National Park Service
Cultural Landscapes Inventory

2009



DC War Memorial

National Mall & Memorial Parks - West Potomac Park

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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:

The District of Columbia War Memorial site encompasses about 2 acres located in West Potomac Park, on axis with Nineteenth Street between the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool and Independence Avenue, in the southwest quadrant of Washington, DC. The southern edge of the property is bordered by the sidewalk along Independence Avenue, while the northern edge is marked by a service drive known as Ash Road. Wooded areas on either side meet a fence around the United States Park Police (USPP) stables to the west, and a small parking lot at the intersection of Independence Avenue and Ash Road, to the east. Surrounding the memorial building are two rings of flagstone pavement, an inner 8-foot wide historic walk and a 12-foot wide outer ring. Parallel flagstone walks, each 10 feet wide, extend from the outer flagstone loop north to Ash Road and south to Independence Avenue, enclosing two 35-foot wide panels of grass to north and south of the memorial (Figure 1). The property has belonged to the government since it was created from river marsh in the final two decades of the nineteenth century, and in 1933 passed from the jurisdiction of the War Department's Office of Public Buildings and Public Parks to the National Park Service.

Authorized by Congress in 1924, the memorial was built in 1931 to honor the more than 26,000 Washington residents who served in World War I. A circular, open-air structure with Doric styling, it was designed by architect Frederick H. Brooke and the two associated architects Nathan C. Wyeth and Horace W. Peaslee. A dedication ceremony on November 11, 1931 featured a speech by President Herbert Hoover and a performance by the U.S. Marine Band, led by the former conductor and Washington, DC native John Philip Sousa. Although the property upon which it is located has always been federally owned, the memorial was installed using funds exclusively raised through public subscription.

The DC War Memorial stands on land that was once a watery, wooded tidal marsh on the banks of the Potomac River. In 1897, Congress authorized the designation of over 700 acres of marshland, flats and tidal reservoir for public park land in the nation's capital. Several years later, the filling in of 31 acres adjacent to the Washington Monument grounds began, and by 1912 this acreage was transformed into a broad stretch of solid, flat land. Throughout the next two decades, this area was used as a wooded public park divided into sections by a geometric grid of drives. At the time of the memorial's construction in 1931, it stood among a grove of willow trees. These were soon replaced by hardwoods, some of which were memorials themselves, and many of which can still be seen at the site today. Though popular use of the site waned in the late 1950s and it exhibits some weather-associated wear, the memorial and surrounding cultural landscape have remained in fairly good condition throughout their existence.

The DC War Memorial is significant for its artistic and commemorative value as a monument honoring those District of Columbia residents who served in World War I. The historic period of significance is 1931 to 1939, lasting from the year of construction to the date that a large-scale rehabilitation of the site began. This falls within the period of significance identified for East and West Potomac Parks by the National Register of Historic Places, which is 1882 to 1997. As an early monument erected in West Potomac Park, it contributes to the East and West Potomac Parks Historic District based on National Register Criterion A, in the areas of art and commemoration that contribute to broad patterns of our

history. Furthermore, despite the fact that its intent is primarily commemorative, as outlined by National Register Criteria Consideration F the design, age, tradition and symbolic value of the property give it a unique historical significance. As a part of the East and West Potomac Parks Historic District, the memorial has been listed in the National Register of Historic Places since November 30, 1973, with a revised version signed by the Keeper in 2001.

Today, the cultural landscape of the DC War Memorial is in fair condition and retains a high level of integrity to its historic period of significance, having changed relatively little since 1939. The site is primarily composed of the monument and its surrounding designed landscape to an approximately 200-foot radius, which is edged to east and west with a slightly more vernacular layout of trees and shrubs. Although almost fifty years have passed since its heyday of weekly summer band concerts, it is easy to envision the events of the 1930s being held here, once the stretching vista of Ash Drive is left for the flagstone walks and wooded paths of the memorial grounds. Alterations made to the original vegetation in 1939 are not permanent, and thanks in part to its federal ownership the land has remained largely unchanged since then. The circulation of the site has been changed only slightly, while the monument and walkways have undergone occasional maintenance. The viewshed looking north from the memorial to the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool, briefly interrupted from 1942 through 1964 by temporary World War II buildings, has now been fully restored.

Site Plan

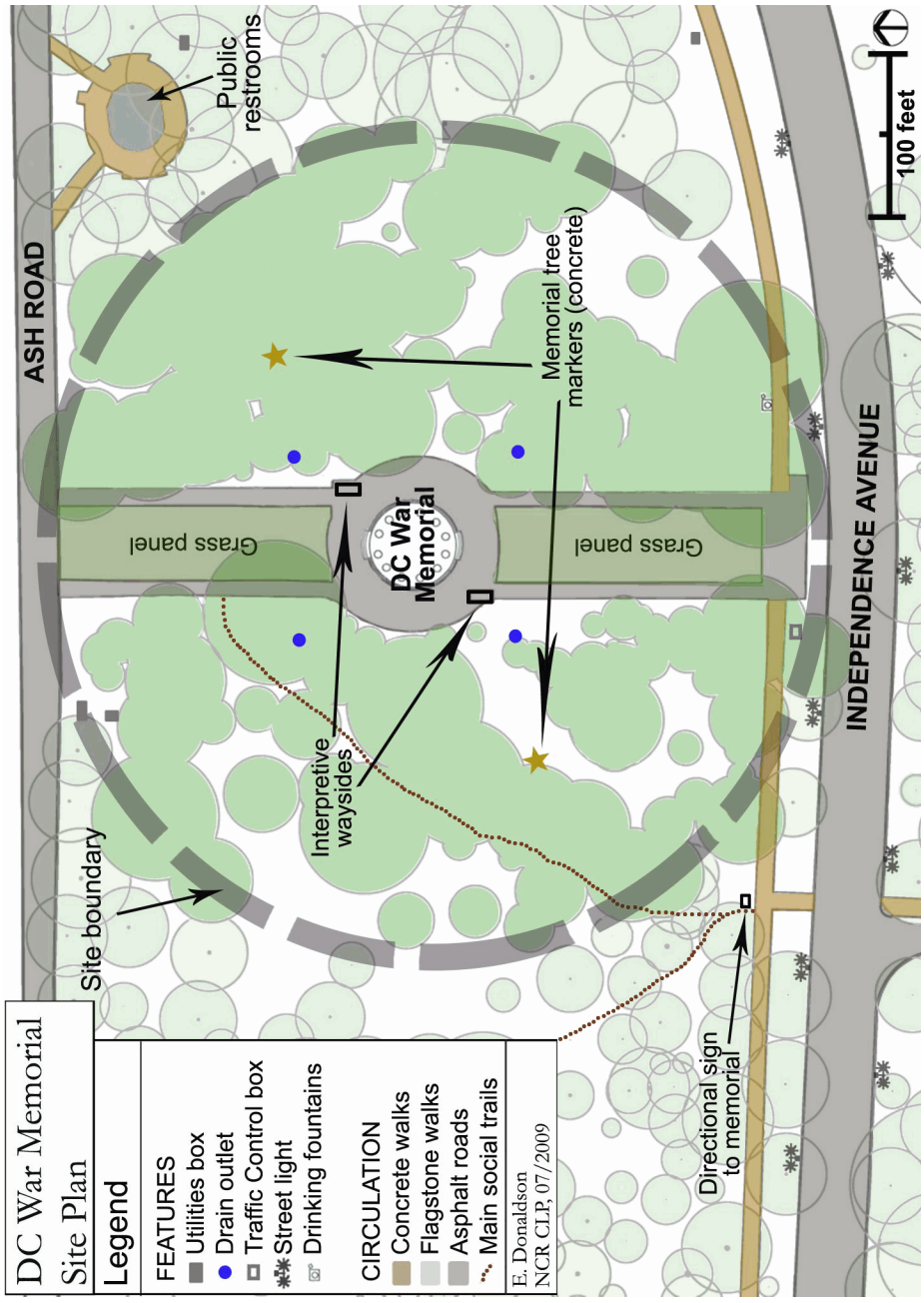


Figure 1. Site Plan of the District of Columbia War Memorial, illustrating the current layout of the cultural landscape (NCR GIS, 2009).

CLI Hierarchy Description

Construction of a memorial to the District of Columbia residents who served in World War I was being discussed only months after the Armistice was signed in November of 1918. On June 7, 1924 Public Resolution No. 28 of the 68th Congress was passed, authorizing the creation of such a monument in West Potomac Park. The cultural landscape of the memorial represents a unique artistic and commemorative addition to the nation's capital.

Concurrence Status

Inventory Status: Complete

Completion Status Explanatory Narrative:

This CLI represents a continuation of the documentation of the landscapes in West Potomac Park. Secondary sources were primarily consulted in generating the History and Chronology sections, while in-depth site investigations and additional research were used to inform the Analysis and Evaluation section. Archival research was conducted in the Cultural Resource Files of the National Mall and Memorial Parks (NAMA) and National Capital Region (NCR), as well as at the Washington, DC Public Library and the Washingtoniana Room. Site investigations were conducted by the National Capital Region Cultural Landscapes Program (CLP).

The inventory was completed in 2009 by Emily Donaldson, National Capital Region Landscape Historian. Instrumental in forming the basis for this document was the Historic Structure Report and Landscape Assessment completed by John G. Waite Associates in 2006. The following National Mall and Memorial Parks staff also provided valuable insight during the inventory process: Perry Wheelock, Chief of Resource Management; Jennifer Talken-Spaulding, Cultural Resource Program Manager; and Michael Kelly, Park Ranger, Division of Interpretation and Education. Support was also provided by the staff of the National Capital Region, including Darwina Neal, Chief of Cultural Resource Preservation Services; Maureen Joseph, Regional Historical Landscape Architect; and Martha Temkin, CLI Coordinator.

Concurrence Status:

Park Superintendent Concurrence: Yes

Park Superintendent Date of Concurrence: 08/12/2009

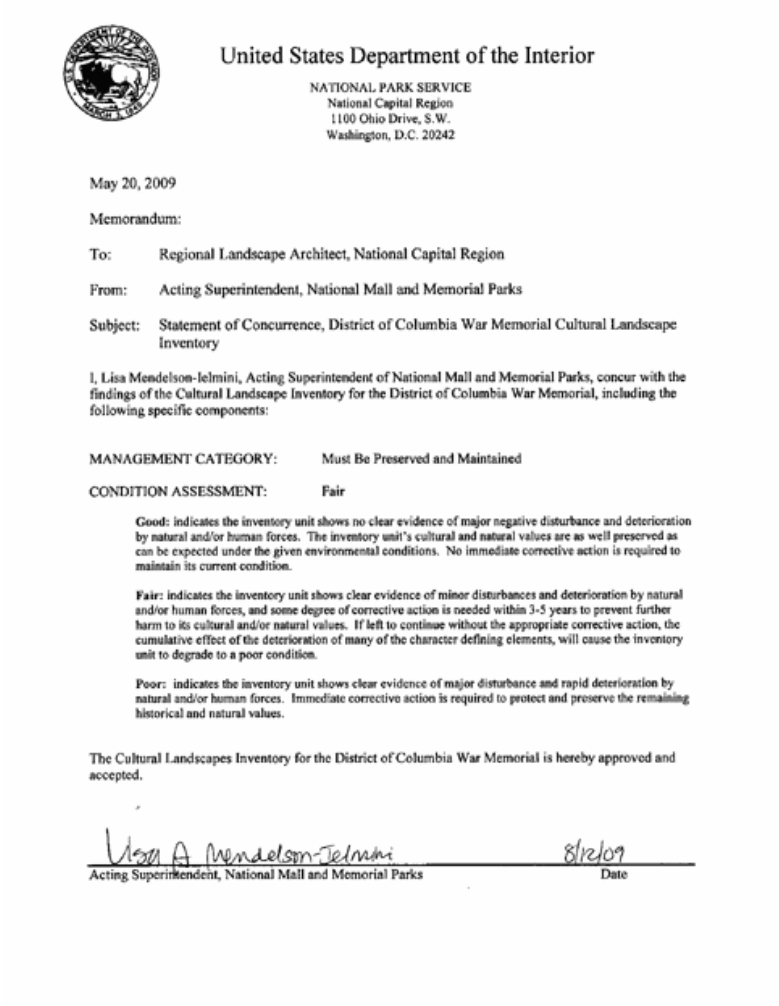
National Register Concurrence: Eligible -- SHPO Consensus Determination

Date of Concurrence Determination: 09/28/2009

National Register Concurrence Narrative:

The State Historic Preservation Officer for the District of Columbia concurred with the findings of the District of Columbia War Memorial Cultural Landscapes Inventory on September 28, 2009, in accordance with Section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act. It should be noted that the "National Register Eligibility Concurrence Date" refers to this Section 110 Concurrence and not the date of listing on the National Register.

Concurrence Graphic Information:



United States Department of the Interior

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

May 20, 2009

Memorandum:

To: Regional Landscape Architect, National Capital Region

From: Acting Superintendent, National Mall and Memorial Parks

Subject: Statement of Concurrence, District of Columbia War Memorial Cultural Landscape Inventory

I, Lisa Mendelson-Ielmini, Acting Superintendent of National Mall and Memorial Parks, concur with the findings of the Cultural Landscape Inventory for the District of Columbia War Memorial, including the following specific components:

MANAGEMENT CATEGORY: Must Be Preserved and Maintained

CONDITION ASSESSMENT: Fair

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.

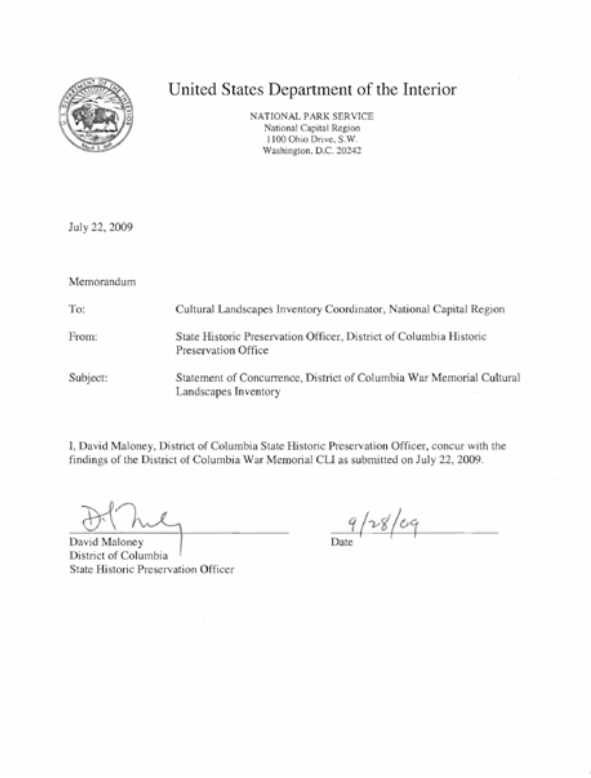
Poor: indicates the inventory unit shows clear evidence of major disturbance and rapid deterioration by natural and/or human forces. Immediate corrective action is required to protect and preserve the remaining historical and natural values.

The Cultural Landscapes Inventory for the District of Columbia War Memorial is hereby approved and accepted.

Lisa A. Mendelson-Ielmini 8/12/09

Acting Superintendent, National Mall and Memorial Parks Date

Concurrence letter from the superintendent of National Mall and Memorial Parks, dated August 12, 2009.



United States Department of the Interior

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

July 22, 2009

Memorandum

To: Cultural Landscapes Inventory Coordinator, National Capital Region

From: State Historic Preservation Officer, District of Columbia Historic Preservation Office

Subject: Statement of Concurrence, District of Columbia War Memorial Cultural Landscapes Inventory

I, David Maloney, District of Columbia State Historic Preservation Officer, concur with the findings of the District of Columbia War Memorial CLI as submitted on July 22, 2009.

David Maloney
District of Columbia
State Historic Preservation Officer

9/28/09
Date

Letter of concurrence from the District of Columbia State Historic Preservation Office, dated September 28, 2009.

Geographic Information & Location Map

Inventory Unit Boundary Description:

The East and West Potomac Parks Historic District of Washington, DC comprises 730 acres located in the southwest quadrant of the District of Columbia. West Potomac Park is legally defined as Reservation 332, which includes the roughly 2 acres occupied by the District of Columbia War Memorial cultural landscape (Figure 2). The memorial site is bordered on the south by Independence Avenue, to the north by Ash Road. Using the original 1931 landscape design plans as a guide, its east and west perimeters approximate an oval shape that stretches 330 feet long, or about 165 feet to the east and west of the memorial itself. The boundaries of the site have remained virtually unchanged since the memorial's construction in 1931, and have from the beginning encompassed roughly the area around the monument from which concert music could be seen and heard by an audience.

State and County:

State: DC

County: District of Columbia

Size (Acres): 2.00

Boundary UTMS:

Source:	USGS Map 1:24,000
Type of Point:	Point
Datum:	NAD 83
UTM Zone:	18
UTM Easting:	322,818
UTM Northing:	4,306,283

Location Map:

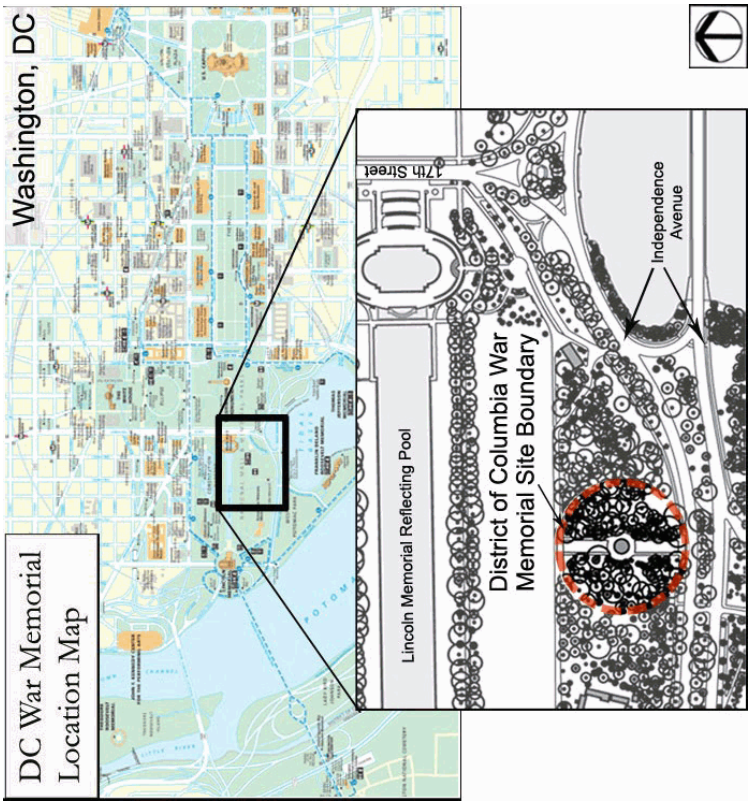


Figure 2. Maps of the Chesapeake Bay area, downtown Washington, DC, and the area southwest of the Washington Monument show the location of the District of Columbia War Memorial (NAMA GIS files; Google Maps, 2009).

Management Unit: NAMA

Tract Numbers: Portion of U.S. Reservation 332 (2 acres).

Management Information

General Management Information

Management Category: Must be Preserved and Maintained

Management Category Date: 08/12/2009

Management Category Explanatory Narrative:

The DC War Memorial was included in the National Register Nomination for East and West Potomac Parks Historic District, originally completed in 1973 and updated by a revised nomination in 2001. As a contributing feature of the National Mall, the memorial has national significance and must be preserved and maintained. Its age, design, tradition and symbolic value as recognized by the National Register of Historic Places are characteristics that give it unique historical significance. The Management Category Date is the date that the CLI was approved by the superintendent of National Mall and Memorial Parks.

NPS Legal Interest:

Type of Interest: Fee Simple

Public Access:

Type of Access: Unrestricted

Adjacent Lands Information

Do Adjacent Lands Contribute? Yes

Adjacent Lands Description:

The DC War Memorial stands south of the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool in West Potomac Park. To the west are United States Park Police stables for the Horse Mounted Patrol Division and the Korean War Veterans Memorial; to the north the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool and Constitution Gardens; and immediately to the northeast stands a public restroom, with the Washington Monument looming in the distance. Also north and east of the DC War Memorial are the World War II Memorial, a comfort station associated with that site, and a small NPS parking lot. From the southern edge of the property, the Tidal Basin can be seen on the south side of Independence Avenue (Figure 3). The memorial site was first hinted at by the McMillan Commission Plan of 1901 (officially published in 1902), which was used as a framework for the development of the rest of the National Mall. The simple, geometric layout of the DC War Memorial and surrounding landscape thus echoes that of the nearby features, including the Lincoln Memorial, Washington Monument, and the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool. The woody grove encompassing the site moreover offers an important contrast to the calculated layout of vegetation in neighboring areas. As components of a carefully integrated whole, each of these diverse cultural landscapes collectively contributes to the symbolic meaning of the National Mall and the historic significance of the DC War Memorial site.



Figure 3. Looking north from the DC War Memorial, at the northerly grass panel, Ash Road and the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool beyond (NCR CLP 2009).

National Register Information

Existing NRIS Information:

Name in National Register: National Mall

NRIS Number: 66000031

Significance Criteria: A - Associated with events significant to broad patterns of our history

Criteria Considerations: F -- A commemorative property

Period of Significance:

Time Period: AD 1931 - 1939

Historic Context Theme: Expressing Cultural Values

Subtheme: Other Expressing Cultural Values

Facet: Other Expressing Cultural Values

Other Facet: Commemoration of World War I

Area of Significance:

Area of Significance Category: Architecture

Area of Significance Category: Military

Area of Significance Category: Entertainment - Recreation

Statement of Significance:

Application of the National Register for Historic Places Criteria for Evaluation to the cultural landscape of the DC War Memorial reveals that it is significant under Criterion A for its association with art and commemoration indicative of broader patterns in our history, and for its contribution to the East and West Potomac Parks Historic District. In accordance with National Register Criteria Consideration F, the design, age, tradition and symbolic value of the memorial provide it with a unique historical significance, despite its primarily commemorative intent.

Although the National Register period of significance for East and West Potomac Parks Historic District is 1882 to 1997, the historic period of significance for the DC War Memorial cultural landscape more specifically is 1931 to 1939. This period encompasses not only the best years in terms of the site' s condition, but also the time when the monument was most frequently used for its intended purpose of both bandstand and memorial. The rehabilitation project that took place in 1939 resulted in substantial alteration of this cultural landscape, including modifications to several important landscape characteristics of the 1930s. As a result, the rehabilitation-related changes made at the end of 1939 are not included in the period of significance, but instead mark its conclusion.

Chronology & Physical History

Current and Historic Use/Function:

Primary Historic Function:	Monument (Building)
Primary Current Use:	Monument (Building)

Other Use/Function	Other Type of Use or Function
Interpretive Landscape	Current

Current and Historic Names:

Name	Type of Name
District of Columbia War Memorial	Both Current And Historic
District of Columbia World War Memorial	Historic
District of Columbia World War Memorial Bandstand	Historic

Chronology:

Year	Event	Annotation
1500 BC	Inhabited	The region of the District of Columbia is first inhabited by humans around this time.
AD 1400 - 1450	Settled	The first Conoy arrive on the inner coastal plain to settle along the Potomac River.

AD 1608	Farmed/Harvested	By this date, the Conoy groups living along the eastern shore of the Potomac River are cultivating corn, fishing, hunting, and making ceramics. The total population, centered around Nacotchtank village, numbers between 400 and 500 people.
	Explored	Early European visitors describe the area around the future District of Columbia as a lightly wooded, marshy flatland marked by vegetation such as sweet gum, oak, and hickory.
AD 1650 - 1700	Settled	European settlers establish themselves in the DC area, and soon clear much of the land for the cultivation of tobacco.
AD 1790 - 1800	Planted	By this decade, some of the fields around the District of Columbia had been allowed to return to successional woodland due to depletion of the soil by tobacco crops. Dr. William Thornton plants about 18 acres of trees and shrubs along the south side of Tiber Creek in order to collect river silt and establish title to the land.
AD 1791 - 1792	Designed	Pierre L'Enfant lays out his design for the new capital city at the confluence of the Potomac and Anacostia Rivers.
AD 1792	Built	By this year, the Commissioner`s Wharf is completed along the north bank of Tiber Creek, between 21st and 22nd Streets.
AD 1807	Built	The 17th Street Wharf is constructed at the base of 17th Street.
AD 1815	Built	The Washington City Canal is completed, replacing what used to be Tiber Creek.
AD 1872	Built	A sewer line that empties directly into the Potomac River is constructed along the Washington City Canal, as part of the city-wide installation of sewer lines.
AD 1882	Built	A silt collection and disposal project, authorized by Congress, results in the construction of containment barriers and sluicing basins along the Potomac River. Collected fill is deposited in the tidal flats southeast of Long Bridge at 14th Street, by the confluence of the Washington channels.

AD 1897	Built	Congress authorizes the designation of 621 acres of reclaimed marshland and 118 acres of tidal reservoir for public park land in the capital.
AD 1901	Built	By this year, 31 acres adjacent to the Washington Monument grounds has been filled in by the Army Corps of Engineers' Office of Public Buildings and Grounds, thus expanding West Potomac Park. However, the area remains characterized by uneven topography, sections of pooling water, and wetland vegetation.
AD 1902	Designed	The McMillan Commission submits to Congress a series of recommendations for the capital`s monuments and parks, following L`Enfant`s lead of east-west and north-south axes.
AD 1911 - 1912	Built	The interior of West Potomac Park is finally drained and graded, achieving a final elevation of 12 or 13 feet above sea level.
AD 1914	Built	By this date, almost a mile of open land stretches west from the Washington Monument to the Potomac River, comprising nearly 700 acres. The new park is dotted with trees and shrubs, set against a simple grid of drives.
AD 1915	Designed	Landscape architect C.E. Howard designs a planting plan for the area around the Lincoln Memorial and planned Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool.
	Planted	Sod is lifted to create beds in the unimproved land north and south of the planned reflecting pool, and a total of 1,500 trees and 3,200 shrubs are planted in the vicinity, which includes the future DC War Memorial site.
AD 1917	Military Operation	In April, the United States enters the First World War with a standing army of about 127,500 soldiers. Residents of Washington, DC serve in the Coast Guard, Marine Corps, Navy and Army.
AD 1918	Military Operation	World War I combat ends on November 11, and letters calling for the erection of local memorials to veterans and fallen soldiers in the District begin appearing less than a month later. Casualties calculated for the United States are estimated at 360,300, with 234,300 wounded and 126,000 dead.

	Developed	By this date, the area south of the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool is occupied by a polo grounds, with a wooden bandstand at its eastern end and a grove of willows to the west, where the DC War Memorial would eventually be installed.
AD 1919	Designed	Washington architect Frederick H. Brooke submits a preliminary study of the DC War Memorial to the Commission of Fine Arts, outlining a circular, open-air Corinthian temple with a domed roof and stepped base that stood in a designed landscape.
AD 1920	Planned	On April 8, a joint resolution is introduced to the House of Representatives, aimed at providing for the appointment of a commission for the purpose of erecting in Potomac Park in the District of Columbia a memorial to those members of the armed forces of the United States from the District of Columbia who served in the Great War.
AD 1922 - 1924	Built	The Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool and adjacent basin are completed, and over 550 trees and shrubs are removed from the area south of the pools in order to complete the long, open vista stretching west from the Washington Monument to the Lincoln Memorial.
AD 1923	Planted	A series of memorial trees, mostly American elms, are planted throughout West Potomac Park by civic groups and organizations.
AD 1924	Established	The resolution submitted to the House of Representatives for the creation of the District of Columbia War Memorial Commission is passed on June 7, as Public Resolution No. 28 of the 68th Congress. It specifies that the memorial is to be of artistic design suitable for military music and shall take the place of the present wooden band stand in Potomac Park.
AD 1928	Designed	In January, the location of the new memorial is finally determined and approved by the Commission of Fine Arts. The decision follows much discussion, testing of various sites in Potomac Park, and an amendment to the resolution to allow for some flexibility in choosing the site.

	Built	A life-size outline of the memorial is erected at its proposed location in West Potomac Park, in order to gauge its future effect on the surrounding landscape.
AD 1930	Planned	The Commission of Fine Arts' former landscape architect, James L. Greenleaf, recommends that the area south of the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool be cleaned up in preparation for the memorial's construction, including the thinning of shrubbery and trees. He further emphasizes the need to avoid all "fancy planting and flower beds" in the development of the memorial and surrounding grove.
AD 1931	Built	After five years of tireless fundraising for the project, the District of Columbia War Memorial is built to honor the more than 26,000 residents of Washington, DC who served in World War I.
	Designed	Benjamin Franklin Cheatham submits a design for the landscape treatment at the memorial site, showing the approach to the memorial along the axis of 19th Street on the south side of the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool. The plan features a vista 50 feet wide, with a grass panel flanked by sidewalks and shaded by elm trees. The approach to the south of the memorial is approximately 170 feet long.
	Built	Construction begins on the DC War Memorial in April.
	Built	In June, flagstones are salvaged from the sidewalk along Constitution Avenue for installation as the new 8-foot wide circular walk around the memorial.
	Memorialized	In July, a copper box containing the names of the DC residents who served in World War I, a set of building plans, the day`s newspaper and some money is placed in the cornerstone of the memorial.
	Designed	The memorial landscape plan designed by Maj. Gen. Benjamin Franklin Cheatham is endorsed by the Commission of Fine Arts in September.
	Planted	In October, the first tree is planted in the memorial grove, an American elm donated by Janet T. Noyes.

	Built	Lieutenant Colonel U.S. Grant III contacts the Potomac Electric Company to request the installation of electrical service at the memorial in October.
	Established	As part of the nation`s observance of Armistice Day, the District of Columbia War Memorial is dedicated on November 11. It is the featured commemorative event in Washington, attended by several thousand people.
	Damaged	Only a few days after the dedication, on November 16, the base of the memorial is dirtied and streaked, and one of the carved insignias slightly broken, after the assignment of a night watchman to the site ends.
AD 1932	Land Transfer	On February 6 the care, custody and maintenance of the District of Columbia War Memorial is placed under the jurisdiction of the Parks Division of the Office of Public Buildings and Public Parks of the National Capital. Its maintenance is transferred to the Buildings Division (Potomac Park Group) on June 10 of the same year.
	Exploited	The first band program is held at the memorial on June 2.
AD 1933	Established	The National Park Service is expanded on June 10, following an executive order from President Franklin Delano Roosevelt that transferred federal park land in the District of Columbia to the NPS.
	Moved	The pre-existing drinking fountains at the site are relocated.
	Planted	Plantings continue at the memorial in December, including the installation of a few dogwood and holly trees near the building.
AD 1935	Built	The National Capital Parks open a new summer theater space on the west side of the Lincoln Memorial, on the banks of the Potomac River.
	Planned	The first plans are drawn up to pave the parallel gravel walks to north and south of the memorial with flagstones (see DSC TIC 801/89872).

AD 1936	Maintained	In November, a scaffolding is built so that the coffered ceiling of the memorial can be thoroughly cleaned.
AD 1937	Planted	A memorial tree is planted to honor the memory of Mme. Schumann-Heink, recognized as the mother of all World War I veterans.
	Preserved	Frederick H. Brooke publishes a summary of the District of Columbia's participation in World War I.
	Planned	Extensive plans for landscape rehabilitation are laid out, including the grading and reseeding of the grass panels, planting of 50 small white dogwood trees, thinning of the surrounding grove, replacement of the existing green benches, and rebuilding of the flagstone walks.
	Planned	In October, a report issued by Superintendent of Public Buildings Charles A. Peters, Jr. recommends the cleaning and repointing of the memorial.
	Built	Having fallen into poor condition, the flagstone walkway surrounding the memorial is replaced in the autumn with a temporary crushed stone paving.
AD 1938	Built	On November 10, a new time switch is installed for the lighting system, so that the memorial is lit every night by 6 pm.
	Damaged	Brooke identifies a water leakage coming through one of the north columns of the memorial, and notes discoloration of the floor and inscriptions due to dampness. In June, the cause of the problem is determined to be leaking joints in the gutter and downspout of the column. The necessary repairs are postponed due to the fiscal situation and a busy summer concert schedule.
AD 1939	Expanded	On June 30, the new superintendent of the National Capital Parks division of the National Park Service assumes the care and maintenance of the District of Columbia War Memorial.

	Damaged	Another inspection of the memorial by Brooke results in the discovery of more water leaks, this time entering through the interior cornice and washing down the columns. This causes the accumulation of dirt on the parapet wall of the exterior, as well as on the floor between the columns.
	Maintained	Repairs and improvements are made to the memorial beginning in June, and continue through November. The lead gutter is replaced with a new one made of nickel-plated copper, and the entire exterior of the dome and entablature are repointed with a lead wool and caulking compound.
	Maintained	A grant from the Public Works Administration provides for the rehabilitation of the memorial grounds in July. This includes the "improvement" of the area around the memorial as well as the cleaning of the building itself, and marks a substantial shift in the cultural landscape that moves away from its original design (see DSC TIC 801/89871).
	Planted	As part of the rehabilitation of the memorial grounds, "landscaping and mass planting of dogwood trees" takes place in the vicinity of the memorial, in addition to the "treatment of trees and shrubbery, including moving, transplanting, etc." Over 1,600 white dogwood trees are planted, at least 800 of which are located immediately around the memorial.
	Paved	The Public Works Administration grant also funds the installation of an outer walk around the memorial, encircling the original flagstone paving. In October this outer walk, along with the parallel gravel walks leading north and south of the memorial, are paved with gray Pennsylvania flagstone.
AD 1940	Built	Fifty benches are installed around the DC War Memorial, for the comfort of band concert listeners.
AD 1942	Built	In February, the National Park Service awards a permit for the land south of the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool to the Federal Works Agency. Later that year, a group of temporary buildings known as I, J, K and L are built on 11.81 acres at this site.

AD 1946	Planned	The National Park Service plans to remove a number of trees from the memorial site, and thin additional vegetation around the memorial in an apparent effort to improve views of the building (see DSC TIC 801/89889).
AD 1949	Maintained	From June 9 to August 23, the memorial is cleaned and its mortar joints repointed. It is cleaned again in December of this year.
AD 1951	Planned	The planting of three memorial elm trees is planned for the grove, to be dedicated by the American Legion in memory of past Department Commanders John Lewis Smith, Harry Brown and Norman B. Landreau.
AD 1956	Planted	The third planned memorial elm tree is planted in the grove next to the DC War Memorial, by the American Legion. A concrete marker post is placed at the foot of each tree.
AD 1958	Memorialized	The U.S. Marine Band plays at the memorial for a May tribute to the 1,500 District men and women who died in World Wars I and II and in Korea. The traditional poppy processional is held, and wreaths are placed at the monument.
AD 1960	Memorialized	The last documented U.S. Marine Band concert and tribute are held at the memorial on May 1. However, annual ceremonies held by the District of Columbia World War Memorial and May Day Corporation continue to take place afterwards and into the present day, along with various other public and private events.
AD 1964	Removed	The temporary World War II buildings south of the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool, known as I, J, K, and L, are removed in April and August.
AD 1965	Established	National Capital Parks-Central is established as a unit of the National Park Service, and becomes the office responsible for the administration of all NPS sites located within the memorial core of Washington, DC.

AD 1968	Damaged	National Capital Parks-Central superintendant William R. Failor reports in July that "serious structural deficiencies" exist at the memorial. Among the more severe of these is the leakage of rainwater through the joints in the masonry, which is staining the external marble surface, causing the build-up of mineral deposits in several spots, and imperiling the structural stability of the building. By this time the seams and expansion joints on the hidden gutter have also deteriorated, and "considerable spalling" of the stonework had taken place.
	Damaged	In August, National Capital Parks-Central staff architect William A. Dannin submits a condition report detailing the structure`s condition and confirming Failor`s findings. He expands upon the drainage issues and remarks upon the need to clean the memorial, as vandals have spray-painted peace symbols onto the building. He also notes some discrepancies between the existing structure and the plans of March 1931.
AD 1970	Damaged	The circular hatch door in the center of the floor, made of steel and decorated with a low-relief eagle and stars, is stolen in February.
AD 1971	Planned	In March, D.Robinson prepares drawings of the memorial`s elevation and cornice details in preparation for repairs to the drainage system, walkways and lighting system of the memorial.
	Damaged	In his plans for rehabilitation of the memorial, D. Robinson notes that roughly twenty percent of the original flagstones are either broken or missing from the inner walk around the memorial, and approximately ten percent of the stones are broken or missing from the outer circular walk.
AD 1977	Damaged	In October, the stone walks surrounding the memorial are in what is described as very poor condition with some stones missing or sunken. In addition, it is noted that several joints in the floor under the dome and in both sets of steps are in need of repointing. A full-scale rehabilitation of the structure is recommended a month later.

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AD 1983	Damaged	In February, water is once again noted seeping from the dome, down the columns and onto the floor of the memorial. Areas of the floor are blackened with an orangish coloring that cannot be removed with regular cleaning. Cracks are also reported around the base of the structure, in outer areas through many names.
AD 1984	Planned	In April, an inspection report issued by NPS Architect Tony Donald indicates extensive staining of the dome ceiling and evidence of failure near the top of the columns. He also notes that water damage is causing the formation of stalactites on the memorial. This report confirms the fact that the 1971 rehabilitation plans were never carried out. A report submitted a month later describes "reddish and brown stained spots on the dome and bluish-green stains on the face of the memorial's base," in addition to stains around the column bases and the flaking and spalling of the marble floor. The ceiling is judged to be in a state of deterioration as well.
AD 1987	Planted	In March, a new landscape plan results in the planting of 3,165 azaleas in the vicinity of the memorial, ranging from white to red to violet. This addition further removes the cultural landscape from the memorial's original design concept (see DSC TIC 801/80912).
AD 1998	Planned	The memorial and its walkways, still in a state of disrepair, are deemed unsafe for visitors. The park calls for the repinning or replacement of the memorial`s cracked stones, in addition to the overall cleaning, recaulking, and repointing of the structure and the reconstruction and repointing of stone walkways. These recommendations are left unaddressed.
AD 1999	Altered	The section of Independence Avenue along the south side of West Potomac Park undergoes a series of renovations, including paving, the replacement of street lamps and the drinking fountain southeast of the memorial.

	Rehabilitated	The flagstone walk on the south side of the memorial is re-laid in a concrete base, as part of the work done on Independence Avenue.
AD 2002	Damaged	An investigation in June reveals the persistence of deterioration issues at the memorial, including serious spalling, clogged drains, loose caulk, cracked flashing, and the evidence of vegetation pushing through mortarless joints.
	Maintained	The drains of the memorial are cleared at the time of the conditions investigation, in June.
AD 2003	Maintained	In March, the memorial`s old Pittsburgh Permaflector light fixtures in the interior cornice, which may have been the originals from 1931, are replaced with eight fluorescent lights.
AD 2004	Damaged	The memorial is noted as visibly deteriorating and in need of extensive preservation work.
	Built	In the autumn, two interpretive waysides are installed on either side of the memorial.
AD 2005	Maintained	Estimates for the rehabilitation of the memorial are revised in January, to a higher sum than had previously been estimated.
	Preserved	In the spring, HABS documentation is completed by John G. Waite Associates, Architects, PLLC. Later the same year, they publish an Historic Structure Report and Landscape Assessment for the DC War Memorial.
	Developed	In April, the name of the National Park Service unit previously known as National Capital Parks - Central is changed to National Mall and Memorial Parks.
AD 2007	Rehabilitated	In June, park preservation staff completes the repointing of the exterior dome of the DC War Memorial. Vertical joints on the exterior dome edge are repointed, and the inner dome is also cleaned.
AD 2008	Removed	In October, the azaleas planted in the central grass panels to the north and south of the memorial in 1987 are removed.

Physical History:

1600 to 1790

EARLY HISTORY AND SETTLEMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA AREA

The area that is today occupied by Potomac Park was once a portion of the broad Potomac River and the expanse of marshland hugging its east bank. In the years before the arrival of white settlers, Native Americans of Eastern Algonquian linguistic stock known as the Conoy, or Kanawha, inhabited the area that would one day become the District of Columbia (Hodge 1906). Although this region has been populated by humans since before 1500 B.C., some of the earliest known Conoy to arrive on the inner coastal plain had settled along the Potomac River by the early fifteenth century. Evidence of these peoples is today found in archaeological assemblages of pottery and worked rhyolite, a volcanic rock similar to granite. In 1608, the Conoy groups who lived on the eastern shore of the Potomac River were known as the Nacotchtanks, Piscataways, Pamunkeys, Nanjemoys, Potapacos, and Yaocomacos. Among other things, they cultivated corn and crafted ceramics of a distinctive style known as Potomac Creek ware (Potter 1993: 11, 19, 125, 138, 145, 153, 187).

Although few specifics are known about the Native Americans who lived in the area that later became the District of Columbia, by the early seventeenth century a village known as Nacotchtank stood just south of here, on the southeastern side of the junction between the Anacostia and Potomac Rivers. This location was the seat of the Nacotchtank kingdom, which was probably comprised of around 400 to 500 people spread out between a cluster of riverside villages. Indeed, the word “Anacostia” originated in the early European corruption of the term, “Nacotchtank” (Part 2, Hodge 1906: 8). From their base in the central Nacotchtank village, inhabitants of the area were ideally situated to take advantage of trade routes as well as the various resources found along the rivers, including fish, shellfish and water birds. The inner coastal plain of the Potomac River was widely recognized as a main fish spawning ground, attracting a wide range of species including herring, shad, salmon, and sturgeon (Gutheim and Lee 2006: 16). The importance of these resources to Native American life is made clear by the names of the nearby villages, marked on a 1612 map as: Namassingakent, meaning “plenty of fish;” Assaomeck, or “middle fishing place;” and Namoraughquend, or “fishing place” (Potter 1993: 153). The Nacotchtank living in this area thus depended heavily on the resources which the river provided: “The late winter and early spring fish runs provided them an ample and ready source of protein in the leanest months of the year, when agricultural surpluses and nut harvests stored from the year before were nearly depleted” (Potter 1993: 153).

Historic accounts describe how the Conoy rubbed their skin with a mixture of red paint and oil to keep off the mosquitoes, an observation that confirms their familiarity with wetlands of the kind found in this area (Hodge 1906). This practice may also help explain the early Europeans’ depiction of a “red” skinned indigenous population. The earliest European descriptions of the landscape in the area illustrate a lightly wooded, damp environment that would have been well-suited to mosquitoes. In the flatlands bordering the Potomac River there stood clusters of sweet gum (Liquidambar styraciflua), oak (Quercus sp.), and hickory (Carya sp.) that sheltered populations of deer and other wildlife (Joseph and Wheelock 1999: 13). Some sycamore

(Platanus sp.), willow (Salix sp.), and birch (Betula sp.) also stood along the stream valleys feeding into the Potomac and Anacostia Rivers (Gutheim and Lee 2006: 16). To the south, marshlands stretched along the banks of the westward-flowing Anacostia River. The broad banks of the Potomac River meanwhile lay along the eastern edge of today's Tidal Basin and the north side of Maine Avenue. Tiber Creek, a small stream that once flowed south off of Capitol Hill and into the Potomac River, crossed an expanse of "flats" between the two rivers, near what is today the intersection of 17th Street and Constitution Avenue (Joseph and Wheelock 1999: 13).

Throughout the seventeenth century, domain struggles flared between branches of the Iroquois and Algonquian clans as well as between these groups and the newly arrived Europeans. Trade escalated dramatically during this period, particularly in furs and metal, but also in firearms. The first description of firearms passing into the hands of Potomac River Algonquians dates to 1622 and happens to concern the Nacotchtank, who that year attacked and killed all but one of a trading party led by Henry Spelman (Potter 1993: 209). As contact between the English and Native Americans in the area that would become the District of Columbia increased and conflict grew, the social structure, political leadership and order of indigenous groups began to erode. At the same time that traditional authorities were confronted and challenged by new technologies, the populations they led were weakened by disease, fighting, displacement and loss of land. Either abandoned or taken by force, the local landscape was soon being used by European settlers for their own purposes.

At first the settlers adopted the Algonquian method of cultivation, planting crops like corn and tobacco "among the stumps, fallen logs, and ashes of a swidden plot tended by hoe cultivation" (Potter 1993: 221). In this way, small populations of European settlers found a foothold in the entirely alien environment of the colonies. As the seemingly virgin terrain of the area drew increasing numbers of entrepreneurs, most native forest and other woody growth in what would become the District of Columbia were rapidly cleared to make way for agriculture and a growing population. The same farmers who originally grew a range of crops based on the need to survive were soon able to convert to whatever was most profitable. Thus, by the early eighteenth century the great majority of the future District of Columbia area was planted with a single crop: tobacco. At first used only to supplement fishing and other agricultural activities needed to support the settlers, this industry had already surpassed the fur trade as the region's leading employment by the late seventeenth century (Potter 1993: 220).

An archeological report on the region elaborates on the role of tobacco in the lives of early settlers:

"Throughout the seventeenth century the cultivation and export of tobacco dominated the socioeconomic structure of Colonial Maryland. Settlement was strongly influenced by the availability of soils suitable for growing tobacco and by the presence of many navigable waterways along which the cured crop could be transported…Corn and wheat typically followed the initial planting of tobacco, and constituted, along with hogs and cattle, the most important staple in the Colonial diet, but tobacco was the principal cash crop and also served as currency." (LeeDecker, Fiedel and Bedell 2007: 42)

However, the unforgiving nature and intensity of tobacco planting soon led to the severe depletion of soils in the area. By the last decades of the 1700s, some local farmers had been forced to let their fields return to successional woodland due to low crop yields. Amidst the rush for wealth in an environment of apparent abundance, natural conditions had prevented some other areas from being planted at all. The future vicinity of the DC War Memorial was one of these areas, and at this point would have been located in the watery mud flats of the Potomac River. Nearby, in what would one day be the District of Columbia, David Burnes operated a farmstead whose cultivated fields stretched from north of Tiber Creek to the base of Capitol Hill. Marshlands still dominated both sides of the stream, harboring flocks of waterfowl among clusters of wild oats, reeds, berry bushes and various shrubs. The south side of the creek was bordered by about 18 acres of trees and shrubs, planted there by Dr. William Thornton in order to establish his title to the land and to help collect river silt. This area would one day form a part of the Washington Monument grounds, just east of what is today West Potomac Park (Joseph and Wheelock 1999: 13).

1791 to 1896

A NEW CITY

In 1791, Pierre (or Peter, by his own accounts) L'Enfant laid out a design for a new capital city to be perched on the hills and ridges overlooking the confluence of the Potomac and Anacostia Rivers (Figure 4 and 5a). Modeled upon European architectural styles, which were intended to imbue it with a feeling of age and stateliness, L'Enfant's plans were in some cases found to be overly ambitious for the fledgling metropolis. For example, his design guided the widening of Tiber Creek into the Washington City Canal, whose opening in 1815 promised to feed commerce straight through the heart of the new capital. According to L'Enfant's vision:

"the Washington City Canal would connect the Potomac and Anacostia rivers via Tiber and James creeks, thereby facilitating traffic between Georgetown and the deepwater ports of the Anacostia. River traffic between these points was difficult because of tidal fluctuations, a problem that would be addressed by construction of an inland canal." (LeeDecker and Baynard 2009: 24)

Development of this plan was crucial to expanding commerce, and feeding traffic to and from Commissioner's Wharf, which stood between 21st and 22nd Streets along the north bank of Tiber Creek by 1792. The result was an 80-foot wide canal, flanked on either side by two 80-foot-wide avenues, whose construction required substantial alterations to the surrounding area. Previous work conducted by LeeDecker on the Ellipse and the Washington Monument Grounds indicates that "a great variety of sources of material was used to fill Tiber Creek and the adjacent, low-lying floodplain. In all likelihood, both banks of Tiber Creek were 'scalped' or downcut to provide fill to create the embankments along the canal" (LeeDecker and Baynard 2009: 14). Wharves at the bases of 12th and 17th Streets followed, in the first decade of the 1800s, and fed the growing bustle of downtown commerce. By 1857, roughly six or seven buildings stood on the massive 17th Street Wharf (LeeDecker and Baynard 2009: 30, 32).

In the decades following the Washington Canal's completion, however, plans for it to become a commercial thoroughfare faded as silting issues persisted, and the waterway fell into disuse. By the 1870s it was utilized only as a foul, sluggishly flowing receptacle for trash and sewer waste from the poor neighborhoods bordering it. The land to the south of the White House similarly suffered from drainage problems due to improper grading, and had essentially remained a marsh since the early days of the city's planning (Gutheim and Lee 2006: 85). For these reasons and many others, Washington was clearly not the idealized European city envisioned by its planners. Instead, it was destined for its own brand of metropolitan grandeur (Joseph and Wheelock 1999: 13).

Construction of the Washington Monument began in 1848, at the site originally designated by L' Enfant within George Washington's new capital city (Figure 5b; see Figure 5a). Following its completion in 1884, the monument became an enduring symbol of not only the nation's capital, but the entire United States of America. The sweeping views to and from this structure also became symbolic of the nation and its influence, as much as the engineering feat accomplished by the structure itself (Shultz 1995: 11). The grounds around the monument developed in accordance with the original L'Enfant plans in their adherence to a geometric, east-west axis stretching from the Capitol.

The growing city quickly came to respect the volatility of the Potomac River along its edge, whose sharp turn and abrupt widening just below Easby's Point at the foot of New Hampshire Avenue caused a seemingly endless string of problems. Due to these factors, large volumes of silt were constantly deposited by the river across the flats west of the Capitol, and especially during floods this process posed a threat to the new metropolis (see Figure 5b). Despite extensive and ongoing attempts to dredge this area and maintain channels and canals, navigation along the river dwindled, even as the city's population burgeoned after the Civil War (KressCox and Associates 1986: 4). These issues prompted some of the early plans to control silt along the water course, and ultimately transform this problematic portion of the river into new land (Figure 6).

The development of a resolution to the silting problem underwent a crucial shift in 1867, when responsibility for the maintenance of public works in the District of Columbia was transferred to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, then under command of Major Nathaniel Michler. Almost immediately, Michler embarked on a series of studies to improve conditions in the city, and particularly the severity of flooding. Using $50,000 granted by Congress in 1870, he began clearing a 200-foot-wide channel that extended 15 feet below the mean low tide level between Long Bridge and Georgetown. For disposal of the dredged material he chose the shallow tidal flats along the Washington and Virginia channels, and over the course of the next four decades these areas were gradually filled to create new land along the Potomac River (LeeDecker and Baynard 2009: 14).

Another key civic improvement followed, when the District's territorial government installed sewer lines in the city between 1871 and 1874. In 1872, a line that emptied directly into the Potomac River was constructed along the Washington City Canal, stretching from 7th Street to 17th Street. The canal itself was promptly filled by the Board of Public Works, and the land

between it and the Washington Monument was leveled out. Where the Washington City Canal once crept west to the river now stretched a new, paved road known as B Street. The sole reminder of the ill-fated canal was the stone lockkeeper's house, which was moved to a location 49 feet west of its original site when 17th Street was widened in 1915. Today, it remains at the intersection of 17th Street and Constitution Avenue, a reminder of the area's canal history (Joseph and Wheelock 1999: 14; United States Army 1916: 3594).

Meanwhile, in 1871 a series of regrading projects throughout the city center had a substantial impact on the Potomac River and the land along it. Reshaping the Washington Monument grounds, which had previously been described as the primary flooding area for the Potomac River at high tide, was an important part of this initiative. From what had formerly been marshlands, grading and landscaping crews sculpted a public park of roadways, waterways and lawns around the rising monument (Gutheim and Lee 2006: 85, 88). Particularly since the construction of a sewer line along the old Washington City Canal, this area had become a partially flooded wasteland of trash, human waste and breeding mosquitoes, in dire need of improvement (KressCox and Associates 1986: 5).

Rainwater runoff from the construction along the river combined with heightened agricultural activities upstream from the city to increase the already threatening issue of silt buildup, until shipping along the waterway was imperiled by stretches of water too shallow for the draft of large vessels. The possible cost of this development to the nation's growing economy and political foundation was driven home by the severity of the Potomac River flood of 1881. In response, Congress authorized the Army Corps of Engineers to devise a permanent plan for silt collection and disposal on the river (Joseph and Wheelock 1999: 14). Launched in 1882, this project resulted in the construction of containment barriers and sluicing basins along the river, as well as a sewer canal system designed to control and disperse the waste flowing out of the sewer system and into the Potomac River (LeeDecker and Baynard 2009: 21-2). Collected fill was deposited in the tidal flats southeast of Long Bridge at 14th Street, by the confluence of the Washington channels (Joseph and Wheelock 1999: 14). Progress on the project was swift in the succeeding years, despite persistent concerns about the fecal matter still issuing from the sewer canal and the risks associated with the nearby bridges. Still, there were setbacks encountered along the way. The flood of 1889 was the highest in recorded history, reaching some 13 feet above low tide at Long Bridge and delivering a shattering blow to construction efforts along the Potomac River. It destroyed the Chesapeake & Ohio Canal, and in ruining the network of channels so recently dredged, set back the Potomac Flats reclamation project by two years. To make matters worse, that year Congress failed to appropriate funding for the project, which resulted in further delays (LeeDecker and Baynard 2009: 22).

Notwithstanding these issues, work on the flats continued and by the late 1880s the eastern portion of what would become West Potomac Park had gradually begun to form, along with the Tidal Basin area to the south (KressCox and Associates 1986: 9). By 1890 more than two-thirds of the estimated fill had been deposited, and all 621 acres of land proposed for reclamation had taken shape (LeeDecker and Baynard 2009: 22). The remaining work would raise the uniform level of this area to three feet above the flood stage established by the flood of 1877 (Shultz 1995: 7). Following a court case over ownership of this new land, Martin F.

Morris et al., appellants v. United States, it was confirmed as the property of the United States Government (Gutheim and Lee 2006: 96).

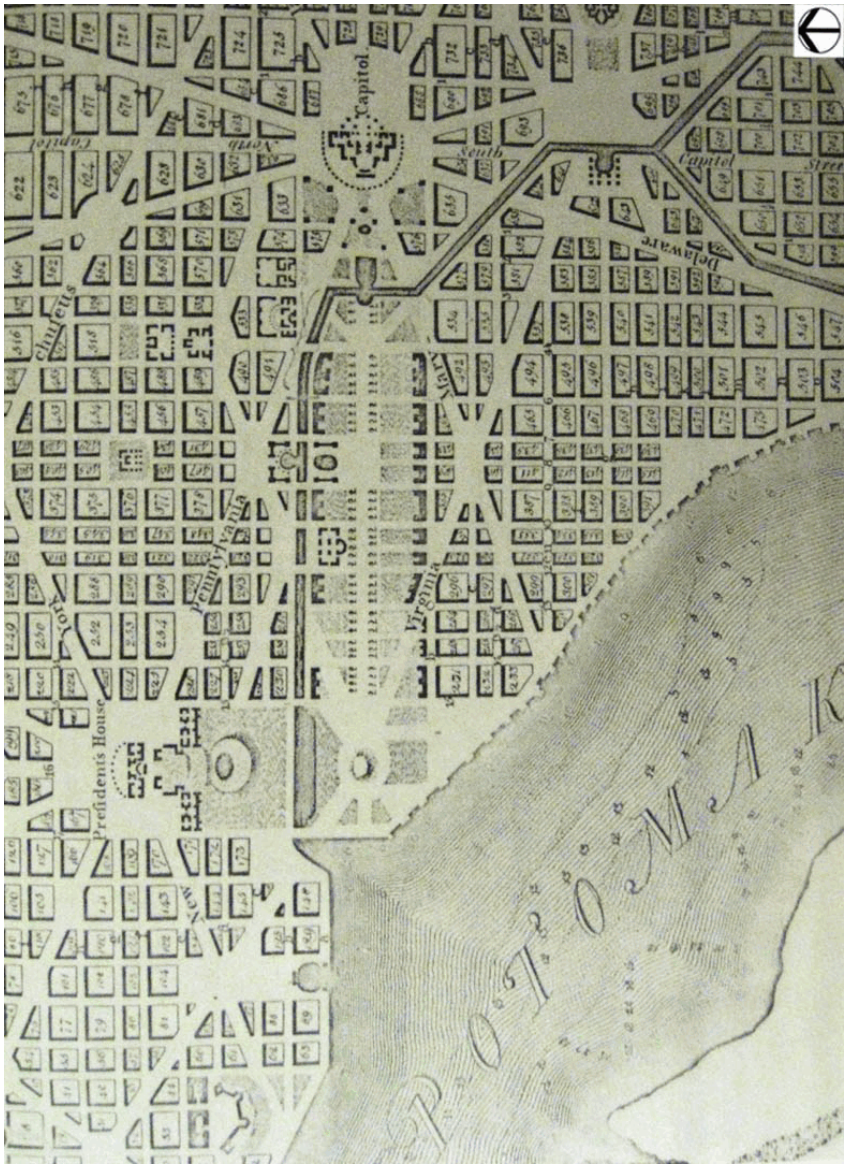


Figure 4. Pierre Charles L'Enfant's 1791 plan of Washington, DC, as revised by Major Andrew Ellicott in 1792 (Olszewski 1970: Plate II).

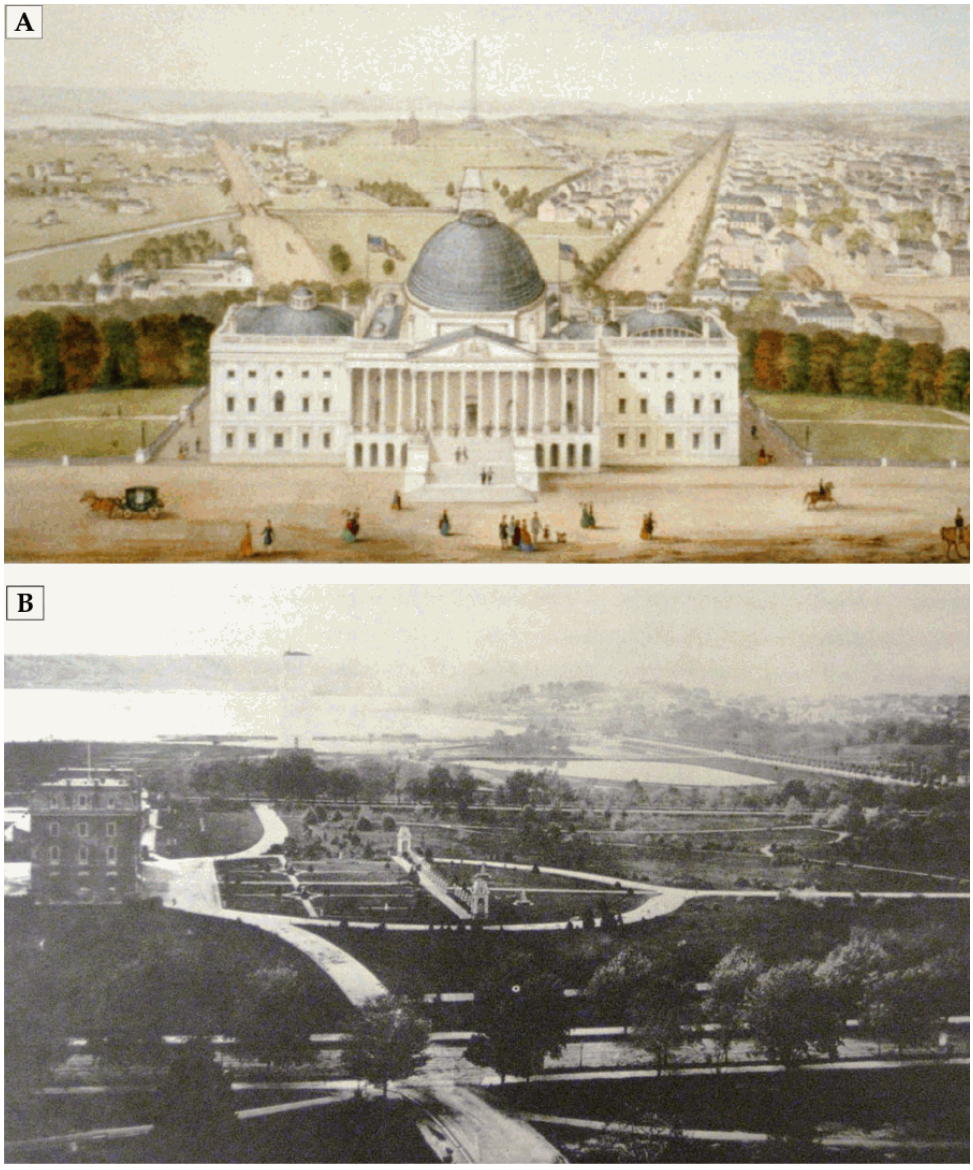


Figure 5. (a) An 1850s drawing of the city, looking west from the Capitol (Prints and Photos, Library of Congress); (b) Photo looking west from the Mall, with partially completed Washington Monument and flats circa 1854 (Olszewski 1970: Ill. 1).

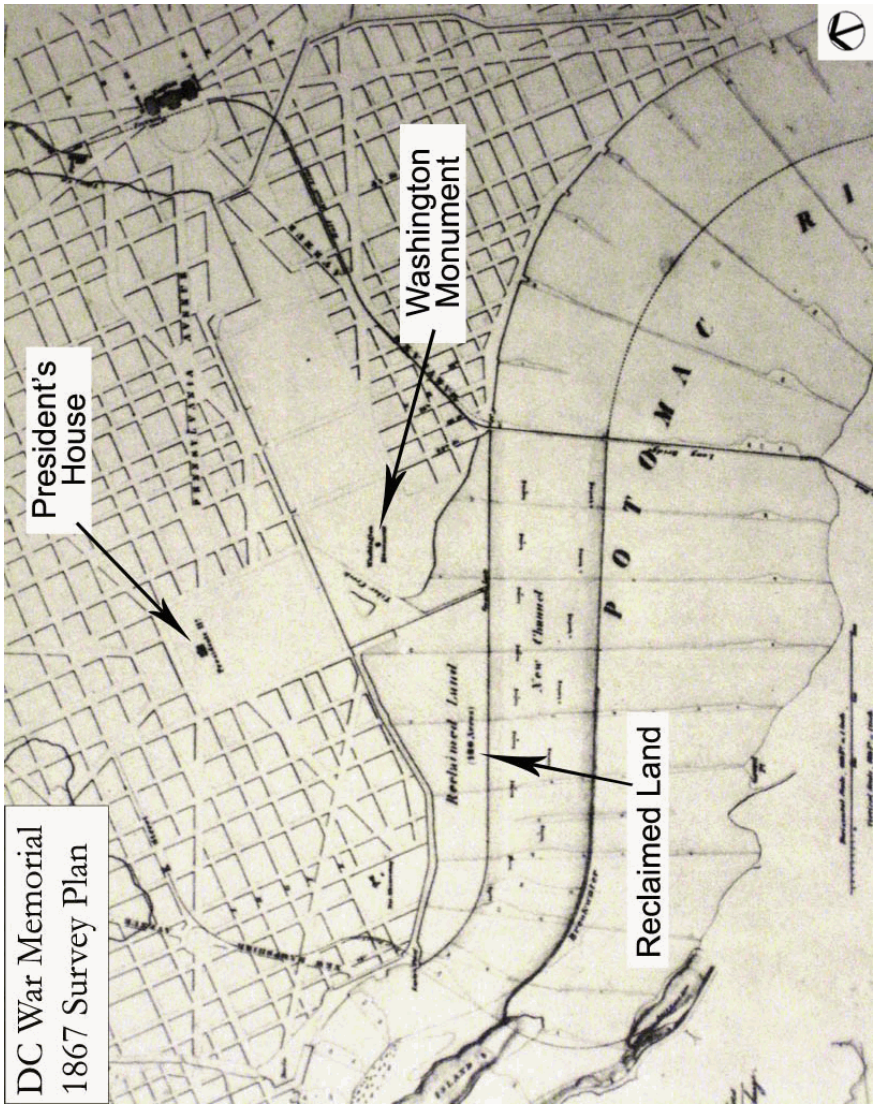


Figure 6. An annotated survey plan drawn up in 1867 for the reclamation of the Potomac Flats (Olszewski 1970: Plate VI).

1897 to 1930

DEVELOPMENT OF WEST POTOMAC PARK

In 1897, Congress authorized the designation of 621 acres of reclaimed marshland and "flats," in addition to 118 of tidal reservoir area, for public park land in the capital (see Figure 6). Early promotion of this development was in large part credited to the new Officer in Charge of Public Buildings and Grounds, Col. Theodore A. Bingham, who saw the new land as an opportunity for developing the ideal park landscape of the day, or a place for the city to cultivate "breathing spaces" for the "promotion of mental growth" (Gutheim and Lee 2006: 97).

With Bingham's help and encouragement, the new legislation quickly mobilized the further development of land along the Potomac River, as well as the establishment of the Senate Park Commission (also known as the McMillan Commission, after Michigan Senator James McMillan) to aid in its design (KressCox and Associates 1986: 9). By 1901, the Army Corps of Engineers Office of Public Buildings and Grounds (OPBG) had improved 31 acres adjacent to the Washington Monument grounds. The final stages of creating solid ground were achieved using fill from dredged materials, as well as private construction projects in the District, and roughly followed the natural contours of silting along the edge of the Potomac River. Although it had by this time achieved the transformation to land, the property was still characterized by uneven topography, sections of pooling water, and general wetland vegetation including "wild growth of willows, grasses, bushes and trees" (Joseph and Wheelock 1999: 15). However, as work continued over the succeeding decade, what had so recently been described as "flats" became a broad stretch of dry ground elevated 12 or 13 feet above sea level. Its eventual base height was 14 to 16 feet (Joseph and Wheelock 1999: 15).

As the creation of land for what would one day become West Potomac Park began, plans for its design were already under way. In 1901, the McMillan Commission, which comprised some of the era's greatest American architects and landscape architects including Daniel Burnham, Charles Follen McKim, and Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr., submitted to Congress a series of recommendations for the capital's monuments and parks. The new plans were founded upon the same principles that had guided L'Enfant's original city layout, and promised to lend the capital a certain coherence by leaning upon the same European styles and traditions that had first inspired its construction (Joseph and Wheelock 1999: 15).

The McMillan Commission Plan called for the continuation of L'Enfant's concept of east-west and north-south axes. In addition to a memorial honoring Abraham Lincoln, the commission's design for this area featured a pair of reflecting basins that would be set in a lawn bordered on either side by large groves of deciduous trees (Figure 7). This figurative "watergate" to the river was intended to emulate the natural design of river bottom landscapes, or "great open meadows, fringed by trees along the water side" (Moore 1902: 118; Joseph and Wheelock 1999: 16).

Although the McMillan Commission Plans for the city's park and monument system quickly became mired in public debate, they were generally met with approval, and work on what would become East and West Potomac Parks moved forward even while fill was still being deposited at the site (Joseph and Wheelock 1999: 16-7). The first road to be installed along the north edge of the Tidal Basin was built of macadam and completed in 1906. By 1907 it stretched over 9,000 feet around the entire perimeter of the basin with the exception of the inlet, which was bridged in 1908. Cinder footpaths and bridle paths were laid out near the road, which was outfitted with brick gutters, drains, and catch-basins. Following landscape plans drawn up by Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr., the new route was lined on either side with 313 trees, most of which were American elms (Ulmus americana) spaced generously so as to allow their crowns sufficient room to spread (KressCox and Associates 1986: 18). Indeed, despite Olmsted's recommendation that a variety of tree species be planted throughout the future East

and West Potomac Parks, the surviving specimens indicate that this species was by far the most popular when it came time to plant (Joseph and Wheelock 1999: 16-7). The remaining landscape was planted with an additional 1,400 trees and shrubs, while polo grounds and a "speedway" for racing horse-drawn vehicles was planned for what would become West Potomac Park, to the north (KressCox and Associates 1986: 18).

Meanwhile, from 1908 to 1909 the Army Corps of Engineers was still in the process of reclaiming the interior of the West Mall. That year alone, almost a million tons of dredged material was deposited in this area, and it was not until April 24, 1909 that all of the park land located north of the railway bridge embankment was transferred to the care of the Office of Public Buildings and Grounds. At the same time, the "laying out of the polo grounds north of the inlet began, and the bandstand immediately above the Inlet Bridge was completed. Near the polo grounds and bandstand was the new so-called Speedway; a fifty-feet wide roadway for the driving and speeding of horses" (KressCox and Associates 1986: 32).

With the installation of these new attractions for public recreation and amusement, traffic in the parks and along the Tidal Basin increased. Use of the wooden bandstand that stood here during this period, almost instantly popularized by presidential attention, likely provided some of the inspiration that later resulted in the DC War Memorial. In a foreshadowing of Potomac Park concerts to come, the first event held here was described thus:

"On April 17, 1909 a huge society promenade and concert by the Philippine Constabulary Band, organized by Mrs. William Howard Taft, took place in Potomac Park. The New York Daily Tribune recorded how, riding in an 'electric landaulette,' the President and Mrs. Taft led several hundred 'pretentious equipages and swarms of prettily dressed women and their escorts' to the 'highly artistic bandstand' just erected by Major Cosby…" (KressCox and Associates 1986: 32)

Thanks in part to its dramatic opening, the early bandstand almost immediately became a popular attraction in the new park. Photographs from the period reveal that by around 1911, "the vicinity of the bandstand was well-cultivated, and consisted of broad, grassy areas; clipped massings of flowering shrubs near the Tidal-Basin water's edge; and growing elms and evergreens" (KressCox and Associates 1986: 42). Both the use and development of this feature would later help to guide visions of the DC War Memorial that eventually replaced it.

Nearby to the north, the draining and grading of the West Mall was finally completed between 1911 and 1912 (KressCox and Associates 1986: 14). By 1914, almost a mile of open land extended west from the Washington Monument toward the Potomac River, measuring nearly 700 acres. This plot was dotted with a variety of trees and shrubs, set against a simple grid of drives. As planning of the future National Mall and West Potomac Park continued, its design was heavily influenced by the Commission of Fine Arts (CFA), which often conceived, honed and reviewed everything from site layout to plantings and features (Joseph and Wheelock 1999: 17, 19). Many of the designs were further guided by Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr., who was the sole surviving member of the original McMillan Commission as well as a member of CFA. Certain stylistic trends followed throughout the National Mall and West Potomac Park, such as

the practice of planting a line of trees in between roadways and sidewalks, were originally proposed by Olmsted. He also played an important role in dictating the proportions and spacing of what would become the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool and flanking elm trees, whose design was inspired by the same European principles consulted by the McMillan Commission in 1901 (Joseph and Wheelock 1999: 20).

As Europe became increasingly mired in World War I, plans for the West Mall continued, across the Atlantic. In 1915, landscape architect C.E. Howard was hired to draft the planting plan for the areas around the Lincoln Memorial and the space laid aside for the associated pool. With the help of OPBG, sod was lifted to create beds in the unimproved portions of land north and south of the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool area. A total of approximately 1,500 trees and 3,200 shrubs were subsequently planted, and nurseries were established to further this purpose. The project included the area north of today's Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool as well as the future vicinity of the DC War Memorial to the south, a space which was probably planted with a few hundred young trees at the time (Joseph and Wheelock 1999: 25).

World War I

The United States entered the First World War in April of 1917, stepping into a conflict that had already been raging through Europe for almost three years. Though the conflict lasted only another 19 months, during that time the United States forces involved rose from a standing army of about 127,500 soldiers to an American Expeditionary Force of almost five million enlistees. This included more than 26,000 men and women from the District of Columbia; an impressively large number considering the District's small size. By the end of the war, the U.S. had suffered an estimated loss of 360,300 casualties, including 499 Washington residents who died in service (Waite et al. 2006: 5).

The war brought similarly dramatic change to the West Mall, where plans shifted to accommodate a nation in crisis. Between 1916 and 1918, the area north of the proposed Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool was cleared of 23 tennis courts, all existing shrubs and an estimated 5,000 young trees due to military activities related to World War I. In an ominous foreshadowing of developments to come, by 1918 two three-story Navy Department buildings stood here instead. Though these structures were originally meant to be temporary, they were soon joined by others and serviced by a parking lot, known collectively as the Navy and Munitions Buildings. By 1920, the buildings offered a stark contrast to the wooded area south of the two proposed basins. However, remarks by the CFA about the buildings' unsightly appearance and disruption of the West Mall's symmetrical design failed to elicit a response (Joseph and Wheelock 1999: 25).

Meanwhile, planning of what would one day be known as West Potomac Park continued. Following completion of the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool and adjacent basin between 1922 and 1924, over 550 trees and shrubs were removed from the area south of the pools in order to complete the overall effect of a long, open vista stretching from the Washington Monument to the Lincoln Memorial. A portion of the land affected is today planted with grass and located just north of the DC War Memorial site. Grading and seeding of the bordering areas to both

north and south of the basins followed (Joseph and Wheelock 1999: 33).

Beginning in 1923, civic groups and organizations began working with OPBG to plant a series of memorial trees in the West Mall. The idea of a living, growing memorial to lost loved ones was popular, particularly in a landscape imbued with so much national symbolism. City mayors, First Lady Grace Coolidge, the president of Oberlin College, the American Forestry Association, the Boy Scouts of the District of Columbia, relatives of former servicemen and entire states were among those who planted a range of trees throughout the park. Most of these were American elms, but they also included white and red oaks. Many of the elms planted on the West Mall were affected by the elm leaf beetle and the caterpillar, an issue noted by the OPBG in 1927 and 1928 (Joseph and Wheelock 1999: 38-9).

The Conception of the DC War Memorial

Planting trees to commemorate war lost proved to be only one aspect of how Washington dealt with the repercussions of the Great War. Less than a month after the end of World War I, letters began pouring into the Commission of Fine Arts in support of a memorial to commemorate the District of Columbia's fallen residents. With the help of prominent Washingtonians Frank B. and Janet T. Noyes, the vision of a monument dedicated to the District of Columbia residents who served in the war gradually took shape. Frank was then the president of the Associated Press and the Washington Evening Star, while his wife Janet was active in a number of civic organizations in Washington, including the Garden Club of America. Together with their son, Newbold, the Noyes' gathered public support for the memorial idea, and helped drive submittal of the first few design proposals to the Commission of Fine Arts. CFA chairman Charles Moore was most impressed by the idea of creating a two-part memorial, one portion of which would be a series of tablets bearing the names of those residents who were lost, and the other a "more elaborate memorial symbolizing the lessons of the war" (Waite et al. 2006: 6).

Early in the memorial planning process, the area south of the anticipated Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool was chosen as an ideal location. Following the war's end, this stretch of land was partially occupied by a grove of willows and a polo grounds, at the southeastern end of which stood an old wooden bandstand built in 1908 (Figure 8; Robinson & Associates, Inc. 1999: 8.81; Waite et al. 2006: 6). Janet Noyes was the first to suggest that this building might be replaced by a marble structure that could serve as both a bandstand and a memorial to Washingtonians lost in the war. A resident of Washington since 1906 and himself a war veteran, Frederick H. Brooke submitted the first design study for this proposal to the Commission of Fine Arts in October, 1919.

The moment of the initial design submittal to the CFA is delightfully captured in the following description, from the October 17 meeting:

"While the Commission was in session a telephone call was received from Mr. Newbold Noyes in regard to a proposition to construct a memorial in the District of Columbia which is to be in the nature of a band stand in marble to be erected in Potomac Park. He asked for an

opportunity to appear before the Commission and in accordance with arrangements made he, in company with Mr. Frank A. Noyes and Mr. Frederick H. Brooke, appeared. They presented at the same time a photograph of the proposed band stand and a sketch of the area where it is proposed to locate it. According to estimated dimensions the band stand will be 35 feet in diameter, circular, with columns, and dome-shape cap. The question was raised as to the size of the largest existing band stand in Washington and according to information furnished by Mr. Concklin the largest band stand in Washington at the present time measures 28' x 30' and holds 72 members, or the entire Marine Band. This marble band stand is to take the place of the old wooden band stand now located on the grounds. The Commission expressed its appreciation of the efforts made in this matter, but advised that permission must be received from Congress for its erection, whereupon further action can be taken." (Commission of Fine Arts 1920: 12)

Brooke had studied architecture at Yale University, the University of Pennsylvania, and the Ecole des Beaux-Arts in Paris before coming to Washington, and thus came to the project with a solid foundation in classical styles. His design concept featured a circular, open-air temple of white marble with Corinthian columns, a stepped base, and a domed roof, standing in a geometric, carefully designed landscape. Indeed, his original idea for the memorial drew a strong parallel to the tempietto design that was considered for inclusion in the Washington Monument grounds less than two decades before (Figure 9a; Commission of Fine Arts files). In contrast, however, the band stand was conceived with the goal of accommodating the 80-member U.S. Marine Band. Although his earliest designs were smaller, Brooke's eventual memorial building measured 40 feet in diameter (Waite et al. 2006: 6, 7, 10; Washington Post, May 26, 2002) (Figure 9b).

Still, despite the promise of Brooke's ideas for the memorial, issues of finance plagued the project from the start. To give the new structure an appropriate level of national prominence, it would have to be located on government property within the city. Yet, because it was not a federal project, erection of the memorial would have to take place without the help of federal funding. The only way it could be realized was through public subscription, or widespread, popular financial support (Waite et al. 2006: 6).

District of Columbia War Memorial Commission

Nonetheless, the Noyes' contagious enthusiasm for the project resulted in the submittal of a joint resolution to the House of Representatives on April 8, 1920. This legislation provided "for the appointment of a commission for the purpose of erecting in Potomac Park in the District of Columbia a memorial to those members of the armed forces of the United States from the District of Columbia who served in the Great War" (Draft of amendment of Public Resolution No. 28, June 7, 1924, Records of the National Park Service, NCRSF Box 35, File 1430, June 7, 1924). The Commission of Fine Arts was sanctioned to advise on the proposed memorial, and began reviewing design submissions almost immediately after the resolution was submitted. However, largely due to the painfully recent memory of the war and the effect this might have on artists' proposals, the commission purposely delayed the approval of a plan. As a result, the public did not get its first glimpse of Brooke's 1919 drawings for the memorial until the December 14, 1923 issue of the Evening Star (Waite et al. 2006: 7).

On June 7, 1924 the resolution creating the District of Columbia War Memorial Commission was finally passed, as Public Resolution No. 28 of the 68th Congress. Its first meeting took place on December 14 of that year, in the office of Frank Noyes at the Star Building. Noyes was immediately elected as the commission's permanent chairman (Waite et al. 2006: 7). Despite the stipulation of Resolution 28 that the memorial would be "of artistic design suitable for military music and shall take the place of the present wooden band stand in Potomac Park," debate concerning the memorial's location continued through January of 1928 (Draft of amendment of Public Resolution No. 28, June 7, 1924, Records of the National Park Service, NCRSF Box 35, File 1430). As a result, the actual design of the memorial's foundation, which depended upon the ability of a site to support the structure's weight and mass, was also delayed until this time. In the end, the depth of bedrock at the location initially stipulated by Resolution 28 proved to be unfit for the proposed structure, and so the resolution was amended to allow for its construction "upon such other site in Potomac Park as may be selected by the Director of Public Buildings and Public Parks of the National Capital and approved by the Joint Committee on the Library acting with the advice of the Commission of Fine Arts" (National Capital Region Subject Files, Box 35, 1430; Waite et al. 2006: 7).

While discussion of the memorial's location continued, its design also underwent several stages of development. In March of 1925, Brooke, now joined by associate architects Nathan C. Wyeth and Horace W. Peaslee, submitted a new round of memorial sketches to the Commission of Fine Arts for review. At the time, Wyeth was working in private practice, and had already designed an extension to the West Wing of the White House (1909-1913). Peaslee was employed by the Office of Public Buildings and Grounds, and starting in 1923 served as vice-chairman of the Committee of 100 on the Federal City, an organization dedicated to preserving the fundamental values of the L'Enfant Plan and McMillan Commission in the development of the District of Columbia (Waite et al. 2006: 11).

As recounted in the Historic Structures Report for the memorial: "It is not entirely clear what roles Wyeth and Peaslee played in designing the memorial; except for the inclusion of their names on some of the 1924 and 1925 drawings and the base inscription, they are rarely mentioned in connection with [the] project, and what contractual arrangements were made with them are [sic.] not known" (Waite et al. 2006: 10).

When the March plans prepared by this trio received a cool reception from the Commission of Fine Arts, Brooke consulted with New York architect and CFA member William Adams Delano. The revised design that resulted, drawn up by Brooke again probably with the input of Wyeth and Peaslee, was approved by the CFA on May 21, 1925. The accepted plans replaced the original, more decorative Corinthian columns with simple Doric ones, arranged for the building to have a height greater than its width but "lower than the surrounding trees," and added an inscribed frieze and several other details (Commission of Fine Arts 1926: 91). The resulting design called for 12 fluted Doric columns supporting a dome 47 feet high and 44 feet in diameter. Although not specifically addressed in the building plan itself, views framed by a wooded canopy to north and south would also play a key role in the cultural landscape of the memorial. Indeed, early sketches of the memorial frequently depicted not only a woodland

setting, but the slim form of the Washington Monument rising in the distance. The new design was approved by the CFA "with the understanding that the exact location" was to be "subject to the result of a restudy of the park area and roadways in the location" (Commission of Fine Arts, May 21, 1925: 4).

The reason for the delay in determining the exact location of the DC War Memorial was due to the rerouting of the western end of B Street South, later known as Independence Avenue, so that it would pass the John Ericsson National Memorial then in its planning stages. Thus:

"the commission advised with regard to the location that with the changes made necessary by moving the road to a location along the Potomac River leading up to the Ericsson Memorial the subordinate roads and the planting with require changes, so that the exact location of the new band stand should be fixed in regard to the revised plans in the Office of Public Buildings and Public Parks." (Commission of Fine Arts 1929: 91)

The relocated road, which turned east toward the north edge of the Tidal Basin only after passing the Ericsson Memorial, therefore influenced the ultimate placement of the District of Columbia War Memorial (Caemmerer 1932).

Further revisions for the memorial design were submitted to the commission on July 2 and December 17, 1925, before plans for the memorial were again shared with the greater public. A plaster model of the proposed memorial, created in late February of 1926, was built to half-inch scale and complete in every detail, including inscriptions. It occupied an entire store-front window at the Woodward and Lothrop department store in downtown Washington, DC, where it became an object of great marvel and curiosity. A full-page sketch of the planned memorial was also shared with the public in May of the following year (Figure 10; Waite et al. 2006: 5, 7-8).

Memorial Fundraising

On a more basic level, having a model of the proposed memorial on display was a key piece of project development in terms of its funding. On February 27, 1926, the Evening Star published a glowing endorsement of the memorial, in preparation for the large-scale fundraising that was slated to begin in April. The following excerpt conveys the grandeur and symbolic elegance anticipated for the site, which the paper shared with the public in hopes of their support:

"In its lovely natural setting, white and graceful, with the exquisite simplicity of old Greece, it will stand through the years as the expression of the city's pride in the men who fought in [sic] its behalf. From the grove where it will stand vistas will stretch to the Lincoln Memorial, the Reflecting Basin, the Tidal Basin, and the Arlington shores of Virginia. And used for military concerts, as planned, each concert will be a memorial service for the deeds of the living whom we honor and the dead whose memories we cherish. The building of this memorial is, we believe, a cause in which every Washingtonian will wish to play a part." (Evening Star, February 27, 1926)

By the memorial commission's calculation, before the monument's construction could begin a full $200,000 would have to be raised through public donation. Despite the enormity of this sum, the commission tackled the challenge with enthusiasm, undaunted. The sturdy support offered by the Evening Star was soon echoed by President Calvin Coolidge himself, who made a personal contribution to the fund even before the campaign had officially begun, on March 13, 1926. The President also authorized the solicitation of funds for the memorial project in government departments, offering the campaign a solid footing for its official launch on April 11, 1926. That day, the Evening Star printed a call for donations and a short announcement of the event, the content of which conveys the general sentiment surrounding the memorial project:

"As both a memorial and a place where military concerts may be held, the classic structure will serve a dual purpose. Of exquisite beauty, dignity and Greek simplicity, the temple will be built of white marble. By it the names of those who made the sacrifice, not only for their country, but for you, will be preserved to posterity. Names will be placed either in the marble dome above or sealed within the sacred crypt of the corner stone. We appeal to every Washingtonian to contribute to this memorial; to those for whom some one near and dear served, and to those not so favored." (Evening Star, April 11, 1926)

While the commission's public statement called for donations in local papers, volunteers flooded the city streets to collect funds door-to-door. Among the most enthusiastic campaigners were Gold Star Mothers, or women who had lost their sons or daughters in the war. In the first four days of the campaign alone, $23,050 were raised. Greater public awareness was encouraged by the showing of a three-minute film on the planned memorial at local movie theaters, while the Evening Star regularly printed the names of individual contributors, private companies and notes of thanks to anonymous donors. Government employees, local women's organizations, and veterans groups donated along with the widow of President Woodrow Wilson, Edith Bolling Galt Wilson, and the campaign took on additional staff to accommodate the flow of funds (Waite et al. 2006: 11-12).

In May, the following poem, written by a veteran of the United States Infantry and entitled "The District's Memorial," was published in the Evening Star:

They hear no more the cannon's fire
Nor the shrapnel's deadly whine;
They list not now to shelling, dire,
Nor machine guns on the line.

No thundering of a bursting shell,
No sharp command—a call to arms—
Reminds them of that raging hell
Of midnight raids or gas alarms.

Far removed from war's black night
And from the battle's din,
Around yon pillars snowy white,

"Our boys" are "falling in."

And gathered 'bout this Temple, fair—
A shrine in memory of each name—
Perhaps are those who "Over There"
Died for Country—not for Fame.

Now, clear, along the river's banks,
Borne upon the evening breeze,
Notes of music thrill their ranks,
Echoing 'mid yon grove of trees.

Thus, ages may this Temple stand,
An emblem in a grateful land,
Of District men who did their bit
That all may reap the benefit.

When Time in its relentless flight
Crumbles, to dust, the marble white,
May their valorous deeds for Liberty
Live through all Eternity! (Evening Star, May 11, 1926)

The peace and majestic beauty of this poem relies heavily upon not only the particular design of the memorial itself, but the quiet landscape surrounding it, including the grove of trees and the nearby Potomac River. The outpouring of sentiment regarding the symbolic meaning of the monument and its location are thus clearly evident in this and other publications of the time, embodying the original integrity of the historic site.

Still, by the end of the campaign's first year the memorial fund had reached $60,000, falling far short of its initial goal of $200,000. The Evening Star published a full-page, illustrated statement on May 1, 1927 appealing to the city's pride and pointing out that Washington was the only major city in the nation that had not erected a memorial to those of its citizens who served in the war (see Figure 10). The campaign subsequently launched a second, week-long drive similar to the one that had worked so well in 1926, adding local radio broadcasts, collection booths and benefit concerts to further boost their efforts. Fund contributors received special buttons marked with "535" to represent the number of Washington residents then thought to have been lost in the war.

Inspired by the spirit of patriotism and service, the city responded with enthusiasm. Encouraged to contribute five cents each, the 70,000 school children of the District together donated nearly $800 to the cause by the final day of the drive. On May 5, the most successful day of the campaign, almost $11,000 in donations were raised (Waite et al. 2006: 12-13; Richards 2002). Veterans of the war contributed to the cause as well, some sending their donations with notes attached. One anonymous donor wrote the following powerful words, later shared with the public by the Evening Star:

"I send this contribution because I heard the Marine Band play 'The Battle Hymn of the Republic' in front of the Earle Theater the other evening, and because the music and the Spring twilight and the Marines brought back a lot of memories…The memorial will stand for something for me, and what it is I cannot write, for I only feel it. And the fact that some fate over which I had no control, sent me, as one in millions of others, to France, and makes me now a 'veteran,' does not create within me that sense of modesty which, from all I hear, makes some others abstain from taking part in the raising of this memorial." (Evening Star, May 4, 1927)

Modesty was not the only factor which kept some veterans from giving to the memorial fund. These men and women, including the members of the local American Legion post, refused to contribute to the project because veterans had not been allowed to take a leading role in the memorial's conception, nor had their approval been sought for its design (Waite et al. 2006: 14).

By the end of the second phase of fundraising, on May 9, the memorial fund still failed to achieve its $200,000 goal, having raised little more than half of the remaining $140,000. In part as a result of the continued funding obstacles, the sum originally regarded as necessary to begin construction on the memorial was at this time revised (Waite et al. 2006: 14). That same day, the Evening Star reported the following statement by the memorial commission: "While the cost of the memorial, with the necessary landscaping and amplification devices and other equipment has been placed at $200,000, the memorial itself may be built with about $155,000" (Evening Star, May 9, 1927). Although the fund still fell short of this revised sum, the remaining $19,000 needed to begin construction would be successfully raised in a final 1930 campaign (Waite et al. 2006: 14).

Final Plans and Funding

Meanwhile, planning of the memorial continued. Although its design had been approved by the Commission of Fine Arts in 1925, it was not until January 17, 1928 that a location was at last determined. Director of Public Buildings and Public Parks of the National Capital, Lieutenant Colonel U.S. Grant III, consulted closely with Delano and Brooke and played an important role in facilitating, driving and at last completing the process of finding a memorial site. According to the CFA meeting minutes of January 6, 1928: "Mr. Delano said two sites were considered, one in the vicinity of the existing bandstand (in the Polo grounds); the other in a grove of willows about midway between the cross axis of the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool and the Tidal Basin. At this point the bandstand will not be very far from the foot of Seventeenth Street" (Commission of Fine Arts, January 1928: 1).

Visiting these two final prospective sites on January 6, 1928, Grant and Delano used a bottle to temporarily mark a spot in a grove of willows standing roughly midway between the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool and the Tidal Basin, and about 400 feet west of 17th Street. Though removed some distance to the west of the location originally identified in the memorial plans, or the place on the eastern edge of the polo grounds, both Grant and Delano preferred the more wooded alternative. Eleven days later, the willow grove site was approved by the Commission

of Fine Arts (Waite et al. 2006: 9).

However, discussion of the memorial's exact location continued through the spring and summer of 1928, largely due to questions about the proposed site's consistency with the original 1901 Mall Plan. As recounted on April 20 by the CFA:

"Colonel Grant having requested the advice of the Commission of Fine Arts as to the location of the District of Columbia World War Memorial, which is to be a Band Stand, in Potomac Park, in relation to roadways in the locality, the Commission inspected the site, and saw the marker erected admist [sic.] a group of trees south of the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Basin and a few hundred feet west of the John Paul Jones Statue…The Commission decided that the location of the Band Stand there need have no axial relations with any element in the plan…" (Commission of Fine Arts, April 1928: 7)

Further debate centered around the Howard revisions to the McMillan Plan, and a survey was made of the proposed location. The following CFA notes were made on August 6, 1928:

"Colonel Grant submitted a section of the Howard Design for the Lincoln Memorial grounds, showing the location of the proposed District of Columbia World War Memorial, to be a marble bandstand south of the Reflecting Basin and about 400 feet west of 17th Street. Colonel Grant said he was submitting the sketch in accordance with the suggestion of the Commission made at the meeting on May 24th to show a suggested treatment of the motive indicated on the original Howard Plan on the north side of the Reflecting Basin; but said to make the bandstand balance it on the south side would bring it much nearer 17th Street. Mr. Delano said he felt the site determined upon by the Commission for the District of Columbia World War Memorial was the best available on the south side of the Reflecting Basin, and to bring it further east so as to fit the Howard Plan would bring the memorial not only nearer to 17th Street but away from a location very suitable for a bandstand in a grove of trees. After consideration the Commission decided to adhere to the site agreed upon heretofore for the District of Columbia World War Memorial, and that if in the future a memorial is contemplated for the north side of the Reflecting Basin it could be made to balance the bandstand, with little change in the Howard Plan." (Commission of Fine Arts, August 1928: 9-10)

Thus, the landscape surrounding the proposed memorial ultimately played a crucial role in determining its location. From a more structural perspective, the CFA meanwhile determined that the revised Howard version of the 1901 Mall Plan allowed for the addition of a feature in roughly the same place as the proposed willow grove memorial site (Waite et al. 2006: 9; Gutheim and Lee 2006: 133; see Figure 7).

Other aspects of the McMillan Commission Plans were also reaffirmed that year, when the National Capital Parks and Planning Commission (NCPPC) became the new management unit responsible for the city's planning. Greatly inspired by the contributions of Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr., the NCPPC's guidance in subsequent years successfully complemented the simplicity of the city's pre-existing circulation patterns. For example, the layout of trees along the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool, a design planned by the CFA and implemented by the

NCPPC, provided a horticultural outline for the cross arms originally established by the McMillan Plan. The geometric spaces created by the roads on either side of the central basins were likewise reinforced by clusters of deciduous trees (Joseph and Wheelock 1999: 44).

The role of vegetation in the planning of the DC War Memorial was particularly important to its development, as even the early building sketches illustrate (see Figures 9 and 10). Indeed, the Commission of Fine Arts ultimately determined that the building's location in a grove of trees exempted it from any geometrical alignment with other constructed features of West Potomac Park, as suggested by the 1901 McMillan Plan. Thus, it was deemed unnecessary to balance the monument's presence on the south side of the basin with another structure on the north side. During the summer of 1928, the commission even went so far as to erect a life-size outline of the memorial at its proposed location in West Potomac Park, to insure that the site and stature of the new building would blend well with the surrounding landscape (Waite et al. 2006: 10). The site was laid out over roughly two acres, assuming an approximate oval shape that flared out from the central north-south axis formed by the two grass panels and parallel flagstone walks.

Still, standing in the way of the memorial's final construction was the issue of funding. The project's last fundraising campaign took place in 1930, and was heavily influenced by the Great Depression that began in October, 1929. The series of nation-wide social and economic shifts that took place following this event had become painfully evident in the progress of the memorial fund. The $149,138 that the fund had purportedly attained in May of 1927 was now reduced to $135,000, due to the inability of some Washingtonians to follow through with pledges they had made to the fund before the stock-market crash. In order to close the gap a final fundraising push was staged, this time by a number of union representatives who promised to motivate the masses. In November, the International Association of Machinists coordinated an impressive, multi-act performance at the Rialto Theater to benefit the memorial fund. That June, the Central Labor Union hosted a two-week long fair at Fifth Street and Florida Avenue NE, which drew "large crowds of supporters" with a parade and "several big outdoor shows" (Evening Star, June 9, 1931; Waite et al. 2006: 15).

The success of this last fundraising push illustrates the memorial's strength as a symbol among the general population of the District of Columbia during this era. As summarized by the Evening Star on November 11, 1930:

"Thus this beautiful monument, symbolizing Washington's reverent memory of its men and women who gave their lives in the war, will stand as the product of an organized community effort that is unique. The contributions to the memorial have been confined to no class or sect. The fine and generous response of the city's labor organizations is their fitting recognition of opportunity to fill in the gaps and consolidate the gains already made—always the final steps of an advance. This response honors the community as a whole as much as it does the contributing ranks of labor." (Evening Star, November 11, 1930)

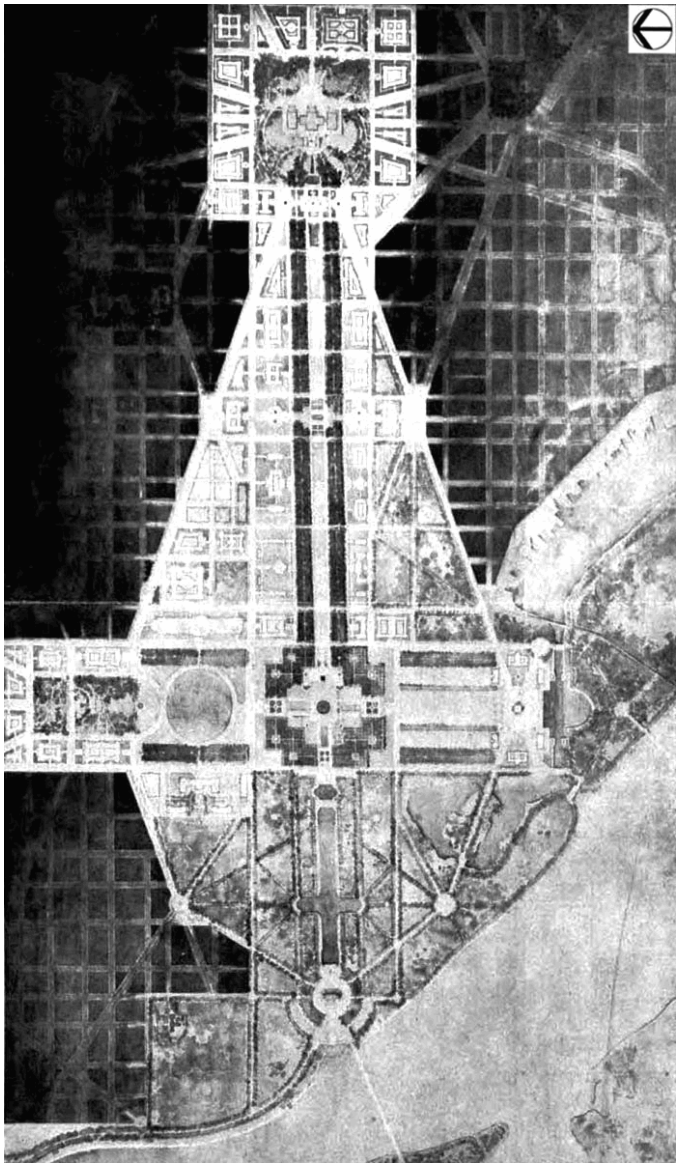


Figure 7. The McMillan Commission Plan of 1901, showing the planned reflecting pools and network of drives in West Potomac Park (Moore 1902: 54).



Figure 8. This photograph, from a postcard marked 1916, depicts the early Potomac Park Band Stand, a wooden structure that was used for summer band concerts before the construction of the DC War Memorial (Floyd and Floyd 2005: 53).

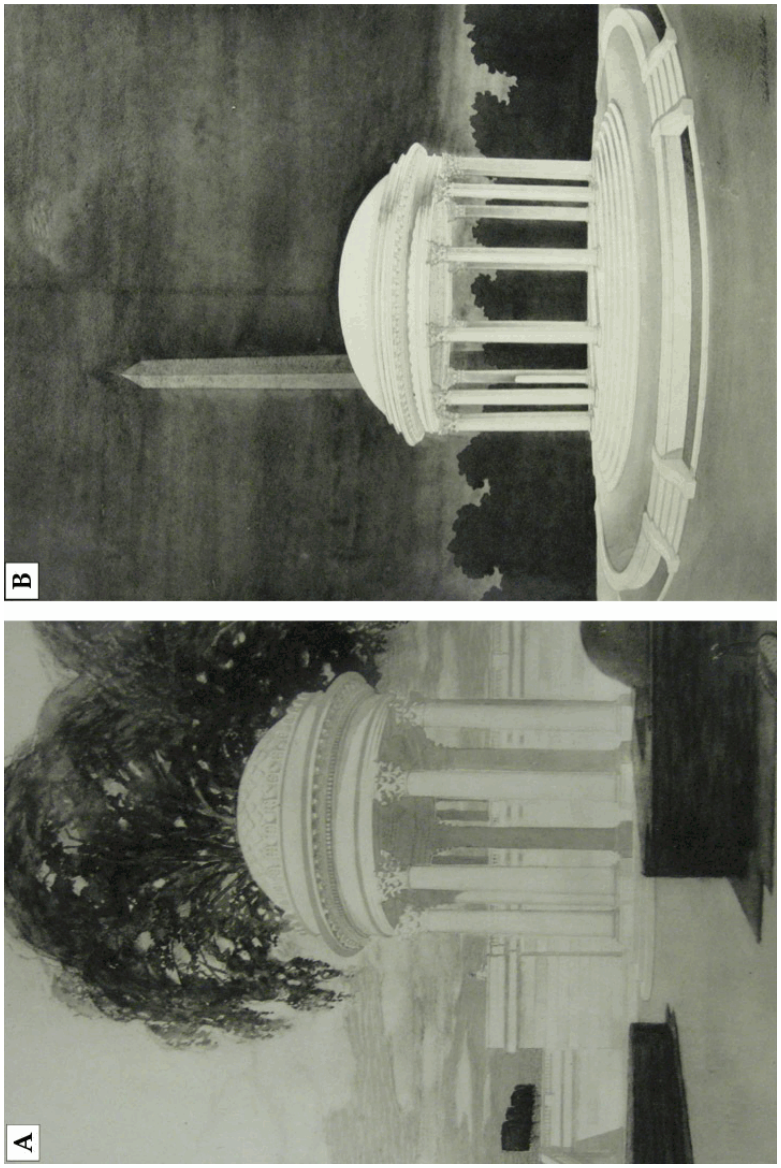


Figure 9. (a) Tempietto designed for the Washington Monument grounds, 1901; (b) Brooke's October 17, 1919 DC War Memorial plan, showing the original concepts behind its design, including the surrounding trees (Commission of Fine Arts, Washington, DC).

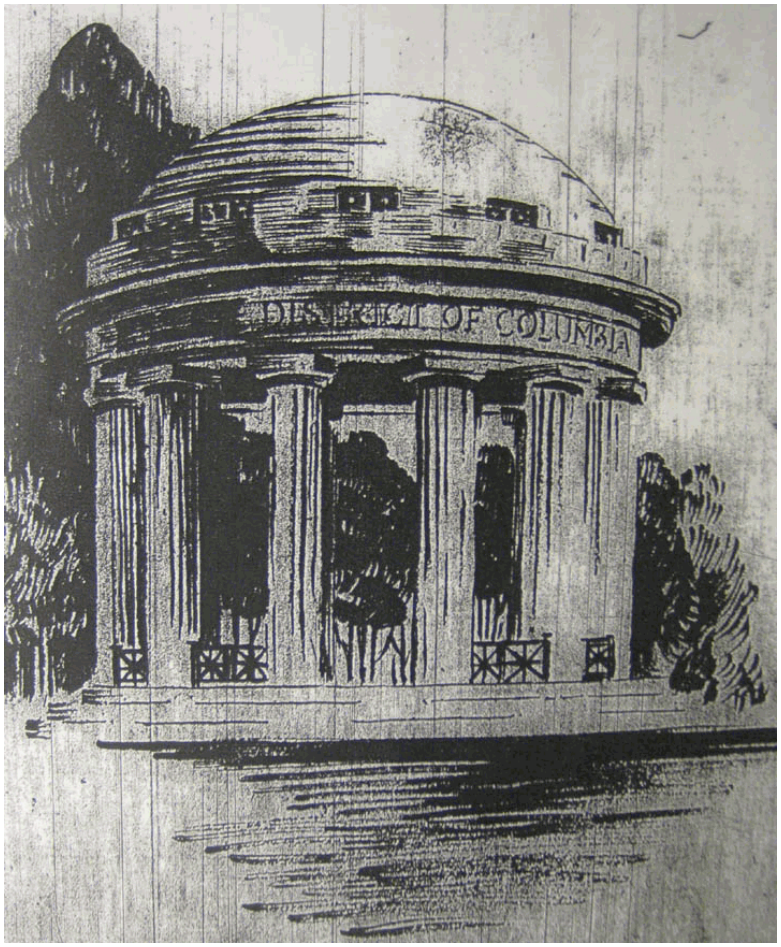


Figure 10. A drawing of the planned DC War Memorial in 1927 illustrates one of the final stages of its design, as part of the project's fundraising campaign (Evening Star, May 1, 1927). Once again, note the vegetation in the background.

1931 to 1939

CONSTRUCTION AND USE OF THE DC WAR MEMORIAL

In the difficult times of early 1931, the general spirit of Washingtonians coming together to support a common, patriotic cause finally culminated in the achievement of the memorial fund's goal. That winter, the last few details of the memorial design were resolved, including a reduction to the cellar design, the placement and type of seals and inscriptions, and the shape and type of ceiling necessary to optimize acoustics in the building and surrounding area. Consideration of this last item was addressed by the CFA on January 6, 1931:

"Mr. Peaslee criticized the design of the bandstand…saying that he had talked with the leader of the Marine Band, who regretted that a dome has been provided in the plan and said that simply a sounding board would be much better. Attention was called to the fact that when the

designs for the bandstand were submitted five years ago, it was understood the architect would consult the Marine Band as to the necessary mechanical equipment that should be provided in connection with the architecture and that the bandstand would be made of a size large enough to hold the Marine Band. It is understood that the amplifiers have since been omitted from the memorial. It was emphasized that this is to be a memorial bandstand and in design is similar to the Temple of Love in the Borghese Gardens. The question of the sounding board is to be brought to the attention of the architect of the memorial, Mr. Brooke." (Commission of Fine Arts, January 1931: 21-2)

Evidently, even at this late stage in its development, the memorial's combined purpose of commemoration and recreation was still in the process of being resolved. Also at this time, the frieze inscription was altered from Brooke's original plans to read as it does today: "A Memorial to the Armed Forces from the District of Columbia Who Served Their Country in the World War." A special research committee was also appointed by Frank Noyes to determine the exact list and number of fallen soldiers that would be inscribed on the base of the monument (Waite et al. 2006: 16, 21).

The landscape surrounding the memorial was also considered under the guidance of Commission of Fine Arts' former landscape architect, James L. Greenleaf. As the acting CFA landscape architect was abroad at the time, Greenleaf agreed to come to Washington and become the consulting landscape architect for the project (Waite et al. 2006: 16; Commission of Fine Arts, April 1931: 15). In December 1930, Greenleaf recommended that the wooded area south of the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool, and stretching between 17th Street and the Lincoln Memorial, be cleared of small trees and shrubbery. He reasoned that this would not only help to prepare the site for the memorial's construction, but would help create an appropriate and unobstructed space around the bandstand for concertgoers. This decision promised not only to further improve acoustics, but to "secure shade for the audience and space for seats by the arrangement of trees" (Commission of Fine Arts, February 1931: 8, Exhibit F). More specifically, Greenleaf's plans for the memorial landscape called for the reflection of the north-south corridor of walks with a line of large hardwoods, whose shade could shelter the site. He further recommended that undergrowth between these trees and around the building itself be entirely cleared out, so as to create a more open setting suited to concert use (Commission of Fine Arts, April 1931: Exhibit K).

Indeed, according to Greenleaf, all the vegetation that was really necessary were "large trees for shade and firm ground for the use of chairs," a goal which required only the clean-up of the existing woods and shrubs, so that "the District of Columbia World War Memorial may be constructed in appropriate surroundings and the public may have better opportunity to hear the concerts that will be given in the pretentious bandstand" (Evening Star, January 14, 1931; Figure 11). Greenleaf also submitted the following advice to commission chairman Charles Moore, regarding the landscape: "The ultimate good effect must rely upon a well developed grove and the beauty of the structure under the resulting light and shade. I would absolutely avoid all fancy planting and flower beds" (James L. Greenleaf to Charles Moore, December 15, 1930, Records of the National Park Service, NCRSF Box 35, File 1430).

In early February of 1931, the Commission of Fine Arts followed Greenleaf's advice and began to identify trees for removal from the future memorial site, which had originally been set aside as a prospective forest area (Evening Star, February 5, 1931). Maintaining a woody grove around the building was of utmost importance, but was also required to strike a delicate balance with the large numbers of anticipated concertgoers. Following the marking of trees by workmen, CFA members and Office of Public Buildings and Public Parks (OPBPP) landscape architect Irving W. Payne visited the site on February 12 in order to verify that the planned landscape would set the memorial off to its greatest advantage. On March 4, 1931, specifications for the construction of the monument itself were finalized. Following the appropriate ground testing and the selection of a local contractor, James Baird Co., Inc. broke ground at the site in West Potomac Park on April 23, 1931 (Waite et al. 2006: 17).

Building the Memorial and Planning the Landscape

The memorial construction activities of the Baird firm included "all necessary excavation; the driving of piles; reinforced concrete and construction as shown [in plans]; the erection of marble-work throughout the dome of Guastavino-tile construction; also electrical work for interior lighting; and plumbing work in connection with [the] drainage system for storm water" (Frederick H. Brooke to U.S. Grant III, May 16, 1931, Records of the National Park Service, NCRSF Box 35, File 1430). Due to the relatively new advent of the land where it stands, the piles used for construction the memorial represent an engineering advance of the day. As the Evening Star reported on May 5, 1931:

"Pile driving has been completed, a total of about 50 'combination' piles having been driven into the watery subsoil. These are believed to be the first of the 'combination' piles used on a public building in Washington. They consist part of wood, and part of cement, the wood being at the bottom and the concrete on top. Workmen are now laying wooden forms for pouring the concrete foundation, on top of the piles." (Evening Star, May 5, 1931)

While the concrete foundation of the memorial was built, the marble used in its construction was still being quarried in Danby, Vermont, over the course of two months. The stone for the walkways proved slightly more difficult to obtain, but in the end Brooke capitalized on the changes being made to the nearby sidewalk of Constitution Avenue to the north. Construction of the new memorial was taking place at a pivotal time in the District:

"Between 1920 and 1930, automobile registrations in the District of Columbia quadrupled. Consequences of this growth and change in travel habits were felt in every sector of city life. Meetings of the Planning Commission now dealt with street widening, new road-planning proposals, bridge construction, parking arrangements, and more fundamentally with regulatory and zoning changes." (Gutheim and Lee 2006: 196)

Just west of the Lincoln Memorial in 1931, the Arlington Memorial Bridge was already underway, promising to bring a greater volume of traffic directly into the heart of Washington, DC from the shores of Virginia in a matter of months. That same year, the road north of the National Mall and West Potomac Park, then known as B Street North, was in the process of

being extended, realigned and improved. The broad new throughway that resulted from these developments is now known as Constitution Avenue (Joseph and Wheelock 1999: 40). Determined to purchase the stone needed for the memorial walkways from the government, Brooke was able to procure the old flagstones from in front of the U.S. Treasury Building in May (Waite et al. 2006: 18-19, 22). R.K. Funkhouser Company of Hagerstown, Maryland was contracted to grade and construct the 500 square yards of granular rock walks around the memorial, using the salvaged flagstones (Waite et al. 2006: 22).

Meanwhile, by April 16, a special subcommittee of the National Capital Chapter of the Garden Club of America had raised $600 toward obtaining and installing memorial trees (Waite et al. 2006: 18-19). The landscape guidance of James L. Greenleaf is again clearly evident in the following correspondence from Frederick Brooke to William Adams Delano, from September of 1931:

"When the site was fixed by unanimous consent on the axis of Nineteenth Street, it was with the idea of some kind of vista giving a glimpse of the Memorial along that line and perhaps some day from a distance to the North. Later Mr. Moore called Mr. Greenleaf into consultation as to the entourage and planting for our building. It was Mr. Greenleaf who suggested, among other things, an open vista North and South but one formed by trees not too strictly in line or necessarily of the same species. To this end it is proposed to leave as many trees as conform to the idea of informal approaches from North and South and add other trees where required. Of the old willows near the building, one was blown down, fortunately without damage, and others were a menace and have been removed. In general good trees about the site will be left to help our grove…We all want to make a grove about the Memorial which shall be entirely informal but since this is a public monument, we are convinced that it must be clearly seen from the adjacent roadways and easily approached by perhaps sizable crowds." (Frederick H. Brooke to William Adams Delano, September 17, 1931, Records of the National Park Service, NCRSF Box 35, File 1430)

Thus, despite the near complete removal of the original willow grove, it still left a powerful mark on the memorial site through the legacy of an informal cluster of trees around the building. Chairman of the memorial landscape treatment committee, Maj. Gen. Benjamin Franklin Cheatham, submitted a design for treatment of the landscape at the site to the Commission of Fine Arts on September 24, 1931 (Waite et al. 2006: 19-20). Endorsed by the commission that same day, his plan outlined a vista that would "be 50 feet wide, flanked by sidewalks, shaded by trees with a grass panel between" (Commission of Fine Arts, September 1931; see Figure 11). In this way, a careful balance was struck between the shady greenery of the grove and the more open character of a central north-south corridor that allowed both easy access and visibility, from either Ash Road, or Cinder Road as it was known at the time, to the north or Independence Avenue to the south.

The special garden club subcommittee was soon in the process of planning which types of vegetation should surround the new memorial. Hardy, indigenous elm trees would be planted in an irregular pattern in the grove, both encircling and defining a central 50-foot circumference of sod that would surround the memorial itself and provide a place for audience seating (Figure

12a; see Figure 11b). Standing approximately 12 inches in diameter and 25 feet high, each of these trees would itself serve as a small memorial, accompanied by a bronze tablet recording the name of the veteran organization or individual donor who provided for its installation.

Thus, public participation was once again called upon, this time for the memorial grove project. Cheatham planned to gradually replace the existing soft-wood grove of willow and other swamp trees with the donated memorial elms as they arrived, one by one. He further hoped to have some of the new trees planted before the memorial's dedication, that November (Waite et al. 2006: 20). Cheatham elaborated upon his plan in the following words:

"It is the purpose to leave some of the great willows as a background in the distance, and to plant also some large tulip trees some distance away from the memorial. Then in between this outer fringe of the grove and the elms around the memorial will be planted other hardwoods, such as oaks, beech, and elms. They will be irregularly placed so as to avoid the semblance of formal design. Rather the effect will be to create a new forest setting for the classic beauty of the marble temple…But the memorial grove will continue to expand and to grow, it is expected, by the further additions of hardy and sturdy trees, so that the memory of the heroic dead may be preserved, both in the marble and in the living trees, for centuries to come." (Evening Star, October 14, 1931)

As a defined vision for the memorial landscape began to emerge, construction of the monument itself was advancing. On July 20, 1931 a specially-prepared copper box was filled with a list of the 26,048 Washington residents who served during the war, in addition to a set of building plans for the monument, a copy of the Evening Star from that day, and some recently minted coins and bills. The box was then sealed and inserted into a niche on the inner face of the structure's cornerstone by memorial commission member Maj. Gen. Anton Stephan. Work on the memorial continued to progress swiftly from there, and the building was nearly complete by the month of October. The scaffolding was disassembled, and construction began on a network of 8-foot-wide stone sidewalks leading up to and around the structure. On October 23 the memorial was declared to be "virtually complete," and preparations for the November 11 dedication ceremony were well underway (Evening Star, October 23, 1931).

Meanwhile, the rest of the site was graded, new sod was laid down, and the final flagstone walk around the memorial was installed (Waite et al. 2006: 18). The parallel walks leading north and south from the memorial were also paved with gravel (Figure 12b; DSC TIC 801/89871; DSC TIC 801/89884). The Potomac Electric Power Company began work on supplying electricity to the site, and in the last week of October a donation from Janet Noyes funded the planting of the first memorial hardwood. This tree, a large elm, was planted about fifty feet from the memorial and was soon joined by several similar trees in order to provide the proper grove setting for the monument's dedication (Evening Star, October 23, 1931; DSC TIC 801/89889).

Although the process of inscribing the memorial's base with the names of the fallen was apparently still underway through the month of November, the site was deemed ready for the slated dedication ceremony date, on the 11th of that month. Part of the reason behind the

delayed inscriptions was the persisting question of whose names should actually appear on the memorial. The special committee appointed by Frank Noyes for this purpose eventually reached an agreement of two criteria for determining whose names should be included: "(1) The person must have died while in active service, prior to the official ending of the World War, or to have been discharged for physical disability and died prior to Nov. 11, 1918 and (2) the person must have been an actual resident and citizen of the District of Columbia prior to his entry into the service" (Brooke, n.d.: 3). The number of inscribed names was ultimately set at 499, just in time for the memorial's completion. The project had succeeded in barely scraping by under its ascribed budget (Waite et al. 2006: 22).

Memorial Dedication

The District of Columbia War Memorial was dedicated on Armistice Day, November 11, 1931, as part of the nation's holiday observance. The main commemorative event in Washington that day, the ceremony featured the appearance of renowned bandmaster John Philip Sousa at the head of the United States Marine Band, and the attendance of President Herbert Hoover. From a special stand outside the garlanded memorial the band played "The Stars and Stripes Forever," among other songs, and Supreme Court Justice F.D. Letts celebrated the lapse of 13 years since the "war to end all wars" had drawn to a close. The memorial was formally presented to President Hoover, who gave a short, nationally-broadcast speech on the heroic sacrifices made by Washingtonians during the war and the importance of preserving peace (Waite et al. 2006: 22-3).

For several days following the dedication, the memorial was visited by a few hundred people a day (see Figure 12a). Still, plans for improving the landscape around the building continued. The remaining construction supplies, including 45 bags of path material, were removed and the area surrounding the memorial was scheduled for grading and seeding the following spring. Meanwhile, the monument was further honored when the Washington Board of Trade Committee on Municipal Arts gave it the 1931-1932 award for architecture. The memorial's care, custody and maintenance officially passed to the Parks Division of the Office of Public Buildings and Public Parks of the National Capital on February 6, 1932 (Waite et al. 2006: 23, 25).

Memorial Band Concerts and Maintenance

On June 2, 1932, the memorial hosted its first summer band program, featuring a selection of patriotic and other songs played by the 77 members of the U.S. Marine Band. The event attracted an audience of 2,000, most of whom sat on the grass around the monument because the memorial commission had not yet determined an arrangement for benches and chairs at the site (Figure 13). It was a time of heightened appreciation for musical entertainment, particularly in the outdoors, and the memorial seemed to meet the growing demand perfectly. As described in a Washington Post article from that year:

"Reports from music centers outside of Washington bring to light the fact that the out-of-doors musical event in the warm season is growing in general popularity. Washington, unfortunately,

has too little of this form of summer entertainment in the musical line, although the military service bands make up the deficiency to some extent…One critic commenting on this said: 'A deep-rooted musical hunger is still to be acquired by Americans. To the average American, music is not yet an inherent necessity, as it is to so many Europeans, who, with generations of rich musical life behind them, think nothing of going without a meal to buy an opera ticket or hear a concert. Here music is not yet so indispensable.'" (Washington Post, July 3, 1932)

Clearly, sophistication and culture, still apparently lacking in Americans of this era according to the author, were seen as closely tied to the appreciation of music. The article goes on to list the musical events for the following summer week in the Washington area, highlighting several different groups and the National Sylvan Theater, on the nearby Washington Monument Grounds. Indeed, a constant swirl of summer concerts took place in Washington, DC over the years that followed. Both the United States Marine Band and the United States Army Band played at the DC War Memorial each week, as well as the occasional concert by the Navy Band. Throughout the 1930s, all three bands also gave regular performances at local hospitals, on the U.S. Capitol steps, and at the National Sylvan Theater. For several years afterwards, the memorial continued to be used in this manner, for not only a public program of bi-weekly summer concerts, but occasional commemorative events (Washington Post, July 17, 1932; June 4, 1933; June 2, 1934; June 29, 1935; July 6, 1936; July 9, 1939).

Nonetheless, the DC War Memorial was soon plagued by issues of ongoing damage and deterioration. Both the monument and the surrounding landscape attracted the attention of vandals who often came to West Potomac Park at night, while unrelenting weather conditions proved a constant challenge. Although a night watchman was provided by the contractor through a few days after construction was completed, after that time it became impossible to monitor the memorial at all times due to financial constraints. Visiting the site on November 16, 1931, the day after the watchman's service ended, Brooke commented on the marred appearance of the inscriptions around the memorial's base as well as some slight damage to the carved insignias. The blame for these damages was placed with a group of boys who had been seen loitering around the monument and roller skating on the marble floor. Although Brooke immediately submitted a request for the stationing of a permanent watchman at the site, the best that OPBPP Director Grant could offer was vigilant police surveillance by three separate patrols and periodic inspection by a plain-clothes officer. By the late winter of 1932, vandalism had become a serious concern: "The grove of trees that had been such an important feature of the landscape design and was intended to create an air of solemnity and peacefulness instead provided a meeting place for vagrants, ne'er-do-wells, and rambunctious youths. The effects on the memorial were obvious, with garbage constantly accumulating at the site" (Waite et al. 2006: 25).

Upon another visit in February of that year, Brooke found himself picking up broken alcohol bottles, cleaning up mud from the sides and floor of the building, and once again dispersing roller-skating children. He remarked that the memorial was in need of weekly sweeping and mopping, with special attention to the fragile inscriptions around its base. A new sign reading "No Roller Skating" was posted at the site that spring. Local children and teenagers still insisted on making it their hangout, however, using it as a roller rink and games of tag. Soon,

adults were pulling their cars up to the memorial at night, using the grassy areas and surrounding grove for clandestine rendezvous despite the monument's lighting system (Waite et al. 2006: 26).

Maintenance struggles at the site continued into 1933. In spite of lagging funds, the OPBPP relocated a group of existing drinking fountains to improve drainage and convenience to visitors (Waite et al. 2006: 25). The party responsible for memorial maintenance also underwent a key shift. On June 10, President Roosevelt issued an executive order to reorganize and consolidate all federal parks under the National Park Service (NPS). That August, the NPS officially assumed care and ownership of all District of Columbia monuments, relieving the War Department's OPBPP of their former stewardship responsibilities. This administrative unit also assumed responsibility for Rock Creek Park, East and West Potomac Parks, and the George Washington Memorial Parkway.

Almost immediately, the new management's efforts to decorate the parks with low plantings, eliminate unruly shrubs, encourage turf growth and improve tree care were praised by the Commission of Fine Arts (Joseph and Wheelock 1999: 49; Waite et al. 2006: 25). In September, Secretary of the Department of the Interior Harold Ickes announced an allotment of $600,000 for the Mall Development Plan, which provided for the reshaping of the National Mall and West Potomac Park through roadway construction, grading, landscaping, tree plantings and water management in accordance with the original ideas of the L'Enfant and McMillan Plans (Gutheim and Lee 2006: 223).

At the DC War Memorial, the park management made additional plantings around the building including holly (Ilex sp.) and dogwood (Cornus sp.) trees (Washington Herald, December 29, 1933; Figures 14 and 15). Judging from plans of the site that illustrate the existing conditions of the landscape in 1939, these trees do not appear to have been planted along the immediate border of the memorial and parallel walks, but rather in locations slightly removed from these features (DSC TIC 801/89888 and 801/89889). This left the majestic hardwoods to act as the primary frame for the central north-south corridor and circular grassy area around the memorial itself. A number of Judas, or eastern redbud, trees were also likely planted at this time and situated in a similar manner to the dogwood and holly trees (DSC TIC 801/89888 and 801/89889).

Public events at the site also benefited from the new maintenance efforts and special attention to West Potomac Park. The "first annual commemorative service by six World War organizations" was held at the memorial on May 1, 1936, to promote "child welfare, community co-operation, memorial tribute and Americanism" (Evening Star, May 5, 1936). In addition to the American Legion and Gold Star Mothers, regular attendees to this event for decades afterward were the American Legion Auxiliary, Des 40 Hommes et 8 Chevaux, Des 8 Chapeaux et 40 Femmes, Sons of the American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary Juniors and the Legion National Guard of Honor. The annual commemoration also featured performances by the U.S. Marine Band, the Massing of the Colors, and the placing of memorial wreaths. Another main event of the ceremony was a tradition known as the "Poppy Processional," in which junior members of the participating organizations, or more frequently a group of World

War veterans' daughters, decorated a white cross in front of the memorial with hundreds of poppies (Evening Star, May 2, 1936).

Meanwhile, the grove continued to grow by small increments as the occasional memorial tree was donated. In the latter years of the 1930s, the annual commemoration ceremony often served as an occasion for this event. For example, in May of 1937 a tree was dedicated in memory of Mme. Schumann-Heink, recognized mother of all World War I veterans (Evening Star, May 3, 1943).

In addition to regular use, the memorial was treated to fairly frequent maintenance during these early years. In November of 1936, its ceiling underwent a full cleaning. Two years later, a light switch was installed to insure that the monument would be lit by 6 pm each evening. This system was abandoned the following winter, however, when it was decided that U.S. Park Police would manually turn the lights on and off each night (Waite et al. 2006: 26).

In 1937, the Office of National Capital Parks planned to undertake further improvements to the landscape around the memorial. As outlined in the Evening Star:

"An improvement program that will greatly enhance the appearance of the grounds and general setting of the District of Columbia War Memorial is being undertaken…This work will be continued during the early Summer, and in the Fall it is planned, [Superintendent] Finnan explained, to plant a large grove of white, flowering dogwood trees in the forest surrounding the memorial. As many as 50 small trees of this kind may eventually be planted…The two grass panels at the memorial…are now overgrown with weeds and this condition is the first that will be remedied. Men will be put to work immediately to plow up all the ground in the panels and forest area, it was said, and regrade the whole landscaping and add top soil. Then grass will be planted in the panels and a water sprinkling system installed. Of late the forest area has become too thick with trees and brush, and this condition also is to be remedied. A program of selective tree work will be undertaken during the Summer and a sufficient number of trees will be removed or transplanted to admit more sunlight. Rustic benches are to be scattered through the forest for the convenience of the visiting public…All the existing green benches about the memorial are to be replaced, Finnan said, with a more attractiv [sic.] rustic type that will fit admirably into the natural surroundings…Being a location that is popular with visitors, yet in a secluded area of the park, the improvement program is particularly desirable at this time of the year." (Evening Star, May 30, 1937)

The existing green benches mentioned in this article, and seen in a photograph from 1934 (see Figure 16), were of a light metal frame and wood-slat construction. The "rustic" benches that began to replace these as early as 1934 were of a heavier wooden design that later became known as the Washington bench (Figures 17a and 17b). Thus both this bench type and the lighter, more portable bench were present at the site during the 1930s (see Figure 17a). Still, it is difficult to discern whether any of the plantings and repairs mentioned by the Evening Star actually took place as anticipated, and if so, how many. Judging from the available documentation, it is most likely that the great majority of landscape alterations planned in 1937 were in fact deferred until 1939, when a similar but more extensive rehabilitation and planting

project took place (Evening Star, November 5, 1939). As a result, throughout the 1930s the area around the memorial retained an open aspect with only minimal understory, as is evident in historic photographs and several 1939 maps showing the existing vegetation at the time (see Figures 12, 13 and 15).

Although most of the planned landscape changes were thus deferred over two years, the recognition of need and eventual treatment project was closely tied to the site's popularity at the time. In October of 1937, a report had been issued by National Park Service Superintendent of Public Buildings Charles A. Peters, Jr. himself, recommending that the memorial be cleaned and repointed (Charles A. Peters, Jr. to E.J. Little, October 28, 1937, National Capital Region Subject Files, Box 35, 1430). The flagstones of the circular walk around the memorial were also judged inadequate, having sustained severe damages due to unrelenting weather conditions. The stones were therefore removed, and replaced with a gray Pennsylvania flagstone arranged in a pattern similar to the original design (Waite et al. 2006: 26; Evening Star, November 5, 1939).

The ongoing issue of water leakage through the memorial's columns was first detected by Brooke in 1938, on the building's north side. He also noted that the leaks were causing discoloration of the memorial floor and some of the base inscriptions. The cause was soon diagnosed as a flaw in the joints connecting the gutter to the downspout. However, due to the busy 1938 summer concert schedule, which featured three concerts per week, repairs were delayed until the following June. By that time additional leaks were noted, and considerable dirt had accumulated on the exterior parapet and floor between the columns. The old gutter was finally replaced that autumn, and the dome and entablature of the building were repointed (Waite et al. 2006: 27).

Even as the structure itself was plagued by maintenance issues, the site continued to serve an admiring public, and concerts at the memorial continued. A popular performance on June 15, 1939 celebrated the 50th anniversary of John Philip Sousa's famous composition, "The Washington Post March." The audience to this event was seated on "rustic" benches as well as on the grass, and "under the bright night sky and brooding trees" enjoyed more lively music than the usual memorial program of classical pieces (Figure 17b; Andrews 1939).

However, despite the great success of this event and the monument's summer program more broadly, a distinct shift in the memorial's popularity had taken place that year. Beginning in the summer of 1935, the National Capital Parks kicked off a program of music performances on the west side of the Lincoln Memorial, at a new designed space along the banks of the Potomac River and known as the Watergate Steps. By 1937, a formal orchestral barge was in place, and on April 9, 1939 the Lincoln Memorial itself became the stage for the nationally-broadcast Marian Anderson Easter Sunday concert.

In addition to becoming emblematic of civil rights, justice, and freedom of speech in subsequent years, the Watergate Steps amphitheater quickly attracted a wide variety of popular shows:

"The summer series of concerts included performances by military bands, opera companies,

and by the Watergate Symphony Orchestra 'and the world's great artists,' organized under the auspices of the National Symphony. The theater and related services were managed and operated by a concessionaire, Government Services, Incorporated." (Joseph and Wheelock 1999: 51-2)

The fierce competition brought to the area by performances at the new Watergate amphitheater proved too much for the smaller venue provided by the DC War Memorial, whose popularity as a summer concert destination declined sharply in the late 1930s. Indeed, in the critical years following its construction the memorial was first outshined by the Watergate Steps and then overshadowed by the oncoming threat of another world war. Further complications were introduced by the structure itself, which continued to require frequent maintenance.

Plans for Rehabilitation

On June 30, 1939, the new superintendent of the National Capital Parks division of the NPS assumed care of the DC War Memorial (Waite et al. 2006: 25; National Park Service n.d.: 36). This administrative shift briefly resulted in a burst of attention to the site, when the Public Works Administration granted a much-needed $80,000 for the rehabilitation of the memorial grounds. The funds were portioned out to finance improvement of the grounds and cleaning of the building, a project which included substantial modifications to the original memorial landscape. Some of the changes illustrated in the rehabilitation plans did not take place, such as the paving of a broad radius to east and west of the memorial with bituminous concrete (see Figure 15). However, extensive alterations to the paving and vegetation throughout the site mark this project as the end of the period of significance, the results of which are not included therein.

Rehabilitation plans for the site included landscaping and the planting of over 1,600 dogwood trees in the vicinity of the memorial, approximately 800 of which were installed in the immediate surroundings (Washington Post, May 23, 1940). These trees ranged in size from six to twelve feet, and included both the white and the pink variety (Evening Star, November 5, 1939). The sources conflict on exactly how many dogwoods were planted, but by the National Park Service account, 1,800 were planned for the site, including 1,200 white and 600 pink trees (Frank T. Gartside to Janet T. Noyes, November 14, 1939, NCR files).

In addition, this project involved the treatment of vegetation around the monument, including the relocation and transplanting of trees and shrubs. As a kind of complementary gesture, 400 pink dogwood trees were planted around the nearby Lincoln Memorial. Also that year, the area immediately around the DC War Memorial was graded and seeded, and in October the temporary crushed stone parallel walks running north and south of the memorial were replaced with a gray Pennsylvania flagstone that was carefully chosen to match the ceiling of the building. Unlike their predecessors, these walks were laid out in a straight line to the memorial, rather than angling in to meet the structure at the site's center. A new, outer circular flagstone walk was therefore added around the original flagstone paving at the base of the building, in order to connect the two straight walks to the memorial (NCR MRCE Photographic files 19.4-81, October 19, 1939). With the same flagstone paving used for the new walks

throughout, a continuous network of walks was thus created around the monument. The new flagstone walks were "constructed with grass seams to lend a dignified and natural appearance to the memorial site," a feature that can still be seen in some parts of the site today (Evening Star, November 5, 1939). The plans for this paving depict a cinder base topped with sand and capped with flagstones (DSC TIC 801/89876). The lights on the memorial were also likely replaced at this time, judging from the electric layout plans (Waite et al. 2006: 25, 27-8, 30; Evening Star, May 30, 1937; see Figure 15b).

Consequently, the 1939 alterations to the memorial landscape mark an important shift in the management and use of the site, as the increased vegetation reduced its visibility from areas where the public would have formerly been able to sit and enjoy summer concerts. The addition of so many dogwoods, in particular, altered the formerly open feeling of the monument and surrounding landscape. Nonetheless, the funding for these improvements was crucial to the memorial's ultimate upkeep, and came through just in time as another great war loomed on the horizon.

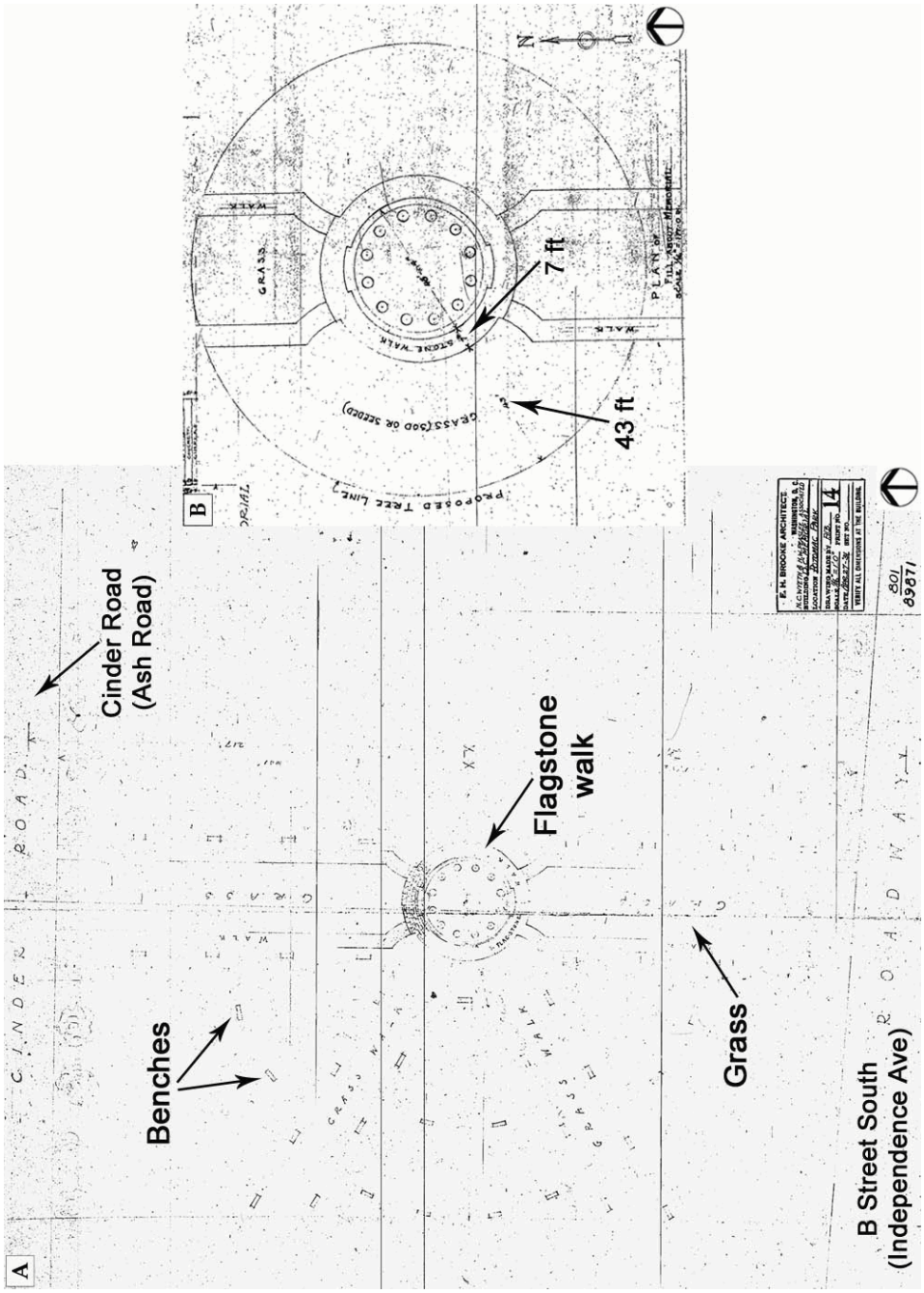


Figure 11. Two annotated 1931 drawings illustrate the original design for the DC War Memorial landscape (DSC TIC 801/89871, A, annotated; and 801/89873, B).



Figure 12. (a) The DC War Memorial soon after its completion, circa 1931 (Commission of Fine Arts, Washington, DC); (b) Looking south in 1939 (NCR MRCE 19.4-81). Note the lack of vegetation around the building and the gravel paths.

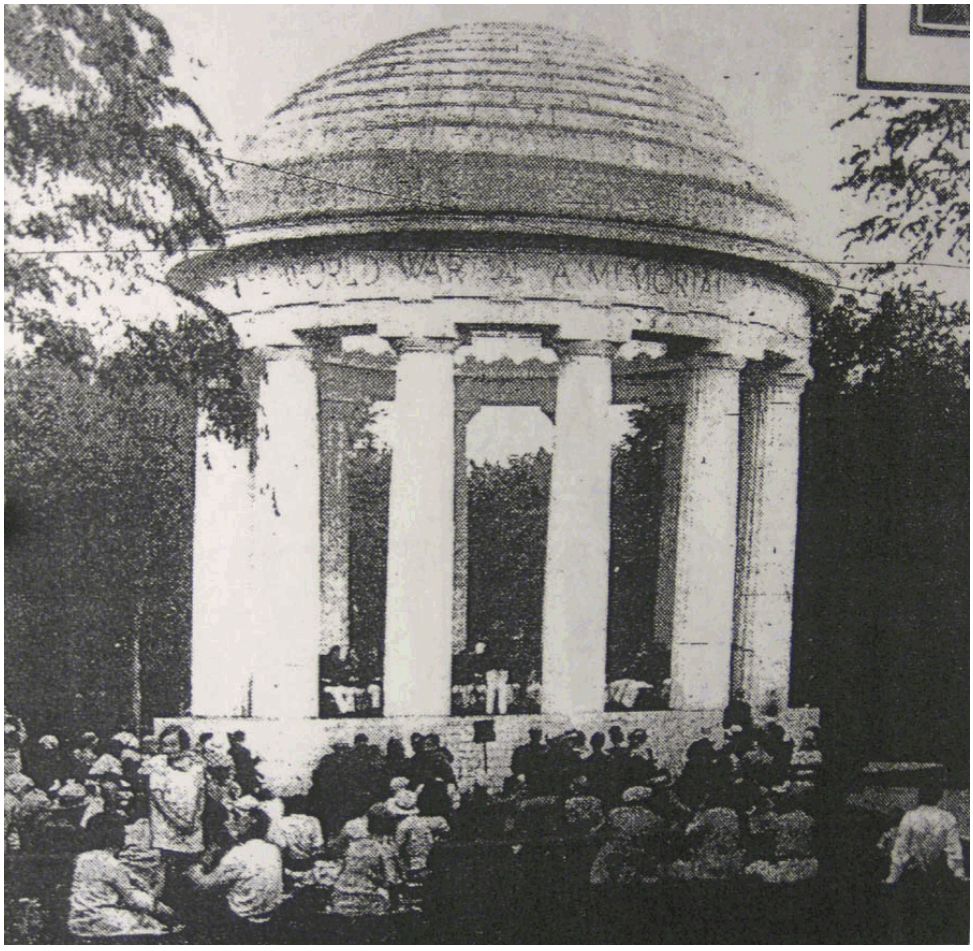


Figure 13. A photograph labeled "Band Season" depicts the atmosphere of early summer concerts held at the DC War Memorial, in 1932 (Washington Herald, June 4, 1932).



Figure 14. Men planting a holly tree at the DC War Memorial on December 29, 1933 (Washington Herald, December 29, 1933).

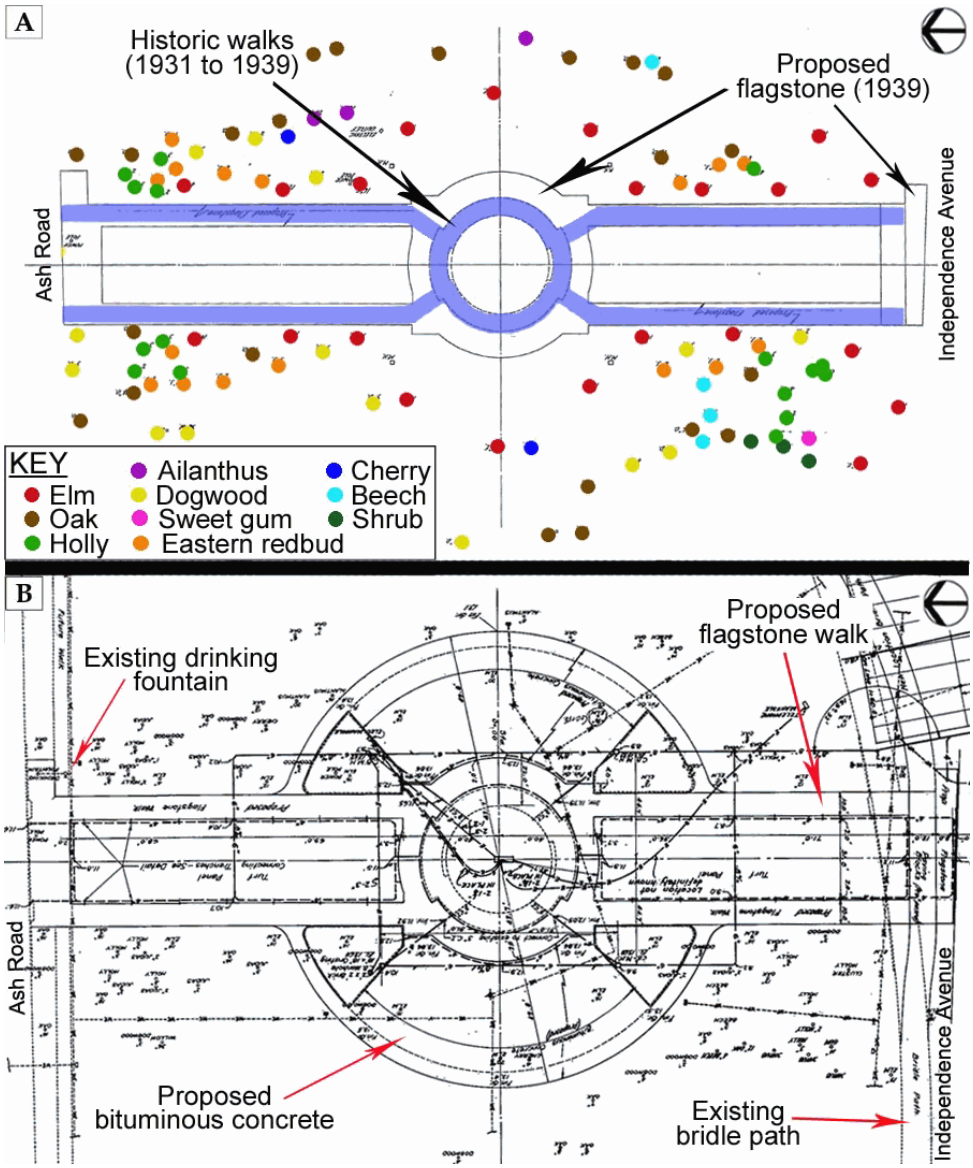


Figure 15. Two annotated 1939 plans show the vegetation present in the memorial landscape before rehabilitation of the site that year, illustrating the relatively sparse character that it had throughout the 1930s (DSC TIC 801/89888, A, and 801/89876, B).



Figure 16. The memorial and associated benches, looking south around 1934 (Commission of Fine Arts). Note the paths on either side, which at this point were still paved with their original gravel.

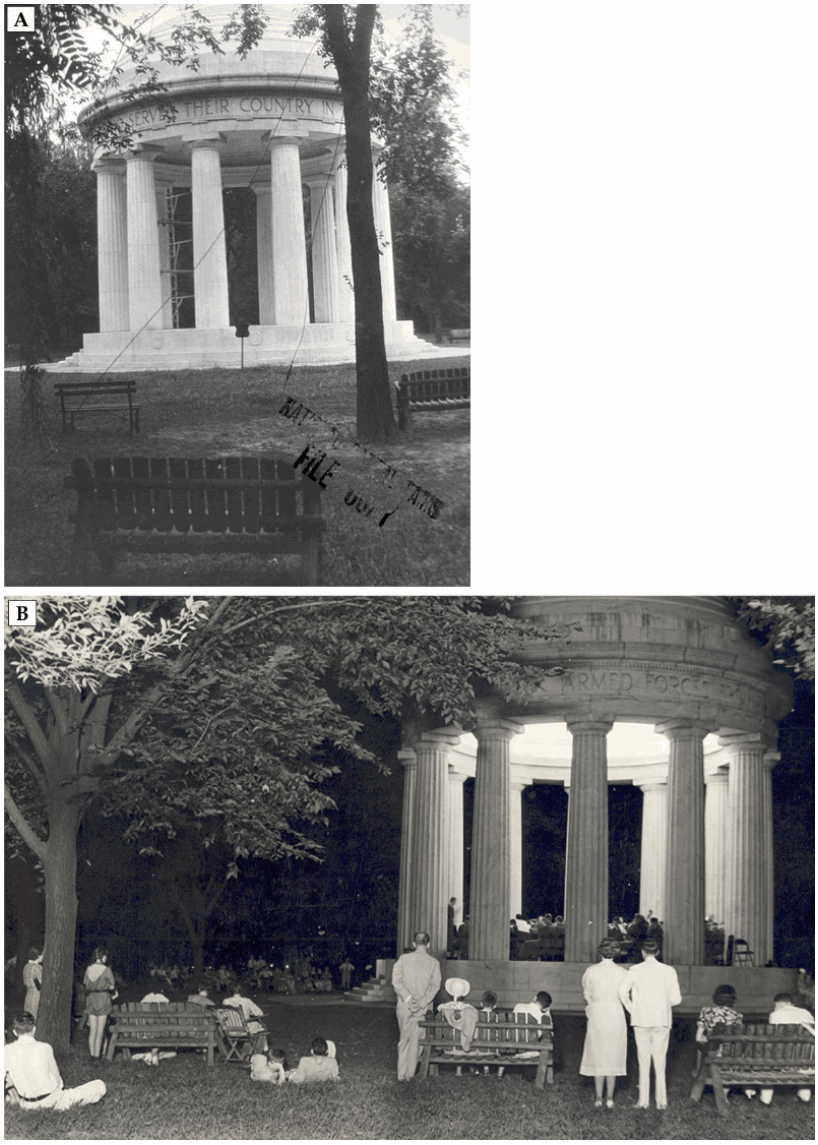


Figure 17. (a) Looking west in 1934; (b) An August 1938 photograph shows an evening band concert at the memorial, looking southeast (NCR MRCE 19.4-81). Note the "rustic" wooden benches, also known as the Washington bench, in the foreground of 17b.

1940 to 1960

THE SECOND WORLD WAR AND POST-WAR CHANGE

In 1940, the District of Columbia World War Memorial and May Day Corporation was formed in order to ensure the continuing tradition of an annual memorial observance at the site, and some small concerts continued to take place there. A brief note in the Washington Post

remarked that fifty benches had been installed around the monument in May, 1940, "for the use of band concert listeners. In providing this convenience for music lovers, [Superintendent] Gillen urged them to guard against injuring any of the 800 young dogwood trees recently planted near the memorial" (Washington Post, May 23, 1940).

Nonetheless, in the months that followed the memorial fell largely out of both the public eye and popular use. Following the attack on Pearl Harbor in December, 1941, the memorial to the Great War was increasingly overlooked as this conflict was suddenly overshadowed by another, still more massive, global clash of nations: World War II.

Washington, DC and West Potomac Park, in particular, underwent massive alterations as the United States became embroiled in this new, bigger war. In 1942, temporary office and dormitory buildings were constructed for government employees along the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool. Some of these, known as Buildings I, J, K and L, stood across Ash Road from the DC War Memorial and just south of the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool. More specifically, Temporary Building J cut the monument off from the central east-west axis along West Potomac Park, as well as views to the north (Evening Star, March 10, 1954; Figure 18). Meanwhile, the road system connecting the Pentagon to the two major river crossings at 14th Street and Memorial Bridge was begun that same year, and completed in August of 1943 (Joseph and Wheelock 1999: 54-5). This new circulation network south of the memorial and cramped layout of federal buildings surrounding the memorial meant that pedestrian access was almost completely cut off, with a busy throughway known as Independence Avenue on one side and restricted government property on the other. Although the east-bound lanes of Independence Avenue followed roughly the same alignment as the former bridle path south of the memorial, the addition of new west-bound lanes meant the accommodation of greater, faster moving volumes of automobile traffic.

Recognizing the weight of these impacts on the nation's capital, the National Capital Parks and Planning Commission, National Park Service, and Commission of Fine Arts began making plans to return West Potomac Park to its pre-war conditions even before the Second World War was over. Despite these efforts, however, some of the "temporary" changes made to the park during this period eventually became more permanent alterations.

Decline in Use of the DC War Memorial

Documentation of the DC War Memorial during and after WWII became scarce, as use and recognition of the monument declined. In particular, the summer schedule of concerts that had continued throughout the 1930s seems to have come to an end soon after the war began. Compounding the distractions of the war was the cinema, whose growing attractions increasingly drew summer entertainment-seekers indoors. For example, a few of the films featured these years included Fantasia, Citizen Kane, Meet John Doe, and The Girl in the News. As described in a Washington Post article from 1941, despite the various available outdoor activities in the area,

"the motion picture theaters…maintain a major hold on mass interest. It has been remarked

here too that many times before to need repetition now that this is a particularly fruitful period of cinematic display. There is not a poor picture on any downtown screen. There are so many superlatively excellent ones that extended runs are the order of the day…The outdoors will always be there, but not such a cinematic symposium as is now on view." (Washington Post, May 25, 1941)

More generally, the movie theater offered an unparalleled opportunity for Americans to escape, for a few short hours of surreal darkness, the reality of the war raging overseas.

Still, the summer concert schedule at the DC War Memorial continued to hold on for at least another year, or through the end of 1941. Concerts that season appear to have taken place with normal regularity, and included the usual weekly program of Navy, Army and Marine Band performances (Washington Post, August 3, 1941). Starting in 1942, however, service band concerts appear to have ceased at the DC War Memorial. These bands continued to perform at many of the same venues as before, including the U.S. Capitol, their own bandstands and barracks halls, a few local hospitals and a rising number of religious centers. The uninterrupted schedule of weekly concerts held at other outdoor theaters such as the Sylvan Theater, the Watergate Steps, and Meridian Hill Park thus implies that use of the DC War Memorial for regular summer programs had come to an end (Washington Post, March 29, 1942).

Despite the decline in public use of the memorial, the traditional May Day ceremonies continued to take place at the DC War Memorial on an annual basis. A 1944 photograph of this event, at its tenth anniversary, shows a large crowd standing up from rows of metal chairs arranged around the memorial (Evening Star, May 1, 1944; Figure 19a). At this time, the annual commemoration was used to honor not only the losses of World War I, but those of World War II (Evening Star, May 14, 1945). In part due to this new combined purpose, the event drew unusually large crowds including scores of local veterans groups and other organizations throughout the late 1940s (Evening Star, May 4, 1947). However, that same decade the memorial also lost two of its great supporters, Frank Noyes and his wife Janet. Tributes for each were held at the monument in 1948 and 1942, respectively (Waite et al. 2006: 24).

Perhaps in relation to its continued use as a place for public entertainment during the 1940s, detailed plans were laid out for the removal of vegetation in September of 1946. At this time the National Park Service planned to remove a total of seven Siberian elms (Ulmus pumila), two American elms, one oak (Quercus sp.), one poplar (actually probably a tulip tree, or Liriodendron tulipifera), and a tree-of-heaven (Ailanthus altissima) from the site, for reasons ranging from the "misshapened" form of a tree to its excessive size (DSC TIC 801/89889, 65.45-30). All of these trees grew in the central north-south corridor of the site, and thus also played an important role in views of the memorial. Some lower limbs of other trees in the grove were also slated to be removed, at this time (DSC TIC 801/89889, 65.45-30). It is difficult to determine how much of this planned thinning actually took place. However, the initial removal of some of the elms that once formed a geometric alignment along the edges of the parallel walks of the site, or those illustrated in the 1930s maps of the memorial landscape,

probably dates to this period.

The next apparent maintenance of the DC War Memorial occurred during the summer of 1949, when the building was again cleaned and repointed. That December it was also washed (Waite et al. 2006: 28). As part of the annual memorial ceremony in 1951, the planting of three memorial elm trees was planned for the grove, to be dedicated by the American Legion in memory of past Department Commanders John Lewis Smith, Harry Brown and Norman B. Landreau (Evening Star, May 7, 1951). Despite the surrounding trees, however, the memorial landscape was still effected by Independence Avenue and the temporary World War II buildings during these years:

"The memorial stands in an open avenue flanked by the trees of West Potomac Park. This open space runs from Independence avenue to the south. Motorists using that road catch a glimpse of the rear of the memorial. The memorial faces to the north—and the fence and the serried wings in the rear of the temporary building…The Rev. William B. Adams, commander of the District department of the American Legion, is asking that the temporary building be removed." (Evening Star, March 10, 1954)

Unfortunately, these calls were to go unheeded for some years to come, during which time the memorial landscape continued to be negatively impacted (see Figure 18). The buildings on the south side of the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool were not ultimately removed until the spring and summer of 1964 ("Buildings Demolished on Mall and Adjacent Areas, October 24, 1968, NCR files).

In April of 1956, the third and final American Legion memorial elm tree was planted in the grove next to the memorial. A concrete marker post was installed at the base of this tree, as well as the two other memorial elm trees dedicated by the American Legion (Harry T. Thompson to R. R. Bartel, April 26, 1956, NCR files; National Capital Parks-Central archives). The last popularly attended annual ceremonies at the DC War Memorial appear to have been held in 1958 and 1960. In May of 1958, an executive committeeman of the American Legion spoke in tribute to the 1,500 District men and women who died in World Wars I and II and in Korea. The Marine Band played, and the traditional poppy processional was accompanied by the placing of wreaths (Evening Star, May 1, 1958). Two years later, the District of Columbia War Memorial and May Day Corporation held its 25th annual commemorative observance at the memorial. Again, the Marine Band played and the national executive committeeman of the American Legion spoke, and a soloist also performed. According to the Evening Star, this ceremony was held not only in honor of District residents who fell during the three wars, but also in memory of Frank B. Noyes (Evening Star, May 16, 1960).



Figure 18. A view of the DC War Memorial looking north from Independence Avenue in July, 1946 shows the impact of the temporary World War II buildings on the landscape of the site, including views (NAMA files).

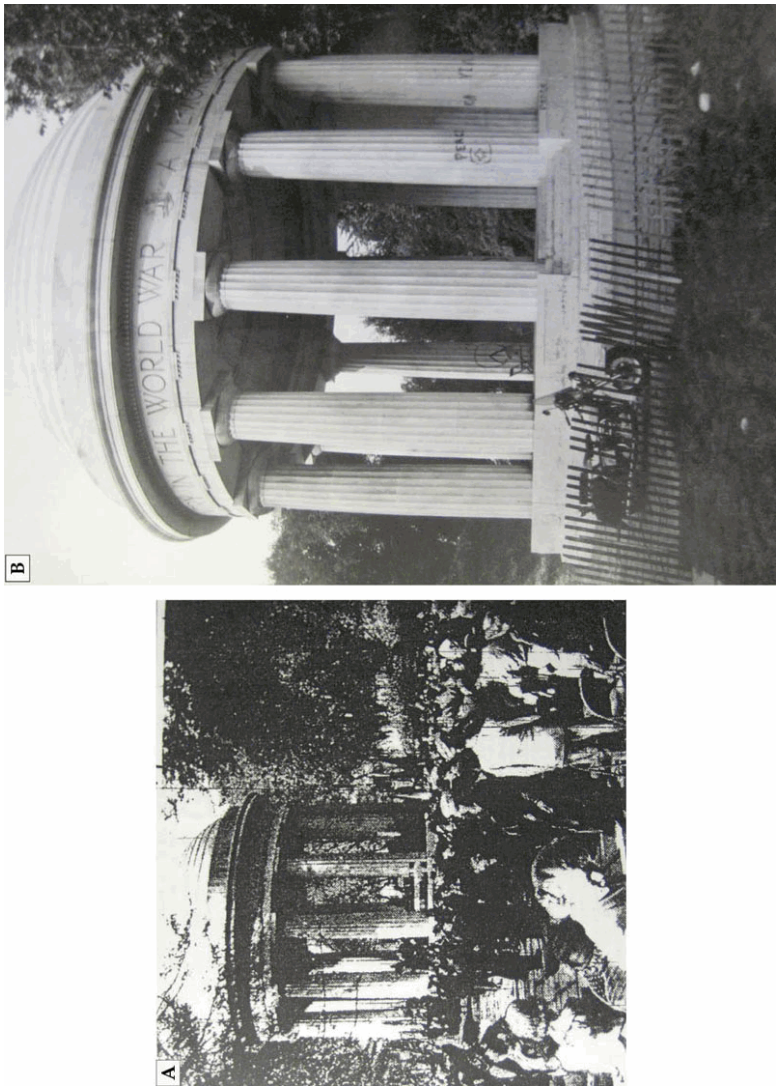


Figure 19. (a) The audience stands from their temporary seating at the annual May Day ceremony in 1944 (Evening Star, May 1, 1944); (b) A photograph showing vandalism of the memorial in the 1960s betrays the political tension of the times (NAMA files).

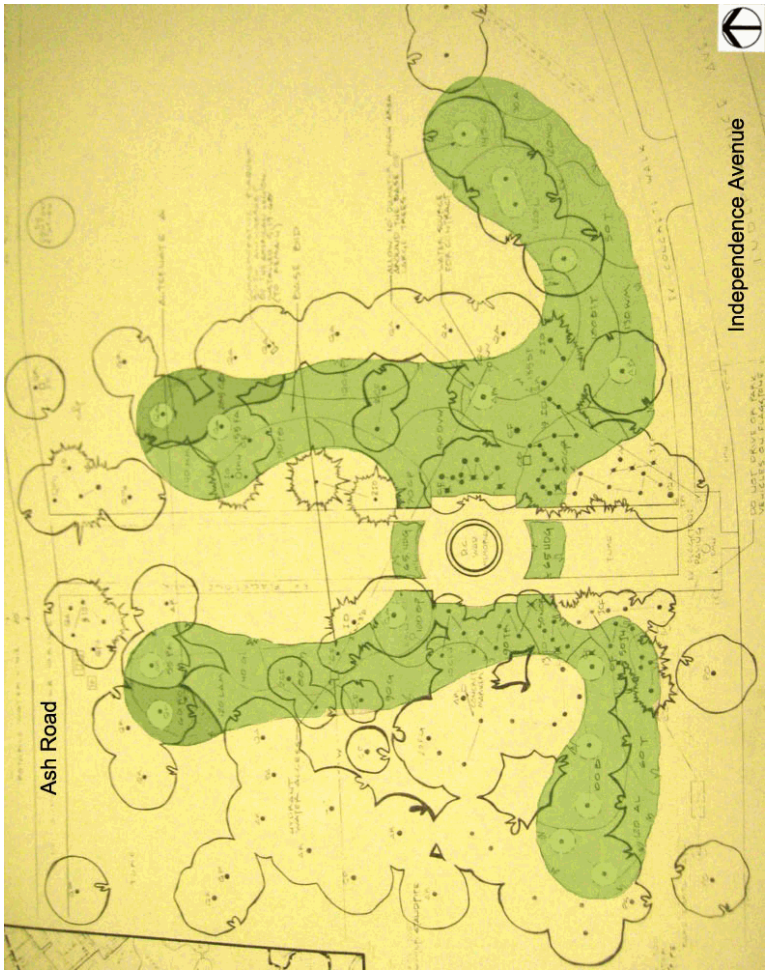


Figure 20. The planting plan for the installation of azaleas around the DC War Memorial in 1987, annotated with shaded areas showing locations planted with azaleas (DSC TIC 801/80912). Note the deviation from the original landscape plans for the site.

1961 to 2009

THE MEMORIAL IN THE MODERN AGE

The 1960s were a time of great change, in everything from cultural norms to politics and civil rights. The federal government was no exception, and during the 1965 reorganization of the National Park Service, the National Capital Parks-Central (NACC) division was formed to assume the jurisdiction of all NPS units located within the memorial core, including the DC War Memorial (Waite et al. 2006: 25). According to the available records, the memorial first received attention from this newly-formed NPS administrative unit in 1968. That July, NACC superintendent William R. Failor noted the presence of "serious structural deficiencies" at the memorial, the most severe of which had been caused by the old issue of water leaking through masonry joints (William R. Failor to Regional Director, July 16, 1968, National Capital

Parks-Central archives). In response to these observations, a report on the condition of the monument was subsequently researched by National Capital Parks-Central staff architect William A. Dennin, and submitted to Failor on April 21 (Waite et al. 2006: 25, 28).

Dennin's report not only confirmed Failor's observations of structural issues, but further elaborated upon the cleaning and repairs necessary to remedy the monument's undesirable condition. For example, during the Vietnam War years the memorial became particularly vulnerable to vandalism, due to its accessible location and symbolic value as a temple to war. Peace symbols spray-painted onto the building by vandals in the early summer of 1968 were just one symptom of this ongoing issue (Evening Star, June 29, 1968; Figure 19b). The extent to which any of the specific problems raised by Dennin's report were ultimately addressed is unclear. However, some of the leading causes for concern, including the leakage issue, persisted well into subsequent decades (Waite et al. 2006: 28).

In February, 1970, the circular hatch door covering the opening in the center of the memorial's floor was stolen. Partially in reaction to this event, additional drawings of the memorial were produced by NPS employee D. Robinson in 1971; but the repairs expected to follow were never made. Despite the listing of the site in the National Register of Historic Places in 1973, deferral of maintenance continued. In October of 1977, the stone walks surrounding the building were described as being in "very poor condition with some stones missing or sunken," and the floor of the monument was again observed to be in need of repointing (D.C. War Memorial report, October 7, 1977, National Capital Parks-Central archives). Another account the following month reported that the memorial was in "substandard maintenance condition" and in need of "complete rehabilitation," including cleaning, recaulking, waterproofing, replacement of gutters, and the removal and resetting of all stone walkways and floors (National Park Service Development/Study Package proposal, November 23, 1977, National Capital Parks-Central archives).

Few, if any, of these recommendations were ever carried out. A park inspection conducted in February of 1983 again noted water seeping down the columns from the dome and discoloring the floor, turning the white marble black and orange in some spots. The severity of these stains had by this time made it impossible to remove them with a regular cleaning. Cracks in the exterior of the memorial's base were also observed. Two 1984 inspection reports confirmed these issues and further remarked upon the formation of stalactites on the memorial, extensive staining of the dome ceiling, and evidence of structural failure around the tops of the columns. Vegetation was also observed growing from the joints on the dome (Waite et al. 2006: 29). In March of 1987, a new landscape plan resulted in the planting of 3,165 azaleas in the vicinity of the memorial, ranging from white to red to violet. Also observed at the site at that time were bottle brush buckeye (Aesculus parviflora) and a number of hardwoods, eleven of which were removed from the area south of the memorial (DSC TIC 801/80912; Figure 20).

Still, despite its clear need, repairs to the memorial were left unaddressed for over a decade afterward. In July, 1998 it was deemed unsafe for visitors and an estimate for the cost of necessary repairs was submitted. The following year, the flagstone walks on the south side of the memorial were removed and re-laid in a concrete base. Around the same time, the

rehabilitation of Independence Avenue was taking place, including the replacement of street lights along the avenue as well as the historic drinking fountain that stood just north of the road and southeast of the monument (NAMA files, TIC 898/41910). Soon afterward, the park installed two interpretive waysides on either side of the memorial, in the autumn of 2004 (Michael Kelly, Personal communication, February 26, 2009)

Development of the memorial rehabilitation project was slow, however, and when work on the memorial did not progress, repair costs had to be recalculated in January of 2005 (Waite et al. 2006: 29-30). At that time, an estimated sum of $450,000 was required to rehabilitate a structure described in 2004 as "visibly deteriorating" and in need of "extensive preservation work" (HABS and HSR Documentation for DC War Memorial, October 22, 2004). At this time, completion of the nearby World War II Memorial had brought some degree of public attention back to the DC War Memorial as the number of visitors to this area of West Potomac Park grew (Waite et al. 2006: 173).

Indeed, the memorial has continued to be used for various public and private functions, with over twenty events held there each year. This includes the annual May Day ceremony, held by the District of Columbia War Memorial and May Day Corporation, approximately ten to twelve wedding ceremonies, and about ten other events (National Mall and Memorial Parks Office of Permits, Correspondence, May 2009).

Planning the Future of the DC War Memorial

In the spring of 2005, the National Park Service unit formerly known as National Capital Parks – Central was renamed, and became National Mall and Memorial Parks. Over the past few years, the NPS has accomplished additional cleaning of masonry, removal of vegetation from the structure, and repointing at the memorial. For example, in 2007 National Park Service preservation staff repointed the dome of the structure, including the vertical joints on the exterior dome edge, and the inner dome was cleaned. Although the full memorial rehabilitation that is truly needed has still not occurred, some of the necessary planning stages are already underway.

In 2005, a team of preservation specialists including architects, structural engineers, historic landscape architects and a stone conservator surveyed the site in preparation for completing a Historic Structure Report. Despite years of deferred maintenance, they determined that the building was in relatively good condition thanks to its sound design and construction (Waite et al. 2006: 173). The resulting Historic Structure Report and Cultural Landscape Assessment, published in 2006, assessed the monument's condition as fair and noted the following:

"Water escaping from failed internal downspouts, located within four of the twelve columns, has caused staining and lime run on the columns, and is supporting the growth of algae at the base of the columns. Infrequent maintenance has allowed the exposed marble surfaces to become dirty and stained from atmospheric pollutants and biological growth." (Waite et al. 2006: 83)

Some of the landscape concerns at the site were addressed in October of 2008, when the park removed the azaleas planted in the center grass panels between the parallel flagstone walks north and south of the memorial, which had been planted in 1987. Vegetation trimming efforts over the past three years have also helped to contain the encroachment of the surrounding trees and shrubs on the building and primary north-south axis of the site (Jennifer Talken-Spaulding, Personal communication, February 25, 2009). The wayfinding project currently being developed for the National Mall (which extends from the Capitol to the Lincoln Memorial) and East Potomac Park also includes the DC War Memorial, and has the potential to increase the site's public visibility through the installation of additional signage around the memorial (Perry Wheelock, Personal communication, February 25, 2009).

In addition, on January 13, 2009 a bill was introduced to the 111th Congress by Representative Ted Poe of Texas, "To authorize the rededication of the District of Columbia War Memorial as a National and District of Columbia World War I Memorial to honor the sacrifices made by American veterans of World War I" (H.R.482). The bill includes the establishment of a World War I Memorial Foundation to collect funds to achieve the full restoration of the existing site as well as the installation of an additional artistic element, such as a sculpture, to complement the current memorial but also acknowledge its new national meaning (United States Congress, H.R.482: 2009). Poe's introduction of this legislation for consideration by Congress illustrates a general rise in public concern about the future of the DC War Memorial, though time will tell whether his proposition is a suitable alternative for the site.

Increased attention to the DC War Memorial will likely be generated by the addition of the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Memorial, whose site location adjacent to the Tidal Basin directly to the south was approved by the CFA in December, 1999. Accessed by pedestrians from Independence Avenue and Tidal Basin Drive, this site will occupy four acres and commemorate the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Standing along the axis between the Lincoln and Jefferson Memorials, this new memorial will help to draw visitors south from the National Mall along both Independence Avenue sidewalks and the flagstone walks of the DC War Memorial. The view looking south to the Tidal Basin from the DC War Memorial will also be altered by this development (Washington, D.C. Martin Luther King, Jr. National Memorial website, accessed July 7, 2009).

Since the completion of the Historic Structures Report in 2006, a funding request for rehabilitation of the site was submitted, including plans for the implementation of conservation and treatment measures recommended by the report. As of May 2009, planning for the rehabilitation of the DC War Memorial and cultural landscape is underway. Rehabilitation efforts will be funded with $7.3 million allocated through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) to "restore the historic and once-elegant District of Columbia War Memorial" (Washington Post, April 26, 2009).

Analysis & Evaluation of Integrity

Analysis and Evaluation of Integrity Narrative Summary:

INTRODUCTION

This section provides an evaluation of the physical integrity of the cultural landscape at the DC War Memorial by comparing the landscape characteristics and features present during the period of significance (1931-39) with current conditions. Landscape characteristics are the tangible and intangible aspects of a cultural landscape which express its historic character and integrity, and which allow visitors to understand the history of a site. Each characteristic or feature is classified as either a contributing or non-contributing element of the site's overall historic significance.

Landscape characteristics are classified as contributing if they were present during the property's period of significance, and non-contributing if they were not present during that period. Non-contributing features may in some cases be considered "compatible," if they are determined to fit within the physical context of the historic period and match the character of contributing elements in a way that is sensitive to the construction techniques, organizational methods, or design strategies of the historic period. Features designated as "incompatible" are those that are not harmonious with the quality of the cultural landscape, and whose existence can lessen the historic character of the property.

This section also includes an evaluation of the property's integrity in accordance with National Register criteria. The National Register recognizes seven aspects of integrity: location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. Several or all of these aspects must be present for a site to retain historic integrity. To be listed on the National Register, a property must not only be shown to have significance under one of the four criteria, but also should be demonstrated to retain integrity to the period of significance.

HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE

Landscape Characteristics and Features

Contributing landscape characteristics identified for the DC War Memorial are topography, views and vistas, circulation, constructed water features, buildings and structures, vegetation, spatial organization, land use, and small-scale features.

The topography of the DC War Memorial cultural landscape has changed little since construction of the monument in 1931. Originally a level plain to the south of the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool, the land around the building has only been regraded once since its dedication. The expanse of flat terrain on either side of the memorial thus still achieves the same effect that it did during the historic period of significance.

The cultural landscape of the DC War Memorial contains only one structure. The memorial building still possesses its original design, location and materials, but has sustained limited impacts to its

condition and was recently listed in poor condition by the List of Classified Structures (LCS). Nonetheless, the structure retains a high level of integrity and represents the central and primary feature of the historic site.

Views and vistas at the DC War Memorial remain much as they were during the 1930s. They feature the flat band of flagstone walks and grass panels that stretch north to the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool, and south to Independence Avenue and the Tidal Basin. From either end of the site the memorial sits elegantly in the foreground of these vistas, framed by woody growth on both sides. These north-south views were originally more open than they are today, with less vegetation encroaching from either side of the central corridor, but the preservation of the two grass panels has nonetheless ensured their survival. To the west, the United States Park Police (USPP) stables are fairly well hidden behind the trees of the grove, and can only occasionally be seen from the memorial. To the northeast, the public restrooms are visible from the memorial and several points along the axis created by the two grass panels to north and south of the shrine. These altered views could be modified through landscaping changes, however, and do not significantly impact the site's integrity to the historic period of significance.

Circulation patterns at the DC War Memorial have remained largely unaltered since its construction. Independence Avenue (formerly B Street South) and Ash Road still delineate the site boundaries to north and south, while access to the monument itself is provided by the 1939 flagstone walks. Unlike these outer walks, the inner flagstone loop walk surrounding the memorial retains a high level of integrity, having remained unchanged since it replaced the original walk in 1937. Although the materials have changed, the parallel 1939 walks leading north and south of the memorial preserve the same general layout as existed in 1931, with the exception of the outer circular walk around the memorial and the flagstone landings to the north and south. Meanwhile, the more recent development of social trails in the surrounding landscape is the result of pedestrian and occasional motor traffic cutting through Ash Woods to gain access to Independence Avenue and the West Basin Drive crosswalk. However, these paths do not represent a permanent alteration to the landscape, as they would not prevent the return of the landscape to its historic layout.

The current spatial organization of the memorial has changed little from what existed during the historic period. The north-south, linear space created by the parallel walks and grass panels is still marked at its center by the memorial, its white dome peaking out from between the overhanging trees. The size of the hardwoods and the extent to which they impose upon the structure has increased, however, while the grassy lawn that once invited concert listeners has now been replaced by shrubs and other understory growth. The alteration in apparent size of the building and its relationship with the surrounding landscape has thus impacted the integrity of the historic layout. The addition of the nearby United States Park Police stables and public restroom facility have had little effect on the spatial organization. The stables are already well concealed along the western edge of the site, barely visible from the memorial in the sparse winter months, while the visibility of the restrooms is not permanent. Thus, on the whole the site retains a moderate level of integrity.

Since the 1930s, the vegetation surrounding the memorial has played an important role in this cultural

landscape. The original building concept included a large grove of deciduous trees, and throughout the succeeding years the shade and movement created by these hardwoods have greatly enhanced the landscape design. Though missing their original brass plate markers, two of these trees are their own memorials, funded by and dedicated to private citizens and organizations in honor of the District's losses during World War I. A number of the hardwoods in the immediate vicinity of the memorial have disappeared since the 1930s, while much of the understory around the memorial has gone untended for years. More formal arrangements of dogwood (Cornus sp.) and azalea (Rhododendron sp.) were planted around the memorial in 1939 and 1987, respectively. However, these have since been partially removed due to their incompatibility with the original landscape plans for the site. Due to these changes and in particular the shift in the composition of vegetation along the main north-south corridor, the overall vegetation of the site retains a moderate level of historic integrity.

The constructed water features at the memorial site are unchanged from the original installations of 1931, and include three catch basins and a distribution box built on each of the monument's four sides. These features were meant to collect water runoff from the columns of the structure, and drain into three catch basins covered by metal grates. However, due to deferred maintenance, the entire system is no longer functioning fully and only retains a moderate level of integrity.

The use of the memorial today has shifted substantially from its historic function. Although constructed as both a bandstand and a commemorative site, its use in recent years has been dedicated primarily to memorial purposes and small permitted events. Due to the termination of regular bandstand events and summer concerts, there has thus been some loss of integrity in how the memorial is used. As a result, land use of the cultural landscape retains only a moderate level of integrity to the historic period of significance.

The small-scale features at the DC War Memorial reflect its goal of serving the visiting public, and are compatible with what originally existed at the site. Although the features themselves have changed, this landscape has long included two drinking fountains, as well as street lights along the road to the south. More modern additions to the site are benches and trash receptacles in the vicinity of the public restroom facility, and two interpretive waysides that stand on either side of the memorial.

The Seven Aspects of Integrity

1. Location – The physical location of the DC War Memorial and surrounding cultural landscape has remained unchanged since the monument's construction in 1931. Likewise, the boundaries of the property have not been significantly altered during this time. Despite some of the changes which have occurred around the site, including the construction and demolition of the temporary World War II buildings to the north and improvements to Independence Avenue to the south, the memorial grove and the monument itself have remained constant. Thus, the historic core and immediate landscape surroundings maintain a high level of integrity to the historic period of significance.

2. Materials – The materials of the memorial itself, including the Danby, Vermont marble and reinforced concrete, possess a moderate level of integrity. Although these elements have remained

largely unaltered since the building's construction in 1931, the marble in particular has become damaged in some places, including severe staining and discoloration. The flagstones and concrete base of the inner loop walk surrounding the memorial are the same materials installed to replace the original walk in 1937. The outer circular walk and associated parallel walks of the site, though they are not built of the original gravel, still contain the same flagstones that were laid during the site rehabilitation of 1939. On the whole, the materials of the memorial thus retain a high level of historic integrity, and remain an important part of the cultural landscape.

3. Design – The design of the DC War Memorial cultural landscape has remained largely intact over the decades, with the structure itself reflecting the neo-classical style of the early twentieth century. Since construction of the site, the memorial building has remained largely unchanged, and still stands at the center of a network of geometric walks sheltered between a grove of trees. The addition of a public restroom facility to the east of the memorial, though modern, reflects the site's continued public use. Some minor changes have taken place, including the installation of interpretive signs to north and south of the memorial and the addition of a concrete and gravel base for a small portion of the flagstone walks to the south of the building. However, the site design has been effected by the addition of dogwood trees (Cornus kousa and Cornus florida) and azaleas (Rhododendron sp.) in large numbers (1939 and 1987, respectively), as well as the mainly unchecked growth of volunteer vegetation. These shifts in the type and arrangement of vegetation around the monument resulted in a definite change to the landscape, even as the original structural elements have remained the same. The design of the DC War Memorial cultural landscape thus retains a moderate level of integrity.

4. Setting – The DC War Memorial is situated on a north-south axis that was carefully engineered to complement the McMillan Plan of 1901. Still achieving the commission's desired effect are wooded surroundings to east and west, offset by clear vistas to the north and south that are highlighted by the flagstone pathways leading up to the memorial. This setting is further enforced by the informal arrangement of tree plantings in the woods, which reflect the original plan. The formal 1939 and 1987 plantings of dogwood, holly and azalea along the edge of the circular and parallel walks around the memorial disrupt this historic integrity to some extent, although their removal could restore the viewshed and casual pedestrian access to the memorial from the woods. The formal arrangement of vegetation at the site is not only incongruous with the 1931 plans, but disrupts the intended openness of the memorial as a bandstand for public use. In addition, the busy nature of Independence Avenue is a distraction and source of noise pollution that was not originally a concern for the site. Nonetheless, with much of the historic landscape layout still intact, the setting of the memorial retains a moderate level of integrity.

5. Workmanship – Much of the original workmanship used in the construction of the DC War Memorial still survives today, including the Guastavino-tile marble work used in the dome construction and the inner circular flagstone walk around the building's base. The one exception to this rule are the remaining flagstone walks, or the outer circular walk and associated parallel walks, which were originally gravel. These were paved with flagstone in 1939, but this alteration does not represent a permanent landscape change. The workmanship of the memorial therefore retains a high level of integrity to the historic period of significance.

6. Feeling – The feeling achieved by the DC War Memorial today is similar to what would have existed during the historic period of significance. The memorial itself still appears much as it did during the 1930s, while the straight flagstone paths leading north and south offer views out over the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool and the Tidal Basin, respectively. However, the curved arrangements of dogwood and azalea that remain around the memorial's east and west sides convey a certain formality and monumental separation that was not originally intended for the memorial. At its construction, the purpose of the monument and surrounding landscape was to host concerts for the public, in addition to being a memorial site. As a result, public access to the building and the provision of space for hosting people in its immediate vicinity were top priorities. Another aspect of the landscape which has changed since the historic period of significance is Independence Avenue. Over the last fifty years, this road has become one of the primary throughways to and from the capital, whose appeal is increased by the scenic, broadly symbolic views of the National Mall that it provides. The noise and visual distraction caused by a large volume of cars almost constantly passing close by the memorial is something that effects the feeling of this cultural landscape, and alters it from what existed in the 1930s. Nonetheless, the visitor can still enjoy the view north of the monument with the National Mall stretching out beyond, or stroll through the grove on either side and imagine the sounds of the U.S. Marine Band floating out through the trees from inside the white marble columns on a warm summer night. The removal of the azaleas and arranged dogwoods, along with ongoing maintenance of other vegetation, could also help to restore the original feeling of the site. Thus, the feeling of the DC War Memorial retains a moderate level of integrity to the historic period of significance.

7. Association – The DC War Memorial was intended not only as a monument to those lost in World War I, but as a place for the public to appreciate music as a vehicle for both commemoration and healing. The scene originally envisioned in its design depicts the U.S. Marine Band playing from the interior of the monument, to an audience spread out through the surrounding grove of mature trees and grass. Although the memorial association of the site has remained relatively intact, this second component of its original purpose has fallen out of association with the monument. The woods around the memorial, as well as the building itself, have become less accessible to the public due to the volunteer and planted vegetation allowed to grow there. As a result, the association of the DC War Memorial has a moderate level of integrity to the historic period of significance.

CONCLUSIONS

This CLI finds that the DC War Memorial retains a high level of integrity for its period of significance, 1931 to 1939. Since that time, the cultural landscape has been minimally altered, and in some cases rehabilitated to its historic appearance. Those changes that have taken place are reversible and thus do not present a genuine threat to the site's overall integrity. The intent of the original design can be achieved through dedicated maintenance and some plant removal. Despite its general decline and lack of use as a bandstand over the past fifty years, the memorial endures as a strong symbol of not only the District's losses during the Great War, but the fortitude of its surviving citizenry.

Landscape Characteristic:

Topography

Historic Conditions

Before the arrival of Europeans, when the area that later became the District of Columbia was inhabited by the tribes of the Nacotchtank kingdom, the vicinity of what would one day become West Potomac Park was a broad, flat expanse of river bordered by swamplands. To the north and east, rolling hills sloped down to this spot, feeding the Potomac and Anacostia Rivers with runoff and stream water from Tiber Creek.

Drastic changes were wrought on this natural landscape in the late nineteenth century. When the overall area was filled in by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers between 1882 and 1897, it became part of a vast expanse of reclaimed flatland dedicated by Congress as public park. The grading and development of this land, which later became known as West Potomac Park, was dictated by the McMillan Commission and followed the original geometric axes laid out by L'Enfant's 1791 city design (see Figures 4 and 7). From a base height of 14 to 16 feet, two basins were carved out of the park, descending west from the Washington Monument and bordered to north and south by level lawns and woody groves. The general idea behind this concept was to emulate the natural design of river bottom landscapes, marked by "great open meadows, fringed by trees along the water side" (Moore 1902: 118). This idea eventually developed into the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool and adjacent basin, between 1922 and 1924.

The DC War Memorial was constructed in a woody grove of willows on the south side of the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool in 1931. Both before its construction and again in 1939, the site underwent grading and reseeding in order to ensure a flat lawn and grove area for public viewing.

Existing Conditions

The layout of this portion of West Potomac Park is virtually unchanged from what it was during the historic period of significance. In large part due to the ongoing deferral of maintenance at the site, it has not been regraded since 1939. Easily visible along the broad north-south axis on either side, the memorial still stands at the center of a level plain south of the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool. As a result, the topography at the DC War Memorial retains a high level of integrity, and contributes to the historic character of the cultural landscape.

Character-defining Features:

Feature: Flatlands surrounding the memorial

Feature Identification Number: 134754

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Buildings and Structures

Historic Conditions

The District of Columbia War Memorial was built in 1931 out of white marble quarried in Danby, Vermont, and using funds that were raised entirely by public subscription. The combination concrete and wood piles which form the base of its foundation may have been the first of their kind used for a public building in Washington, and in adapting to the watery subsoil of the site represent an engineering advance of the day. Atop these piles stood a concrete base supporting twelve fluted Doric columns and a domed roof large enough to shelter the United States Marine Band. The memorial commemorated the 499 District residents who died in World War I, whose names were inscribed on its circular base. These names include seven women, and appear in strict alphabetical order with no distinctions of race or gender. Throughout the historic period of significance, this was the only structure present at the site.

Existing Conditions

MEMORIAL

The DC War Memorial still stands intact in its historic location, and remains in relatively good condition thanks to its sound construction and original design. Decades of deferred maintenance have nonetheless left their mark, however, and today the structure stands in need of rehabilitation. The failure of mortar joints and sheet metal flashings have led to the ongoing leakage of water through the brick and terra cotta tile roof, leaving dark stains on the insides of the white marble columns. The building also exhibits evidence of weathering, specifically atmospheric pollutants and biological growth. Visible dirt and stains mark the exposed marble, while vegetation and algae can be seen growing through cracks in the masonry. Still, because these issues are not permanent the memorial retains a high level of integrity, and contributes to the historic character of the cultural landscape.

Character-defining Features:

Feature: DC War Memorial

Feature Identification Number: 134778

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Views and Vistas

Historic Conditions

Early views along West Potomac Park, or the West Mall as it was known then, featured the east-west axis that connected the U.S. Capitol and the Washington Monument with the Potomac River, and later the Lincoln Memorial. This design was carefully laid out in the McMillan Plan of 1901, which also helped to guide the construction of the DC War Memorial. Critical to the memorial landscape were views looking south to the Tidal Basin, and north to the

Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool and beyond. Influenced by the input of Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr., similar lines of American elm could be seen in both the carefully engineered, geometric layout of the National Mall, West Potomac Park and the more natural design of the Tidal Basin area. In this way, the DC War Memorial functioned as a central point along the wide vista created by the parallel flagstone walks and grass panels between them, leading in a straight line through the leafy grove to meet at a right angle with the main east-west axis of the National Mall and West Potomac Park. As described by General Cheatham in the landscape planning process, integral to the memorial design was a 50-foot wide, 70-foot long approach to the building at the axis of 19th Street, on the south side of the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool. Flanked by shaded sidewalks and marked with flat, green grass panels, this vista represented one of the core components of the memorial landscape (Commission of Fine Arts, September 1931: 14). The extent to which other views along the central east-west axis of the mall were visible during the 1930s is difficult to determine, but a perhaps idealistic sketch from the day of its dedication in 1931 depicts the Washington Monument in the distance (Figure 21).

Views to the north were blocked during several decades around mid-century, beginning with the construction of temporary World War II buildings along the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool in 1942 (see Figure 18). Views north to the flat, open expanse of West Potomac Park's central axis were partially restored in 1968, when the buildings south of the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool were removed. However, it was not until the 1970s that these vistas were returned to their approximate historic condition with the removal of the remaining temporary World War II structures.

Existing Conditions

With the removal of some hardwoods and the addition of substantial understory in 1939, around 1946, and in 1987, the views to north and south from the memorial have become less clearly defined. As one of the most crucial characteristics of the site, this central north-south vista has a strong influence on the overall cultural landscape of the DC War Memorial, and contributes to its historic character. Framed by the parallel walks on either side, clear views south to Independence Avenue and north to the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool were absolutely essential to the memorial landscape during the 1930s. Due to the healthy growth of understory and, in particular, holly along the edges of this corridor, it retains only a moderate level of integrity to the historic period of significance (Figure 22a).

For the most part, however, views at the DC War Memorial remain much as they were during the historic period of significance. The flat corridor created by the grass panels still leads the eyes beyond the immediate surroundings, to the Tidal Basin to the south and the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool to the north (see Figure 22a). Although their speed has increased significantly since the 1930s, cars still flow in either direction along B Street South, while pedestrians stroll along the shaded paths to the north. American elms are still visible lining what is today Independence Avenue, just as they grew along the early Tidal Basin road beginning in 1906. Corridors of the same species can also be seen along the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting

Pool to the north. Both of these views therefore retain a high level of integrity, and contribute to the historic character of the cultural landscape.

The carefully engineered order and linear arrangement of trees visible in the landscapes bordering the site offer a pleasing contrast to the more natural feel of the woodland grove surrounding the memorial. Views through the trees in either direction reveal additional hardwoods and an occasional glimpse of the USPP stables to the west. To the east, the public restrooms installed in the 1970s are clearly visible from the memorial, only partially shielded from view by the holly trees bordering the walks to the north (Figure 22b). As they are of more recent design and construction, neither this view nor that of the stables contribute to the historic character of the cultural landscape.

Character-defining Features:

Feature: View looking north of the Reflecting Pool

Feature Identification Number: 134756

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: View looking south of the Tidal Basin

Feature Identification Number: 134758

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: View looking northeast of the public restrooms

Feature Identification Number: 134760

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: View looking west of the USPP stables

Feature Identification Number: 134762

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Figure 21. A 1931 sketch depicts the DC War Memorial on Armistice Day of that year, the day of its dedication (Prints and Photos, Library of Congress).



Figure 22. (a) View looking south past the memorial to Independence Avenue, illustrating the thick understory even in winter; (b) View looking north from the east side of the memorial (NCR CLP 2009). Note the broken flagstone paving in the foreground.

Circulation

Historic Conditions

ROADS

Circulation patterns first appeared in the West Mall after the final grading and draining of the new land in 1912, and were guided primarily by the McMillan Plan of 1901. The geometric layout of roads in this more natural park setting effectively echoed the grid that existed throughout the rest of the city (see Figure 7). The first circulation route built along the north side of the Tidal Basin, where the east-bound lanes of Independence Avenue run today, was

constructed in 1906. Known as B Street South, this was a scenic macadam road that showcased the river and basin to passing riders and carriage passengers. Cinder foot and bridle paths were built along its edge, which was lined with American elms. These paths probably mark the origins of what was known in 1931 as Cinder Road, or the drive that ran along the north edge of the future DC War Memorial site (DSC TIC 801/89871). By the 1920s this road had been paved with gravel and was known as South Reflecting Pool Drive due to its proximity to the new pool to the north, or what would eventually be known as the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool (NPS n.d., DSC TIC 801/80813). In later years the same drive became known as Ash Road, a newer interpretation of Cinder Road, and gave rise to the name Ash Woods, which is used to identify the neighboring woodland to the south.

Between 1925 and 1926, alterations were made to the western end of B Street South, later known as Independence Avenue, so that it would pass by the planned John Ericsson National Memorial. In changing the angle of the road as it led east toward the north edge of the Tidal Basin, this relocation influenced the ultimate placement of the District of Columbia War Memorial. However, it did not substantially alter the path of the road in the vicinity of the site eventually chosen for the shrine (Caemmerer 1932).

In the years that followed, traffic to the south of the site gradually increased, and eventually became too much for the small road that existed in 1931. A wider, more substantial road replaced this path in 1942, which was eventually improved to create Independence Avenue.

WALKS

When the DC War Memorial was built in 1931, it stood between the parallel axes formed by a bridle path to the south and South Reflecting Pool Drive, also known as Cinder Road and later as Ash Road, to the north (see Figure 11a). The gray flagstone walk installed around the memorial's base linked to a pair of parallel gravel walks leading north and south from the building, connecting the site to the greater circulation network in a manner that echoed the broader geometric layout of the National Mall and West Potomac Park (see Figures 12a and 12b; DSC TIC 801/89871). In plans from the spring of that year, three grass walks lined with benches can be seen leading out radially from the building to the west and south, though these additional patterns of circulation likely disappeared as use of the site declined in subsequent years (see Figure 11a).

The original circular flagstone walk surrounding the base of the building, seven feet wide and set on a cinder and concrete base, was built from flagstones salvaged from in front of the U.S. Treasury Building by memorial architect Frederick H. Brooke in 1931 (DSC TIC 801/89873). It featured a collection of diamond, rectangular and trapezoidal stones arranged in an ornate design (Waite et al. 2006: 134; DSC TIC 801/89873).

By 1935, this original flagstone walk "had disintegrated very rapidly" due to the "elements and natural causes" (Frank B. Noyes to C. Marshall Finnan, August 29, 1935, NCR files). The

setting plan and pattern for the new flagstone walk was approved in September of 1937, and by the end of that month the stones were already being cut. Sometime in October its installation took place, as the National Park Service was aiming to complete the paving before the Armistice Day exercises on November 11, 1937 (Frederick H. Brooke to Louis Perna & Sons, Inc., September 30, 1937, NCR files). The new walk was paved with a gray Pennsylvania flagstone paving and arranged in a pattern similar to the original design.

The parallel walks leading north and south from the memorial were paved with gravel, and remained so throughout the historic period of significance (Waite et al. 2006: 134; DSC TIC 801/89871; DSC TIC 801/89873; see Figures 12a, 12b, and 16).

Existing Conditions

Circulation routes at the DC War Memorial today remain largely the same as they were during the historic period of significance.

ROADS

Although traffic along Independence Avenue has increased dramatically over the past fifty years, it has maintained basically the same alignment since the 1930s (Figure 23a). More specifically, today's road alignment is slightly to the south and substantially wider than the bridle path that probably existed here in the 1930s (Figure 23b; see Figure 15). Likewise, Ash Road has remained relatively unchanged over the years, and today is used as an east-west pedestrian walkway and for official park purposes. In 1986 it was still a gravel drive, and was probably paved some time in the 1990s (NPS 1986). As a result, these two roads retain a high level of integrity, and contribute to the historic character of the DC War Memorial cultural landscape.

WALKS

As a part of the rehabilitation work done in October of 1939, considerable flagstone paving was installed around the memorial. The inner walk immediately around the building, with its intricate design of carefully cut flagstones, remained the same. However, a new outer loop was now added, and the parallel gravel walks leading north and south of the memorial were paved with flagstones. This resulted in the disappearance of the four angles that used to frame the memorial, as the parallel walks approached the central flagstone paving (see Figures 11 and 15). Meanwhile, two rectangular landing areas were also paved with flagstones to form a kind of finite end to the parallel walks of the site, one immediately north of Independence Avenue and a second to the south of Ash Road, then known as Cinder Road (see Figures 15 and 23a).

All of the new 1939 pavements featured a random layout of 2-inch thick rectangular flagstones resting upon a base of cinders and sand, separated by 2-inch wide joints filled with topsoil that quickly grew in with vegetation (Waite et al. 2006: 134; DSC TIC 801/89876). These "grass seams" were apparently intended "to lend a dignified and natural appearance to the memorial

site," but in view of their limited practicality may also have been related to other factors, including finances and ultimately unfulfilled expectations of future improvements (Evening Star, November 5, 1939). The joints in these walks have since been filled with concrete, but some weeds can still be observed pushing out through them today. Some of the flagstones are also missing or damaged, due to the poor original design and long-term use of the walks (see Figures 22a and 22b).

During the plans for rehabilitation of the memorial in 1971, D. Robinson noted that both inner and outer circular flagstone walks were in need of repair. Roughly twenty percent of the flagstones in the inner walk, and ten percent of those in the outer walk, were either missing or broken. Robinson recommended that the outer walk be set in a new concrete base, but these plans were never carried out (DSC TIC 801/89889, 65.45-31).

In 1999, the flagstone walks to the south of the memorial were re-laid in a concrete base, a project that took place in association with the rehabilitation of Independence Avenue the same year. The 1939 construction date of most of the walks, combined with this alteration to the south walks in 1999, compromises the integrity of the outer loop and parallel walks around the memorial. However, these walks still preserve the essence of the original walks, in their general layout and location (see Figure 15). Moreover, in some cases they provide not only pedestrian but restricted vehicular access to the memorial for maintenance purposes. As a result, these walks help to draw pedestrian traffic away from the surrounding grove and grass areas.

The inner loop of the circular walk surrounding the memorial retains a high level of integrity to the historic period of significance and contributes to the historic character of the cultural landscape. As for the remainder of the walks, their parallel layout remains essential to the historic interpretation of the site, despite their more recent construction and design. Thus, although the outer loop, parallel flagstone walks and flagstone landings do not contribute to the historic character of the cultural landscape, their effect is highly complementary to an understanding of the site as it appeared in the 1930s, while the layout of the parallel walks contributes to the historic character of the cultural landscape.

SIDEWALKS

The precursors to today's paved sidewalk along Independence Avenue were the cinder foot and bridle paths originally built along the road looping the Tidal Basin in 1906 (see Figure 15). The memorial rehabilitation work of 1939 included the paving of the parallel walks with flagstonesThese paths were not paved until the last few decades of the twentieth century. In particular, the sidewalk leading west from the flagstone terrace along Independence Avenue was noted as a "bare earth path" in 1987, and probably was not paved until the 1990s (Neal 1987, DSC TIC 801/80912). Thus, although the modern sidewalk does not contribute to the historic character of the DC War Memorial, its geometric layout and location make it compatible with the memorial's original design.

SOCIAL TRAILS

Due in large part to reduced visitation levels and the rare use of the DC War Memorial, it has over the years become popular among the city's homeless. Those who know the site well and spend considerable time there have over time cut trails through the vegetation, leading more directly between points than the paved flagstone walks permit. These social trails are marked by compacted ground, exposed tree roots, lack of vegetation and sometimes a slight depression (Figure 24; see Figures 22b and 23a). As modern additions to the memorial that speak to its low visitation, these trails do not contribute to the historic character of the cultural landscape.

Character-defining Features:

Feature: Ash Road

Feature Identification Number: 134764

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Innermost loop of flagstone walk around memorial

Feature Identification Number: 134768

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Independence Avenue (formerly B Street South)

Feature Identification Number: 136602

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Parallel alignment of walks leading to memorial

Feature Identification Number: 134770

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Social trails

Feature Identification Number: 134772

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Independence Avenue sidewalk

Feature Identification Number: 134774

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Outer loop of flagstone walk around memorial

Feature Identification Number: 136604

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:

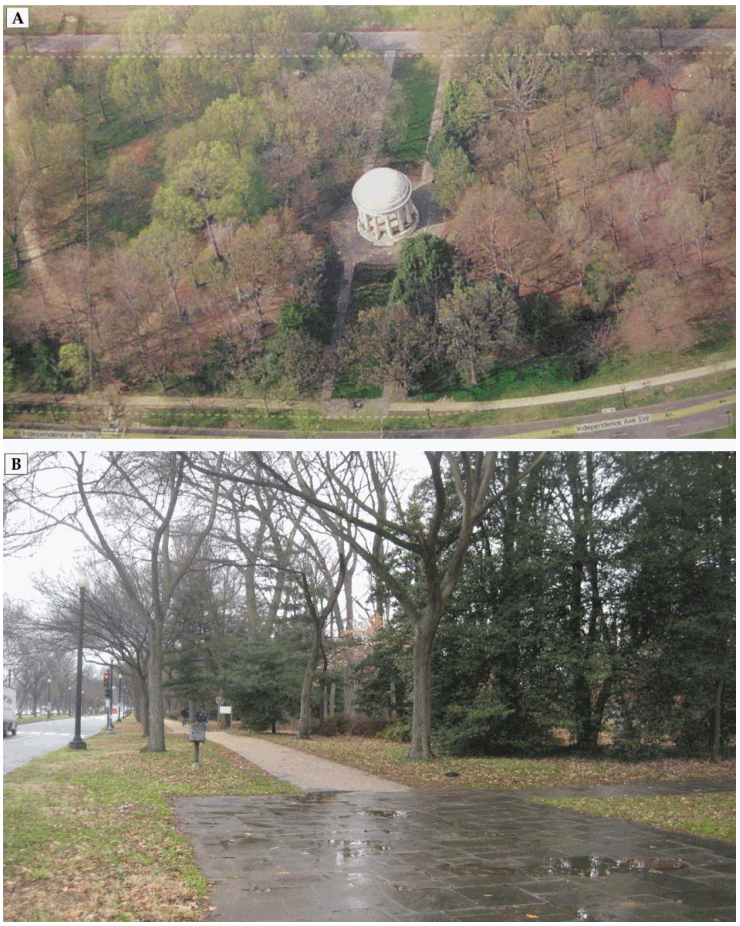


Figure 23. (a) Aerial view of memorial site in winter, showing circulation (Virtual Earth 2009); (b) Looking west along Independence Avenue from the flagstone pavement south of the memorial (NCR CLP 2008).



Figure 24. Looking northeast from the DC War Memorial, with social trails in the foreground (NCR CLP 2009).

Spatial Organization

Historic Conditions

The spatial organization of the DC War Memorial played an important role in its design. Considerable effort was devoted to not only choosing an appropriate site, but determining what type and size of vegetation should surround the monument. For example, in 1928 the Commission of Fine Arts reviewed a life-size outline of the memorial at its proposed location south of the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool, in order to better visualize the proposed spatial layout of the site. The ultimate effect was one of sweeping yet delicate elegance, featuring a simple Doric temple centered along a broad north-south vista, framed by over-arching trees and lush but contained greenery. Meanwhile, placement of the circular monument at the center of the rectangular grid laid out by the grass panels and walks served to link the site with the overall geometry of the rest of West Potomac Park and the National Mall.

Existing Conditions

Today, the memorial retains a similar relationship to the surrounding environment as it did during the 1930s. This includes its placement along the open grass panels and flagstone walks, as well as its proximity to the surrounding grove. However, the extent to which the nearby vegetation imposes upon the building and associated walks is substantially greater today than it was during the historic period of significance. The addition of understory vegetation in 1939 and 1987, as well as the unchecked natural growth and spread of the remaining hardwoods, together have

filled in the historically open landscape and heavily screened the once dominant memorial structure. More specifically, some of the formal plantings of dogwood and azalea that took place in 1939 and afterwards infringe on the monument in a way that is inconsistent with the original design. As a result, the spatial organization of the DC War Memorial retains a moderate level of integrity, but still contributes to the historic character of the cultural landscape.

Character-defining Features:

Feature: Alignment of memorial, flagstone walks, and grass panels

Feature Identification Number: 134798

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Location of memorial within grove of trees

Feature Identification Number: 134800

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Vegetation

Historic Conditions

The earliest European accounts of the flatlands bordering the Potomac River describe clusters of sweet gum (Liquidambar styraciflua), oak (Quercus sp.), and hickory (Carya sp.) at the water's edge. By the late eighteenth century, there were wild oats, reeds, berry bushes and shrubs growing in these marshlands. As for the site that was later occupied by the DC War Memorial, it was at the time located along the east edge of the river, submerged by water until the Army Corps of Engineers used fill to create land here beginning in 1882. As development of the new property continued, in 1915 the Office of Public Buildings and Grounds planted roughly 1,500 trees and 3,200 shrubs on the unimproved areas to the north and south of the planned reflecting pool.

In 1931, a grove of old willows grew at the construction site of the new memorial. Although they were removed that year and replaced with a selection of hardwoods, these original trees played an important role in the conception of the monument. In one of the final plans submitted to the Commission of Fine Arts by Brooke, Wyeth and Peaslee in 1925, it was specified that the building should have a height greater than its width but "lower than the surrounding trees" (Commission of Fine Arts 1926: 91). Trees were also included in the scale model of the memorial constructed for public display in the District's downtown area, further indicating their importance to the overall plans. An issue of the Evening Star meanwhile touted the "lovely natural setting" in which the future memorial would stand (February 27, 1926). Indeed, essential to the impression of classical Greek elegance was the stark contrast between smooth, carefully designed marble and the unpredictable liveliness of the natural world. Situating the memorial in a grove of trees further made it a more flexible feature in the overall landscape of the West Potomac Park, in effect exempting it from a strict adherence to the geometric layout

of the 1901 McMillan Plan. In the words of landscape architect James L. Greenleaf, "the ultimate good effect must rely upon a well developed grove and the beauty of the structure under the resulting light and shade. I would absolutely avoid all fancy planting and flower beds" (James L. Greenleaf to Charles Moore, December 15, 1930, National Park Service archives, NCRSF Box 35, File 1430).

More specifically, Greenleaf offered the following counsel on the memorial landscape, as recounted by Charles Moore on April 25, 1931:

"He recommended that the entire area from the John Paul Jones Monument to the first north and south road be considered the area to be treated in connection with the bandstand. He advised that the large willows be retained for the present together with such other trees as are in fairly good condition; that other trees as large as possible be planted informally so as to create shade over the entire area. The flowering trees and birches now existing should be preserved where possible. From the bandstand to the driveways both north and south there should be a broad pathway 60 feet in breadth with two flagstone walks with grass between them on each side of the pathway to provide for those going to and coming from the concerts. Especially he recommended that the underbrush which has grown up beneath the double row of trees lining the north driveway be entirely cleared out. This undergrowth is already marked for destruction and the sooner it is cut the finer will be the appearance of that section of the park. The double row of trees on each side of the driveway should be maintained in their full integrity and the pheasant house on the north side should be removed as it is now an eyesore." (Commission of Fine Arts, April 1931: Exhibit K)

In the months that followed, the project followed Mr. Greenleaf's advice, for the most part. Later that autumn, certain trees deemed unnecessary or unhealthy were removed from the memorial site, and Greenleaf's opinion was again consulted as plans for the rest of the site emerged. He suggested "an open vista North and South but one formed by trees not too strictly in line or necessarily of the same species. To this end it is proposed to leave as many trees as conform to the idea of informal approaches from North and South and add other trees where required" (Frederick H. Brooke to William Adams Delano, September 17, 1931, National Park Service archives, NCRSF Box 35, File 1430).

A few days later, the CFA endorsed a landscape plan submitted by landscape treatment committee chairman General Cheatham. The design called for "a 70-foot approach to the memorial at the axis of 19th Street on the south side of the Reflecting Basin. This vista [was] to be 50 feet wide, flanked by sidewalks, shaded by trees with a grass panel between" (Commission of Fine Arts, September 1931: 14). On the whole, a delicate balance was struck between creating an informal grove and an accessible, welcoming site for the visiting public. The simple grass panels along the north-south axis thus served not only to link the monument with its surroundings, but provide the proper visibility that a public memorial required.

In keeping with the trends of the time, a series of memorial tree plantings were also planned for

the DC War Memorial. These stood 25 feet high and were arranged in a roughly circular pattern around the monument, in order to ensure the proper grove setting for the building. In some cases, small concrete pedestals were installed at the base of the tree, and a brass marker attached to indicate the name of the person or organization whose donation was responsible for the planting. Most were American elms (Ulmus americana) though some were other hardwoods, and the first was dedicated by Janet T. Noyes just before the memorial dedication, in October of 1931.

Thus, the trees standing around the memorial for its dedication in 1931 included a few of these recently-planted American elms as well as some of the remaining swamp trees and willows. The 25-foot planted elms stood in a circular pattern spreading out from a central 50-foot circumference of sod around the building, while others stood in a linear arrangement along the outer edge of the parallel gravel walks. Garden subcommittee chairman Benjamin F. Cheatham elaborated on his vision for the memorial thus: “It is the purpose to leave some of the great willows as a background in the distance, and to plant also some large tulip trees some distance away from the memorial. Then in between this outer fringe of the grove and the elms around the memorial will be planted other hardwoods, such as oaks, beech, and elms” (Evening Star, October 14, 1931). Brooke’s plans for the site in August of 1931 further confirm this design, illustrating a 43-foot radius around the memorial’s circular flagstone walk to east and west, which was to be seeded with grass and serve as a buffer between the building and the surrounding trees (DSC TIC 801/89873).

In the end, photographs of the memorial in the 1930s indicate that Cheatham’s landscape plans were more or less realized, with the elegance of the classic monument offset by the naturally healthy yet unimposing presence of the surrounding grove (see Figure 16). Judging from a 1946 drawing of the site, a number of American elms surrounded the memorial in a roughly circular arrangement about 42 feet from the building, while along the walks to north and south stood alignments of Siberian elms (DSC TIC 801/89889). Oaks were also present along the parallel north-south walks (see Figure 15). Judging from 1939 drawings of the site, the 1933 plantings of holly and dogwood did not follow a strictly formal plan, but were installed in two small clusters on either side of the north end of the parallel walks north of the memorial, and also in a rough line on either side of the parallel walks to the south. None of these smaller trees were planted on the inner side of the hardwoods that flanked the parallel walks leading to the center of the site, but instead were carefully placed just outside of these trees so that the memorial continued to be framed by the original elegance and height of the elms and oaks (see Figure 14). The existence of a number of small eastern redbud (Cercis canadensis) trees to north and south of the memorial, most within about twenty feet of the parallel walks, in a 1939 map of the site suggests that they were probably planted around the same time, and arranged in a similar way, as the 1933 dogwood and holly trees (DSC TIC 801/89888 and 801/89889; see Figure 15a).

This resulted in a light, general thickening of the vegetation along the north-south corridor of the site, which during the period of significance consisted of holly, dogwood and redbud trees

ranging from two to three feet in height (see Figures 14 and 15). However, of great importance is the fact that these understory trees were all positioned further from the parallel walks than the alignment of elms planted along this north-south corridor. Thus the impression of a clear and open vista was successfully preserved by these hardwoods, throughout the 1930s. Their removal in subsequent years, possibly during the 1940s, resulted in the gradual increase of understory growth into this crucial central corridor of the site.

Subsequent plantings at the memorial included a massive installment of additional dogwoods, or as many as 1,800 in all, in 1939. These ranged in height from six to twelve feet, and included 1,200 of the white and 600 of the pink variety (Frank T. Gartside to Janet T. Noyes, November 14, 1939, NCR files). Although the exact number and location of these plantings is unknown, at least 800 of them were planted in the immediate vicinity of the memorial (Washington Post, May 23, 1940). A large-scale planting of azaleas also took place in the immediate vicinity of the memorial in 1987 (see Figure 20).

Existing Conditions

The vegetation at the DC War Memorial today has been altered in several ways from that which existed during the historic period of significance. Although most of the dedication markers are no longer extant, some of the memorial hardwoods and several other historic trees still stand, and contribute to the historic character of the cultural landscape (Figure 25; see Figure 1). In addition to elm, the species of today's memorial grove include American beech (Fagus grandifolia), sugar maple (Acer saccharum), red maple (Acer rubrum), white oak (Quercus alba), pin oak (Quercus palustris), willow oak (Quercus phellos), shingle oak (Quercus imbricaria), red oak (Quercus rubra), and scarlet oak (Quercus coccinea), as well as some white pine (Pinus strobus), river birch (Betula nigra) and sweet birch (Betula lenta) on the western portion of the site. Several historic beech trees are present to the south of the memorial, while over fifteen historic oaks are spread throughout the landscape, between 100 and 200 feet from the building (see Figure 25). Three eastern redbud trees grow to the southeast of the memorial, two of which are historic and were likely planted in 1933. A sweet gum that measured fourteen feet high in 1939 still stands nearby, in the southwest corner of the site (DSC TIC 801/89888). These trees represent an important component of the broader landscape design described by Cheatham in 1931 (Evening Star, October 14, 1931). As a result, the historic trees still standing at the site retain a high level of integrity, and contribute to the historic character of the cultural landscape. As for the memorial grove more generally, despite the loss of the majority of its historic elms, it retains a moderate level of integrity and also contributes to the historic character of the site.

Of equal importance is the framing effect that was formed historically by hardwoods standing along the edge of the site, both along the circular grass area around the memorial and down the outer edges of the parallel walks to the north and south. This design has disappeared almost entirely from the landscape, most likely as a result of Dutch elm disease. Although eighteen of the original nineteen elms arranged in this pattern were extant in 1946 (DSC TIC 801/89889),

only four of these are still standing today (two of which were mistakenly labeled as red maples in the 1987 site plans, or DSC TIC 801/80912). Some of these trees may also have been intentionally removed from the landscape. In September of 1946, the National Park Service planned to remove seven Siberian elms, two American elms, one oak, one poplar (actually probably a tulip tree, or Liriodendron tulipifera), and one tree-of-heaven, all of which were within twenty feet of the central parallel walks of the site. However, it is difficult to discern to what extent these plans were actually carried out (DSC TIC 801/89889). It is likely that the initial removal of some of the elms that lined the edges of the parallel walks of the site, or those illustrated in the 1930s maps of the memorial landscape, dates to this period (see Figure 15).

Nonetheless, a certain pattern can still be found in the arrangement of vegetation at the memorial site. Dogwoods and hollies, a number of which are historic, stand almost entirely concentrated along the outer edges of the north-south axis formed by the parallel walks and grass panels. Only two remain of the several eastern redbuds that stood on either side of the main north-south corridor during the 1930s and through 1946 (see Figures 15 and 25). Meanwhile a number of maples, none of which were present in the 1930s, have to a limited extent replaced some of the elms that once surrounded the building (see Figure 25). For example, four medium- to large-sized maples stand along the same north-south corridor and central circle lines that were once defined by historic elms. This alignment thus retains a low degree of integrity, but still contributes to the historic character of the cultural landscape.

The presence of some non-native species and a thicker understory in some spots around the memorial do not contribute to its historic character. Volunteer trees at the site include white mulberry (Morus alba), Siberian elm (Ulmus pumila), Chinese elm (Ulmus parvifolia), common persimmon (Diospyros virginiana), and holly (Ilex sp.). A myriad of shrubs and perennials grow here as well, namely the following: tree-of-heaven (Ailanthus altissima), bottlebrush buckeye (Aesculus parviflora), ground ivy (Glechoma heracea), mugwort (Artemsia vulgaris), Jimson weed (Datura metaloides), broadleaf plantain (Plantago major), curly dock (Rumex crispus), ragweed (Ambrosia artemisifolia), dandelion (Taraxacum officinale), white clover (Trifolium sp.), porcelain berry (Ampelopsis brevipedunculata), bittersweet (Celastrus orbiculata), ivy (Hedera helix), poison ivy (Rhus radicans), privet (Ligustrum sp.), and climbing nightshade (Solanum dulcamara).

The majority of these plants are volunteer vegetation, and none of them contribute to the historic character of the cultural landscape. The massive planting of dogwoods and American holly that took place around the memorial in 1939 resulted in a similar shift of purpose for the site, as the new understory impeded the audience's ability to view and enjoy performances from the central building. Likewise, azaleas planted around the memorial in 1987 conflict with the original openness of the grove. Although these plantings were partially removed in October, 2008, when the grass panels to the north and south of the memorial were returned to their original appearance, many azaleas still remain in the vicinity (see Figures 22b and 25). Immediate maintenance plans for the site include the removal of all bittersweet, tree-of-heaven, porcelain berry, and privet. Neither the 1939 plantings nor the more recent azalea additions contribute to the historic character of the cultural landscape.

Character-defining Features:

Feature: Open grass panels on the north-south axis

Feature Identification Number: 134782

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Grove of hardwoods including elm, beech, oak, and sweet gum

Feature Identification Number: 135676

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Memorial trees

Feature Identification Number: 134786

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Alignment of hardwoods along the parallel walks and in a roughly circular shape around the memorial

Feature Identification Number: 135678

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Formal plantings of azalea

Feature Identification Number: 134788

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Tree-of-heaven

Feature Identification Number: 134790

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Bottlebrush buckeye

Feature Identification Number: 134792

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Other invasive vines, trees, shrubs and perennials

Feature Identification Number: 134796

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Mahonia

Feature Identification Number: 134794

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Formal plantings of holly and dogwood arranged directly along the north-south corridor of the site

Feature Identification Number: 135680

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Figure 24. Men planting a holly tree at the DC War Memorial on December 29, 1933 (Washington Herald, December 29, 1933).

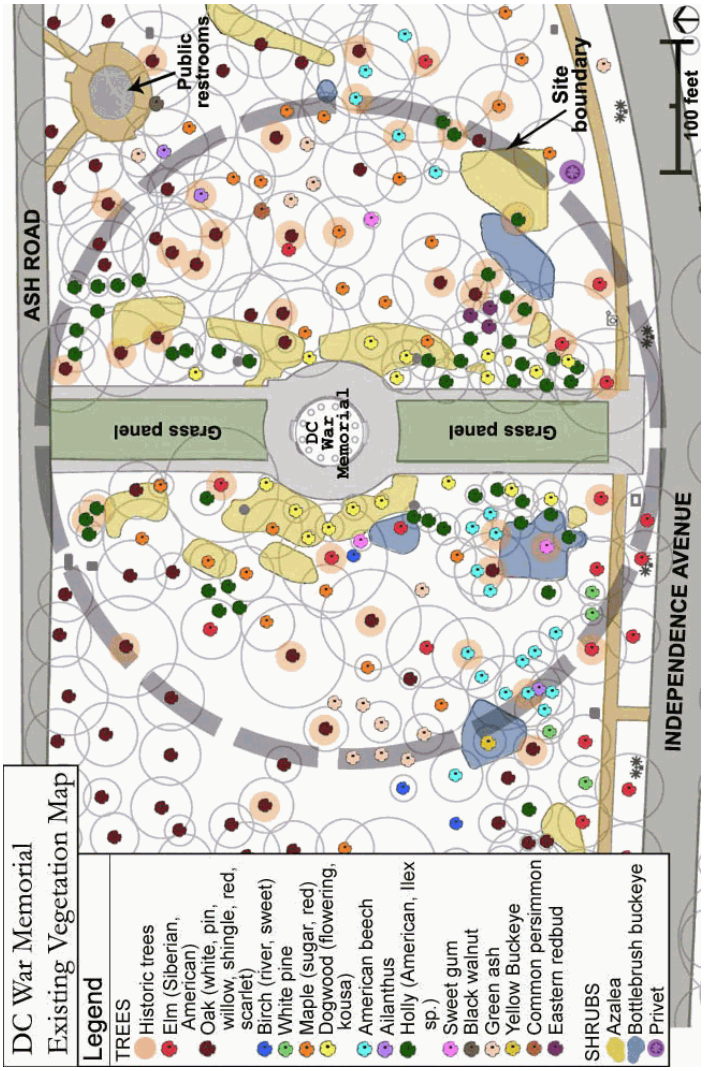


Figure 25. Map showing the existing vegetation at the DC War Memorial, including grass panels, trees, shrubs and volunteer growth.

Constructed Water Features

Historic Conditions

The drainage system for the DC War Memorial was an integrated feature in its design and construction. A lead gutter installed around the base of the outer dome fed storm water runoff into drainpipes inserted in 6-inch-diameter holes that had been drilled through the center of the northeast, northwest, southeast, and southwest columns. Four catch basins covered with metal grates were installed approximately twenty yards from the memorial in the southwest, southeast, northwest and northeast corners in order to collect the water draining out of the columns. A capped concrete distribution box was installed at the same spot in the northwest corner, to serve a similar purpose (Waite et al. 2006: 19).

Existing Conditions

Judging from the existing evidence, the constructed water features at the DC War Memorial have attracted little attention or maintenance, over the years. Recent testing associated with the 2006 Historic Structure Report and Cultural Landscape Assessment revealed that the drainage system was not fully functional, and in need of either extensive repairs or replacement. As part of the original 1931 construction, these constructed water features nonetheless retain a moderate level of integrity, and contribute to the historic character of the cultural landscape.

Character-defining Features:

Feature: Catch basins with metal grates

Feature Identification Number: 134776

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Land Use

Historic Conditions

Following its creation at the beginning of the twentieth century, use of the land in West Potomac Park has remained virtually unchanged. Like many public parks, the two primary use themes of this landscape have been recreation and commemoration, or the same two factors that motivated the construction of the District of Columbia War Memorial.

When it was built in 1931, the DC War Memorial joined the Washington Monument, Lincoln Memorial and a number of memorial trees at this end of West Potomac Park. Also nearby were polo grounds, open grassy areas used for croquet, horseback riding, and archery, and an old wooden bandstand (see Figure 8). A popular program of summer concerts took place there throughout the 1930s, along with an annual May Day ceremony to commemorate those lost in World War I. The U.S. Marine Band and others performed inside the marble dome, while members of the audience spread out on chairs, benches or even the ground in the grass and grove of trees surrounding the memorial. Although the National Park Service did its best to prevent vandalism, the city's youth also used the space as a hangout spot to play games and roller skate, among other things.

Existing Conditions

Use of the DC War Memorial has waned over the past fifty years, and today the site attracts only a light volume of visitors. Although an annual ceremony is still held by the District of Columbia War Memorial and May Day Corporation, the last summer concerts at the memorial took place in the late 1930s. Other annual gatherings at the site include about ten to twelve wedding ceremonies and approximately ten other events. Due to its urban location in the center of Washington, DC, the building and surrounding woods in particular are subject to use by the city's homeless. Consequently, land use at the DC War Memorial retains a moderate

level of integrity to the historic period of significance, but still contributes to the historic character of the cultural landscape.

Character-defining Features:

Feature: Recreation

Feature Identification Number: 134802

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Commemoration

Feature Identification Number: 134804

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Habitation

Feature Identification Number: 134806

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Small Scale Features

Historic Conditions

Since its construction in 1931, the DC War Memorial has been marked with a minimal number of small-scale features. This is partly due to the open, public nature of the site but also to its constant exposure to vandalism over the years.

DRINKING FOUNTAINS

One of the few features mentioned in the early documentation are drinking fountains, which were presumably installed around the same time as the memorial itself. According to the existing records, these fountains were relocated in 1933 so as to improve drainage and convenience to visitors (Waite et al. 2006: 25). As depicted in a map from 1939, one of them stood just east of the flagstone path as it lead south from Ash Road. A second was being planned for a spot in the east corner formed by the new flagstone walk just off of Independence Avenue (see Figure 15; DSC TIC 801/89884).

STREET LIGHTS

The original street lights lining Independence Avenue were probably installed in the 1930s, and were Washington globe lights (NAMA files, TIC 898/41910).

BENCHES

Audience seating was installed for the regular season of memorial summer concerts, and was one of the original small-scale features planned for the site in 1931 (see Figure 11). During the

1930s, visitors sat upon portable, green wood-slat benches with metal frames, or on the grass around the memorial (see Figures 13 and 16). At this time, concert audiences appear to have been quite content with seating themselves on the ground around the building, although additional metal chairs were apparently brought to the site for large events in the 1940s and afterwards (see Figure 19a). As early as 1934, historic photographs illustrate the presence of the portable but heavier, more "rustic" wooden bench known as the Washington bench along with the lighter seating originally seen around the memorial (see Figure 17a). By the late 1930s the Washington bench had become the more prominent at the site, though some of the older benches were still in use (see Figure 17b). According to a Washington Post article from May 23, 1940: "Francis F. Gillen, acting superintendent of National Capital Parks, yesterday announced installation of 50 benches near the District War Memorial in West Potomac Park for the use of band concert listeners" (Washington Post, May 23, 1940). No comment is made on the style of these new benches, but it is likely that they were the same Washington benches used at the site during the 1930s, now returned to the site in the spring of 1940 after having been removed during the cold winter months when the memorial was not in use for concerts. In later years, most of the audience was usually seated upon portable metal chairs, as illustrated in a photograph from 1944 (see Figure 19a).

INTERPRETIVE FEATURES

Some signs were also present at the site during the historic period of significance. These were typically small, badge-shaped wooden signs set on a single metal post just outside the circular flagstone paving around the memorial (see Figure 17a).

Existing Conditions

Today, more small-scale features at the site of the DC War Memorial than there were historically. This is primarily due to the need of the National Park Service to meet the demands of a growing number of visitors to the National Mall.

MEMORIAL TREE MARKERS

Three memorial tree markers were installed at the base of three elms planted around the memorial in the 1950s, beginning in 1951. These were dedicated by the American Legion in memory of past Department Commanders John Lewis Smith, Harry Brown, and Norman B. Landreau. Each marker consisted of a brass plate attached to a concrete base. Only two of these remain, both of which are missing their original brass plates. As features that were added to the site after 1939, these markers do not contribute to the historic character of the cultural landscape. However, considering the plantings of memorial hardwoods at the site in the 1930s, their purpose is not incongruent with the DC War Memorial's overall theme.

DRINKING FOUNTAINS

There is one existing drinking fountain within the boundaries of the DC War Memorial cultural landscape. It stands along Independence Avenue and to the north of the sidewalk on the south eastern edge of the site, about five yards east of the flagstone walk, and is a double fountain made of metal and painted brown. It was installed sometime after 1999, when a historic fountain was removed from the same vicinity during the rehabilitation of Independence Avenue (NAMA files; DSC TIC 898/41910). This feature is not original to the 1931 landscape. However, as drinking fountains were a part of the original design for the site, its continued presence is still compatible with the historic character of the cultural landscape.

STREET LIGHTS AND UTILITIES

A line of street lights runs along the south edge of the site, spaced about twenty-five yards apart and set in between the sidewalk and Independence Avenue. Although street lights were likely installed along Independence Avenue soon after its construction, their exact original location and design are unknown. The line of cobra lights that stood here in 1999 may have been the same lighting features that existed in the 1930s, but these were replaced during the rehabilitation of Independence Avenue that year. A total of 38 cobra lights were removed, and 83 twin twenty Washington globe lights were installed in their place (NAMA files, DSC TIC 898/41910). As a result, the existing street lights compliment the historic interpretation of the site, but do not contribute to its historic character.

Two metal utilities boxes sit just south of Ash Road on the northern edge of the property, about five yards west of the flagstone walk. They are fairly well camouflaged by the surrounding vegetation, but can sometimes be seen from the central north-south axis of the site. As fairly recent additions to the landscape, these features do not contribute to the historic character of the DC War Memorial.

INTERPRETIVE FEATURES

In the autumn of 2004, the park installed two interpretive waysides on either side of the memorial, detailing some of the history and significance of the site as a World War I monument (Michael Kelly, Personal communication, February 26, 2009; see Figures 22a and 22b). A directional sign also stands along the sidewalk of Independence Avenue southwest of the site, identifying the memorial for passing pedestrians and providing a map of the surrounding area. As late twentieth and early twenty-first century installations, these features do not contribute to the historic character of the DC War Memorial.

Character-defining Features:

Feature: Drinking fountain

Feature Identification Number: 134808

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Street lights along Independence Avenue

Feature Identification Number: 134810

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Utilities boxes

Feature Identification Number: 134812

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Interpretive waysides

Feature Identification Number: 134818

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Signage along Independence Avenue

Feature Identification Number: 134820

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Condition

Condition Assessment and Impacts

Condition Assessment: Fair

Assessment Date: 08/12/2009

Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:

This determination takes into account the cultural landscape condition, which includes the current condition of buildings and structures, natural systems and features, circulation, spatial organization, land use, cluster arrangement, topography, vegetation, views and vistas, constructed water features, and small-scale features at the DC War Memorial. Thanks to survival of many characteristics that originally composed this site, the historic landscape retains a high level of integrity. Through the removal of selective plantings and ongoing maintenance, the intended design and association of the memorial can be re-established. It is recommended that improving the condition of the landscape to facilitate public use become a priority, in order to fully appreciate the historic significance of the memorial and its purpose. To raise the condition of the property to "good," the park should address these maintenance and use issues, with attention to both the memorial and the surrounding landscape.

The Assessment Date refers to the date that the park superintendent concurred with the Condition Assessment.

Impacts

Type of Impact: Deferred Maintenance

External or Internal: Internal

Impact Description: The memorial has long-standing drainage issues, damaged or uneven walks and masonry, and is constantly being overgrown by the surrounding vegetation.

Type of Impact: Structural Deterioration

External or Internal: Internal

Impact Description: The interior drainage system of the memorial is in need of repair throughout the structure.

Type of Impact: Exposure To Elements

External or Internal: Internal

Impact Description: Evidence of the effects of weather are clearly apparent on both interior and exterior of the memorial, in large part due to ongoing issues of water leakage. In particular, severe staining of the

masonry is present on the columns and floor of the building, and can also be seen in some places on the outer base and inscriptions. The flagstone walks are also in need of repointing due to wear.

Type of Impact: Vegetation/Invasive Plants

External or Internal: Internal

Impact Description: Invasive and non-native plants are present on the property, including white mulberry, Chinese elm, tree-of-heaven, bottlebrush buckeye, leatherleaf mahonia, ground ivy, mugwort, Jimson weed, broadleaf plantain, dock, porcelain berry, bittersweet, ivy, poison ivy, privet, and deadly nightshade. These species threaten to choke the historic hardwoods that grow at the historic site.

Type of Impact: Soil Compaction

External or Internal: Internal

Impact Description: Due to extensive pedestrian use of the grove around the memorial to gain access to Independence Avenue and the West Basin Drive crosswalk, a network of social trails have developed on the memorial's east and west sides.

Type of Impact: Erosion

External or Internal: Internal

Impact Description: The roots of trees, some of which are historic, have been exposed through the wear of social trails around the memorial site. This not only endangers the health of the tree, but poses a risk to public safety due to tripping hazards.

Type of Impact: Pollution

External or Internal: External

Impact Description: Urban noise pollution from the neighboring Independence Avenue and overhead flights from Reagan National Airport impacts the historic character of the cultural landscape at the DC War Memorial. The consistently heavy, high-speed traffic along this road interrupts the solemn, classical nature that originally existed at the site.

Treatment

Treatment

Approved Treatment: Rehabilitation

Approved Treatment Document: Historic Structure Report

Document Date: 05/01/2006

Approved Treatment Document Explanatory Narrative:
HISTORIC STRUCTURE REPORT AND CULTURAL LANDSCAPE ASSESSMENT

The overall strategy for treatment of the DC War Memorial cultural landscape is rehabilitation, with the primary objective of adapting the site for increased public visitation. More specifically, the 2006 Historic Structure Report and Cultural Landscape Assessment suggests the following:

Landscape

- Fence off the entrances to worn social trails around the memorial and mulch to restore turf and discourage continued use.
- At the least, prune the holly trees along the flagstone walks to 6 feet tall or less. At best, remove these trees in an alternating pattern so as to open up the space to sightlines and visitor access.
- Remove the remaining azaleas and dogwoods standing in a formal arrangement to the east and west of the memorial, in order to restore the open, easy access that was intended for the site. As some of these are healthy, mature plants, they could be replanted elsewhere in the park.
- Selectively prune vegetation to improve sightlines beneath the canopy, pruning the understory in order to provide a full 360-degree vista from the memorial.
- Continue to trim all vegetation (with the exception of historic elms and other hardwoods) away from the memorial in an effort to rehabilitate the landscape to the open, grassy area that was historically available for seating.
- Maintain some degree of understory southwest of the public restrooms and east of the park stables in order to shield these more modern additions from memorial views.
- Regrade and restore the lawn area surrounding the memorial.
- Replace the existing flagstone paving that runs north and south of the memorial, including the installation of a reinforced concrete base capable of supporting vehicular traffic and new flagstones that match the original paving in pattern, color, texture and size.
- Map and restore site drainage, including the installation of new downspouts and piping if necessary, in order to ensure that both the monument and surrounding landscape remain properly drained.

Monument (additional recommendations can be found in the 2006 HSR/CLA)

- Clean the marble of the memorial using chemical and water treatments to remove soil, stains, vegetation, and other biological deposits.
- Run additional tests to determine an effective method for removing the biological agent causing discoloration of the marble.
- Rehabilitate the masonry by doing the following: remove and reset individual pieces of displaced marble, pin broken stones, repoint marble construction, and perform dutchman repairs where stones are missing or mortar has been improperly laid.

- Install a new gutter and flashings that replicate the original sheet metal construction.
- Rehabilitate memorial lighting by doing the following: replace the electrical panel box, replace all circuit wiring, and replace the cove lighting beneath the lower dome to match the original lighting design intent.
- Install a new floor panel to access the basement of the memorial that replicates the original decorative one that was stolen.
- If possible, restore the memorial to its original use as a bandstand for summer concerts.

RESTORE THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA WAR MEMORIAL (PMIS)

A project known as “Restore the District of Columbia War Memorial” is currently in process at the DC War Memorial, and listed as PMIS 150359. The PMIS project file was created on January 15, 2009, and the total project cost is listed as $7,280,000. It has been region-reviewed, and includes the complete restoration of the District of Columbia World War Memorial and surrounding landscape. Based upon the analysis and recommendations of the Historic Structure Report and Cultural Landscape Assessment, it will address lighting, storm water drainage systems, the removal of non-historic plants and alignments, and the trimming of trees and plantings at the site. It will also include full repairs to the memorial structure, and result in the creation of a maintenance manual for the DC War Memorial cultural landscape.

Approved Treatment Completed: No

Approved Treatment Costs

Landscape Treatment Cost: 1,109,158.00

Cost Date: 05/01/2006

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

Cost Estimator: Park/FMSS

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Citation Author:	LeeDecker, Charles and Kristie Baynard
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