it was never built, the actual axis now passes between the Marine Corps War Memorial and the Netherlands Carillon, terminating at some indefinite location.

That views were considered important from the beginning of the design process is clearly indicated in the following remarks made by landscape consultant Elbert Peets in 1954:

"The site of the Marine Memorial was chosen because it commands such a dramatic view of the Potomac, the three great Memorial structures and the Capitol. The Marine Memorial park will be a place of pilgrimage. Millions of people will come to see the heroic statues. They will enjoy the beauty of the sculpture and its setting; at the same time they will be deeply moved by the beauty and patriotic significance of the [M]all structures. All these works of art and symbols of National greatness will combine to give the pilgrim an unforgettable emotional experience.

"The setting of the Marine Memorial has been skillfully designed to heighten and emphasize this combined effect. It is intended to guide the pilgrimage to the points that give the most striking and memorable views; it is intended also to save the pilgrim from distracting sights and sounds that would weaken the impact of the unique dominant impression.

"The designer of the Memorial setting has not sacrificed the grand essential values of the site to a thoughtless multiplication of the points from which the Memorial could be seen. He knows that people who see the Memorial from moving cars will see it more as an object of curiosity, not as a work of art carefully related to a designed setting." (Elbert Peets, c. September 1954, 1430-2, LUCE files.)

Markley Stevenson, landscape architect consultant for the Marine Corps War Memorial Foundation, created a novel type of planting to strengthen the reciprocal visual relationship between statue and Mall. Behind the reviewing stand, directly west of the statue, he placed a line of sour gum trees. The intense red autumn coloring of this species begins early in the season. Standing in front of the dark evergreen foliage of white pines on the berm, the sour gums were meant to provide a contrasting backdrop for the bronze statue, increasing its visibility from the Watergate steps and District waterfront and, as project architect Horace Peaslee wrote in 1954, "reveal[ing] the monument at long distance." (Peaslee to Wirth and Peets, Nov. 14, 1954, 1430-2, LUCE files.) Several factors – the slope of the ground east of the memorial, and the dense tree growth between the park and the river – now serve to block views.

Peaslee sought to contrast the openness of the site, as viewed from the main approach to the statue from the east, with the enclosed aspect along the rear. Two planting issues related to views most concerned him: effective framing of views to and from the statue, and screening of the site. It was considered necessary to block or screen discordant views of roads and high-rise buildings to the west, north, and east. Route 50 (Arlington Boulevard), to the north, and Route 110 to the east pass along the park's boundaries. Peaslee feared that the heavy traffic on these two commuter routes would disturb park visitors and impede the contemplative atmosphere of the memorial area.

"[S]ome planting along the Boulevard is essential: Primarily, to frame on the north side as well as on the south side, the wonderful view of the greater Capital structures, . . . and conversely to frame the first views of the memorial from west bound cars approaching on the rise of the Boulevard[.] Incidentally, to subordinate, without completely excluding, the constant, distracting, up-and-down rush of Boulevard traffic: to play down the outlook over the sprawling city north of the mall which distracts from the major vista; and to lessen the dominance of the development across the Boulevard. . . . If the Boulevard boundary planting is wiped out, merely to let more passers-by glimpse the memorial, the landscape composition will be irretrievably damaged by loss of focused view, the dignity of the setting will be sacrificed – and accidents will increase from the distraction." (Peaslee, Memorandum re: Marine Corps War Memorial for consideration of Executive Committee, April 28, 1954. LUCE 1430-2.)

However, Peaslee wrote that he intended to create one clear diagonal view to pique drivers' interest. (Peaslee to Thompson, Oct. 18, 1954, 1430-2, LUCE files.) Trees were to be trimmed along the boulevard to provide long-range views, and an opening created among the willows oaks for a "closer diagonal view." (Peaslee to Wirth and Peets, Nov. 14, 1954, 1430-2, LUCE files.) It is not known whether this view was ever created; there is no clear evidence of such a diagonal view today.

Peaslee screened the roads with trees, planting willow oaks along the circular road and in the median between the park and Route 50 (Arlington Boulevard), and he sought permission from the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) to plant additional trees on the highway's right-of-way. He wrote:

"This monument is not something to be taken casually en passant. It should dominate its site – not be a mere sideshow. Those who have glimpsed it in their distant approach should be intrigued to stop and fully appreciate the sculpture – and the outlook – not merely snatching passing glances from the outside looking in. . . .

"Instead of seeking elimination, we should use every possible contact to obtain permission to extend our planting frame beyond the park boundary line to offset the closing in of the vista; and we should use tree types which will measure up to the need in size and shape." (Peaslee, Memorandum re: Marine Corps War Memorial for consideration of Executive Committee, April 28, 1954. LUCE 1430-2.)

Today, the successional vegetation which grows along the right-of-way of Route 110 partially screens it from view.

Peaslee and others involved in the design were also concerned about the size and height of structures near the park – particularly the large apartment blocks built along North Meade Street, west of the park; the towering high-rises of Rosslyn, just to the north across Route 50; and new development in D.C., north of the Mall. The willow oaks screened the view of Rosslyn as well as Route 50. To help hide the apartment buildings to the west, Peaslee designed a crescent-shaped berm, made of topsoil and planted with white pines, which curves behind the reviewing stand.

Clear reciprocal views across the parade ground between the reviewing stand and the statue were necessary. Peaslee used vegetation to frame views of the statue within the memorial precinct, lining paths with trees to direct visitors' views to the statue. He also placed groups of trees to frame and control the view east to the Mall. (The Environmental Assessment for the proposed Air Force Memorial [1999:27] refers to the 30-degree cone of vision Peaslee drew on his plan.)

Views were so clearly integral to this site that they aroused the interest of Robert F. Kennedy. In 1961, as Attorney General in his brother's administration, Kennedy commuted daily from his home in Virginia along Route 50 and Arlington Memorial Bridge to his office in the

Justice Department. He became concerned that trees blocked his view of the Marine Corps War Memorial. In meetings with Conrad Wirth, Director of the National Park Service, and representatives from the Department of the Interior and the Department of the Army, Kennedy ordered that some trees be removed. In a memorandum to the Secretary of the Interior, Wirth expressed reservations:

"It seems proper to point out that considerable attention was given to the preservation of these trees by the representatives of the Marine Memorial Association and the Architect at the time the Iwo Jima Memorial was erected. The vista to the Lincoln Memorial, Washington Monument, and the Capitol forms a significant and important part of the total composition and is undoubtedly the most impressive view from the Iwo Jima Memorial. The growth of trees now being considered for removal frame the southerly side of this great axial view and their removal would minimize this concept." (Wirth to Douglas McKay, Sec. of Interior, April 20, 1961, 1430-1, LUCE files.)

However, as a result of Kennedy's wishes, several trees were removed east of the Marine Corps War Memorial (see Vegetation section for details). Another major change occurred when the original right-angle approach to the Marine Corps Memorial from the entrance road was altered to the current alignment, where the entrance road passes in front of the carillon before curving obliquely up the hill to the Marine Corps Memorial.

Construction of the Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Bridge in the early 1960s compromised the view across the Potomac River, especially from the Marine Corps War Memorial. The multiple ramps connecting the bridge and Route 50, along with prominent VDOT highway signs, do not block the view of the Mall structures from the memorial site, but they are nonetheless intrusive.

Views played a somewhat less vital role in the design of the Netherlands Carillon grounds. The carillon was placed roughly on line with the Marine Corps War Memorial, at either end of a cross axis perpendicular to the extended line of the Mall. No design elements reflect this axial relation, though; large trees effectively block the view between the two structures, and the curving Ridge Path leading to the carillon from entrance road has no relation to the Marine Corps War Memorial.

Before its final design, National Capital Parks architect William Haussmann analyzed the prospective view of the Netherlands Carillon from a couple of points on the Mall. He noted that the carillon would barely be noticeable by visitors unless they were standing behind the Lincoln Memorial, from which point the top half would appear silhouetted against the sky. To lessen the impact of the view from the Mall, the carillon's height was reduced from the 250 feet of the original proposal to 127 feet. (Haussmann to L.R. Wilson, Sec., CFA, Letter, Jan. 3, 1957, 1460-Nevius, LUCE, and ref. to NCP 117.1-304, "study of sightlines".)

Consideration of the carillon's appearance in views from the Mall has also affected the colors used for the carillon over the years. The original color of a golden bronze was replaced in the early 1970s with a gray blue (in an attempt by the Fine Arts Commission to have the tower

fade into the sky). Finally, as part of the 1994 rehabilitation, the tower was repainted a greenish-bronze hue to achieve the Commission of Fine Arts's desire of visually removing the tower from the horizon, and to approximate the appearance of a bronze finish after aging. The flowerbeds lining the plaza and walks beneath the carillon seem to have been designed as two musical notes, an effect which is only really discernable when viewed from the tower above.

The carillon rises before a dark backdrop of woodland. Standing in front of the carillon, visitors enjoy a dramatic, nearly unimpeded view of the Mall, and the carillon is also the feature in Arlington Ridge Park most visible from the Mall. It is far more difficult to see the U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial.

From the grounds around the carillon, visitors can see the hills of Arlington National Cemetery rising above the historic red sandstone wall that runs along the south side of Marshall Drive. Visually, the two sites almost form a continuous landscape. People driving on Marshall Drive and the Arlington Ridge Park entrance road, or walking or running along the Fort Myer fitness trail, enjoy nearly uninterrupted views into the carillon grounds; however, the Marine Corps War Memorial can be glimpsed only after entering the site. The view between the Marine Corps War Memorial and the Netherlands Carillon is blocked by a loose line or grouping of mature trees.

Today, most internal views within the Arlington Ridge Park are unobstructed, except for the view between the two north and south halves of the site, which was intended to be blocked. Views east from the Netherlands Carillon remain unimpeded. Views out from the park continue to present difficulties. There will probably always be tall buildings looming over the park on the west and north sides, and trees can screen only so much of this construction. Traffic along Arlington Boulevard and Route 110 only increases and will continue to present visual and aural distractions, though the scrub trees help mitigate it somewhat. The critical view to the Mall is significantly obstructed by the large VDOT sign, the many bridge ramps, and Route 110.

Character-defining Features:

Feature: view from U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial to Lincoln Memorial, Watergate Steps, and National Mall

Feature Identification Number: 94331

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: view from reviewing stand to parade ground, and across parade ground to Marine Corps War Memorial

Feature Identification Number: 94330

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: view from Marine Corps War Memorial to parade ground

Feature Identification Number: 94327

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: views along pedestrian walks to Marine Corps Memorial statue

Feature Identification Number: 94333

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: views along Ridge Path and from Netherlands Carillon grounds to National Mall

Feature Identification Number: 94334

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: view along Ridge Path to Netherlands Carillon

Feature Identification Number: 94326

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: view from Netherlands Carillon to Mall

Feature Identification Number: 94329

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: view from Netherlands Carillon to flower beds below

Feature Identification Number: 94328

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: views along entrance drive into park

Feature Identification Number: 94332

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: views from park to Arlington National Cemetery

Feature Identification Number: 94335

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: views from Route 50 to Marine Corps War Memorial

Feature Identification Number: 94337

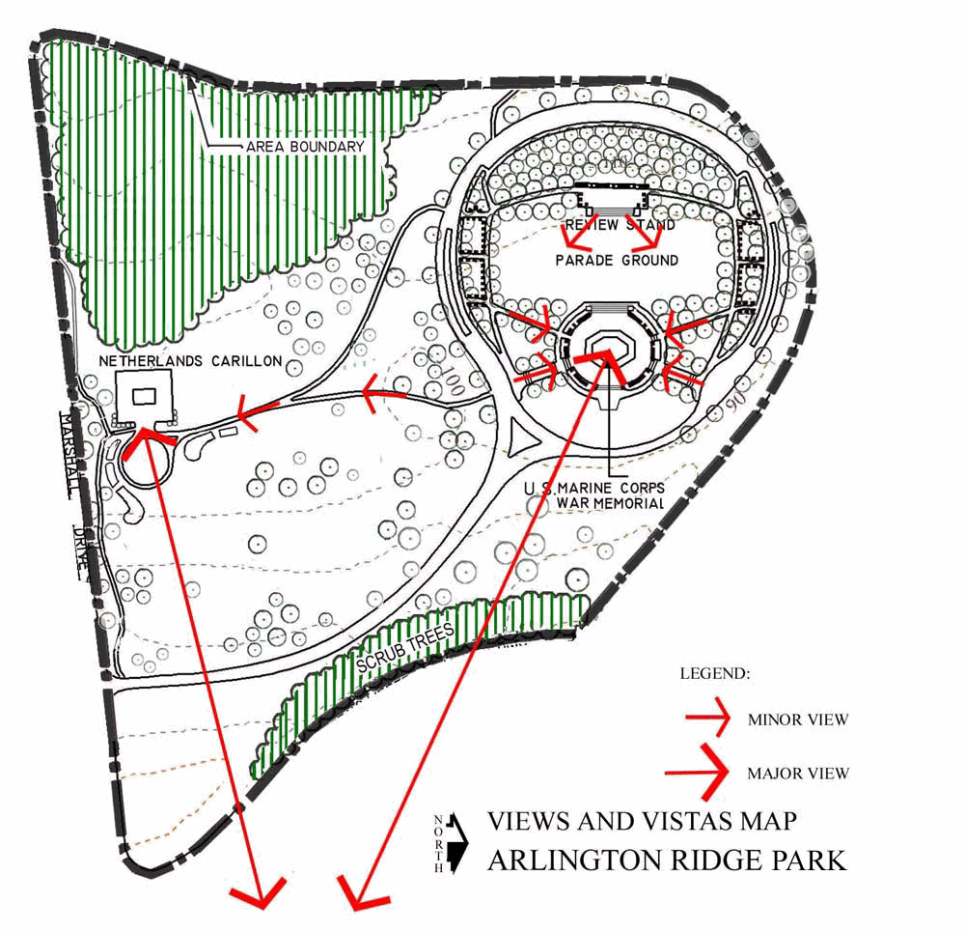
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: views from park to surrounding streets

Feature Identification Number: 94336

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:





Highway signs on Route 50 obscure the view of the National Mall and its monuments from the U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial grounds. May 2002. ("VDOT signs")



A dramatic view of West Potomac Park and the National Mall can be seen from the Netherlands Carillon. Note the Floral Library. May 2002. ("NC, view to Mall")



While the Netherlands Carillon is clearly visible from the Watergate Steps, when trees are in leaf they hide the U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial from view. November 2002. ("ARP from across river")



The Washington Monument, seen from the southern end of Arlington Ridge Park rising above the scrub vegetation growing along Route 110. June 2002. ("view of Wash. Mon.")

Vegetation

Little is known about the use or condition of the Arlington Ridge Park property before it was acquired by the federal government for the Veterans Administration in 1947. The land had never been subject to much development. Maps from the mid-19th century depict the area divided into small lots of c. 10 acres; these may have been small family farms. At the time the government purchased it, a small house, some outbuildings, and two greenhouses occupied the site. A survey report records the house as having been a one-story farmhouse, while another document refers to it as a "bungalow." The site's overgrown condition is clearly visible in the photographs taken by NPS photographer Abbie Rowe in December 1953 as the land was being cleared. Apparently, certain existing trees – probably large specimens and perhaps others as well – were retained during clearing, along with the relatively small successional woodland in the southwest corner of the site.

Architect Horace Peaslee designed the memorial "entourage" or site plan for the Marine Corps War Memorial and guided its overall landscape design. He was assisted by landscape architect Markley Stevenson, fellow of the American Society of Landscape Architects, who helped create certain design features and selected plants. Conceptual advice was provided by landscape architect Elbert Peets, a member of the Commission of Fine Arts, though the specific nature of Peets's contribution is not known.

Stevenson developed a limited plant palette, relying primarily on a few species of trees. Individual species were used to define particular areas: willow oaks bordered the circular roadway; large and small lindens (Tilia sp.) lined the paths and framed the parade ground, at the north and south, along with osmanthus hedges; hornbeams were used to fill the narrow medians northeast and southeast of the statue; and hedges of yew outlined the plaza immediately around the statue. (Howland to Sager, June 14, 1954, 1430-2, LUCE files.)

The lindens along the internal walk system were placed about 25 feet apart, "a rather close spacing and when they grow and develop the trees will touch and interlace so that the effect will be that of a tree hedge, if you please, in scale with the parade." Wanting to keep views open across the site and to preserve a "clean, crisp design of trees and grass," Stevenson resisted the idea of planting shrubs beneath trees. As he wrote Peaslee:

"I feel that retaining the space between the ground and the lowest tree branches (10-12-14 feet above the ground) is exactly what should be done. In this way people walking about under the trees can always see everything that is taking place on the parade and catch glimpses of the monument as they walk." (quotations from Stevenson to Peaslee, July 2, 1954, copy in LUCE files.)

Because of cost constraints, Peaslee reduced somewhat the numbers and sizes of some trees requested by Stevenson. He wrote: "The small pines will supply the low branching density for the background of the higher branching trees on the east slope; and the larger lindens will be used where most effective: also I really prefer the double line of yews rather than the larger size in single row." (Peaslee to Stevenson, letter, June 11, 1954, LUCE 1460.)

The knoll or berm which Horace Peaslee placed behind the reviewing stand to screen the

parking area from view was planted with a grove of white pines (Pinus alba). Directly behind the reviewing stand was a yew hedge, and behind that, in front of the white pines, a line of sour gum trees. Stevenson recommended using the sour gums, with their brilliant red fall coloring, to provide a foil for views of the statue from across the river, from the west side of the Lincoln Memorial and the Watergate Steps. (Peaslee to Wirth and Peets, Nov. 14, 1954, 1430-2, LUCE files.) This effect is not readily visibly today, in part because of the growth of successional trees along Route 110, and planted trees on the north end of Lady Bird Johnson Park.

Willow oaks (Quercus phellos) and laurel oaks (Quercus imbricaria) line the outside of the circular road (laurel oak to the southwest) and screen views of adjoining highways and development. These screening trees were meant to provide seclusion for visitors to the memorial and to reduce distractions for drivers on routes 50 and 110. Peaslee had directed that one diagonal view be retained or cut through the encircling oaks, but there is no clear evidence of this today. Scarlet oaks lined the entrance road. Most or all of these were removed in 1961 under orders from Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy because they were felt to be blocking views from the roads to the statue. The statue is thus more exposed than intended, and some framing of views from the statue east to the National Mall has been lost since the planned visual cone has been substantially widened.

Two varieties of yew (Taxus sp.), recently replaced in-kind, frame the plaza around the statue and surround the reviewing stand. Almost 200 dwarf Japanese yew (Taxus cuspidata nana) form hedges flanked by twelve larger Dense Yew (Taxus cuspidata densiformi) at the steps. (Notes pasted on NCR drawing #850/80512, "Peaslee, Entourage: Marine Parade [117.1-254]," no date or author noted, GWMP Cultural Resource Files, "Iwo Jima," 1 of 2.) Just before the monument's dedication in November 1954, two large yews were moved from the front of the reviewing stand to reinforce the planting groups at the memorial steps. The yew hedge, intended to grow to a height of about 3½ feet, visually reinforced the base of the reviewing stand. (Peaslee to Wirth and Peets, Nov. 14, 1954, 1430-2.) Peaslee wrote to National Capital Parks Acting Superintendent Harry Thompson: ". . . the yew hedge on the east side of the reviewing stand is intended to be in level sections instead of with sloping ends. The intent is to enclose the ends, focusing the interest between the pylons, instead of beyond them." (Peaslee to Thompson, Nov. 29, 1954, 1430-2.) Hedges made of a spiny-leaved variety of osmanthus (Osmanthus sp.) was placed along walks at either end of the parade ground to discourage pedestrian traffic. (Thompson to Peaslee, July 16, 1954. 1430-2.) A privet hedge (Ligustrum lucidum) grows behind the reviewing stand.

Large, mature trees, including many black oaks (Quercus sp.), block reciprocal views between U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial and Netherlands Carillon. Some of these may have been retained from the Nevius Tract. In a November 1954 memo to Thompson, Peaslee referred to the "grove of big trees above Ridge Road" and his concern that someone – he said he suspected "Felix de Weldon's fine Italian hand" – was "pushing" for their removal. (Peaslee to Thompson, Nov. 29, 1954, 1430-2, LUCE files; also Thompson, in comments before the CFA on the general development plan for the Nevius Tract, mentions existing large trees, Harry T. Thompson comments before CFA, Dec. 17, 1953, 1430-2, LUCE files.)

Save for a few scarlet oaks and sour gums, most of the trees had been planted by January 1955. Scarlet oaks were used partly to "camouflage" flood lights.

Funds for landscaping the carillon grounds were not immediately available. Immediately to the south, Arlington Ridge rose higher than the carillon site. It was planned that the ridge grade would be lowered, and the removed soil deposited on the low point of the southwest side of the tract. (Haussmann, Memo, Oct. 21, 1959, and report, Oct. 27, 1959, 1460-1, LUCE files.) Before the dedication, the NPS laid sod and planted grass seed on the site, probably in the fall of 1961. In response to a citizen's letter expressing concern about the landscape's bare appearance, Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall wrote: "National Capital Parks will undertake additional grounds work at the Carillon to reseed and improve the turf surrounding the memorial." (Udall to Davis, Oct. 30, 1961, 1460-1, LUCE files.)

The irregularly dispersed trees on the rolling lawns around the Netherlands Carillon give the effect of a picturesque English landscape park. In about 1963, National Capital Parks landscape architects developed a tree-planting plan for the carillon grounds. Trees were arranged in groups and lines to form an irregular, U-shaped swath extending from the southeast up towards the northwest, or center, of the site. (National Capital Parks planting plan for Netherlands Carillon, c. 1963, and revised 1980, GWMP Maintenance files.) This plan appears to include both existing and planted trees. Larger trees seem to have been used to form a frame, with smaller trees, arranged singly or in clusters, filling in spaces or linking groups of the larger trees. The plant palette included mostly native species along with some non-native ornamentals, such as kousa dogwood (Cornus kousa). A 1980 revision of the planting plan, which may simply record existing trees, does not precisely follow the earlier drawing: trees are somewhat more randomly dispersed, perhaps reflecting the loss of trees in the intervening years.

Today, there are perhaps five or so very large oaks that may pre-date the park. The only evergreen trees in the south half of the park are a single group of three Norway spruces, planted in c. 1980, standing near the beginning of the circular road.

Flowerbeds were created at the Netherlands Carillon in the 1960s, a project undertaken as part of the Beautification Program of the Lyndon B. Johnson administration. Initiated by First Lady Lady Bird Johnson in 1964, the program sought to embellish and improve the parks, playgrounds, and other public recreational areas of the District of Columbia. Six curving beds – apparently meant to recall, when seen the carillon tower, the shape of two musical notes – were placed along paths in front of the carillon. The beds held a variety of tulips and annuals. In 1970, a Tulip Library was designed to occupy the circular bed that lies directly in front of the tower and forms the centerpiece of the flowerbed composition. Now a Floral Library instead, the bed – divided into 50 separate small beds – still holds Dutch tulips in the spring, replaced by annuals in the summer and chrysanthemums in the fall. Outside the east corners of the Carillon plaza are groups of Ilex crenata, dwarf Japanese holly.

There are two areas of successional trees in the park. A woodland of several acres occupies

the southwest corner, blocking views between the park and the entrance to Fort Myer, and forming a background to the carillon. This woodland was retained from the Nevius Tract. It appears as an area of thin vegetation in a 1928 aerial photograph, which also depicts somewhat denser riparian vegetation lining the streambed that runs near the northern and eastern boundaries of this patch of woods. It is being considered a contributing feature for this CLI because it was presumably intentionally retained. A band of successional trees has been allowed to grow up at the base of the park's eastern slope, along the Route 110 right-of-way. This narrow stretch of scrub growth partially blocks the sight and sound of traffic along this highway. George Washington Memorial Parkway once obtained permission from VDOT to thin some overgrowth from these trees.

The historic design of the vegetation appears to be largely intact, with few changes made to the Peaslee/Stevenson plan. Most plants are in good condition, apart from stress caused by the recent drought. Current management requires replacement in-kind for vegetation. However, replacement of two trees which stood in the center of the park – an American beech (Fagus grandiflora) and a littleleaf linden (Tilia cordata) – has been temporarily deferred, as they stood near the finish line for the Marine Corps Marathon. (Adam Badowski, meeting, Aug. 5, 2002, and communication with author, May 22, 2003.)

Character-defining Features:

Feature: willow and other oak trees around circular road at Marine Corps War Memorial

Feature Identification Number: 94323

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: sour gum trees behind reviewing stand at Marine Corps War Memorial

Feature Identification Number: 105902

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: white pines on knoll behind reviewing stand at Marine Corps War Memorial

Feature Identification Number: 91851

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: lindens and other trees along paths at Marine Corps War Memorial

Feature Identification Number: 105898

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: yew hedges around Marine Corps War Memorial plaza

Feature Identification Number: 94324

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: yew hedges at reviewing stand at Marine Corps War Memorial

Feature Identification Number: 94325

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: osmanthus hedges at either end of parade ground, Marine Corps War Memorial

Feature Identification Number: 105900

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: groves of mature deciduous trees on Netherlands Carillon grounds

Feature Identification Number: 105896

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: flower beds at Netherlands Carillon

Feature Identification Number: 105895

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: successional woods in southwest corner

Feature Identification Number: 105904

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: ornamental trees east and north of Netherlands Carillon

Feature Identification Number: 105899

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: lawns throughout park

Feature Identification Number: 105897

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: successional woods along Route 110

Feature Identification Number: 105903

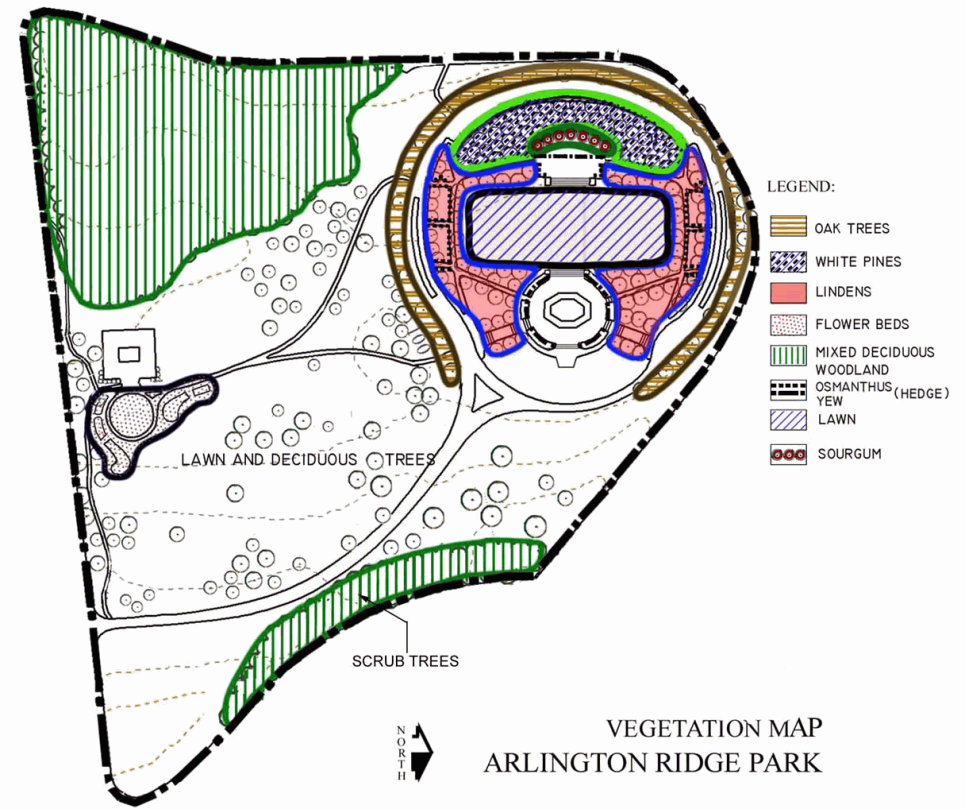
Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Feature: parade ground

Feature Identification Number: 105901

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:


LEGEND:
OAK TREES
WHITE PINES
LINDENS
FLOWER BEDS
MIXED DECIDUOUS WOODLAND
OSMANTHUS YEW (HEDGE)
LAWN
SOURGUM
LAWN AND DECIDUOUS TREES
SCRUB TREES
NORTH
VEGETATION MAP
ARLINGTON RIDGE PARK



View looking northeast from Netherlands Carillon on the day of its dedication, May 5, 1960. View highlights contrast between newly planted and older trees. (MRCE photo; GWMP file, "Netherlands Carillon, Dedication, May 5, 1960")



Condition of vegetation shortly after planting, early 1960s. (MRCE photo; "USMCWM, 1960-1969.")



The device of planting a row of sour gum trees behind the reviewing stand, so their deep-red fall foliage could throw the memorial into relief, has not proven effective. November 2002. ("statue and background")



Littleleaf lindens line all walks at the Marine Corps War Memorial. Osmanthus hedges help deter visitors from walking across the parade ground. Looking northwest, May 2002. ("path with lindens and hedges")



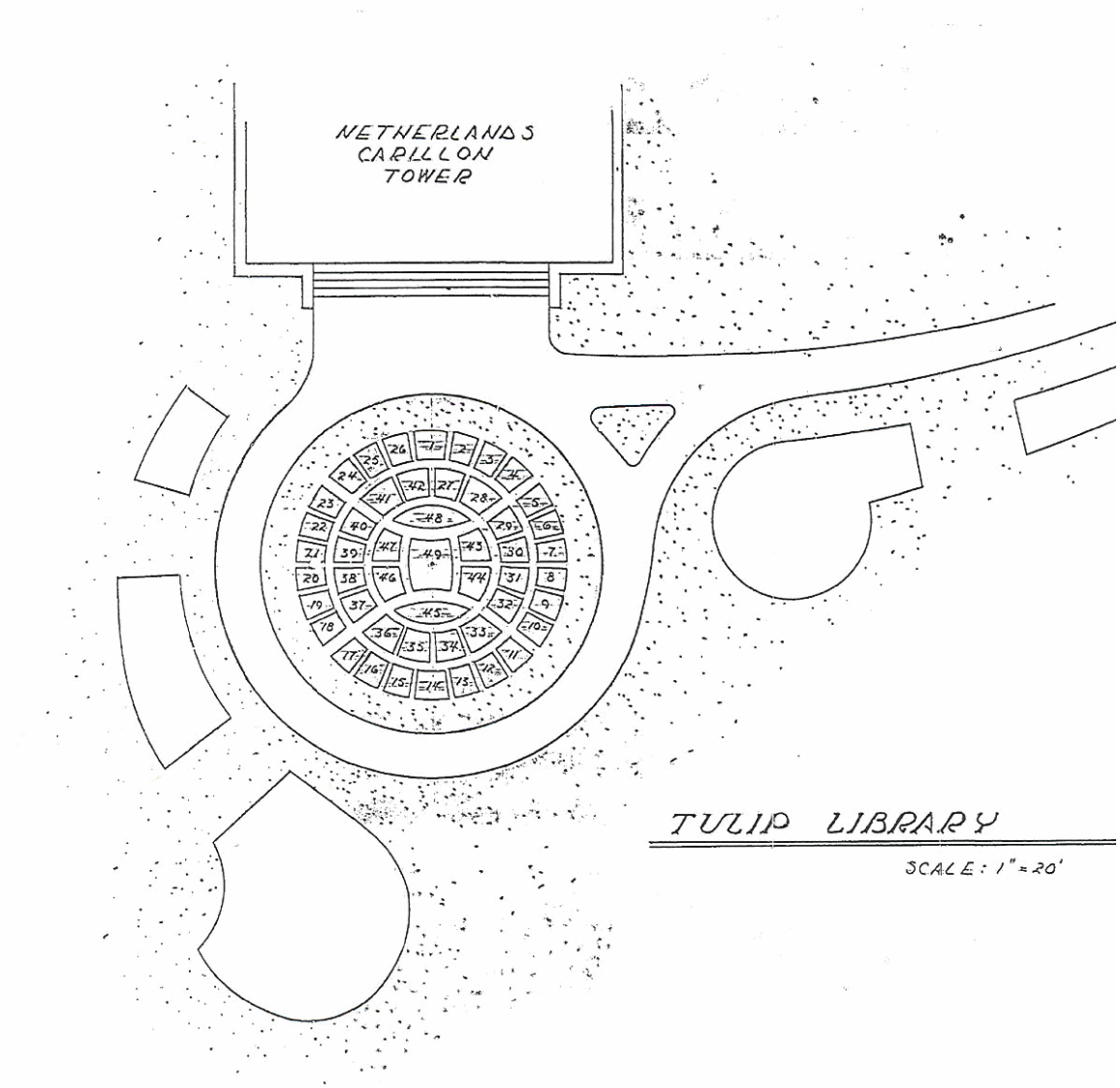
Clipped hedges border the reviewing stand (seen across the parade ground). Behind stand sour gums and white pines on constructed knoll. May 2002. ("parade ground, south end looking west")



Looking south through sour gums and white pines on knoll towards parade ground, seen at left. May 2002. ("looking through trees to parade")



Some mature trees, including these black oaks in the center of the site, may predate Arlington Ridge Park. View west, June 2002. ("oaks NE of NC")



Sketch of flower beds in front of Netherlands Carillon shows that beds are arranged in approximate shape of musical notes. Tulip Library is now a Floral Library. (Neal, Sept. 1972, TIC 850_81000)



This large black oak occupies a prominent location northeast of the Netherlands Carillon. June 2002. ("specimen oak near NC")



The successional woodland in the southwest corner of the park forms a dark backdrop to the Netherlands Carillon. White pines and dogwoods were planted, probably in 1960s or 1980s. June 2002. ("trees and woodland")

Small Scale Features

The only contributing small-scale features in Arlington Ridge Park are an older type of park bench and the pair of identical bronze lions which stand sentinel at the walk leading to the Netherlands Carillon. A modern, somewhat abstract design by Dutch sculptor Paul Doning, the lions are depicted “en couchant” – lying with their front legs stretched straight before them. In classical architecture, lions are symbolic of protection; they are also a symbol of the

Dutch royal family.

The park has a variety of benches, trash receptacles, and signs. There are two types of benches. The first is a simple design made of cast-iron frames with wood slat seats and backs, and are of a type used in the National Capital Parks since at least the 1930s; these are placed along the Ridge Path between the two memorials. The second is a stained timber version of the rustic "Washington"-type bench, originally developed for Rock Creek Park in the 1930s; the Washington benches stand in various pleasant locations on the lawn around the carillon. Two types of trash receptacles are used in the park: the "tulip" type, with a container made of wooden slats holding a steel can and supported on a single post, and a square-topped enclosed type made of heavy plastic. Several groups of portable toilets are placed in visually obtrusive locations; in the absence of a permanent comfort station, there have been portable toilets in Arlington Ridge Park for 25 years or more. (Plans for a new permanent visitor contact station with restrooms are now on hold indefinitely; see History: Change and Continuity, 1961-2002 and Treatment sections for details.)

The park's original drinking fountains may have been of a type developed by Horace Peaslee for his design of Meridian Hill Park (1917-1936), composed of a shell-shaped cast-concrete bowl supported on an exposed aggregate pedestal. (Peaslee to NPS via Marine Corps War Memorial Foundation, April 19, 1954, 1430-2, LUCE files, and Thompson to Peaslee, May 11, 1954, 1430-2; and Architrave, p.c. architects for National Park Service National Capital Region, "Meridian Hill Park: Cultural Landscape Report, Vol. I: History and Site Analysis," Aug. 2001, pp. 281-282.) It is not known if this variety was ever installed at Arlington Ridge Park. The drinking fountains now present are handicap-accessible steel structures comprising a simple bowl supported by an arm extending out from a square pedestal (HAWS #3376 frost resistant accessible pedestal type fountain). A splashguard or hood protects the bubbler. The fountains stand on concrete aprons extending off the paved paths southwest and northwest of the Marine Corps War Memorial. Hedges of osmanthus surround these aprons on three sides.

Signage at the park includes traffic signs, signs prohibiting ball playing and dog walking, and directional signs along the paths leading to the two memorials. A pair of waysides at the Netherlands Carillon give a brief history, explain the design of the carillon, and provide the seasonal concert schedule. Four new waysides around the Marine Corps War Memorial plaza were developed by the National Park Service in conjunction with the U.S. Marine Corps and installed in late 2002. The subjects include the History of the U.S. Marine Corps; the Battle for Iwo Jima; the Flag Raisings; and the Making of a Memorial.

Character-defining Features:

Feature: two bronze lions at Netherlands Carillon

Feature Identification Number: 105891

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: iron-rail and wood-slat benches

Feature Identification Number: 105888

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: "Washington"-style bench

Feature Identification Number: 105885

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Feature: "tulip"-style trash can

Feature Identification Number: 105884

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Feature: enclosed plastic trash can

Feature Identification Number: 105887

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Feature: signage

Feature Identification Number: 105890

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Feature: two waysides at Netherlands Carillon

Feature Identification Number: 105892

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Feature: portable toilets

Feature Identification Number: 105889

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Feature: brochure dispenser

Feature Identification Number: 105886

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Pair of stylized lions by Dutch sculptor Paul Doning guard the entrance to the Netherlands Carillon plaza; view from southeast. May 2002. ("NC, lions and plaza")



The wood-slat and cast-iron bench is of a type used in National Capital Region parks since the 1930s. Bench and "tulip" trash receptacle stand along Ridge Path. View looking west. June 2002. ("bench and trash can")



Spotlight rising from the yew hedge at the U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial. Developing an appropriate lighting system for the memorial has long been a challenge. May 2002. ("single spotlight")



For decades, George Washington Memorial Parkway management has had to rely on portable toilets at Arlington Ridge Park, such as these near North Meade Street, rather than permanent restrooms. June 2002. ("portapotties")



This modern accessible drinking fountain at Marine Corps War Memorial is surrounded by an osmanthus hedge. May 2002. ("ADA drinking fountain")

Archeological Sites

In 2001 and 2002, archeological investigations were undertaken at Arlington Ridge Park as part of an assessment of the park's cultural resources prior to construction of a new interceptor sewer. The preferred route for the sewer runs through the park, from the eastbound lanes of Route 50, along the eastern edge of the U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial precinct, and then along the route of the entrance road and into Arlington National Cemetery. (Martha R. Williams, R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates for Camp Dresser & McKee and National Park Service, "Cultural Resources Assessment of the Proposed Potomac Interceptor Sewer Improvements and Phase I Archeological Testing of Alternative A, Arlington County, Virginia," Final Report, November 2002.)

Shovel tests were undertaken in two survey areas within this corridor, to the north near the Marine Corps War Memorial and to the south near the entrance. Soil borings indicated a "moderate potential for prehistoric and historic resources, including small Archaic or Woodland procurement sites . . . and remnant deposits related to c. 1900 [small farms] in this area." Little evidence of soil disturbance was found, and existing elevations are probably similar to historic topography, judged by comparison with 1860s War Department maps. (Goodwin 2002:52.) Shovel tests were made in the northern survey area, roughly "87.5-112.5 feet west" of the route of the historic Arlington Ridge Road. One-hundred eighty-nine artifacts were recovered, most of them historic domestic debris. Further shovel tests revealed a deposit of "silty or sandy clay loam with charcoal flecks," resembling a "possible broad midden deposit." (Goodwin 2002:60.) The researchers posited that the deposit might have either been associated with the late 19th-century farms that lay west of the turnpike, or with the demolition of the structures on these sites after the property's acquisition by the federal government, a time period defined by the archeological team as spanning 1937-1953. (Goodwin 2002:60.) The site was designated "Iwo I, 44AR36," but deemed ineligible for National Register listing because removal of historic houses and subsequent disturbance suggested a lack of integrity. No further archeological testing was recommended.

Other archeological investigations were carried out in 2001 before the installation of the Fort Myer Jogging and Fitness Trail, which runs parallel to Marshall Drive along the southern boundary of Arlington Ridge Park. These uncovered no significant artifacts. It was conjectured that any potential for discovery of artifacts would have been destroyed by the road and railway construction that began in the late 19th century. There is some evidence that an area in the woodland occupying the park's southwest corner was used for dumping refuse, probably in the 19th century, when this land lay in the rear of the small farms or home sites. (Patrick L. O'Neill, Parsons Engineering Science, Inc., "Archeological Assessment of a Proposed Jogging/Fitness Trail, Fort Myer Military Community, Fort Myer, Arlington County, Virginia," 2001, p. 5.)

Character-defining Features:

Feature Identification Number: 105872

Type of Feature Contribution: Undetermined

Condition

Condition Assessment and Impacts

Condition Assessment: Good

Assessment Date: 09/29/2008

Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:

The condition of Arlington Ridge was reassessed in 2008. The Assessment Date refers to the date that the park superintendent concurred with the new Condition Assessment.

Condition Assessment: Fair

Assessment Date: 11/12/2003

Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:

Comments from EPLU Chief / Historical Architect Tim Buehner, December 2002.

The Assessment Date refers to the date that the park superintendent concurred with the Condition Assessment. The Date Recorded information refers to the date when condition was first assessed by the author of the report.

Condition Assessment: Good

Assessment Date: 09/26/2002

Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:

Some plantings are needed to restore the U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial plan. Some clearing is needed.

Impacts

Type of Impact: Impending Development

External or Internal: External

Impact Description: Planning is underway for the widening of Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Bridge and Route 50, which will bring changes to associated roads, ramps, and paths. Most current alternatives for this plan involve impacts to Arlington Ridge Park.

Type of Impact: Other

Other Impact: Potential Future Use

External or Internal: Internal

Impact Description: Portions of the park could be used to provide additional burial space for Arlington National Cemetery.

Type of Impact:	Planting Practices
External or Internal:	Internal
Impact Description:	The planting of white pine trees on the knoll or berm between the reviewing stand and the parking lot may have difficulty surviving because of its density and the limitations of the species in the Washington area.
Type of Impact:	Erosion
External or Internal:	External
Impact Description:	There is currently no noticeable erosion impact on the site. There had previously been extremely minor erosion along the slope from North Meade Street down into the park where visitors cut down the hill - but the rehab project added a sidewalk, railings, and ramp, ending any erosion problems. (2008) Erosion is often inevitable on terrain such as is found in Arlington Ridge Park. However, it is not usually noticeable here. (2003)
Type of Impact:	Pollution
External or Internal:	External
Impact Description:	Air pollution sometimes obscures the critical views of the National Mall. Additionally, air pollution kills trees, especially mature hardwoods, of which the park has many.
Type of Impact:	Pollution
External or Internal:	External
Impact Description:	Arlington Ridge Park lies within the flight path of Reagan National Airport and the low-flying aircraft causes problems of noise, annoying for visitors. They may also cause vibrations, which could damage structures.
Type of Impact:	Impending Development
External or Internal:	Internal
Impact Description:	The proposed Arlington/Dulles Interceptor will be adjacent to the existing sewer line (on the far side of the entrance road from the Memorial) and will not require the removal of any

substantial trees. The 2003 description is no longer accurate. (2008)

Plans are being developed for the laying of a new sewer line to replace an existing sewer line crossing the eastern side of Arlington Ridge Park. One alternative involves a route crossing the eastern side of the park, passing closer to the Marine Corps Memorial than the existing line, which would require the removal of more than a dozen trees. (2003)

Type of Impact: Soil Compaction

External or Internal: Internal

Impact Description: The large number of visitors at certain events, particularly the U.S. Marine Corps Marathon and the Fourth of July, cause soil compaction throughout most of the open areas at the park.

Type of Impact: Exposure To Elements

External or Internal: External

Impact Description: When the USMC War Memorial was rehabbed in 2006, drainage was improved and a sprinkler system installed. (2008)

Drought causes stress to the vegetation at the park. A sprinkling system has been approved and will be installed shortly. (2003)

Type of Impact: Adjacent Lands

External or Internal: External

Impact Description: Virginia Department of Transportation highway signs obscure the view of the National Mall from the U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial.

Type of Impact: Adjacent Lands

External or Internal: External

Impact Description: Development on lands immediately adjacent to the park has been a problem since its acquisition, causing noise and incompatible views, which usually must be shielded with buffers of trees.

Type of Impact: Inappropriate Maintenance

External or Internal: Internal

Impact Description: In 2006, the entire plaza was replaced with concrete that was similar to that of the original Earley Studios concrete. The work and replacement was approved by GWMP and NCR staff. (2008)

Over the years, patching of the special concrete developed by the John J. Earley company for the paving and reviewing stand at the U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial has been undertaken. Attempts made to replicate the Earley Studios concrete have been unable to match the original in color and composition. (2003)

Type of Impact: Vegetation/Invasive Plants

External or Internal: Internal

Impact Description: Undergrowth in the relatively large woodland area, which includes both invasive and non-invasive plants, poses a security problem for any visitors walking through these woods.

Stabilization Costs

Cost Date: 07/06/1998

Level of Estimate: C - Similar Facilities

Cost Estimator: Park/FMSS

Landscape Stabilization Cost Explanatory Description:

Protect the existing sculpture at the U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial from construction operations; clean existing sculpture and apply new protective wax wear coating and polish at completion of project.

Treatment

Treatment

Approved Treatment: Rehabilitation

Approved Treatment Document: Other Document

Document Date: 05/24/2001

Approved Treatment Document Explanatory Narrative:

The document is "Treatment Plan and Design Services for the U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial," prepared by John Milner Assoc., Inc., for the NPS. The document outlines the recommended rehabilitation of the U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial.

Work involves stabilization and rehabilitation of sculpture, base, plaza, military reviewing stand, walks, grounds, and associated irrigation, drinking fountain, power, and lighting systems. A new comfort station was proposed, to be strategically located to serve visitors to both the Marine Corps War Memorial and the Netherlands Carillon; these plans are now on hold because of legislation prohibiting new construction on the site.

Approved Treatment Completed: No

Approved Treatment Costs

Cost Date: 05/24/2001

Level of Estimate: B - Preliminary Plans/HSR-CLR

Cost Estimator: Park/FMSS

Landscape Approved Treatment Cost Explanatory Description:

These costs are based on a 2002 estimate entered in PMIS, and supercede the 2001 estimate prepared by DSC as part of the rehabilitation report prepared by Milner Assoc., discussed above.

The LCS Approved Treatment Costs include $219,228 allocated for a new visitor contact station and associated facilities, a project which is now on hold. The cost without this item is $372,200.

The Landscape Approved Treatment Costs include $230,680 allocated for new utilities. The new utilities were not associated with the U.S. Air Force Memorial.

Bibliography and Supplemental Information

Bibliography

Citation Author:	Karal Ann Marling and John Wetenhall
Citation Title:	Iwo Jima: Monuments, Memories, and the American Hero
Year of Publication:	1991
Citation Publisher:	Harvard University Press
Source Name:	Library Of Congress/Dewey Decimal
Citation Type:	Both Graphic And Narrative
Citation Location:	National Capital Region headquarters library

Citation Author:	Fairfax Harrison
Citation Title:	Landmarks of Old Prince William: A Study of Origins in Northern Virginia, vols. I & II
Year of Publication:	1987
Citation Publisher:	Prince William County Historical Commission
Source Name:	Library Of Congress/Dewey Decimal
Citation Type:	Both Graphic And Narrative
Citation Location:	Bull Run Regional Library, other area libraries

Citation Author:	Beth Mitchell
Citation Title:	"Beginning at a Whie Oak . . ." Patents and Northern Neck Grants of Fairfax County, Virginia
Year of Publication:	1988
Citation Publisher:	Fairfax Co., Virginia, Office of Comprehensive Planning
Source Name:	Other
Citation Type:	Both Graphic And Narrative
Citation Location:	Northern Virginia county libraries

Citation Author:	Nan and Ross Netherton
Citation Title:	Fairfax County, Virginia: A History
Year of Publication:	1978
Citation Publisher:	Fairfax County, Virginia, Board of Supervisors
Source Name:	Other
Citation Type:	Both Graphic And Narrative
Citation Location:	Northern Virginia county libraries

Citation Author:	Stephen R. Potter
Citation Title:	Commoners, Tribute, and Chiefs: The Development of Algonquian Culture in the Potomac Valley
Year of Publication:	1994
Citation Publisher:	University of Virginia Press
Source Name:	Library Of Congress/Dewey Decimal
Citation Type:	Both Graphic And Narrative
Citation Location:	National Capital Region headquarters library

Citation Author:	Col. Michael F. Monigan
Citation Title:	"New Battle Honors Added to Marine Corps Memorial."
Year of Publication:	1996
Citation Publisher:	United States Marine Corps
Source Name:	Other
Citation Type:	Both Graphic And Narrative
Citation Location:	GWMP - Turkey Run, Master files

Citation Author:	Brig. Gen. Simmons
Citation Title:	"Marines in Bronze"
Year of Publication:	1985
Citation Publisher:	United States Marine Corps
Source Name:	Other
Citation Type:	Both Graphic And Narrative
Citation Location:	GWMP - Turkey Run, Master files

Supplemental Information

Title: List of Arlington Ridge Park files in Land Use Coordination office

Description: Following is a list of files pertaining to Arlington Ridge Park in the Land Use Coordination office files (LUCE) in the Lands Resources and Planning Division of the National Capital Region Support office; in writing parenthetical notes found in this inventory, the author used these short names to identify the individual file where documents were found.

Memorial Files

Iwo–1 -- large folder – Iwo Jima, 1 of 2; mostly on adding name of Rosenthal to statue
Iwo–2 -- Iwo Jima, 2 of 2; various letters to citizens with info re: Iwo Jima memorial

Files in Federal Records Center (FRC) Boxes

1430–1 -- no label (letters on concessions, wreathlaying, ceremonies, signs, lighting – also RFK on trees; from Jan. 1956 to Dec. 1962
1430–2 -- “1430/Marine Corps War Memorial(Iwo Jima)” – design and construction; closed Dec. 1955; letters from March 1, 1945, through Dec. 8, 1955
1430–3 -- “1430/Marine Corps War Memorial – Suppl.”
1430–4 – Freedom Shrine

1460-1 - 1460/Nevius Tract; May 31, 1952-Sept. 28, 1962
1460-2 -- 1460/Nevius Tract – Supplement; all it contains is “Report on the Foundation Investigation of the Nevius Site, Veterans Administration Hospital, Arlington, Virginia, 28 May 1947