
National Park Service
Cultural Landscapes Inventory
2005



Folger Park
National Capital Parks-East - Capitol Hill Parks

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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:

Folger Park is a two-acre park located in a residential neighborhood on Capitol Hill in Southeast Washington, D.C., a couple of blocks south of the U.S. Capitol. It is a formal urban park bounded on the north and south by D Street, on the west by 2nd Street, and on the east by 3rd Street. It lies within the corridor of North Carolina Avenue, which touches the park at the northeast and southwest corners. The site is important as a component of Andrew Ellicott's 1792 revision of the 1791 L'Enfant Plan for Washington. As it exists today, the park is mostly the result of National Park Service work conducted in 1936. There do not appear to be any remnants of the original 1880s design.

Folger Park has two Periods of Significance: 1791-1792, when this area first appeared on Ellicott's modification of the L'Enfant Plan, and 1936, when it was redesigned. Except for vegetation, the park has not greatly changed since 1936. The vegetation conforms only in the most general way to the 1936 design – grass panels, street trees, densely grouped trees and shrubs behind the benches at the east and west ends, bordering privet hedges, and trees on the grass panels. Most of the trees planted in 1936 have died.

First developed in the 1880s under the jurisdiction of the Office of Public Buildings and Grounds (OPBG), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the original design was symmetrical but picturesque, with curving gravel walks and dense plantings. The two main curved walks formed several oval grass panels. A circular fountain, with a granite coping and a single spray, occupied a central plaza. Surrounded by rows of street trees, the park contained dense plantings of trees and shrubs, many of them flowering.

From its creation in the mid-1880s through the end of the nineteenth century, Folger Park appears to have been well maintained. In 1905 it still retained an abundance of native and non-native plantings. By the 1920s, however, many of its trees and shrubs had been lost; probably, like most of the downtown and Capitol Hill parks, it had begun to suffer from poor or irregular maintenance. The condition of these parks led to their major overhaul in the 1930s, when not only Folger Park but also Franklin Park and Lincoln Park were entirely redesigned with funding from President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal programs, primarily the Public Works Administration (and perhaps the Works Progress Administration as well). New circulation systems were developed for these three parks that established axial alignments of walks oriented to the cardinal directions (as is the Washington street grid); these axes were overlaid on curving oval walks that followed the parks' perimeters. Simpler vegetative palettes, comprising lines of trees circling the park and informally arranged trees on grass panels, replaced the earlier profusion of trees and shrubs in a multitude of species and varieties.

The new design of Folger Park featured a cross-shaped arrangement of double parallel asphalt walks set within an oval walk that ran near the park's boundary. Entrances at the four corners connected with the oval walk; entrances at the mid-points of each of the four sides led to a central square plaza, paved with flagstones and featuring an octagonal "wading" pool. The new circulation established strong east-west and north-south axes. Four rectangular flower beds were to be contained in the arms of the cross. This circulation layout remains largely intact today, along with its original bituminous concrete paving material and the flagstone paving of the plaza.

Placed at the east and west ends of the long axis were identical structures composed of a drinking fountain flanked by twin benches. These were constructed of exposed-aggregate concrete. Centered in the wall behind each fountain was a red cast-concrete plaque depicting the park's new plan. With their classical references – the exedra form (twin benches forming a niche), and drinking fountains shaped like sections of a Doric column – and stylized appearance, the structures are late Art Deco.

Unlike the circulation and structures, it is not known how much of the 1936 planting plan was carried out. A single photograph of 1964 showing one quadrant of the park suggests the planting was mostly implemented, but most of the trees have since died. The 1936 plan called for trees and shrubs to be added in each quadrant of the park, with the resulting composition almost entirely symmetrical across the park as a whole. Open lawns were to be planted with deciduous trees, the majority of them oriental plane trees. Looser arrangements of shrubs interspersed with trees were to form identical backdrops behind each of the fountain bench structures. Privet hedges surrounded the grass panels.

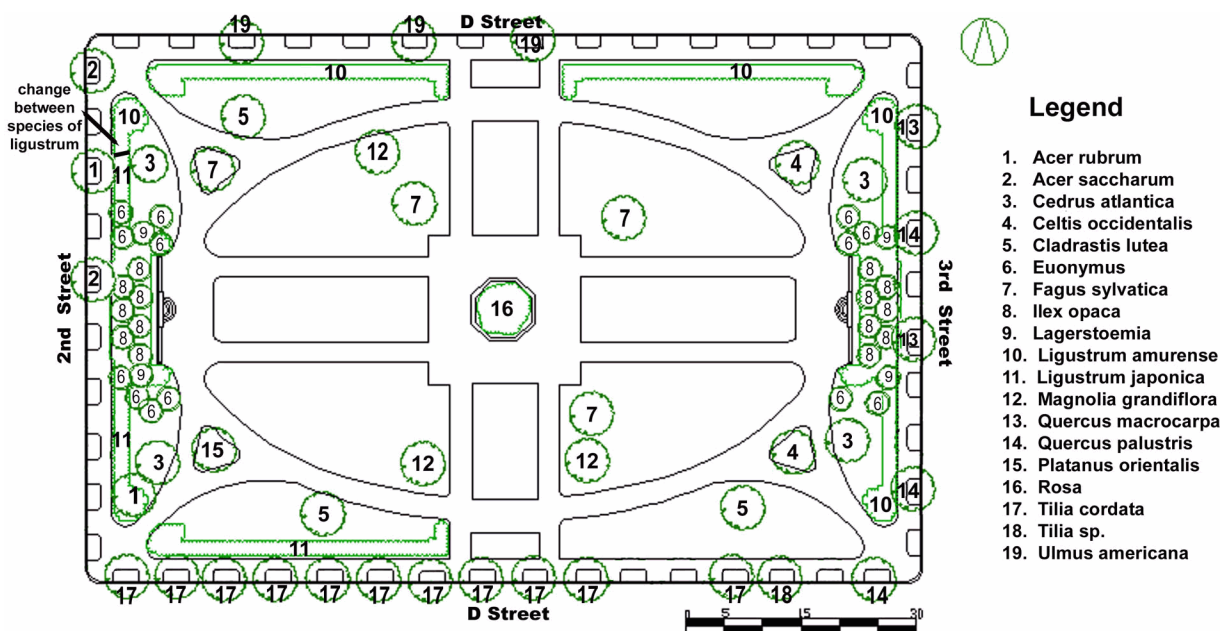
Sometime before 1964, the wading pool was converted into a planter for annuals and roses. A planting plan of 1984 called for the addition of several new trees to augment existing vegetation, which was then sparse.

Today, the lines of street trees remain, though most of them have numerous gaps. The arrangement of trees within the park is quite different from that called for in 1936. Instead of numerous trees placed informally, but symmetrically, across the grass panels, only a single tree now grows on most panels. The 1984 plan reveals that the four panels with curved sides within the oval walk had pairs of trees (a Southern magnolia and a copper beech) situated along the north-south walks; today two of these pairs exist, and of the other two, only a single tree remains. Privet hedges remain around the park's perimeter. Plantings of somewhat different, simpler composition than shown in the 1936 plan create backdrops behind the fountain and bench structures. Many of the street trees have died; only D Street, to the south, retains a nearly unbroken line of trees.

Most of the park's small-scale features date from the 1936 redesign. The remaining significant features are the iron frame and wood-slat benches, a design developed for National Capital Parks in the mid-1930s, and the quarter-round concrete curbs, a type of boundary element first used in the city parks in 1904/1905. Lights and trash receptacles are more recent additions.

The most important vistas from the park are along its east-west and north-south axes. The view to the south opens out to a large green space, former site of Providence Hospital.

Site Plan



The site plan of Folger Park reveals the loss of trees around and within the park. (Sept. 2006 Site Plan)

Property Level and CLI Numbers

Inventory Unit Name:	Folger Park
Property Level:	Component Landscape
CLI Identification Number:	600076
Parent Landscape:	600071

Park Information

Park Name and Alpha Code:	National Capital Parks-East - Capitol Hill Parks -NACE
Park Organization Code:	3563
Subunit/District Name Alpha Code:	National Capital Parks-East - Capitol Hill Parks - NACE
Park Administrative Unit:	National Capital Parks-East

CLI Hierarchy Description

Folger Park

National Capital Parks-East - Capitol Hill Parks

Folger Park is one of the Capitol Hill Parks - L'Enfant Parks administered by National Capital Parks - East, an administrative unit of the National Capital Region, National Park Service. Others include Eastern Market, Lincoln Park, Marion Park, Seward Square, Stanton Park, Twining Square, Maryland Avenue - Northeast Corridor, New York Avenue - Northeast Corridor, and Pennsylvania Avenue - Southeast Corridor.

Concurrence Status

Inventory Status: Complete

Completion Status Explanatory Narrative:

Kay Fanning, Ph.D., Landscape Historian for the National Capital Region (NCR) Cultural Landscapes Program, revised a draft begun in summer 2004 by Grace Zhang, US/ICOMOS intern. Research was conducted at National Capital Parks – East (limited park files), NCR library (Annual Reports of the Chief Engineer, Office of Public Buildings and Grounds), NCR Museum Resource Center (MRCE; photos), NCR TIC and Land Records (plans), Department of Interior Main Library (other copies of the Annual Reports, OPBG), Washington Historical Society, City Museum of Washington (photos), and Washingtoniana Division, Martin Luther King, Jr., Library, D.C. Public Libraries (photos).

Concurrence Status:

Park Superintendent Concurrence:	Yes
Park Superintendent Date of Concurrence:	09/20/2011
National Register Concurrence:	Eligible -- SHPO Consensus Determination
Date of Concurrence Determination:	09/09/2005

National Register Concurrence Narrative:

The State Historic Preservation Officer for the District of Columbia concurred with the findings of the Folger Park CLI on 9/9/05, 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:

Folger Park
National Capital Parks-East - Capitol Hill Parks



United States Department of the Interior

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

August 24, 2005

Memorandum

To: Cultural Landscapes Inventory Coordinator, National Capital Region
From: State Historic Preservation Officer, District of Columbia
Subject: Statement of Concurrence, Folger Park Cultural Landscape Inventory

I, Lisa Burcham, District of Columbia State Historic Preservation Officer, concur with the findings of the Folger Park Cultural Landscape Inventory as submitted on August 24, 2005.



Lisa Burcham
District of Columbia
State Historic Preservation Officer



Date

Concurrence memo for FY2005 signed by the DC SHPO on 9/9/2005.



United States Department of the Interior

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

September 20, 2011

Memorandum:

To: Cultural Landscape Inventory Coordinator, National Capital Region
From: Superintendent, National Capital Parks-East (NACE)
Subject: Statement of Concurrence, Folger Park Cultural Landscape Condition Reassessment

I, Alexy Romero, Superintendent of National Capital Parks-East, concur with the condition reassessment for the Folger Park cultural landscape:

CONDITION REASSESSMENT: Poor

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 Folger Park is hereby approved and accepted.

Superintendent, National Capital Parks-East

Date

Condition reassessment concurrence memo signed by National Capital Parks - East superintendent, 9/20/2011.

Revisions Impacting Change in Concurrence:

Other

Revision Date: 09/02/2011

Revision Narrative:

The condition of the Folger Park cultural landscape was reassessed in FY2011. The condition remains Poor.

The Revision Concurrence Date is the date the concurrence memo was signed by the park superintendent.

Geographic Information & Location Map

Inventory Unit Boundary Description:

Folger Park is located in the Southeast quadrant of Washington, D.C., on Capitol Hill. It occupies a city

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block in a residential neighborhood. The park is bounded on the north and south sides by D Street, on the west by Second Street, and on the east by Third Street. It lies along the axis of North Carolina Avenue, which touches the park at the northeast and southwest corners.

State and County:

Size (Acres): 1.96

Boundary UTMS:

Source:	GPS-Differentially Corrected
Type of Point:	Point
Datum:	NAD 83
UTM Zone:	18
UTM Easting:	326,345
UTM Northing:	4,305,921
Source:	GPS-Differentially Corrected
Type of Point:	Point
Datum:	NAD 83
UTM Zone:	18
UTM Easting:	326,232
UTM Northing:	4,305,923
Source:	GPS-Differentially Corrected
Type of Point:	Point
Datum:	NAD 83
UTM Zone:	18
UTM Easting:	326,228
UTM Northing:	4,305,848
Source:	GPS-Differentially Corrected
Type of Point:	Point
Datum:	NAD 83
UTM Zone:	18
UTM Easting:	326,343
UTM Northing:	4,305,845

Location Map:



Folger Park is located on Capitol Hill, three blocks southeast of the U.S. Capitol. It lies on axis with North Carolina Avenue along with Seward Square and Lincoln Park. (map adapted from The Thomas Guide to Metropolitan Washington, D.C., 1998)

Management Unit: National Capital Parks - East

Tract Numbers: Reservation 16

Management Information

General Management Information

Management Category: Must be Preserved and Maintained

Management Category Date: 08/18/2005

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

Public Access:

Type of Access: Unrestricted

Explanatory Narrative:

Folger Park is open at all hours.

Adjacent Lands Information

Do Adjacent Lands Contribute? Yes

Adjacent Lands Description:

Surrounding Folger Park is a mix of two- and three- story late-nineteenth and twentieth-century structures, mostly rowhouses. To the south, an entire city square – the former site of Providence Hospital – is an open green, planted with grass and with trees growing around the perimeter. A cross-shaped concrete walk connects the square's opposite corners.

The low buildings, and the large green space to the south, make Folger Park sunny, remarkably so in comparison with parks located in other areas of Capitol Hill and, especially, downtown Washington. Such parks as Farragut Square, McPherson Square, and Franklin Park are surrounded mostly by twelve-story buildings, and large areas of each park lie in shadow much of the day. In contrast, Folger Park is surrounded on the east, west, and north by two- and three-story buildings. A low, modern (probably 1960s) school building, Brent Elementary School, is located east of the park.



The historic Providence Hospital site is now a green lawn, crossed by two walks connecting opposite corners and fringed by trees. (CLP digital photo, Providence Hospital site June 2004 BW 250)

National Register Information

Significance Criteria: B - Associated with lives of persons significant in our past

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

Period of Significance:

Time Period: AD 1791 - 1792

Historic Context Theme: Expressing Cultural Values

Subtheme: Landscape Architecture

Facet: Colonial Traditions In The New World

Other Facet: None

Time Period: AD 1936

Historic Context Theme: Expressing Cultural Values

Subtheme: Landscape Architecture

Facet: The 1930's: Era Of Public Works

Other Facet: None

Area of Significance:

Area of Significance Category: Landscape Architecture

Area of Significance Subcategory: None

Statement of Significance:

Folger Park has two Periods of Significance, 1791-1792 and 1936. The first period includes the year 1791, when Pierre Charles L'Enfant created the plan for the City of Washington, and the year 1792, when the future Folger Park site was first included as open space on a city plan, surveyor Andrew Ellicott's modification of the L'Enfant plan. The second period, the single year 1936, is when the park was redesigned with a more formal layout and entirely replanted. No features remain from the park's first picturesque design of the 1880s. Much of the 1936 layout remains – the circulation system of walks and the central flagstone plaza; and the structures, the two fountain benches and the central

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wading pool (since converted into a planter). These features all retain their original materials. Most of the existing planting plan is of unknown provenance. It is not entirely clear how much of the 1936 planting plan was implemented and the only remaining features that seem to date to that plan are some of the street trees, a portion of the privet hedges, and the two hackberries at the northeast and southeast walk intersections.

Folger Park is significant as part of the Ellicott Plan. It is listed as a contributing feature in the “L’Enfant Plan of the City of Washington” National Register Multiple Property Nomination (listed 1997). It is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under National Register Criteria A, B, and C. As stated in the “L’Enfant Plan” nomination:

“The historic plan of Washington, District of Columbia – the nation’s capital – designed by Pierre L’Enfant in 1791 as the site of the Federal City, represents the sole American example of a comprehensive Baroque city plan with a coordinated system of radiating avenues, parks and vistas laid over an orthogonal system. . . . The plan meets National Register Criterion A for its relationship with the creation of the new United States of America and the creation of a capital city; it meets Criterion B because of its design by Pierre L’Enfant, and subsequent development and enhancement by numerous significant persons and groups responsible for the city’s landscape architecture and regional planning; and it meets Criterion C as a well-preserved, comprehensive, Baroque plan with Beaux-Arts modifications.” (“L’Enfant Plan” nomination 1997:Section 8, pp. 1, 2)

These factors applying to the plan as a whole are also relevant to its constituent parts, including Folger Park, since this site was included the following year on Ellicott’s version of the L’Enfant Plan. Folger Park is also eligible under Criterion C for its largely intact Beaux Arts-inspired design of 1936 (plan 1935, implemented 1936), prepared by National Park Service landscape architects under a New Deal-funded plan to modernize Washington’s smaller parks.

The design of Washington’s downtown and Capitol Hill parks is based on their circulation systems. The first designed path system of Folger Park was implemented in 1884-1885, seventeen years after the Office of Public Buildings and Grounds was established under the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and given responsibility for the city’s parks. The first Engineer Officer, Nathaniel Michler, and particularly his successor, Orville Babcock, were instrumental in devising and implementing the initial grading, layout, and planting of the downtown parks and reservations. While not identical, design changes to these parks were made consistently. Similar ideas regarding walk systems and planting layouts were implemented, and governed their initial Victorian designs, their subsequent alterations, and their redesign in the 1930s, after their transfer to the National Park Service in 1933.

Folger Park was one of several city parks to be redesigned in the mid-1930s by National Park Service landscape architects using funds provided by the Public Works Administration (and perhaps also the Works Progress Administration). The existing layout, or design framework, of these Victorian parks was established by their circulation systems. Though many included some major feature as a focal point, such as a fountain or statue, all had curving walks arranged with varying degrees of asymmetry and informal plant massings, providing a picturesque experience for the visitor.

In the 1930s, these curvilinear walks were replaced by formal, symmetrical layouts, based on axes and cross-axes oriented to the city's street grid and leading to some central feature. Secondary diagonal walks led in from corners. Alteration of the circulation systems caused changes to the vegetation patterns, which, together with the walks, defined the parks' spatial organizations. Trees were moved or removed to accommodate new routes. While some of the informal massings of trees were retained, other trees were planted to accent walk intersections. The heavy shrub growth of the Victorian park designs was thinned or eliminated to create open spaces and clear sightlines. Some of these changes were inspired by practical considerations, such as providing more direct routes for commuters walking through the parks on their way to work, and making parks appear safer. However, ultimately the designs derive from the City Beautiful precepts established for the city's core by the Senate Park Commission (McMillan Commission) Report of 1902. All these changes are evident in the evolution of the Folger Park design.

Chronology & Physical History

Cultural Landscape Type and Use

Cultural Landscape Type: Designed

Current and Historic Use/Function:

Primary Historic Function: Leisure-Passive (Park)

Primary Current Use: Leisure-Passive (Park)

Other Use/Function

Fountain

Leisure-Passive (Park)

Urban Park

Other Type of Use or Function

Both Current And Historic

Both Current And Historic

Both Current And Historic

Current and Historic Names:

Name

Folger Park

Type of Name

Both Current And Historic

Ethnographic Study Conducted:

No Survey Conducted

Chronology:

Year	Event	Annotation
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AD 1791	Land Transfer	The site of the future Folger Park, part of a large tract owned by Daniel Carroll of Duddington, was acquired by the federal government as street rights-of-way. The site seems to be included on the L'Enfant Plan as part of the section labeled "E." Daniel Carroll of Duddington
AD 1871	Established	Nuns established Providence Hospital in a house on the square south of the park site, at 2nd and D Streets.
AD 1872	Built	The first Providence Hospital was completed. For some years, the future park was identified as "the square north of Providence Hospital."
AD 1881 - 1882	Graded	Folger Park was graded and surrounded with a cast-iron post-and-chain fence. The 146 posts, or bollards, were in the form of fasces (bundled rods, a classical Roman symbol of authority).
AD 1882 - 1883	Designed	A circulation system of curvilinear walks was laid out in Folger Park. Lawns were graded and sown with grass seed. Trees and shrubs were planted on the lawns.
AD 1884 - 1885	Planted	Further improvements included the planting of about 1000 ornamental trees and shrubs, both deciduous and evergreen.
AD 1885	Memorialized	President Chester A. Arthur requested that the park be named for Charles J. Folger, his late secretary of state. Charles J. Folger
AD 1889	Planted	More trees and shrubs were planted in the park.
AD 1899	Built	A new drainpipe was laid to the fountain.
AD 1933	Land Transfer	Folger Park was transferred from the Office of Public Buildings and Public Parks of the National Capital to the National Park Service (then the Office of National Parks, Buildings, and Reservations, renamed the National Park Service in 1934).

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AD 1935 - 1936	Reconstructed	New circulation and planting plans were installed at Folger Park, using Public Works Administration funds. The more formal walks comprised a cross overlaid on an oval with a central plaza. The new planting used a simple palette of trees, shrubs, and lawns.
AD 1905	Built	The post-and-chain fence was removed and replaced with quarter-round concrete curbs. Such changes were made to many of the city's reservations at this time. Concrete was laid at park entrances to connect the asphalt walks with the perimeter sidewalks.
AD 1884 - 1885	Built	Benches were placed along the walks. Six gas lamps were installed. An irrigation system was installed, and a granite fountain was moved to the park from Armory Square (part of the National Mall).
AD 1885 - 1886	Planted	Two-hundred fifty flowering shrubs were planted in the park.
AD 1901 - 1902	Built	An asphalt walk was laid from the park's northwest corner to the southeast, replacing a gravel walk. The new walk was 441-feet long and five-feet wide.
AD 1902 - 1903	Built	An asphalt walk was laid from the park's northeast corner to the southeast, replacing a gravel walk.
AD 1903 - 1904	Built	Four-hundred-and-fifty square yards of asphalt walks were laid, replacing many - but not all - of Folger Park's remaining gravel walks.
AD 1984	Rehabilitated	Fourteen new trees were planted in Folger Park, helping to restore some symmetry to the design. The plan was prepared by National Capital Region landscape architect Amy Schneckenburger.
AD 1792	Planned	The future Folger Park appears as a reserved open space on the Andrew Ellicott plan of the city, a modification of the L'Enfant Plan of 1791.
Andrew Ellicott		
AD 1790 - 1802	Land Transfer	The three city commissioners appointed by President George Washington had jurisdiction over the reservations.

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AD 1802 - 1816	Land Transfer	Responsibility for the reservations was transferred from the three commissioners to a Superintendent of Public Buildings, also appointed by the president.
AD 1816 - 1849	Land Transfer	The Superintendent of Public Buildings was replaced by a Commissioner of Public Buildings, still under the authority of the president.
AD 1849 - 1867	Land Transfer	The office of the Commissioner of Public Buildings, with jurisdiction over the city reservations, was transferred from the authority of the president to the new Department of the Interior.
AD 1867	Land Transfer	The reservations were transferred from the Commissioner of Public Buildings in the Department of the Interior to the Office of Public Buildings and Grounds (OPBG), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, War Department.
AD 1925	Land Transfer	The reservations under the Office of Public Buildings and Grounds were transferred to the Office of Public Buildings and Public Parks.

Physical History:

1791-1865: The Early Development of Capitol Hill and the Folger Park Area

The L'Enfant Plan

Under the Congressional Act of July 16, 1790, President George Washington appointed three commissioners to lay out a district for the permanent seat of government of the United States. The following year, the president hired the French engineer and architect Pierre Charles L'Enfant to create a plan for the new capital. L'Enfant developed a design based primarily on Baroque principles of city planning: a grid system of streets overlaid by diagonal avenues connecting major buildings and spaces. The intersection of major thoroughfares and radial streets were intended to form the centers of residential neighborhoods and to provide locations for markets and public parks.

The site that became Folger Park was originally part of a large tract of land owned by Daniel Carroll of Duddington. The tract extended north as far as K Street and south to the Anacostia River, encompassing the future grounds of the U.S. Capitol. In 1791, the Folger Park site was acquired by the federal government as part of the street rights-of-way. On the L'Enfant Plan, it appears to form part of the section labeled "E," where L'Enfant had envisioned "five grand fountains intended with a constant spout of water." (quoted in Reps, "Washington on View":23)

After L'Enfant resigned or was dismissed following the Duddington affair (see below under "Duddington"), Washington appointed surveyor Andrew Ellicott to prepare the final version of the plan for publication. Ellicott's changes were relatively minor – the straightening of some avenues, the elimination of minor streets; but he did create an open square at the location of the future Folger Park.

When the Office of Commissioners was abolished in 1802, control over public reservations was transferred to a Superintendent of Public Buildings, also appointed by the president. In 1816, the position of Superintendent was eliminated and responsibility for the parks was given to a Commissioner of Public Buildings, at first acting under the authority of the president, and then, after its creation in 1849, the Department of the Interior. (Olszewski, "Lincoln Park":1-2)

Washington, D.C., developed slowly:

"In some parts, purchasers have cleared the wood from their grounds, and erected temporary wooden buildings: others have fenced in their lots, and attempted to cultivate them; but the sterility of the land laid out for the city is such, that this plan has also failed. The country adjoining consists of woods in a state of nature, and in some places of more swamps, which give the scene a curious patchwork appearance." (Janson, "The Stranger in America":202ff, quoted in Reps, "Washington on View":60, 64)

Even by 1817, almost thirty years after the District was established, the broad avenues planned by L'Enfant barely existed. Cattle, sheep, and pigs wandered freely over the dirt roads and

weedy reservations. Roaming livestock constituted such a public nuisance that many of the squares and reservations were enclosed with wooden fences.

Growth of Capitol Hill

Capitol Hill can be narrowly or broadly defined. It is the eminence originally called Jenkin's Hill that L'Enfant selected as the location for the Capitol building; it is also the greater neighborhood extending out from this site over the plateau of land that spreads south and east to the Anacostia River. At the time Washington was first laid out, Capitol Hill was mostly farmland. The neighborhood grew slowly as workers employed on construction of the Capitol building settled there. Houses, shanties, and barracks were erected near the construction site to house supervisors and both skilled and unskilled craftsmen. Numerous boardinghouses were built to serve congressmen and senators. The Capitol Hill neighborhood had its small community of wealthy men, real estate speculators and a few Englishmen who had made their fortunes in the East India trade. (Overbeck, "Capitol Hill"; unless otherwise cited, material on Capitol Hill is from this essay.)

The Navy Yard, begun in 1799 on a secluded harbor of the Anacostia River, south of the Capitol, provided a second major employer for Capitol Hill. Workers at the Navy Yard built warships and ordnance (the yard had turned exclusively to ordnance production by the end of the nineteenth century). The U.S. Marine Barracks was soon built just to the north. As the neighborhood grew, Protestant churches, shops, private schools, and a Masonic lodge were built.

In August 1814, during the War of 1812, British soldiers burned the Capitol and ships and buildings at the Navy Yard. Amid threats to move the seat of government to another part of the country, Daniel Carroll and other prominent residents of the Hill hastily erected a large structure to house Congress just north of the burned Capitol. The Brick Capitol was used by Congress until 1819, by which time the Capitol building had been partially reconstructed. The Brick Capitol then became a boardinghouse.

Capitol Hill saw steady residential growth through the mid-nineteenth century, though many lots remained empty. European and Irish immigrants supplied craftsmen for the continuing construction of the Capitol.

With the coming of the Civil War, Washington was transformed: "Before the war the city was as drowsy and as grass-grown as any old New England town. . . . the general aspect of things was truly rural. The war changed all that in a very few weeks." (Noah Brooks, quoted in Reys 1991:156). Thousands of Union soldiers, free blacks, escaped slaves, and others rushing to aid the Northern war effort descended on the city, which became dominated by the needs and activities of the Union Army. The Brick Capitol was converted to a prison. A temporary hospital was built on the site of the future Lincoln Park, occupying a prominent location one mile due east from the Capitol on East Capitol Street.

Washington's dramatic war-time growth led to the rapid development of many residential

neighborhoods, including Capitol Hill, where the first major communities were centered around the Capitol and the Navy Yard. Later, the areas surrounding the neighborhood parks laid out in the L'Enfant and Ellicott Plans – Stanton Park, Folger Park, and Lincoln Park – also began to experience growth. (National Register Nomination, “Capitol Hill Historic District,” 1976)

The Folger Park Neighborhood in the Nineteenth Century

The site of Folger Park appears on the 1818 map compiled by surveyor Robert King and on many subsequent city maps. The 1836 Tanner map shows that St. Peter's Church had been built just west of the block immediately north of the Folger site, and that the East Public School had been built a block to the east. The Folger Park site itself remained empty.

Development of the immediate neighborhood was slow. No surrounding development is shown on the 1851 Keily map. Ten years later, the detailed Boschke map depicts two structures standing at the corners of the square to the south, and a single small building to its north, but nothing facing the square directly; the square itself was empty.

For many decades, two prominent structures occupied sites near the future Folger Park, and defined the neighborhood: Daniel Carroll's mansion, Duddington (1792-1886), two blocks south of the park site; and Providence Hospital (1872-1964), just south of the park.

Duddington

At least six Daniel Carrolls were prominent in eighteenth-century Maryland, identified by the names of their estates. Daniel Carroll of Duddington (1764-1849) was the son of Charles Carroll of Carrollsburg, and the nephew by marriage of Daniel Carroll of Rock Creek, one of the District of Columbia's original proprietors, who had helped select the site for the city. In the early 1790s, Daniel Carroll of Duddington was the largest landowner in Washington, and one of its richest men. (Goode, “Capitol Losses,” p. 5)

Carroll began building a house, known as “Duddington,” on his Capitol Hill estate in 1791, only a few months after the L'Enfant street plan had been laid out. However, the structure extended into the right-of-way for New Jersey Avenue, and L'Enfant had it razed. The planner's action was condemned and led to either his resignation or his dismissal. Carroll was reimbursed for his loss. The next year, he began rebuilding within square 736. Around the four-acre site he built a six-foot-high brick wall, within its confines creating what was, in essence, a miniature country estate. Numerous outbuildings surrounded the large brick house, which was nine-bays wide and two-and-one-half stories high, with a pedimented central pavilion and a one-story columned porch. (Goode:5)

Daniel Carroll of Duddington served as the first president of the Bank of Washington (1809-1819). In 1800 he built five Greek Revival rowhouses across from the Capitol at First and A Streets, S.E. Known as Carroll Row, they served as rental properties (and were demolished in 1867 for the Jefferson Building of the Library of Congress). Carroll lost much of his wealth through land speculation on the Hill, and died in poverty. Two unmarried daughters continued living in Duddington until 1885. In 1886, the house was sold and razed, and plain

rowhouses were built in its place. Duddington Place was cut through the center of the square, bounded by 1st, 2nd, E, and F Streets, S.E. (Goode:5)

Providence Hospital

When the Union Army confiscated the city's only civilian hospital, nuns from the Sisters of Charity in Emmitsburg, Maryland, were asked to establish a replacement facility.

(Goode:432-433) At first, the nuns rented a large frame house at 2nd and D Streets, across from Duddington, which at that time was still inhabited by Carroll's daughters. Providence Hospital began admitting patients, both civilian and military, in 1871. The square on which the hospital stood was soon covered with hospital tents. By 1876, the open square to its north – the future Folger Park – was referred to in a real estate book as "Providence Hospital Square." (HABS:2 cites but does not identify the real estate book.)

For ten years, the nuns purchased additional lots in the square as they could afford them. The first hospital structure took six years to complete, opening in 1872. Congress occasionally supplied funds to help with construction. The brick building combined features of the Second Empire and Italianate styles: its five-part façade incorporated center and end pavilions, and heavy brackets supported an imposing mansard roof. The architect is unknown. (Goode:432)

By 1900 Providence Hospital, with 250 beds, had become "the largest and most important hospital in Washington". (Goode:433). Numerous innovations brought it renown: it housed the first surgical amphitheater in the city (1882) and the first three-year nursing school in the country (1896); it was the first hospital in the city to use X-rays (1896) and to include social work programs. The structure was enlarged to four times its original size in 1904 by architect Waddy B. Wood, who remodeled it as a stuccoed Mission-style building with a central tower. It extended along the full length of the block, facing D Street and Folger Park. (Goode:433)

The Folger Park site appears to have remained vacant until the 1870s. It is not known if Providence Hospital ever used the land.

1865-1899: The First Design of Folger Park

In the decade after the war, several changes occurred concerning the administration of public lands in the District of Columbia. Cumulatively, these had a profound effect on the public reservations.

In 1867, responsibility for the city's avenues and public grounds was transferred from the Department of the Interior to the Office of Public Buildings and Grounds (OPBG) of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, War Department. A succession of Chief Engineers served as Officers in Charge of Public Buildings and Grounds, and produced annual reports that contain invaluable details concerning the construction, planting, and maintenance of the downtown parks. (The reports were usually published at the end of the fiscal year, then occurring in June, but were dated the previous year; it is therefore not always clear in which calendar year a certain action occurred.)

In 1871, a new form of government was created for the District of Columbia. Though lasting

only three years, the Territorial Government, and its Board of Public Works under Alexander “Boss” Shepherd, nonetheless radically altered the city, embarking upon a vast program of projects. Almost 200 new miles of streets were paved in stone, concrete, and wood; hundreds of miles of sewer, water, and gas lines were laid; thousands of street trees were planted; and thousands of gas street lamps were installed, entirely changing the city’s nocturnal aspect. From a primitive, backwater town, Washington was suddenly transformed into a modern city. (“Exhibit Chart Showing Streets and Avenues – Pavements,” from Board of Public Works, “Report,” Nov. 1, 1873, in Repts, “Washington on View”:189)

Capitol Hill also experienced growth. In the 1870s, Eastern Market was built with government funds on a site located an equal distance from the Capitol and Navy Yard, marking the expansion of development beyond its original north-west-south “crescent,” or swath. Post-war growth of the city and the federal government brought new workers to Washington and the Hill, and the construction of new houses and rowhouses. The expansion of local transportation systems encouraged people to begin living at greater distances from their work in more homogenous neighborhoods. Many Capitol Hill residents moved out to new areas, resulting in a loss of the ethnic and income diversity that had characterized the Hill, which now became largely white and middle-class. The Navy Yard remained a major employer, and late in the century a neighborhood of Jewish émigrés from Eastern Europe grew up outside its walls. (Overbeck)

The Office of Public Buildings and Grounds began making improvements to the city’s parks and reservations during the tenure of the Territorial Government. Earlier, in 1852, Lafayette Park had been laid out in a picturesque design by famed horticulturist Andrew Jackson Downing. Some basic changes, such as grading, enclosure with wooden fences, and planting with trees and shrubs, had been made to a few other downtown parks in subsequent years. However, a comprehensive, systematic program of park improvements did not begin until the early 1870s. Of the major downtown parks, Farragut Square was improved in 1871-1872, Franklin Park in 1872-1873, and McPherson Square in 1876. On Capitol Hill, Lincoln Park was improved between 1871 and 1875, with most changes being implemented in 1874, and Stanton Park was improved in 1877-1878.

Improvements to Folger Park followed. The work seems to have proceeded more slowly than in the parks mentioned above, with most being implemented between 1881 and 1885. In 1878, the OPBG requested \$3000 for Folger and other parks on Capitol Hill so they might “speedily be put in order” (AR 1878:1349). Two years later, it was noted: “A number of the larger reservations in this section of the city should be improved at an early day. Among them . . . are the reservations on South and North Carolina avenues, between Fourth and Fifth and Second and Third streets east.” (AR 1880:2341; the other site referred to is Marion Park)

Work finally began on Folger Park in 1881 or 1882, when the park was graded and surrounded with a cast-iron post-and-chain fence. The fence was a type used around many of the downtown parks in the 1870s, with posts in the shape of fasces (a Roman symbol of authority, composed of bound rods), surmounted by finials.

Four-thousand dollars was requested in 1882 to complete the grading, install walks, and begin planting. An appropriation of \$1000 was granted; with these funds, the walks were outlined, excavated, and filled in with gravel. Paths were excavated and surfaced with compacted gravel, apparently following a method similar to that employed at Lafayette Park. The excavations for the paths were filled “with broken stone and coarse gravel, and surfaced with fine gravel compactly rolled.” (Annual Report 1884:2344) In 1883, the remaining \$3000 of the original estimate was requested to complete the planting “with suitable ornamental trees and shrubs” and to install a “rustic fountain” and an irrigation system. (AR 1883:2103, 2343-2344)

Most remaining improvements to Folger Park were completed in 1884-1885. A granite coping for the fountain was moved from Armory Square. (Also called “Henry Park,” Armory Square was located on the National Mall between 6th and 7th Streets, adjacent to the Baltimore & Potomac Railroad depot.) An irrigation and drainage system was finished. New sod was laid along the margins of the gravel walks, where needed, and the lawns were dressed with compost and sown with grass seed, including winter rye. Benches were placed along the walks. Six gas lamps were erected and connected with mains. At the request of President Chester A. Arthur, the park was named after Charles J. Folger, his late secretary of the treasury, as a tribute.

Most importantly, “about 1000 ornamental evergreen and deciduous trees and shrubs” were planted. The Annual Report concluded: “This park has been greatly improved, and adds much to the beauty of the locality. The reservation is immediately in front of Providence Hospital.” (1885: 2507) The following year, 250 flowering shrubs were added.

A plan accompanying the 1885 Annual Report depicts a circulation design composed of two symmetrical curved paths with a central fountain. Most likely the design was influenced by the Downing design for Lafayette Park, whose curvilinear walks recalled the English picturesque tradition.

Beginning in 1885, the Engineer Officer of the OPBG began submitting annual requests for funds to replace gravel walks “on the principal lines of travel” with asphalt in certain reservations, “the foot-walks of which have become public thoroughfares”. Folger Park was one of these reservations. (AR 1885:2514) Yearly requests for such improvements continued until the early twentieth century, when the conversion of gravel walks to asphalt finally began.

Apparently, more trees were planted in Folger Park in 1888-1889: “The 356 young trees and ornamental and flowering shrubs were planted in Folger and Marion squares. . .” A flower bed surrounded the Folger Park fountain. Water lilies were planted in the fountain each summer, then removed to a nursery in the fall. (AR 1895:4145, 1897:4051) Changes occurring on Capitol Hill were noted in the 1893 Annual Report: “The increased prosperity of this section of our city and the large number of private improvements in progress demand that still more attention be given to beautifying the public spaces, and increased appropriations are earnestly recommended for this purpose.” (AR 1893:4325)

A violent storm on September 29, 1896, damaged ten trees. Presumably these were removed,

as were a couple of trees that were decaying. A “box settee” for trash was placed in the park (AR 1897:4052) and a new drain pipe, 180 feet long and four inches in diameter, was laid to the fountain in 1899. In 1901/1902, “forty two unsightly trees and 135 unsightly shrubs were grubbed out and removed” from Folger Park. (AR 1902)

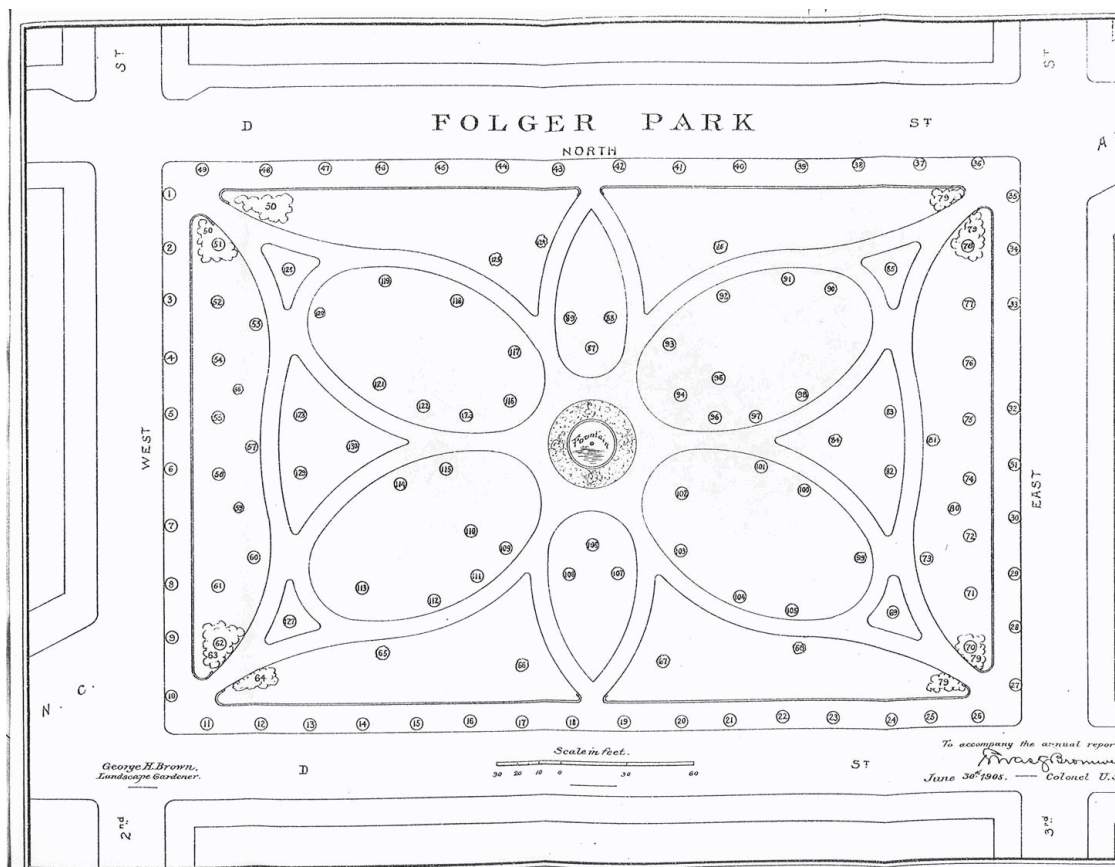
The annual maintenance routine was similar for most of the Capitol Hill reservations. Lawns were mowed and raked, and given a top dressing of compost, manure, or guano mixed with soil. Bare places in lawns were sown with grass seed, and sod was laid along the borders of walks. Trees and shrubs were pruned, and foliage and flowering plants were set out in beds. Fresh gravel was added to walks, which were then raked and rolled. Gutters were cleaned. Fences, benches, and lamp posts were repaired and painted.

A watchman was assigned to patrol Folger and Marion Parks, along with other small reservations nearby, during the day. From 1886 to 1890, yearly requests were made for funds to build a lodge to shelter the watchman, but these were never allocated.

Having a watchman could not prevent certain depredations. Plants and bulbs were often pulled up at night. There were other problems: “in Folger and Stanton parks the flower-beds have been greatly damaged by dogs; much annoyance is also caused by chickens running at large and destroying the lawns and flower-beds.” (AR 1887:2777) Similar problems were mentioned in later reports: “But little satisfaction is derived in attempting to beautify the parks in this section of the city with early spring-blooming bulbs, as so many of the flowers are stolen just when they are in their prime.” (AR 1889:2837)

The gravel walks in the city’s parks had long posed a problem. They required the continual addition of fresh gravel: in 1890, 930 square yards of the walks in Folger Park had to be repaired with new gravel, while the following year, nearly all of them needed to be resurfaced. (AR 1890:3545; 1891:3914) Planks had to be laid over wet areas in the gravel walks each fall and then removed each spring. Finally, at the turn of the century, asphalt walks began to replace gravel. In FY 1901, the walk in Folger Park leading from the northwest corner to the southeast was paved with asphalt. The new walk was 441-feet long and five-feet wide. The remaining gravel walks required the usual repairs. (AR 1901:3709) The next year, the walk from the northeast to southeast corners was similarly repaved. (AR 1903:2735) And then, in FY 1903, 455 square yards of asphalt pavement replaced most of Folger Park’s remaining gravel walks. The gravel walks that were left, and the gravel margins of the asphalt walks, were resurfaced with fresh gravel and rolled. (AR 1903:2546) Gravel walks remained at Folger at least until 1915, when repairs were made to 133 square yards of such walks. (AR 1915:3716)

Towards the end of the nineteenth century, Washington’s park plantings began to be simplified, in part out of concerns over safety: “The lush plantings of the Victorian era gave way to sparser plantings . . . as an abundance of plants was seen as a ‘concealment’ for ‘wrongdoers and an obstruction of the breezes Washingtonians sought in the sweltering summers.’” (Annual Report 1899, quoted in Leach and Barthold, L’Enfant Plan nomination, 1997:Sec. 8, p. 28)



The intricate path system and dense planting of the first Folger Park design is shown in this plan from 1905. (CLP digital photo, 1905 Survey copy)



The Victorian fountain in Folger Park was small, with a granite coping. It resembled the fountain then in Franklin Park. (Washingtoniana Div., MLK Lib., Folger fountain 1923-27 CHS 2186 cropped)

1900-1932: City Parks Deteriorate Despite the Senate Park Commission Plan

A watershed event in the planning history of the District of Columbia occurred in 1902, with the publication of the Senate Park Report, commonly known as the “McMillan Report.” This landmark comprehensive planning document, developed by the architects and other design

professionals of the Senate Park (McMillan) Commission, sought to recapture the principles of the L'Enfant Plan, and to provide for future formal arrangements of institutional buildings, particularly along the Mall and around the Capitol. The McMillan Plan may have provided some impetus for across-the-board improvements made to the downtown parks in these years, though whether it had any direct influence on Folger Park at this time is not known. (The park's redesign in the 1930s, however, following a more regular and geometric pattern, is probably a result of the McMillan Plan's City Beautiful precepts.)

In 1903-1904, a major effort was undertaken to replace the fences of the downtown parks with curbing: "It being the wish of Congress that the public parks should be as open as possible, all the former high iron fences have been removed, except where absolutely needed." (Annual Report 1904) A high iron fence surrounded Franklin Park (and had formerly surrounded Lafayette Park), but the low post-and-chain fencing around other parks was removed as well. Their removal left park edges with an "unfinished," even "unsightly" appearance. The use of "simple stone curbing" was proposed to provide "a pleasing finish," creating a "neat border line between park and sidewalk," as had already been done at Lafayette Park. An elevation, plan, and section of a standard quarter-round curbing design was included in the 1904 Annual Report.

The post-and-chain fence was removed from Folger Park in April 1905. Additionally, the park's brick gutters were taken up and placed in storage. In May, 1145 linear feet of concrete curbing was installed around the park, with twelve concrete corner posts (six pairs) at the six entrances to the interior walks. Behind the curbs, the ground was raised and regraded; some areas were covered with sod and others were seeded with grass. One hundred-four square yards of concrete pavement was laid at the entrances to connect the park's asphalt walks with the perimeter sidewalks. Sod was laid around the street trees. (AR 1905:2642)

After 1920, the annual reports no longer included many details on individual reservations. In February 1925, Congress created the Office of Public Buildings and Public Parks of the National Capital, and moved responsibility for D.C. parks and reservations from the Army's Chief of Engineers to this office, whose director reported to the president. Less than ten years later, on June 10, 1933, these duties were transferred back to the Department of the Interior, to the Office of National Parks, Buildings, and Reservations, renamed the National Park Service in 1934. Since then, the National Park Service has overseen the National Capital Parks, a name first officially used in the D.C. Appropriations Act of June 4, 1934. (Olszewski Franklin Park 1970:1-3)

Little information is available on the state of Folger Park in these years. No changes appear to have been made to the design. Presumably, it had been maintained like other city parks, which underwent slow deterioration in the early decades of the twentieth century. A 1925 survey of Folger Park indicated that fewer trees remained than previously, especially on the southern and northern sides, and stated that the park urgently needed improvement.

Folger Park

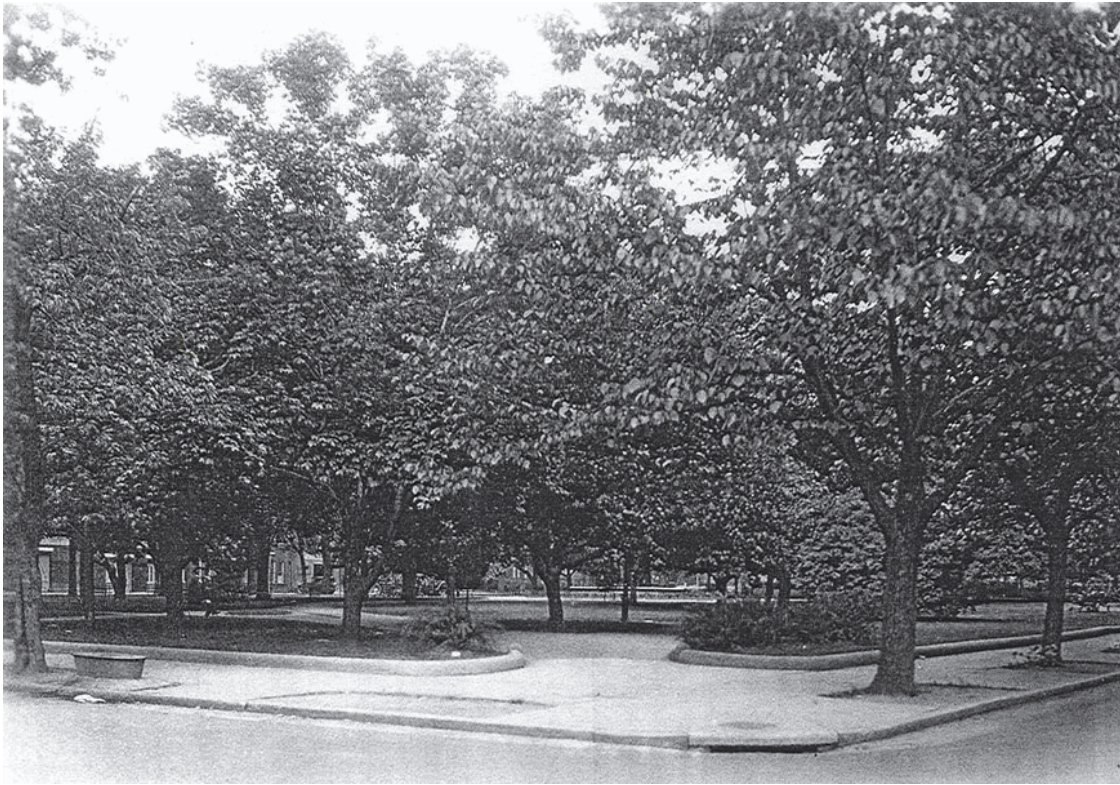
National Capital Parks-East - Capitol Hill Parks



Looking south past the fountain in Folger Park to Providence Hospital, sometime in the 1920s. (Historical Society of Washington, CHS 2186; CLP digital photo, View of Providence Hosp from Folger Park 1920-1929 200)



*View of Providence Hospital from northeast, showing corner of Folger Park with iron post-and-chain fencing; c. 1904. (From Goode, *Capitol Losses*, p. 433; CLP digital photo, *Folger and Prov Hosp 1904 posts Goode 200 2*)*



Forty years after the park was planted, dense trees created deep shade. View from April 1927. Note trough at left. (Source probably Annual Report 1927; CLP digital photo, Folger 1927 view cropped 150)

1933-1936: The Redesign of the City Parks

Most of the federal parks and reservations of the District of Columbia were transferred from the Office of Public Buildings and Grounds to the National Park Service, National Capital Parks, in 1933. The increased population of Washington following World War I led to the greater use and the eventual deterioration of city's small parks. To meet this higher number of visitors, funding from both the Public Works Administration and the Works Progress Administration was used to redesign the parks for easier maintenance. Lafayette, Franklin, and Folger Parks were the major projects, but more than 100 other reservations were also improved. The work was carried out by the Branch of Plans and Design, Eastern Service Center, National Park Service.

Picturesque layouts and curving paths were eliminated, replaced by walk systems composed of simple geometric shapes – circles or ovals bisected by straight axial walks, often leading to a central feature such as a fountain or statue. Instead of the densely planted shrubs and trees, lush flower beds, and exotic specimen plants of the Victorian era, the new landscapes relied on a few main features: expansive panels of grass, a limited number of trees, and sometimes hedges planted along boundaries and walks. A new type of cast-iron and wood-slat bench was

designed specifically for the Washington parks. Heavy enough to be bolted to pavement, the bench also functioned as a barrier to discourage people from walking across lawns or planting beds.

Many of these planning features probably had their source in the earlier City Beautiful movement, and specifically the redesign of the National Mall and the city's larger park system by the Senate Park, or McMillan, Commission in 1901-02. The plan produced by the McMillan Commission had proposed landscaping for public areas that was based on rectilinear arrangements of axial walks bordering broad grass panels. Evenly spaced ranks of trees would line walks and roadways, and numerous fountains would provide focal points and cool respites for people in Washington's hot summers.

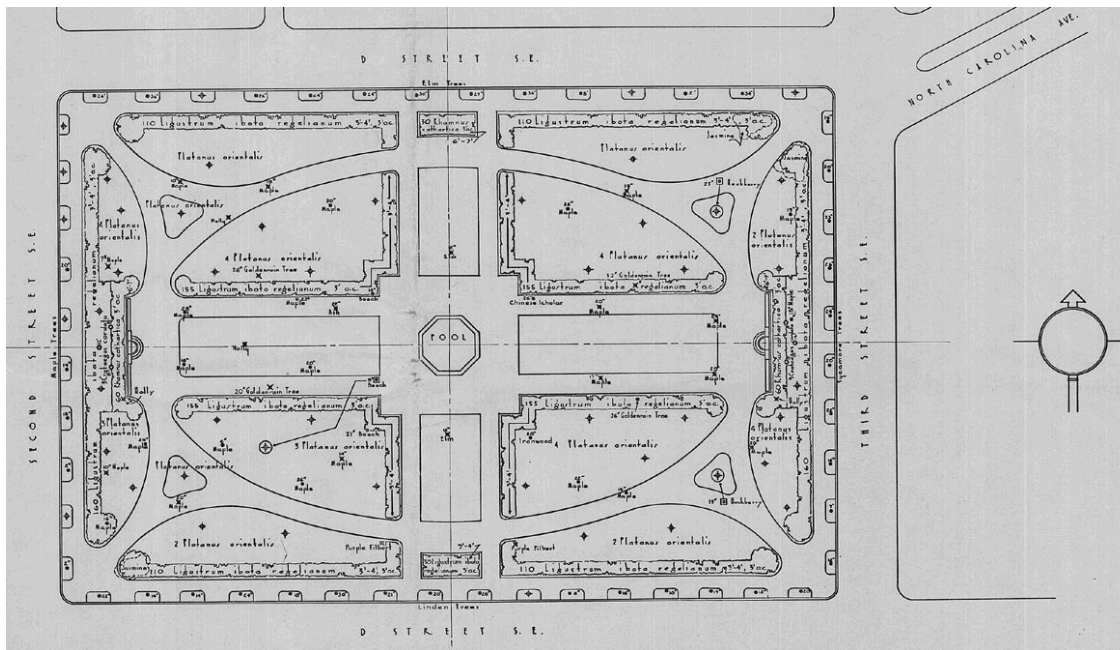
Such ideas also appear in the work of George Burnap, a landscape architect employed by the Office of Public Buildings and Public Grounds from 1910 to about 1917. In 1916, Burnap published "Parks: Their Design, Function, and Use." This volume of observations and recommendations regarding urban park design drew heavily on Burnap's experience working for the OPBG, augmented by his own studies in Europe, and used many of his Washington park projects as illustrations. Burnap's work and writings may have exerted some lasting influence on design decisions made regarding Washington's parks in the following decades. At the least, they reflected prevailing ideas concerning the layout of walks, the placement of vegetation, and so on.

Burnap distinguished between what he termed "passing-through parks" and "passing-around parks." Passing-through parks are smaller, and "their design and composition should be such that the quick impression given may be a forceful and expressive one." (Burnap 80) Commuters should be able to hurry through them following direct lines of circulation to surrounding streets. Their design should be formal and regular, like the architecture surrounding them, and simple, so that such features as plants and statues can be observed quickly. (Burnap 80) Passing-around parks, on the other hand, are located at street intersections. As focal points, passing-around parks are better suited as locations for statues, fountains, or architectural features. (Burnap 92) The redesigned Folger Park can be seen as an example of a passing-through park.

The new, more formal Folger Park design was developed in 1935 and installed in 1936. The walk system was essentially a cross inscribed within an oval, resulting in four rectangular panels of grass, each containing a flower bed. An octagonal pool occupied a square central plaza paved with flagstones. On the east and west sides, structures comprising paired benches flanking a drinking fountain were built in exposed-aggregate cast concrete. The fountains took the form of a fluted half-cylinder, derived from the classical column. Incorporated in a wall above each fountain was a plaque made of colored concrete that portrayed the park's new design.

For reasons that are detailed more fully in the Vegetation section, it is not clear whether the 1936 planting plan was fully implemented. Only two photographs have been found showing Folger Park in the years since 1936, and these present a limited view. Relatively few of the

trees that exist today appear on the plan.



The new circulation and planting plan for Folger Park replaced the winding paths with a strong geometry. (TIC 822_80006)

1937-2005: Folger Park's Slow Decline

After the Depression, the neighborhood around Folger Park became less prosperous. By 1947, Providence Hospital was “overcrowded and antiquated.” (Goode:433) No adjacent land was available for expansion, so a new hospital was built at 12th and Varnum Streets, N.E., opening in 1956. The federal government bought the old building, and it was used by the Commerce Department until 1964, when it was destroyed. In 1965 and again in 1977, the Architect of the Capitol attempted to have a congressional parking lot built on the empty site. Residents opposed this use, however, and in 1979 the former hospital site was made into a simple park of open lawns planted with trees. Today it is a park maintained by the Architect of the Capitol, and, together with Folger Park, creates a large open green space.

Almost no information is available concerning Folger Park for the decades following the installation of its new plan. Few changes appear to have been made to the park. Before 1964, the central octagonal pool was converted into a planter. In the mid-1960s, flower and rose beds were installed in the grass panels on the north-south axis and in the planter as part of a city-wide program of park improvements carried out under the Beautification Program of First Lady Lady Bird Johnson.

In 1984, a new planting design was developed for Folger Park by Amy Schneckenburger, a landscape architect with the National Capital Region. Except for the grass panels, the privet hedges, and a few trees, the existing vegetation reflects the 1984 design.

In the years since, little has changed at Folger Park. While the neighborhood is thriving, the park has undergone a slow deterioration. The asphaltic material of the walks has cracked, as have the flagstones of the plaza, and weeds grow in the cracks. Trees have been lost and hedges are overgrown. The drinking fountains no longer work and the concrete of the fountain and bench structures has cracked and chipped.

However, Folger Park still retains much of its historic integrity. The circulation layout and the original paving materials remain intact, even if the latter are in poor condition. A few trees are fine mature specimens. Though damaged in places, particularly corners and edges, the fountain and bench structures remain intact and in good shape overall.



The central plaza and planter (the former wading pool) in Folger Park in 1964. The view is probably to the southwest, and shows some remnants of the 1936 planting. (CLP digital photo; MRCE Folger 8771-E 1964 j)

Analysis & Evaluation of Integrity

Analysis and Evaluation of Integrity Narrative Summary:

Folger Park serves primarily as a neighborhood park for Capitol Hill residents who go there to sit, stroll, and walk their dogs. The original circulation system of the 1880s was picturesque but symmetrical, with curving gravel walks and a central fountain plaza. The walks formed numerous small grass panels that were densely planted with trees and shrubs. As was typical for the downtown and Capitol Hill parks, the first plant palette of Folger Park was rich and varied, with an abundance of flowering trees and shrubs, including many non-native species. Trees lined the surrounding streets, and also the east and west sides of the park itself.

This complex planting survived into the twentieth century, but gradually most of the trees and shrubs were lost. By the 1920s the palette had become much simpler, with only a few dominant tree species remaining, mostly maples. All of the shrubs and street trees and most of the perimeter trees had disappeared.

The park was entirely redesigned in 1936 by the National Park Service, with funds provided by the Public Works Administration (the plans are dated 1935 and the work was done in 1936; other funds – perhaps for labor – may have come from the Works Progress Administration). The more formal layout was based on clear geometries. An oval walk encircling the park was overlaid by a cross-shaped composition of parallel walks that defined east-west and north-south axes. Walks were constructed of a concrete slab base with a “bituminous” concrete overlay containing a black aggregate. In the center was a flagstone plaza and a broad, shallow octagonal “wading” pool. Two identical structures – paired benches centered on a drinking fountain, a classical exedra form – were built at the east and west ends of the park, terminating the long axis. With their simplified, geometricized classical references, the fountain benches were Art Deco in style. Red concrete plaques inlaid in the walls above the fountains depicted the new circulation plan.

As part of the redesign, a new planting plan was prepared. It is not clear how much of this was implemented, but most or all of it probably was, and vestiges remain today. The plan was based upon a precise arrangement of trees and shrubs in each of the park’s four quadrants, resulting in an almost perfectly symmetrical composition of vegetation across the park.

The most numerous tree species used in the park was the oriental plane. Thirty-six new oriental plane trees were to be added, along with several more along the streets. With a few exceptions, these were arranged symmetrically among the quadrants. Hedges of privet defined the edges of the grass panels along the sidewalks and along the two main axes within the park. Most trees were cleared from the grass panels within the arms of the cross. Dense backdrops of trees and shrubs were to be planted behind both of the bench and fountain structures.

The street trees (which may have already existed), a few trees within the park, and the privet hedges remain from the 1936 planting. Only two historic photographs, from 1938 and 1964, have been found, and these suggest the planting was carried out.

Floral beds were established in the park in 1965 as part of the Beautification Program of the Lyndon B. Johnson administration, spearheaded by Lady Bird Johnson. Floral display beds replaced the grass panels on the north-south axis.

Today, the planting that remains in Folger Park corresponds, for the most part, to the vegetation shown on a 1984 planting plan. This plan records the vegetation existing in that year, with the addition of fourteen new trees. This existing vegetation seems to be the denuded 1936 plan, augmented by the addition of various other trees and shrubs in the years before 1984.

The 1984 plan attempted to make the layout more symmetrical by careful additions to the existing planting. For example, a yellowwood was to be placed in each of the park's four corners (except the southwest, where it was located near the centerline), and new trees were added to the street trees to fill in gaps.

The plan records the presence of four pairs of magnolias and beeches along the sides of the short north-south axis, in the curved panels of the central oval. Today, paired Southern magnolias and copper beeches remain in these locations, though a couple of trees have been lost; the only complete pairs are at the northwest and southeast "corners" of this axis.

In the 1936 plan, the overall planting was to have been dense but evenly spread out across each panel, more or less following the edges. This is no longer the case. The paired trees emphasize the north-south axis. Clusters of two or three trees grow in the corners of the park. Most of the street trees are gone, except for the nearly continuous line of lindens (plus one oak) along D Street south. Almost none of the trees within the park are the same today as those specified in the 1936 plan, and they are far fewer in number. Lawns have once more been installed in place of the north and south floral beds. Roses and liriopae are planted in the central pool.

The main structures in the park are the combination benches and drinking fountains described above. The fountains no longer work, and their brass spigots have been removed. Some edges are chipped, the concrete plaques are worn, and there is some graffiti. On the whole, however, these structures are in good physical condition.

An octagonal "wading" pool replaced the earlier fountain in 1936. It occupies the center of the flagstone plaza. The concrete structure is thirty feet in diameter, including its low, two-foot wide flagstone coping. By 1964, the pool had been filled in and converted into a planter.

Folger Park has few small-scale features: benches, curbs, lightposts, and trash receptacles. Only the first two are contributing. The most numerous features in the park are the benches, most of which are placed along the outside edges of the walks. All are of a type that was developed for the National Capital Parks as part of the 1930s modernization, and have cast-iron frames and wood-slat backs and seats.

Folger Park

National Capital Parks-East - Capitol Hill Parks

In 1902/1903, Congress authorized the elimination of all fences around the city's public parks to make them completely open. An earlier cast-iron post-and-chain fence was removed from Folger Park in 1905, replaced by quarter-round concrete curbing, installed along the outside edges of the grass panels. The extant curbs may be original.

Folger Park originally had gas lights of an unknown style. In 1936, the redesigned park was lit by electric "Saratoga" lights, with a cylindrical lamp and a conical cap. Today, all the lights in Folger Park are the variety known as the Washington Standard (first developed c. 1912), installed here in 2002. The fluted classical posts have flared, molded bases and capitals, and support a single urn-shaped lamp known as the Washington Globe.

The dominant views in Folger Park are to the structures that surround it, mostly two- and three-story rowhouses and commercial structures dating from the late nineteenth century. The presence of the large Providence Hospital site, with its shade trees and spreading lawn, allows an expansive vista to the south and gives the impression Folger Park extends beyond its actual boundary. There are no important views along the North Carolina corridor that runs diagonally through the park, from southwest to northeast.

Analysis of the site according to the National Register characteristics for integrity – location, setting, design, association, feeling, materials, workmanship – reveals that Folger Park retains integrity.

The location of Folger Park has not changed. The setting has remained mostly intact since the late 1800s. The major change to the setting was the loss of Providence Hospital in the 1960s, which for almost 100 years had formed an architectural wall stretching the length of the park to the south.

The 1936 design of the park is largely intact. The circulation is the same. Though worn and damaged, the walks and the bench and fountain structures retain their original materials. The benches and drinking fountains display a high level of design sophistication, and are perhaps the most elaborate structures built in any of the city parks in this era. The flagstone plaza was also carefully laid out by National Park Service designers in an irregular rectilinear pattern. The central pool remains, converted into a planter.

Folger Park retains its significant associations to the 1930s redesign. The design was probably based on the example provided by the McMillan Plan, as it shares with the plan its clarity, formal geometry, and integral relation of the circulation to the city grid. Presumably the park's designer, like the members of the McMillan Commission, was looking ultimately to European sources and the tradition of Baroque urban plans for his design. Likewise, the feeling conveyed by Folger Park, of being a small-scale, intimate park for a residential neighborhood, is still intact.

Folger Park retains its original materials in its walks, plaza, and the two bench and fountain structures. However, the bituminous concrete and flagstone paving of the walks and plaza are in poor condition. The concrete of the benches is in fair condition.

When they were built in the 1930s, the constructed elements – the two combination bench and fountain structures – showed a high degree of workmanship. The central flagstone plaza also had fine workmanship. Though deteriorated, these features still give evidence of their original quality.

Aspects of Integrity:	Location
	Setting
	Design
	Association
	Feeling
	Materials
	Workmanship

Landscape Characteristic:

Spatial Organization

The spatial organization indicated in the 1936 plan was based on a boundary enclosure of street trees and a further division by hedges into rectangular quadrants. The lines of street trees were reinforced on at least two sides by rows of trees along the sides of the park itself, and by the vegetative backdrops of the fountain benches, which created virtual “walls” at the east and west sides. Within the park, trees were placed more or less along walks and at intersections, loosely reinforcing the circulation pattern, so that this pattern and the spatial organization somewhat corresponded.

However, as explained more fully in the Vegetation section, it is not clear how much of the 1936 planting plan was implemented. Even assuming it was fully planted, most of it is now gone, with the result that there is now no clear spatial organization. Lines of street trees and park boundary trees have suffered great attrition, except for the lindens along the south side. Within the park, privet hedges define the corners on three sides (the exception is the southeast), but there are no longer hedges defining the quadrants.

The current impression given by the park is that a once clear spatial organization has been eroded. The east and west boundaries are still reinforced by the fountain benches and their vegetative screens. The main features of the circulation plan – the two straight axes, their central meeting place in the open plaza, and the encircling oval walk – remain, but are only partially reinforced by the existing vegetation plan. The paired magnolias and beeches somewhat reinforce the north-south axis, but the pairing of different species gives this linear pattern an odd weight, further compromised by the fact that a couple of these trees have died.

Land Use

Folger Park serves primarily as a neighborhood park. Local residents, including the indigent, use the park for strolling and sitting. Many people walk their dogs through the park. Commuters and other people employed on the Hill park their cars nearby and cut through the

Folger Park on their way to and from work. Active recreation takes place on the former Providence Hospital site immediately to the south, which is now a simple open lawn surrounded by trees.

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Visitors enjoy the shade on a summer's day in Folger Park. June 2004. (CLP digital photo, than on bench under tree BW 150)

Circulation

Folger Park's original circulation system, constructed between 1882 and 1884, was a symmetrical, curvilinear arrangement of gravel paths leading to the center from the four corners of the block and from the midpoints of the two long sides. The paths formed a bilaterally symmetrical pattern of grass panels in the shapes of four ovals, two on either side, and two "teardrop"-shaped panels at the north and south, the whole somewhat resembling the petals of a flower. Triangular and irregularly shaped grass panels were formed in the path intersections and around the park's edges. (See "History, 1865-1899" for the plan.)

This design was likely influenced by the circulation pattern developed by famed horticulturist Andrew Jackson Downing for Lafayette Park in 1852. Inspired primarily by the English gardenesque landscapes of Humphry Repton and John Claudius Loudon, Downing favored curved paths winding amid clumps of trees. His Lafayette Park scheme was bilaterally symmetrical, with its primary circulation feature an irregularly curved oval walk.

The circulation of Folger Park was entirely redesigned in 1936 by the Eastern Division of the National Park Service, Branch of Plans and Design, with the work apparently funded by the Public Works Administration. (The plans are identified as "Public Works Projects"; the HABS report says the work was done with Works Progress Administration labor. Both agencies may

have been involved.) Walks were made wide enough to handle the increased volume of foot traffic and followed new routes calculated to keep people from creating short cuts over the grass.

The new, more formal layout was composed of regular geometric shapes that were arranged symmetrically. An oval walk encircled the park. Overlaid on this oval was a cross composed of two sets of paired walks defining an east-west axis and a north-south cross axis. Entrance walks still led to the center from the four corners as well as from the midpoints of the north and south sides. Occupying the center was a flagstone plaza with an octagonal “wading” pool (so-called on the plans). Grass panels lay between most walks, with the two axes of the cross forming four rectangular panels.

At the east and west ends of the park, terminating the long axis, two identical structures were built, paired benches centered on a drinking fountain. Each fountain was aligned with the axis. Red concrete plaques inlaid above the fountains depicted the revised circulation plan. (See Buildings and Structures.)

Plans for the new circulation were approved in October 1935. Presumably they were built as planned, with the walks constructed of a “concrete slab” with a “mesh reinforcement,” and overlaying the slab a “bituminous concrete” containing a “black aggregate” (“Detail of Walks,” TIC 822/80007). The surface of the concrete was scrubbed. Expansion joints between walk sections were composed of a half-inch strip of cork, on each side of which was a three-inch strip of the black aggregate (822/80007A). Asphalt “aprons” were built at the entrances to join the park’s walk system with the surrounding sidewalks (maintained by the District of Columbia). The new paving of the Washington parks was discussed in a 1938 article: “The obtrusiveness of these wide walks was subdued by the use of dark surfaced bituminous materials, which, in addition to their comparative inconspicuousness, possess a slight resilience that is pleasing to the step of the walker.” (“Rejuvenating Washington’s Older Parks,” p. 485)

The flagstone paving pattern of the plaza was carefully depicted in “Paving Plan,” 822/80008. A low coping, three inches high and about eighteen inches wide, and made of the same type of stone, surrounded the plaza.

The same article of 1938 discussed the thinking that lay behind the new plaza:

“In Folger Park the central lawn area, which had previously suffered annual destruction through the action of children in utilizing it for play purposes, was surrounded with walks, broad enough to serve the players. The children quickly recognized the advantage of playing on the smoother surface afforded by the walk and the result has been that the lawn area, though slightly reduced in size, remains a green plaza throughout the season, contributing largely to the attractiveness of the park.” (“Rejuvenating,” p. 485)

The 1936 design remains intact today. The original paving material still exists, but its condition

is poor: the walks are cracked, with weeds growing in the cracks. Most of the expansion joints are visible; at least one is missing, leaving just a trough in the walk. The flagstones of the plaza are in very poor condition, extensively cracked, chipped, broken, spalling, and patched with asphalt. The sandstone coping surrounding the plaza – similar to the coping around the central fountain – is eighteen inches wide and two inches high, and is also in poor condition.

Social trails run across the lawns from the northwest to the southeast. The formerly brick sidewalks surrounding Folger Park incorporated evenly spaced openings for shade trees. The sidewalks now are concrete, old and cracked, except for some brick portions on the east side. They vary in width from one street to another. Most of the rectangular tree openings remain, though some have been paved over. Brick street gutters are used on all four sides.

Character-defining Features:

Feature: 1936 circulation plan, including bituminous concrete walks, flagstone plaza, and plaza coping

Feature Identification Number: 102228

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Folger Park

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Folger Park walks, before the 1936 redesign. The view may be to the north. Note the corner post of the curbing, bottom center, and the light benches. (From Rejuvenating Washington's Older Parks, 'in Parks & Recreation,'1938)



CENTRAL PLAZA IN FOLGER PARK, BEFORE AND AFTER REJUVENATION

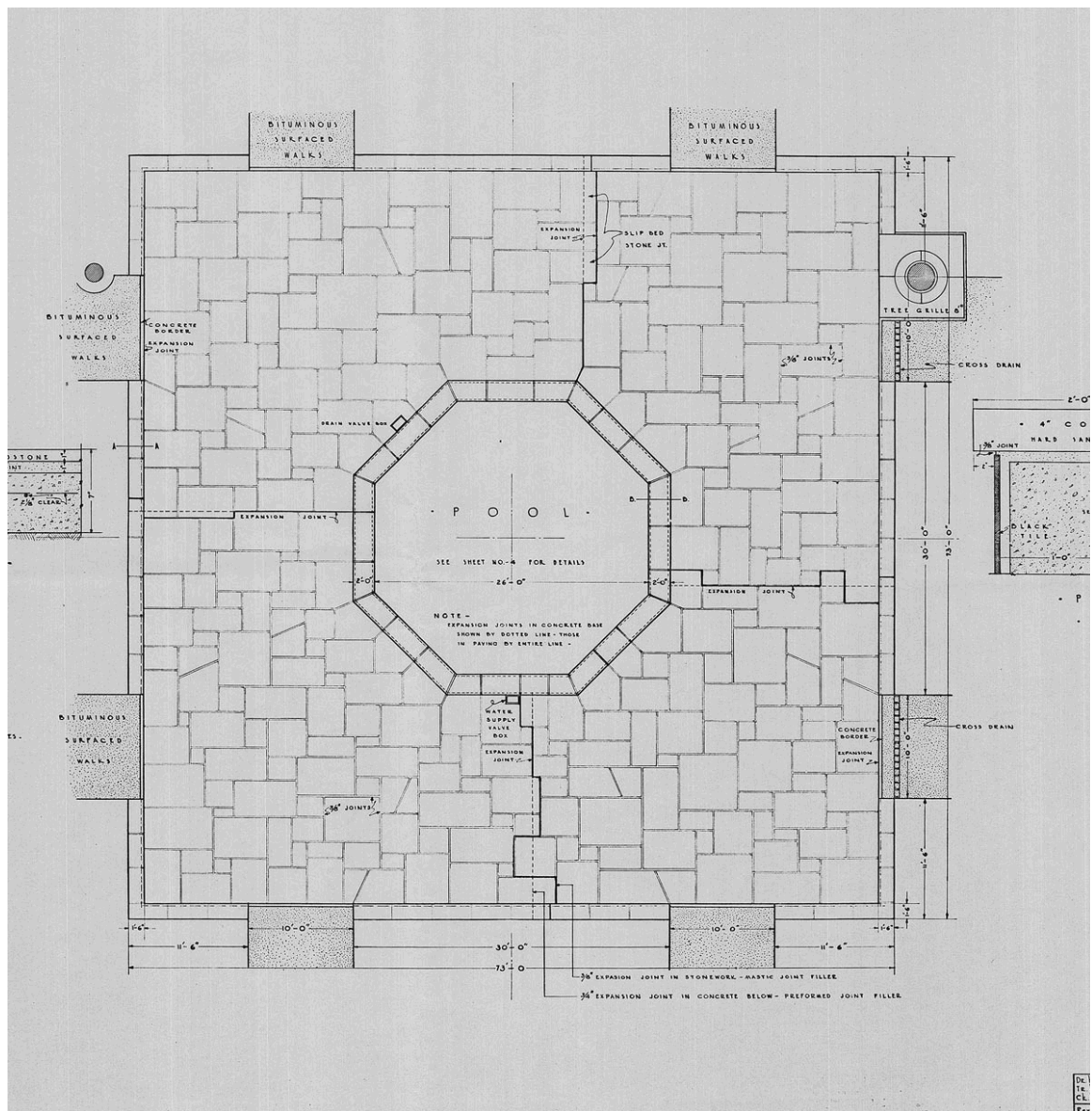
The new flagstone plaza after the 1936 work was done - after rejuvenation, 'as the original caption says. The light post, visible to the right, is a Saratoga. (Rejuvenating Washington's Older Parks, 'in Parks & Recreation,'1938)



The walks defining the east-west axis, looking east. June 2004. (CLP digital photo, view parallel walks 3 CLR 150)



A social trail cuts across the southeast grass panel. June 2004. (CLP digital photo, looking out from plaza CLR 250)



The new flagstone paving of 1936 for the enlarged central area in the park was set in an elaborate pattern. (CLP digital photo, flagstone paving 822/80008)



The fine workmanship and current poor condition of the plaza's fieldstone pavers are visible in this photo from June 2004. (CLP digital photo, plaza BW 250)



The 1936 bituminous concrete paving, chosen for its resiliency and dark, non-glare surface, still exists, though cracked and otherwise deteriorated. June 2004. (CLP digital photo, walk and bench BW 250)



The southwest corner entrance to Folger Park. The young tree in the triangular panel is the park's sole oriental plane tree. June 2004. (CLP digital photo, triangular panel and corner BW 150 5 inch)

Buildings and Structures

Benches and Fountains

At each end of the long east-west axis that bisects Folger Park is a pair of concrete benches with central drinking fountains (called “fountain benches” in the LCS and HABS). These were designed in 1935-37 by the Eastern Division, Branch of Plans and Design, National Park Service, as part of the park’s general rehabilitation. One plan, “Drinking Fountain and Seat” (listed under both 822/80003 and 822/80012), identifies the designer by the initials “C.C.C.” – presumably this refers to an actual individual, and not to the Civilian Conservation Corps. (Other relevant plans include 822/80016, “Seat Drain Boxes,” and 822/0376, “Cast Stone Bench.”)

The structures are made of cast and pre-cast exposed-aggregate concrete. Each comprises two identical benches, both about twenty feet long, flanking a drinking fountain set before a high broad wall. The benches have high backs, deeply curved seats, and curving side arms. The two drinking fountains are shaped like semi-cylindrical sections of a fluted Doric column, with a grooved band as a base. They stand thirty-and-one-half inches high and are placed on two semicircular steps. Three brass fixtures or spouts were spaced around the rim of each basin. Brass drains were inserted in the bench seats.

With their simplified, geometricized classical references, the fountain benches are Art Deco in style. They are in the form of a classical exedra, a semicircular or rectangular recess with

integral benches.

Centered in the wall above each fountain is an incised concrete plaque, made of what was described on one plan as a “plastic mosaic.” The plaques depict the park’s new plan in a finer aggregate, with the circulation system shown in the natural concrete color, the grass panels in red, and the wading pool in green glass chips. The name of the park appears below the plan in Art Deco lettering, rendered in the green glass. (Most of the green glass is missing from the east plaque.) Each plaque measures one foot nine inches by two feet six inches.

The exposed-aggregate concrete work of the fountain benches resembles that of the innovative Washington builder John Joseph Earley, who became famous for his technique of making what he termed “architectural concrete.” This colored, fine-aggregate concrete was widely used, locally and also nationally, for buildings and decorative panels. There is no definitive indication that Earley was involved with the Folger Park project. (The Folger Park benches are not included on a list of Earley projects developed for a 2001 symposium on his work presented by the Latrobe Chapter of the Society of Architectural Historians; this list, however, is not definitive. Attempts to contact curators and others involved in the management of the Earley Papers held at the Baha’i Temple in Evanston, Illinois, have not been successful. See CLI project notes.)

The drinking fountains no longer work, and the brass spigots have been removed. Overall, these structures are in good physical condition. Some edges are chipped, the concrete plaques are worn, and debris and trash litter the seats; there is some graffiti.

At some point, a dramatic planting arrangement of vertical and globe-shaped evergreens was designed as a backdrop for each fountain and bench (822/0373, “Terminus,” no date). It is not known if this was ever implemented. In 1984, a plan by NCR included a new backdrop arrangement - rows of American hollies behind the central wall of each fountain bench form a green curtain, flanked by euonymus and crape myrtle, with a single deodar cedar at each end.

Octagonal Pool/Rose Garden

In 1883, a circular fountain was built in the center of the park (depicted on an 1885 plan). Jets in the pool produced a fountain spray. This was replaced by an octagonal “wading” pool in 1936, occupying the center of the new flagstone plaza. The pool was filled in before 1964 and converted to a planter.

The concrete structure is about 26 feet in diameter, with a low, wide coping, twenty-four inches wide and about three-and-a-half inches high (with its concrete bed, the actual height of the coping is closer to four inches). The flagstone coping around the planter is similar to the coping around the plaza (see Circulation).

Character-defining Features:

Feature: two fountain benches

Folger Park

National Capital Parks-East - Capitol Hill Parks

Feature Identification Number: 102227
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing
IDLCS Number: 010006
LCS Structure Name: Folger Park; Fountain Benches
LCS Structure Number: FOLGER

Feature: octagonal pool/rose garden

Feature Identification Number: 102226
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing
IDLCS Number: 100710
LCS Structure Name: Octagonal Pool/Rose Garden
LCS Structure Number: 123-02

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



The fountain benches, extending the width of the central grass panel and parallel walks, provide strong terminations to the east-west axis. June 2004. (CLP digital photo, fountain and bench BW 250)



Though worn, the two plaques above the drinking fountains record the main features of the 1936 plan. (plaque CLR 250 4 inch)



The central feature of the fountain benches comprises a wall, steps, a drinking fountain in the form of a half-column, and a plaque showing the 1936 plan. (CLP digital photo, Folger drinking fountain June 2004 vertical BW crop)

Vegetation

See “Supplemental Information” for plant lists from 1905, 1925, and 1935.

1880s Planting

As was typical for the downtown and Capitol Hill parks, the early plant palette of Folger Park was rich and varied, with numerous flowering trees and shrubs, including many non-native species. After the park was first graded, probably in 1884, sod was laid in some areas, and others were seeded with winter wheat and rye. Afterwards, “about 1000 ornamental evergreen and deciduous trees and shrubs were planted, staked, and wired.” (AR 1885) A plan prepared in 1885 identified both native and non-native tree species. Two-hundred fifty flowering shrubs were planted the following year. More trees appear to have been planted in 1888-1889: the 1889 Annual Report refers to “the 356 young trees and ornamental and flowering shrubs [that] were planted in Folger and Marion squares. . .” A flower bed surrounded the fountain. Water lilies were planted in the fountain each summer, then removed to a nursery in the fall. (AR 1895:4145, 1897:4051) In 1901/1902, “forty two unsightly trees and 135 unsightly shrubs were grubbed out and removed” from Folger Park. (AR 1902)

1905 Plant Survey

General plant surveys were carried out for most of the major city parks in 1905. The Folger Park survey shows that, at that time, the park had over 100 trees and shrubs. There were not only such natives as maples (*Acer*), American elms (*Ulmus americana*), hackberry (*Celtis sinensis*), and American linden (*Tilia americana*), but exotics including mimosa (*Albizia Julibrissin*) and a varnish tree, probably a golden-rain tree (identified as *Koelreuteria paniculata*). Other flowering species included Japanese pagoda tree (*Sophora japonica*), purple hazel (*Corylus purpurea*), and jasmine (*Jasminum nudiflorum*). There were beeches (*Fagus*) and magnolias (*Magnolia*), but their variety is not identified. English holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) and Oriental spruce (*Picea orientalis*) lent evergreen color, and a single white birch (*Betula populifolia*) added a white accent.

The park was densely planted. On the east and west sides were double rows of trees, one along the street and the other along the park’s boundary. On the east, plane trees grew along the street and maples lined the park. On the west, both street and park were planted with maples. Single ranks of elms lined the north side of the park and American lindens lined the south; there may have been no street trees on these sides.

Trees within the park were arranged more freely. Those growing within the four identical oval panels loosely defined their perimeters. In the four smaller panels formed between the ovals, trees were clustered in tight groups of three. On the irregular, linear panels to the north and south were a few informally arranged shrubs and magnolias. Shrubs were grouped at the park’s four corner entrances.

1925 Plant Survey

Twenty years later, the number of trees in the park had been reduced to fifty two. Almost no trees were growing along the north and south boundaries. Within the park itself, the arrangement of trees remained similar to the original layout, though the number of species had

been considerably reduced and the palette was much simpler.

Maples and elms remained, but lindens had disappeared, along with hollies and spruce. Of the extant trees, fully thirty one were maples. There were four each of varnish tree, beech, and magnolia, and three elms. The varnish tree was now identified as *Aleurites moluccana* – perhaps it had replaced the earlier golden-rain tree, or perhaps it was misidentified on one of the lists: in 1935, varnish tree was identified once again as golden-rain tree, *Koelreuteria paniculata*. The shrubs were either not listed or were entirely gone.

All street trees on the park's four sides had disappeared. At the east and west sides, trees remained along the park perimeter, though they were greatly reduced in number. Most of the trees in the six main grass panels remained.

1936 Planting Plan

The 1936 planting plan (TIC 822_80006) for the redesigned Folger Park was prepared in 1935 by the Eastern Division of the National Park Service, Branch of Plans and Design. From the available evidence, it is not clear whether this plan was ever entirely implemented. Only two images have been found depicting the park between 1936 and the 1980s: a photo of the park's new plaza, taken in 1938 ("Rejuvenating Washington's Older Parks":484), and a 1964 photo in the collections of the Museum Resource Center showing a single quadrant of the park (apparently the southwest) from the vantage point of the central pool. Since interior hedges and several plane trees are visible in this photo, and trees occupy the locations specified on the plan, the photo suggests that the plan may have been carried out. (See "History, 1933-1936" for illustration.)

The 1936 planting plan was based upon a precise arrangement of trees and shrubs in each of the park's four quadrants, resulting in an almost perfectly symmetrical arrangement of vegetation across the entire park. In most respects, the quadrants were mirror images of each other.

Regular lines of street trees defined a clear boundary. A different species was indicated for each street: lindens to the south on D Street, sycamores or plane trees (*Platanus orientalis*) to the east on 3rd Street, elms to the north on D Street, and maples to the west on 2nd Street. These are the species still present today, with the exception of the east side, where oaks (*Quercus*) grow instead of sycamores.

The most numerous tree species was the oriental plane (*Platanus orientalis*), which was arranged symmetrically among the quadrants, except in a few cases where an existing tree was retained. Oriental plane trees were also used to fill gaps in the lines of street trees, even where another species predominated, suggesting that these street trees already existed. In all, thirty-six new oriental plane trees were to be added to the park, along with several more along the streets.

In the plan, the edges of the grass panels along the sidewalks and along the two main axes within the park were defined by hedges of privet (identified on the plan as *Ligustrum ibota regelianum*, it was likely *L. obtusifolium*). Hedges of common buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica*) were placed at the north end of the north-south axis and behind the bench and fountain structures. Clumps of jasmine were planted at the southwest and northeast corners of the privet hedges.

The plan shows existing trees removed from the routes of new walks. Most of these were maples, but they also included a holly, an ash (*Fraxinus*), and a golden-rain tree. A beech and two hackberries were moved from the routes of new walkways – the beech to the southwest grass panel, the hackberries to the two small triangular panels at the intersections of walks at the northeast and southeast (oriental planes were placed in the corresponding triangles on the west).

The four rectangular grass panels formed by the arms of the cross were cleared of trees, eliminating the single elms standing to the north and south, several maples to the east, and a holly to the west. The exception was three maples to the west, which were retained, even though one stood just off the corner of the panel within the route of a new walk. Trees were placed among the hedges at the east and west ends to create dense vegetative backdrops behind the concrete benches and fountains.

An article written about the changes to Washington's city parks, published in 1938, contains observations about planting design philosophy:

“In selecting types of plant materials suitable to the extreme urban conditions which prevail in these small city park areas, emphasis was placed on shade trees and small flowering trees and shrubs . . . The trees selected for shade purposes were largely American elms, oaks in variety, linden, and sycamore trees. These varieties were selected first because of their beauty and natural appeal and second because of their known hardiness and easy adaptation to local growing conditions.

“The arrangement of plant materials in a manner that would minimize damage resulting from casual carelessness on the part of persons utilizing the parks and avoid deliberate destruction by vandals, was given extraordinary consideration in the design of the park areas. This was chiefly effected through the placement of the plant materials in portions of the parks least susceptible to trespass, and by the careful placement of unobtrusive barriers such as park benches, etc., at vulnerable positions.

“The landscape authorities, in their procedure, have accepted the principle that plant materials are expendable and that this principle applies particularly to the mass planting of shrubs. It is their belief that greater economy and effectiveness may be achieved through periodical complete replacement of this type of material in intensely utilized small park areas, rather than

attempting through expensive methods of maintenance to keep the plant materials in good appearance over a long period of years.”

The 1964 photo indicates that this planting was installed. The only remnants today are the street trees (which may have already existed), two hackberries, and portions of the privet hedges. The single remaining oriental plane tree is probably a more recent addition. Otherwise, none of the existing tree species within the park, and few of the locations of trees, correspond to those shown on the plan. The 1936 planting has almost entirely disappeared.

1960s Beautification Program Floral Displays

Floral display beds were established in the park in 1965 as part of the Beautification Program of the Lyndon B. Johnson administration. In existence from 1964 through 1968, under the guidance of Lady Bird Johnson, the Beautification Program focused on landscape improvement projects in Washington: the planting of trees, shrubs, and flowers; the creation or rehabilitation of playgrounds; clean-up projects; and highway beautification. The National Park Service established a Beautification Task Force in National Capital Parks, where work was handled by staff landscape architects.

In Folger Park, floral display beds replaced the grass panels on the north-south axis. The central planter was also used. Seasonal planting plans for spring, summer, and fall displays were developed each year from 1965 through about 1970.

1984 Planting Plan

The planting that remains today in Folger Park corresponds, for the most part, to the vegetation shown on a 1984 planting plan developed by a landscape architect with the National Capital Region, Amy Schneckenburger. The plan records vegetation existing in 1984, which differed from that shown on the 1936 plan; it is not known when these changes were made. The 1984 added only a few new trees: one each of deodar cedar (*Cedrus deodora*), American yellowwood (*Cladrastis lutea*), and European beech (*Fagus sylvatica*); three pin oaks (*Quercus palustris*); and eight littleleaf lindens (*Tilia cordata* “Greenspire”).

The plan attempted to make the layout more symmetrical by careful additions. Thus, after the addition of the new yellowwood, a yellowwood stood in each of the park’s four corners, except the southwest, where it was located near the centerline (presumably because of an existing plane tree near the corner). The three pin oaks were added to the line of oaks along 3rd Street and the eight lindens were added to the lindens along D Street. The European beech was placed in the small triangle in the park’s northwest corner, paired with an existing plane tree in the southwest triangle.

The plan records the presence of four pairs of magnolias and beeches along the sides of the short north-south axis, with magnolias on the outside and beeches on the inside. Today, paired

Southern magnolias (*Magnolia grandiflora*) and copper beeches remain, though a couple of trees have been lost; the only complete pairs are at the northwest and southeast “corners” of this axis.

The grass panels on the east-west axis had no trees or planting beds. The panels on the north-south axis also lacked trees, but had planting beds for roses and annuals. Roses and annuals were also planted in the center planter, the former pool.

All the hedges shown in the 1936 planting plan apparently existed in 1984. The hedges, the two hackberries, and the existence of two plane trees in the southwest corner are the only remnants of the 1936 planting.

The 1936 plan showed four plane trees in each of the four panels of the central oval, with some existing maples, golden-rain trees, etc. retained. The planting overall was dense but spread out evenly across each panel, more or less following the edges. In the 1984 plan and today, this is not the case. The paired magnolias and beeches reinforce the north-south axis. Clusters of two or three trees grow in the corners of the park – a pattern which was not an emphasis of the 1936 plan.

Current Folger Park Planting

Today, the park’s planting follows no clear plan, but rather seems to be the remnants of two or more different plans or planting programs.

Of the street trees, the line of lindens along D Street, to the south, remains complete, except for the presence of an oak at the far east end. These lindens are of different heights, ages, and conditions. Four oaks remain along 3rd Street (the east side), three elms along D Street north (one in very poor condition), and five maples along 2nd Street (west). Almost none of the trees within the park are the same as those specified in the 1936 plan. A plane tree – the only one remaining in the park – grows in the southwest triangle, and a maple in the southern corner of the westernmost panel. The two hackberries that were moved to the southeast and northeast triangular panels in 1936 remain, and are large specimens. Otherwise, all the trees are different species with different locations, and there are far fewer trees than were called for in 1936.

Privet hedges remain along the outside edges of the grass panels at the east, north, west, and southwest; they are missing from the southeast. The 1936 plan had called for privet hedges along the inner edges of the panels in each quadrant, resulting in a pattern of four rectangles overlaid on the cross-on-oval layout formed by the new circulation system. These inner hedges appear in the 1964 MRCE photograph. The existing hedges are composed of two varieties of privet – a type with large, coarse leaves on the south and west sides, and a smaller-leaved variety on the north and east. Shrubs in all the hedges now are ragged and (as of June 2005) untrimmed, with a wide variety of heights, and many gaps. The privet hedges have short returns along the interior walks, but there are no hedges within the park.

The plantings at the east and west ends, behind the fountain and bench structures, include holly (Ilex), euonymus, and cedar (Thuja). The crape myrtles no longer exist. (The 1936 plan had specified buckthorn hedges at the north ends of the north-south axis, and directly behind the concrete benches and fountains. None of these exist.) The two cedars at the southern ends are large specimens; the two at the north are quite small. A couple of trees are missing from the four pairs of magnolias and beeches.

Lawns have once more been installed in place of the north and south floral beds. Roses bordered by lirioppe are planted in the central planter.

Character-defining Features:

Feature: grass panels

Feature Identification Number: 102237

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: two hackberries

Feature Identification Number: 102242

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: ligustrum hedges

Feature Identification Number: 102238

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: other trees and shrubs

Feature Identification Number: 102239

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Feature: plantings behind fountain benches

Feature Identification Number: 102241

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Feature: planting in central planter, former pool

Feature Identification Number: 102240

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



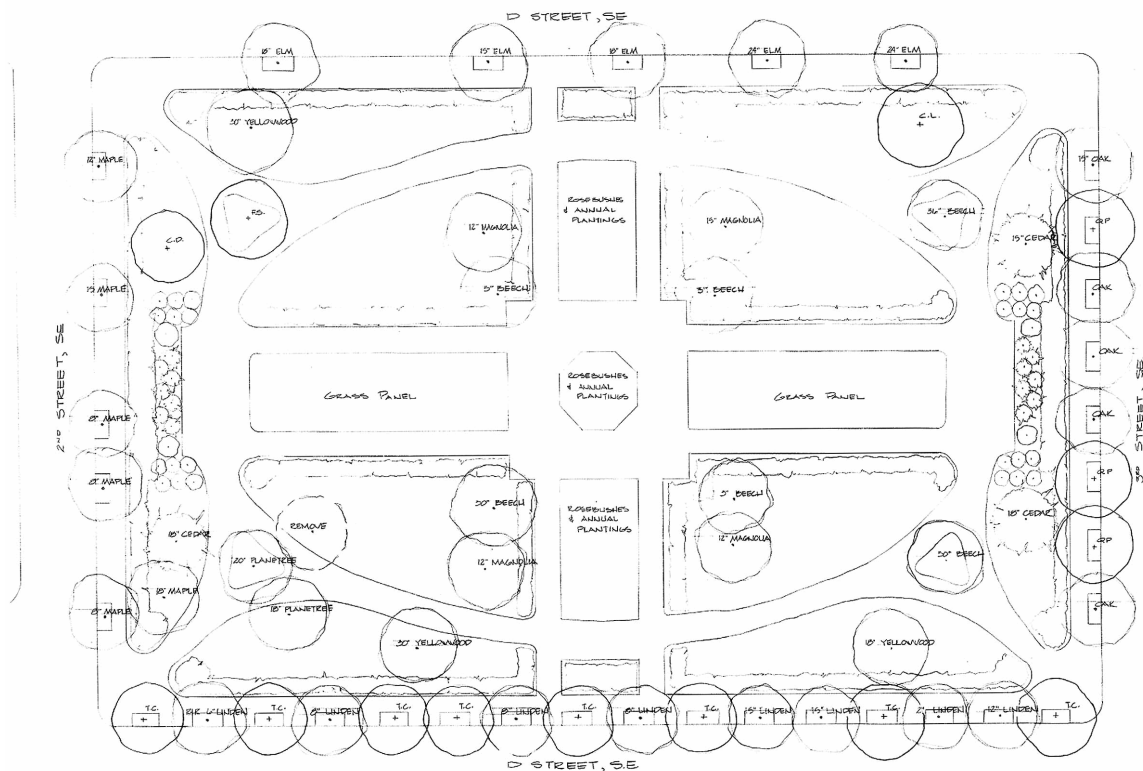
This large hackberry grows in the small triangular panel in the park's northeast corner, where it was moved in 1936. June 2004. (CLP digital photo, Hackberry tree June 2004 CLR 200)



Hollies were among the plants used to create backdrops for the bench and fountain structures. (CLP digital photo, Folger fountain June 2004 CLR vertical 150)



One of the pairs of Southern magnolias and copper beeches is visible in this view looking southeast from the plaza. June 2004. (CLP digital photo, plaza and copppey beech June 2004 CLR 150)'



The 1984 revision to the Folger Park plan added fourteen new trees to create greater symmetry in the planting. (TIC 822/80044; CLP digital photo, 1984 planting design enlarge crop)

Small Scale Features

Benches

Thirty-seven benches had been placed in Folger Park by 1885. These were probably the same types used in other downtown and Capitol Hill parks in these years – light and movable benches in a variety of styles, all having iron armatures and wood-slat seats and backs.

In the 1930s, a new type of bench was developed for the National Capital Parks as part of the New Deal-funded modernization of Washington parks. The new bench was heavy enough that it could not be easily damaged. Designed to be firmly bolted to the parks' new walks, it also acted as a barrier to help protect lawns and planting beds. ("Rejuvenating Washington's Older Parks":489) The bench had a cast-iron frame and a wood-slat back and seat. Curved struts, which terminated in simple scrolls, joined the front and rear legs, and a single long, segmentally curved strut ran from side to side, connecting the rear legs.

In 1936, at the time Folger Park was redesigned, sixty-four of the new benches were placed in the park. Their original placement is depicted on a plan, "Detail of Walks" (TIC file 822_80007, Oct. 4, 1935). As noted on this plan, fifteen benches occupied each quadrant, "equally spaced and staggered as shown." In addition, a single bench was set in each corner of the new flagstone plaza.

Today there are thirty-three benches, unevenly distributed among the park's four quadrants. Most stand along the outside edges of the walks, facing into the park, their rear legs on the lawns and their front legs on the walks. The iron frameworks are painted black and the slats are stained dark brown. How many of the current benches are replacements of the originals, or include replaced materials, is not known; probably most of the slats have been replaced over the years.

Curbs

In 1881-82, before Folger Park had been landscaped, it was surrounded by cast-iron post-and-chain fencing. The posts were short, squat columns shaped like fasces – bundled rods, a conventional Roman symbol of authority – with classically molded bases and caps. The Office of Public Buildings and Grounds used two types of caps: one bore the initials "OPBG" in raised letters, and the other carried a finial. The posts with finials were used at Folger Park, judging by a 1904 photograph of Providence Hospital that shows a corner of the park (see Goode, Capitol Losses, 2003:433). In all, there were 146 posts and 1168 feet of chain.

In 1903, Congress authorized the elimination of all fences around the city's public parks to make them completely open. The post-and-chain fence was removed from Folger Park in April 1905, and in May, 1145 linear feet of quarter-round concrete curbing was installed along the

outside edges of the grass panels. Six pairs of corner posts, square with pyramidal tops, were placed at the entrances to the interior walks. Behind the curbs, the ground was raised and regraded; some areas were covered with sod and others were seeded with grass. (AR 1905:2642)

This type of curbing remains at Folger Park today. It is not known whether this is the original or a replacement, but it has the same graceful quarter-round curve as the original type, maintained from one segment to another so that an even, regular boundary is formed. The curbs, approximately eight-and-a-half inches high, are somewhat chipped and broken but are overall in good condition. All of the corner blocks have been removed, and the curb sections instead taper into the ground. These end sections are made of a coarser aggregate than the rest of the curb sections.

Lights

Six gas lights were placed in the park in 1884 or 1885, but nothing is known about their appearance. They may have been the type most commonly used in Washington in this era, which had simple fluted posts and square lanterns.

A photograph of Folger Park illustrating the 1938 article on the Washington parks' redesign shows a lamp of the type known as the "Saratoga." ("Rejuvenating":484) A 1964 photo looking from the park's central pool (already converted into a flower garden) also shows a Saratoga light. These may have been installed during the 1936 redesign, as they were at Franklin Park (where the Saratoga was installed once more in the 1990s). The Saratoga light has a cylindrical lamp held between a steel bottom and top, the latter shaped like a conical cap with concave curves in profile. The poles and the high conical bases are fluted.

Today, all the lights in Folger Park are a variety known as the Washington Standard, and were installed in 2002. The style was designed in the early twentieth century by artist Francis Millet (a version of Millet's post had been used in city parks as early as 1912). In 1923, lighting standards developed for the city specified varying post heights and brightness levels, and established Millet's Washington Standard as the typical design for posts and globes. The fluted classical post of the Washington Standard has a flared, molded base and capital, and supports a single urn-shaped lamp that is known as the "Washington Globe." (LCS – Washington Light Standards 2002) The current lights in Folger Park have steel posts and lamps made out of Lexan, a thermoplastic resin. There are twelve lights in all, eight on the east-west axis (two at each end and four around the plaza) and four spaced along the oval walk.

Trash Receptacles

There are twelve trash receptacles in Folger Park, cylindrical receptacles made of manufactured wood that are supported on single posts and contain steel trash cans. Because of the single point of support, many are askew. On the sidewalks (outside the park's

boundaries, under District jurisdiction) is another type of receptacle, made of coated steel with closely spaced vertical slats and a flaring top.

Other

Metal lawn edging is used along the inside edges of grass panels. The park has a small amount of regulatory signage. Inside the hedge on the park's south side is a steel utility box, and a ventilation grate for the Metro subway system is located in the park's northwest corner.

Character-defining Features:

Feature: National Capital Parks benches

Feature Identification Number: 102233

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: concrete quarter-round curbing

Feature Identification Number: 102229

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: lights

Feature Identification Number: 102230

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Feature: trash receptacles

Feature Identification Number: 102235

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Feature: utility box

Feature Identification Number: 102236

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Feature: Metro subway grate

Feature Identification Number: 102232

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Feature: metal lawn edging

Feature Identification Number: 102231

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Folger Park

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Feature: signs

Feature Identification Number: 102234

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



This view north from the southeast corner of the park shows the current placement of benches and the Washington Standard lights, as well as the hackberry and buildings along D Street. June 2004. (CLP digital photo, Benches lights and rowhouse CLR 300)



Curbs along the north perimeter of the park may date from 1905. The privet hedge was probably planted in 1936. June 2004. (CLP digital photo, Sidewalk and curbs crop BW 150)

Views and Vistas

Folger Park lies within a quiet residential neighborhood on Capitol Hill. Though it is closer to the Capitol than almost all other city parks, Folger Park does not provide a view of this building or its grounds. Its dominant views are to the buildings around it, mostly two- and three-story rowhouses and commercial structures dating from the late nineteenth century. However, on the east and west ends, the vegetative screens behind the fountain benches block much of the views. The presence of the large Providence Hospital site, with its shade trees and simple lawn, allows an expansive vista to the south and gives the impression that Folger Park extends beyond its actual boundary. Unlike many other downtown reservations, particularly Farragut and McPherson Squares, there are no important views along the view corridor of the major avenue – North Carolina Avenue, in the case of Folger Park – that extends diagonally through the park, from southwest to northeast. A couple of blocks to the northeast, the small Seward Square is barely visible.

Character-defining Features:

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National Capital Parks-East - Capitol Hill Parks

Feature: views from park to surrounding buildings and former site of Providence Hospital

Feature Identification Number: 102243

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: views to park from surrounding streets and Providence Hospital site

Feature Identification Number: 102244

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Looking south from the central rose bed to the Providence Hospital site. (CLP digital photo, view from plaza down central Mall CLR 150')

Condition

Condition Assessment and Impacts

Condition Assessment: Poor

Assessment Date: 08/18/2005

Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:

Folger Park retains its historic 1936 paving material and structures, along with some plants, but most contributing features are in poor condition.

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: Poor

Assessment Date: 09/20/2011

Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:

Many of the same issues that were addressed in the 2005 condition assessment, when the landscape was also listed in poor condition, apply to the 2011 evaluation. One of the improvements is that the hedges have been pruned. New impacts that were not included in the 2005 assessment include the soil compaction that has occurred as a result of park users creating social trails across grass panels. In order to improve the condition of the site from poor to fair, there needs to be significant improvements in the condition of paving throughout the park.

The park's condition will also improve when vegetation reflects the character of the 1936 plan. That plan was largely composed of symmetrical interior panels and a clear boundary along the park edges created by rows of trees. The historic plan also calls for a shaded character created by large deciduous trees. At this time the park has an open character and there are many small trees that have been planted within the last year. Many of those are dying or in poor condition.

Impacts

Type of Impact: Neglect

External or Internal: Internal

Impact Description: The 1936 paving of the walks and plaza is broken, chipped, spalling, and patched with inappropriate materials.

Type of Impact: Inappropriate Maintenance

External or Internal: Internal

Impact Description:	Asphalt patches have been used to repair the bituminous concrete walks and the flagstone paving.
Type of Impact:	Vegetation/Invasive Plants
External or Internal:	Internal
Impact Description:	Two different kinds of privet have been used in the hedges; one variety, to the south, is probably not the historic selection. Trees from 1936 plan and subsequent plantings have died and not been replaced. Some extant trees are dying or in conspicuously poor condition. The hedges are thin, with many gaps in the lines.
Type of Impact:	Other
Other Impact:	Inappropriate features
External or Internal:	Internal
Impact Description:	The Washington Standard light posts with Washington Globe lanterns are not the type of light chosen for the park during the 1936 rehabilitation. This was probably the Saratoga light, still in production and re-installed in Franklin Park in 1990/91.
Type of Impact:	Vandalism/Theft/Arson
External or Internal:	External
Impact Description:	Graffiti has been spraypainted on the east fountain bench. The plaque depicting the 1936 plan has been damaged.
Type of Impact:	Structural Deterioration
External or Internal:	Internal
Impact Description:	The two fountain benches are chipped, worn, and dirty.
Type of Impact:	Pruning Practices
External or Internal:	Internal
Impact Description:	Hedges have not been trimmed or maintained; the hedges are thin, with many gaps in the line.
Type of Impact:	Deferred Maintenance

External or Internal:	Internal
Impact Description:	Weeds grow in cracks in the walks.
Type of Impact:	Soil Compaction
External or Internal:	External
Impact Description:	Soil compaction is occurring along the social paths that users have created to cross grass panels.

Treatment

Treatment

Approved Treatment:	Rehabilitation
Approved Treatment Document:	Other Document
Document Date:	11/20/2000

Approved Treatment Document Explanatory Narrative:

This funding provides for the replacement of 19,870 square feet of exposed aggregate asphalt walks and the 5329-square-foot flagstone central square. The project includes, but is not limited to, the removal of existing asphalt walks, the concrete base under the flagstone square, thirty-eight park benches, and nine wooden "tulip" type trash receptacles; and it includes the installation of new exposed aggregate asphalt sidewalks, a new concrete base for the flagstone square, thirty-eight new park benches, and nine new "tulip" trash receptacles.

Approved Treatment Completed:	No
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Approved Treatment Costs

Cost Date:	11/20/2000
Level of Estimate:	C - Similar Facilities
Cost Estimator:	Park/FMSS

Landscape Approved Treatment Cost Explanatory Description:

This cost includes removal and replacement of flagstone pavement, \$40 per square foot for 5329 square feet, \$213,160 total; removal of flagstone pavement's concrete base, 592 square yards at \$17 per square yard, total \$10,064; removal of asphalt walks, 2208 square yards at \$11 a yard, total \$24,288; installation of new exposed asphalt walks, 500 tons at \$150 a ton, total \$75,000; removal and replacement of thirty-eight benches, \$3000 each, total \$114,000; and removal and replacement of trash receptacles, nine at \$600 each, total \$5400.

Bibliography and Supplemental Information

Bibliography

Citation Author: Elizabeth Barthold
Citation Title: "Documenting Historic Parks in the Nation's Capital"
Year of Publication: 1991
Citation Publisher: National Park Service
Source Name: Other
Citation Location: copy in project files

Citation Author: Elizabeth Barthold
Citation Title: "Folger Park"
Year of Publication: 1991
Source Name: HABS
Citation Number: DC-672
Citation Location: Library of Congress; copy in project files

Citation Author: Frederick W. Cron
Citation Title: "The Man Who Made Concrete Beautiful: A Biography of John Joseph Earley"
Year of Publication: 1977
Citation Publisher: Fort Collins, Colorado: Centennial Publications
Source Name: Other
Citation Location: CLP office copy; also copy in project files

Citation Author: James Goode
Citation Title: "Capitol Losses"
Year of Publication: 2003
Citation Publisher: Smithsonian Institution Press
Citation Location: author copy

- Citation Author:** Sara Amy Leach and Elizabeth Barthold
- Citation Title:** "L'Enfant Plan of the City of Washington, District of Columbia"
- Year of Publication:** 1997
- Source Name:** Other
- Citation Location:** copy in CLP office files
-
- Citation Author:** Richard Longstreth, ed.
- Citation Title:** "The Mall in Washington, 1971-1991"
- Year of Publication:** 1991
- Citation Publisher:** Washington, D.C.: National Gallery of Art, Studies in the History of Art No. 30
- Citation Location:** author copy
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- Citation Author:** Sarah Pressey Noreen
- Citation Title:** "Public Street Illumination in Washington, D.C."
- Year of Publication:** 1975
- Citation Publisher:** George Washington University
- Source Name:** Other
- Citation Location:** CLP office files
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- Citation Author:** Ruth Ann Overbeck
- Citation Title:** "Capitol Hill: The Capitol Is Just up the Street," chapter in "Washington at Home: An Illustrated History of Neighborhoods in the Nation's Capital."
- Year of Publication:** 2005
- Citation Publisher:** Washington, D.C.: Windsor Publications
- Citation Location:** reproduced on www.capitolhillhistory.org/docs/overbeck_01.htm, Jan. 5, 2005; copy in project files

Citation Author: John W. Reps
Citation Title: "Monumental Washington: The Planning and Development of the Capital City"
Year of Publication: 1967
Citation Publisher: Princeton University Press
Citation Location: author copy

Citation Author: John W. Reps
Citation Title: "Washington on View"
Year of Publication: 1991
Citation Publisher: University of North Carolina Press
Citation Location: author copy

Supplemental Information

Title: Documentation

Description: Plans from Technical Information Center files, National Capital Region

Documentation List

Document: Historical Base Map
Year of Document: 1935
Details: "Folger Park, General Plan," TIC 0370, Eastern Division, Branch of Plans and Design, Jan. 23, 1935, rev. March 23, 1935 (Commission of Fine Arts) and April 11, 1935

Document: Historical Base Map
Year of Document: 1935
Details: "Folger Park, Planting Plan," TIC 822/80006, Public Works Federal Project 641, NPS Eastern Division, Branch of Engineering

Document: Historical Base Map
Year of Document: 1935
Details: "Folger Park, Detail of Walks," TIC 822/80007, Eastern Division, Branch of Plans and Design. This plan gives the drawings and specifications for the bituminous concrete used for the park walks, and shows details of the expansion joints (along with the spacing and number of the new benches).

Document: Historical Base Map
Year of Document: 1935
Details: "Folger Park, Paving Plan," TIC 822/80008, Eastern Division, Branch of Plans and Design. This plan shows the coping section, along with the layout of the bituminous surfaced walks.

Document: Historical Base Map
Year of Document: 1935
Details: "Folger Park, Concrete Markings," TIC 822/80007A, Eastern Division, Branch of Plans and Design

Document: Historical Base Map
Year of Document: 1935

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Details: "Folger Park, Drinking Fountain and Seat, Sections and Details," TIC 822/80012 (also 822/80003), Eastern Division, Branch of Engineering. This plan shows the front elevation of these structures and part of the rear elevation, including the access door to the fountain.

Document: Historical Base Map
Year of Document: 1935
Details: "Folger Park, Details of Drinking Fountain and Seat," 822/80011, Eastern Division, Branch of Plans and Design

Document: Historical Base Map
Year of Document: 1935
Details: "Folger Park, Seat Drain Boxes," TIC 822/80016

Document: Historical Base Map
Year of Document: 1935
Details: "Folger Park, Detail of Reinforcing at Tree Wells, TIC 822/80017, Fred S. Gichner Iron Works

Document: Historical Base Map
Year of Document: 1936
Details: "Flagstone Details for Folger Park," no TIC number yet assigned. March 9, 1936, Robinson Flagstones.

Document: Historical Base Map
Year of Document: 1937
Details: "Folger Park, Cast-Stone Bench," TIC 822/0376, Eastern Division, Branch of Plans and Design; Dec. 12, 1937.

Document: Historical Base Map
Year of Document: 1964
Details: "Folger Park, Planting Plan – 1965," TIC 822/80036, designed by Simons. Seasonal floral displays for the central bed, prepared in 1964 for 1965 by Simons, and amended in 1966, 1967, and 1968 by Tom DeHaven.

Document: Historical Base Map
Year of Document: 1966
Details: "Folger Park Base Map," TIC 822/80039

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Document: Historical Base Map
Year of Document: 1967
Details: "Folger Park, Floral Display, Spring 1968,"
TIC 822/80040

Document: Historical Base Map
Year of Document: 1969
Details: "Floral Display, Summer 1969"

Document: Historical Base Map
Year of Document: 1970
Details: "Folger Park, Floral Display, Summer 1970," TIC
822/80042. Prepared by Tom DeHaven.

Document: Historical Base Map
Year of Document: 1984
Details: "Folger Park Planting Plan," 822/80044. This plan
records the addition of fourteen new trees to
existing planting in Folger Park.

Title: Planting Lists

Description: Planting List, 1905 Survey

Mimosa (*Acacia julibrissin*)
Maple (*Acer*)
White birch (*Betula populifolia*)
European hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*)
Hackberry (*Celtis occidentalis*)
Japanese judas shrub (*Cercis japonica*)
Purple hazel (*Corylus purpurea*)
Beech (*Fagus*)
English holly (*Ilex aquifolium*)
jasmine (*Jasminum nudiflorum*)
Varnish tree (*Koelreuteria paniculata*)
California privet (*Ligustrum ovalifolium*)
Magnolia (*Magnolia*)
Oriental spruce (*Picea orientalis*)
Plane tree (*Platanus occidentalis*)
Staghorn sumac (*Rhus typhina*)
Japanese pagoda tree (*Sophora japonica*)
American linden (*Tilia americana*)
American elm (*Ulmus americana*)

Planting List, 1925 Survey

Maple (Acer)
Varnish tree (Aleurites moluccana)
Birch (Betula)
Hackberry (Celtis)
Beech (Fagus)
Magnolia (Magnolia)
Sumac (Rhus coriaria)
Japanese pagoda tree (Sophora)
Elm (Ulmus)

Planting List, 1935 Plan

Maple (Acer)
Hackberry (Celtis sinensis)
Washington Hawthorn (Crataegus cordata)
Beech (Fagus sylvatica)
Jasmine (Jasminum nudiflorum)
Goldenrain tree (Koelreuteria paniculata)
Ligustrum (Ligustrum ibota regelianum)
Ironwood (Ostrya virginiana)
Oriental plane tree (Platanus orientalis)
Common buckthorn (Rhamnus cathartica)
Linden (Tilia)
Elm (Ulmus)