National Park Service
Cultural Landscapes Inventory

2007



Marconi Memorial, US Reservation 309 A
Rock Creek Park - DC Street Plan Reservations

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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:

US Reservation 309 A is bordered by Lamont Street to the northeast and 16th Street to east. Fifteenth Street, NW (ext.) borders the reservation to the northwest, west, and south. The 0.23-acre reservation is part of the Rock Creek Park administrative unit. However, it has no thematic relation to the park other than its nearby location.

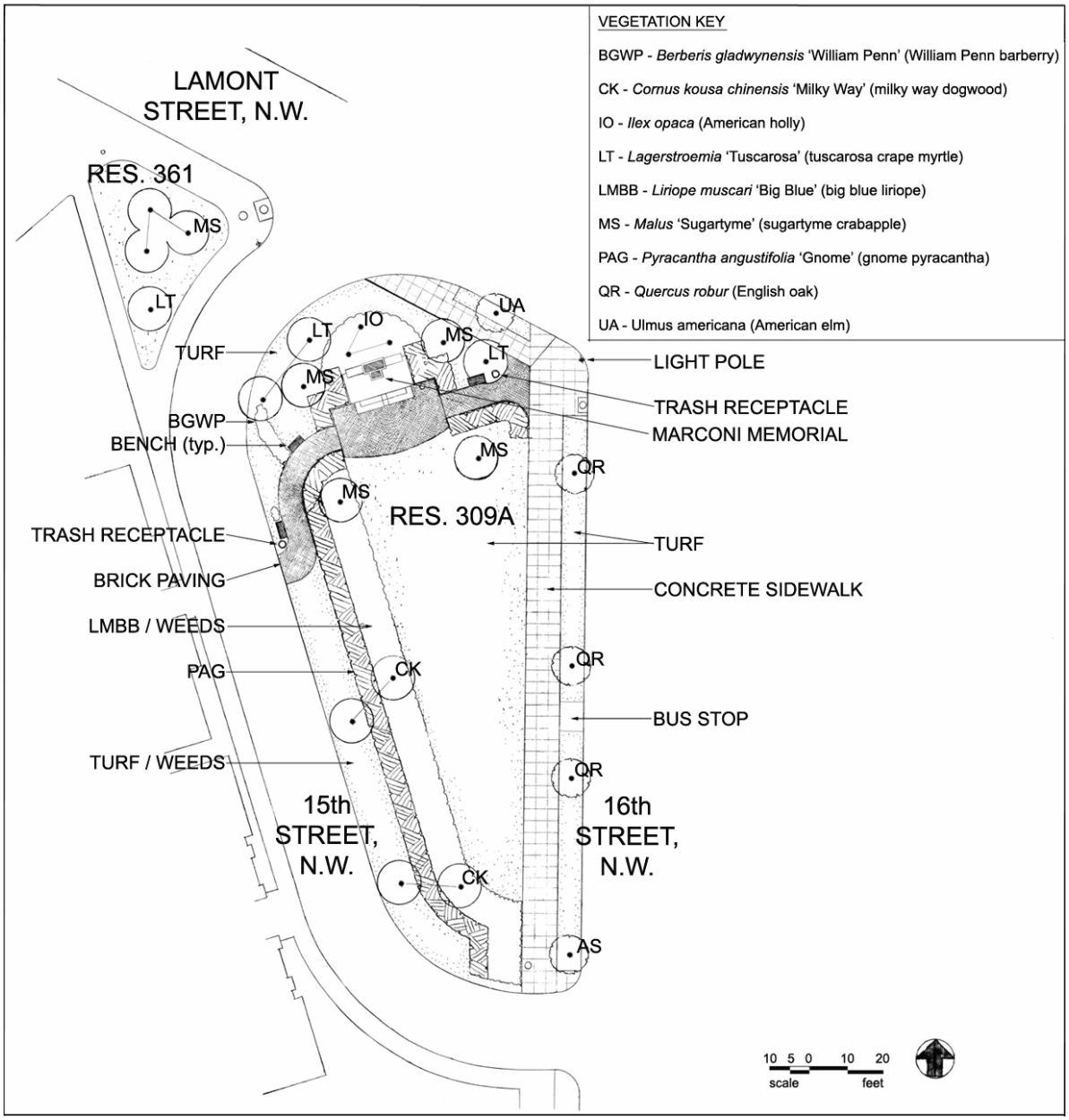
The inventory unit is located within the Mount Pleasant Historic District, which was listed on the National Register on October 5, 1987. The district is roughly bounded by 16th and Harvard Streets, Rock Creek Park, and Adams Mill Road in northwest Washington. The district is significant at the state level under National Register Criterion C in the areas of Architecture and Community Planning and Development with a period of significance of 1870 to 1949. The existing nomination does not describe or mention the Marconi Memorial or US Reservation 309 A, but the district encompasses both. As such, the inventory unit and, more specifically, its landscape are not adequately documented. The Marconi Memorial (statue and base), located within US Reservation 309 A, has been found to be significant in both the Guglielmo Marconi Memorial National Register of Historic Places Registration Form and the Memorials in Washington, DC National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form (Barsoum 2006b and 2006a), both approved by the Keeper in October 2007. The memorial itself has been found to be significant under National Register Criterion C in the area of art with a 1941 period of significance, the year of its installation and dedication.

The Reservation 309 A property is likely eligible for listing on the National Register under Criterion C in the area of Community Planning and Development. The period of significance begins with the extension and improvement of 16th Street past Florida Avenue in 1903 and ends with the installation of a memorial to Guglielmo Marconi in 1941. The reservation's cultural landscape, specifically designed to complement and enhance the memorial, contributes to the property's significance. The majority of the landscape features were designed by landscape architect Joseph Gardner and included vegetation, bituminous concrete walkways, and a central area of turf.

This CLI finds that US Reservation 309 A retains integrity for its period of significance, 1903-1941. The landscape of 309 A remained relatively unchanged until 1988, when the vegetation was updated with disease-hardy and pest-resistant plants, and the circulation pattern was modified. Despite some deterioration, the results of the1988 rehabilitation are still clearly evident. While making some changes to the historic landscape, especially with regard to materials, the plan was sensitive to the original design intent. The vegetation massing and circulation still frame and highlight the memorial. The cultural landscape today evokes the historic significance of the property retaining integrity of location, design, setting, and feeling.

Though the Marconi Memorial, U.S. Reservation 309 A still retains many features of its 1940 design, the cultural landscape is in fair condition. It is subject to heavy pedestrian use, including homeless individuals. This use affects the soil and vegetation of the park as well as the memorial itself. The vegetation should be rehabilitated to improve the landscape to good condition. The 1940 and 1988 landscape plans may serve as guides.

Site Plan



2007 existing conditions plan of Marconi Memorial, US Reservation 309 A. (NCR CLP 2007). This plan is adapted from the 1988 landscape restoration plans prepared by Darwina Neal, National Capital Region. (DSC TIC 878/85304).

Property Level and CLI Numbers

Inventory Unit Name:	Marconi Memorial, US Reservation 309 A
Property Level:	Component Landscape
CLI Identification Number:	600265
Parent Landscape:	600163

Park Information

Park Name and Alpha Code:	Rock Creek Park - DC Street Plan Reservations -ROCR
Park Organization Code:	345A
Subunit/District Name Alpha Code:	Rock Creek Park - DC Street Plan Reservations - ROCR
Park Administrative Unit:	Rock Creek Park

Concurrence Status

Inventory Status: Complete

Completion Status Explanatory Narrative:

This inventory was researched and written by Andrew Simpson, Intern, and Christopher Stevens, Regional Cultural Landscape Inventory Coordinator, with the Cultural Landscapes Program of the National Capital Region (NCR).

The project was initiated in January of 2007 and completed in September. Primary and secondary research sources are listed in the bibliography.

Research and editorial assistance were provided by the following NCR staff: Darwina Neal, Chief Cultural Resource Preservation Services; Maureen Joseph, Regional Landscape Architect; Saylor Moss, Historical Landscape Architect; Stephanie Bailey, Intern; Perry Wheelock, Chief of Resource Management, National Mall and Memorial Parks, and Ronda Bernstein, Volunteer, Rock Creek Park.

Concurrence Status:

Park Superintendent Concurrence: Yes

Park Superintendent Date of Concurrence: 08/30/2007

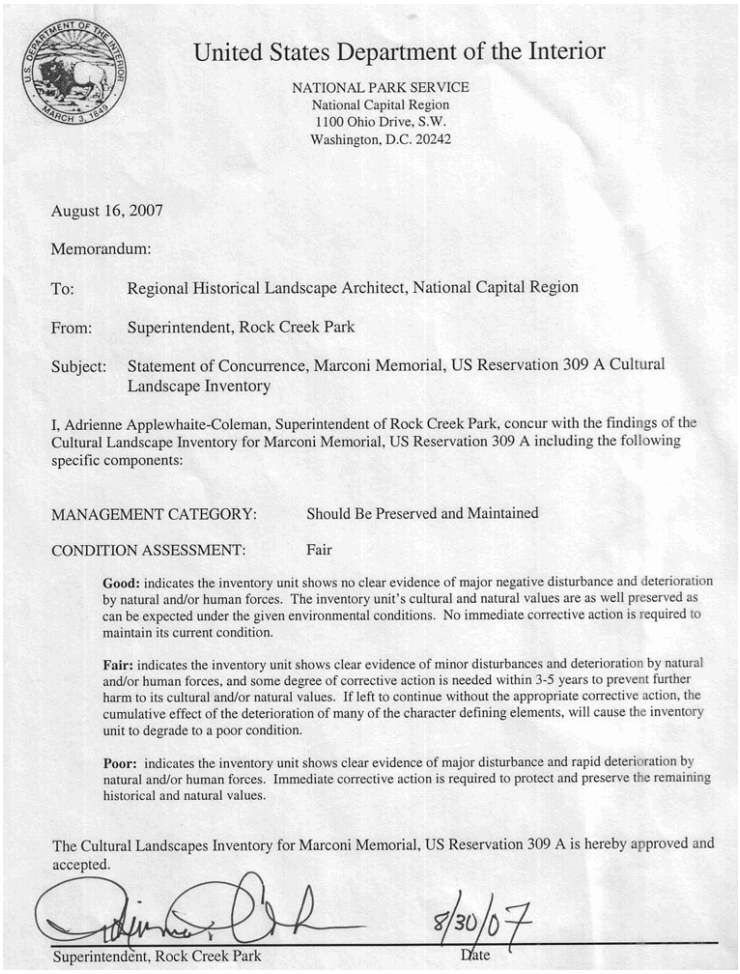
National Register Concurrence: Eligible -- SHPO Consensus Determination

Date of Concurrence Determination: 09/18/2007

National Register Concurrence Narrative:

The State Historic Preservation Officer for the District of Columbia concurred with the findings of the Marconi Memorial, US Reservation 309 A Cultural Landscape Inventory on September 18, 2007, 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

August 16, 2007

Memorandum:

To: Regional Historical Landscape Architect, National Capital Region

From: Superintendent, Rock Creek Park

Subject: Statement of Concurrence, Marconi Memorial, US Reservation 309 A Cultural Landscape Inventory

I, Adrienne Applewhaite-Coleman, Superintendent of Rock Creek Park, concur with the findings of the Cultural Landscape Inventory for Marconi Memorial, US Reservation 309 A including the following specific components:

MANAGEMENT CATEGORY: Should 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.

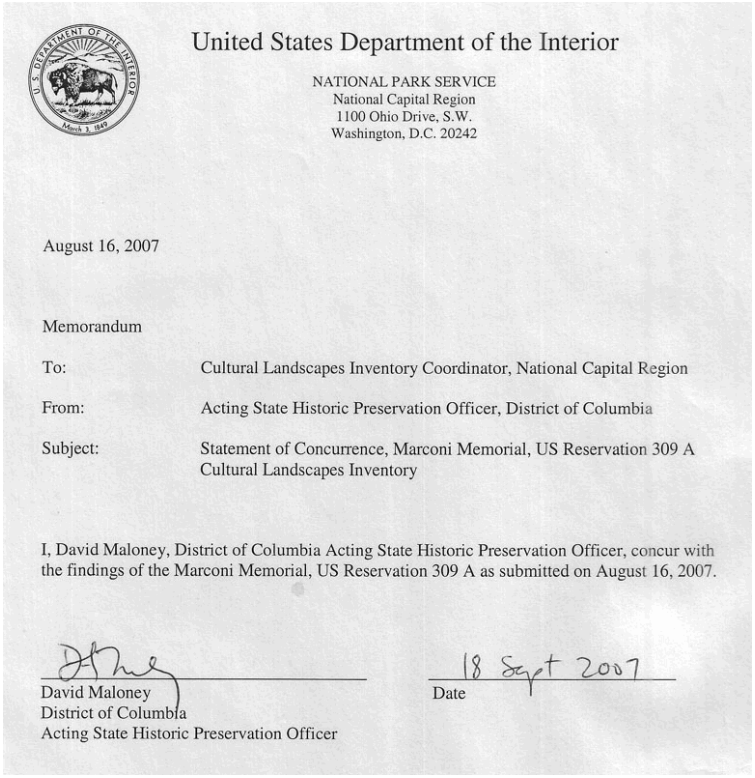
Poor: indicates the inventory unit shows clear evidence of major disturbance and rapid deterioration by natural and/or human forces. Immediate corrective action is required to protect and preserve the remaining historical and natural values.

The Cultural Landscapes Inventory for Marconi Memorial, US Reservation 309 A is hereby approved and accepted.

8/30/07

Superintendent, Rock Creek Park Date

Rock Creek Park Superintendent Statement of Concurrence.



United States Department of the Interior

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

August 16, 2007

Memorandum

To: Cultural Landscapes Inventory Coordinator, National Capital Region

From: Acting State Historic Preservation Officer, District of Columbia

Subject: Statement of Concurrence, Marconi Memorial, US Reservation 309 A
Cultural Landscapes Inventory

I, David Maloney, District of Columbia Acting State Historic Preservation Officer, concur with the findings of the Marconi Memorial, US Reservation 309 A as submitted on August 16, 2007.

David Maloney
District of Columbia
Acting State Historic Preservation Officer

18 Sept 2007
Date

District of Columbia State Historic Preservation Office Statement of Concurrence.

Geographic Information & Location Map

Inventory Unit Boundary Description:

US Reservation 309 A is bordered by Lamont Street to the northeast and 16th Street to east. 15th Street, NW (ext.) borders the reservation to the northwest, west, and south. Starting at the northernmost point, the reservation fronts the Lamont Street city sidewalk for 48.67 feet heading in a southeasterly direction. Then the reservation fronts the 16th Street city sidewalk for 161.77 feet heading due south. At the southernmost point, the reservation arcs northwesterly for 50.41 feet, then continues to front 15th Street northerly for 111.98 feet, before arcing northeasterly for 93.55' back to the northernmost point. The reservation is 10,020 square feet or 0.23 acre.

State and County:

State: DC

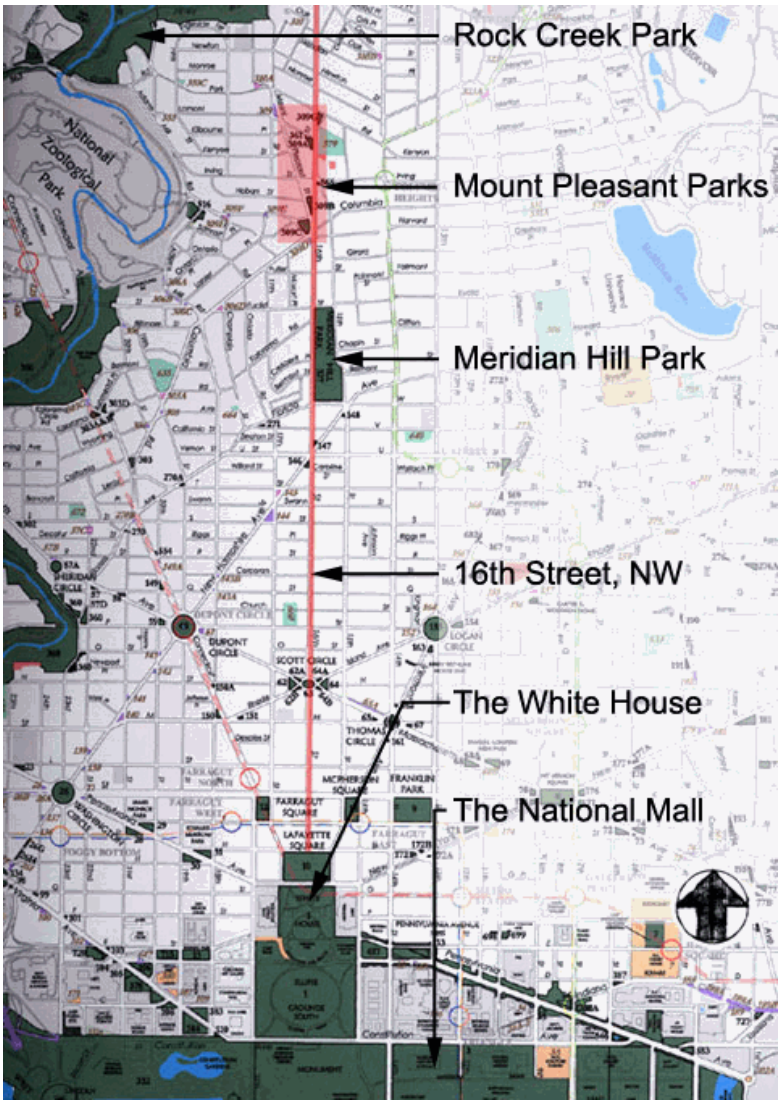
County: District of Columbia

Size (Acres): 0.23

Boundary UTMS:

Source:	USGS Map 1:24,000
Type of Point:	Point
Datum:	NAD 27
UTM Zone:	18
UTM Easting:	323,428
UTM Northing:	4,310,797

Location Map:



Marconi Memorial, US Reservation 309 A, is 1 of 6 US reservations located along 16th Street, NW in the Mount Pleasant neighborhood of Washington, DC. It is located north of the White House and Meridian Hill Park and east of Rock Creek Park.

Management Unit: ROCR

Management Information

General Management Information

Management Category: Must be Preserved and Maintained

Management Category Date: 08/30/2007

Management Category Explanatory Narrative:

The management category is "Must be Preserved and Maintained," because the reservation "serves as the setting for a nationally significant structure or object." The memorial (statue and base) was approved and erected following an act of Congress, and was listed on the National Register with the Keeper's approval of the "Memorials in Washington, DC National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form" in October 2007.

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

NPS Legal Interest:

Type of Interest: Fee Simple

Public Access:

Type of Access: Other Restrictions

Explanatory Narrative:

Unrestricted but posted signs state “Alcoholic beverages prohibited" and “All pets must be on a leash. Clean up after pets.”

Adjacent Lands Information

Do Adjacent Lands Contribute? Yes

Adjacent Lands Description:

The surrounding streets and buildings of the Mount Pleasant neighborhood contribute to the historic setting.

National Register Information

Significance Criteria:	C - Embodies distinctive construction, work of master, or high artistic values
Period of Significance:	
Time Period:	AD 1903 - 1941
Historic Context Theme:	Expressing Cultural Values
Subtheme:	Landscape Architecture
Facet:	Urban Planning in the Twentieth Century
Time Period:	AD 1903 - 1941
Historic Context Theme:	Expressing Cultural Values
Subtheme:	Painting and Sculpture
Facet:	World War II To The Present, 1939-
Other Facet:	Academic Abstraction
Area of Significance:	
Area of Significance Category:	Community Planning and Deve
Area of Significance Subcategory:	None

Statement of Significance:

Located at the corner of Lamont and 16th Streets, NW, Reservation 309 A is a triangular park formed by the extension of 16th Street in the early part of the twentieth century. Reservation 309 A forms the middle of a chain of six discontiguous reservations located along 16th Street, NW that are collectively known as the Mount Pleasant Parks. These reservations are located under the jurisdiction of Rock Creek Park of the National Capital Region of the National Park Service.

Reservation 309 A is within the boundaries of the Mount Pleasant Historic District with 16th Street to the east; Harvard Street to the south; Rock Creek Park to the west; and Piney Branch Park to the north. The district was designated in 1987 with a period of significance lasting from 1870 to 1949 and is significant at the state level under Criterion C in the areas of Architecture and Community Planning and Development. With regard for scale and proportion, sensitivity to the hilly terrain, and respect for the streetscape, this residential district illustrates the growth and development of one of Washington, DC's

first suburbs in the transition from rural to urban context (DC Office of Historic Preservation). Reservation 309 A, by virtue of its role as a public space, its landscape, and the Marconi Memorial, are part of the complementary mix of architectural styles and features that defines this district.

Meridian Hill Park, further south along 16th Street, was listed in the National Register in 1974 and later designated a National Historic Landmark in 1994, as "an outstanding accomplishment of early 20th-century Neoclassicist park design in the United States." Construction of the park was begun in 1914, and the grounds were transferred to the National Park Service in 1933.

The Reservation 309 A property is likely eligible for individual listing on the National Register under Criterion C in the area of Community Planning and Development. The period of significance begins with the extension and improvement of 16th Street past Florida Avenue in 1903 and ends with the installation of a memorial to Guglielmo Marconi in 1941. The reservation's cultural landscape, specifically designed to compliment and enhance the memorial, contributes to the property's significance.

The most prominent feature of Reservation 309 A is the statue of Guglielmo Marconi. According to the National Register nomination for Memorials in Washington, DC, "the Marconi Memorial is the focal point of the reservation and is made of gilded bronze and granite and employs Academic Abstraction design elements, using Art Moderne stylistic details that were popular during the 1930's" (Barsoum 2006b: 2). Prior to the installation of a Marconi memorial, the reservation was landscaped primarily with grass and shrubs. Following the memorial's installation, the integral landscape design was established. The Marconi Memorial, the work of prominent sculptor Attilio Piccirilli, is listed on the National Register under Criterion C in the area of Art (Barsoum 2006b - approved by the Keeper in October 2007).

Today's Mount Pleasant neighborhood was originally part of the land claim of Lord Baltimore (Emery 1930). In the years before the Civil War, Mount Pleasant was largely rural, although until 1840 a race track operated east of present day 16th Street. Residents included many transplanted New Englanders, like S.P. Brown, a former resident of Maine who made his fortune supplying military wares to the US Government during the Civil War. Starting in 1865, landowners, including S.P. Brown and speculators like Senator John Sherman of Ohio and his brother General William Tecumseh Sherman, started to subdivide Mount Pleasant into lots for residential use (Gale 1975: 2-8). According to a retrospective piece by John Claggett Proctor published in the "Washington Star," one late-nineteenth-century resident of the neighborhood was A.B. Haywood, who built his house at Fourteenth and Columbia in the treetops as a way to maximize the fresh air that Mount Pleasant's suburban location afforded (Proctor 1949).

The upper 16th Street Corridor and Mount Pleasant grew further as a result of the streetcar and suburban development in Washington, DC. As historians like Sam Bass Warner have argued, the street car enabled middle class residents to move from the central city to the suburbs in an attempt to recreate the bucolic villages of the past in an urban environment. Mount Pleasant was one of Washington, DC's earliest streetcar suburbs.

Reservation 309 A was created as part of a grand plan advanced by Mary Henderson, the wife of Missouri Senator John Henderson, and guided by the 1902 McMillan Commission Report. Streets constructed after 1902 were heavily influenced by the McMillan Commission which intended to extend the Beaux-Arts city past the monumental core and into Washington's neighborhoods. 16th Street was important not for being the heart of the old village of Mount Pleasant, but because it played an important role in the vision of a new Washington. Mrs. Henderson planned to make 16th Street into "The Avenue of the Presidents." As part of the L'Enfant street plan, 16th Street below Boundary Street (present-day Florida Avenue) radiated axially from the White House. Within Mount Pleasant, the more modern extension of the street bent off axis and blurred this important connection. Planners wanted to establish continuity and redesigned this portion to extend in a straight line from the White House along its entire route, while its former Mount Pleasant route became Mount Pleasant Street. Considered to be the meridian of Washington, DC by many, Mrs. Henderson planned for 16th Street to be a gateway of embassies, mansions, churches, and monuments that would serve as an appropriate entry into the capital city (Architrave P.C. Architects 2001). Mrs. Henderson even advocated moving the Presidential residence to an area near her new estate and land that is now Meridian Hill Park. By 1903, the redesigned 16th Street had, according to the "Washington Post," "been opened as far north as the Piney Branch Road…[and]….has been paved with asphalt this fall as far north as Columbia Road, and the order has been issued for the laying of granolithic sidewalks" (Washington Post 1903: E4).

Triangular reservations, formed by the extension of the L'Enfant street plan over a preexisting grid, are common in Washington. The desire for broad, straight, axial avenues, like Haussmann's Paris, made the creation of small triangular reservations inevitable. The public use of these minor reservations was first proposed in the McMillan Commission Report which advised that minor reservations should be reserved for a public use, often schools and playgrounds. Mount Pleasant residents themselves wanted to ensure that some triangular reservations would become public parks ideal for statuary and memorials. A 1903 "Washington Post" article references the specific desire to make what would later become Reservation 309 B, where the statue of Methodist Bishop Francis Asbury is located, into a public park owned by the District of Columbia for use by the citizens of Mount Pleasant. The reservation is located across from the Mount Pleasant Branch Library, one of three Carnegie Libraries in the District of Columbia. By the 1920's, this and several other large public buildings like the Sacred Heart Church had been built along the 16th Street Corridor.

National Capital Region Lands Record photographs and site plans, dating from roughly 1926-1927, indicate that prior to the placement of the Marconi statue, Reservation 309 A was primarily turf, with some shrubs at the south end. Similar to today, the side of the reservation facing 16th Street did have a concrete sidewalk, roughly three squares or 7'6" wide (Minutes of the Fine Arts Commission 1940: 19). Just inside the reservation boundaries, a series of four benches faced outward. The median strip between the sidewalk and the street was lined with large deciduous trees.

The current form of the reservation was proposed by the Marconi Memorial Commission and modified by the National Park Service in 1940 (DSC TIC 878/85293, 85294, and 85295). It retained a similar circulation pattern to the pre-memorial reservation, but added a frame of evergreen shrubs that ran

nearly the length of the west side of the reservation (Barsoum 2006b: 3). Additional American elm trees were proposed behind the hedge and on the opposite side of a bituminous concrete walk. Holly, pyracantha, Sargent juniper, and glossy leaf privet hedges, as well as Washington hawthorn trees, were proposed to surround the base and sit behind the statue at the north end of the reservation (The Story of Mount Pleasant and milestones of its later day development 1923 and Planting Plan and NCP Revised Planting Plan 1940). Later site plans indicate that this planting scheme was likely implemented either in part or totality.

The Guglielmo Marconi Memorial is significant as a rare example of the commemoration of an individual associated with technology in Washington. Congress approved legislation for the memorial on April 13, 1938 (Act of the 75th Congress of 1938) and President Franklin Roosevelt signed the bill into law the next day. The monument was erected by popular subscription collected by the Marconi Memorial Foundation, and it was completed on June 30, 1941. Attilio Piccirilli, the head of the famous New York stone carving firm Piccirilli Brothers, designed and carved the monument. The National Register nomination for the Marconi monument describes it as follows: “the monument incorporates a series of pink granite rectilinear masses. The lowest component incorporates two steps leading to a broad platform. A narrow central pedestal bears a gilded bronze portrait bust of Guglielmo Marconi. Behind this pedestal, stands a tall and broad granite slab flanked by two low knee-walls. The broad slab supports a gilded bronze sculpture comprised of electrical waves disappearing into clouds set beneath an emerging world. Atop the world sits a dynamic nude female with her left arm extending forward and her right arm bent and pointing upward. The figure’s arms, the drapery around her legs blowing behind, and her wavy mass of stylized hair extending outward from her head, echo the electrical waves below and emphasize the concepts of speed and dynamism.”

Chronology & Physical History

Cultural Landscape Type and Use

Cultural Landscape Type: Designed

Current and Historic Use/Function:

Primary Historic Function: Leisure-Passive (Park)

Primary Current Use: Leisure-Passive (Park)

Other Use/Function	Other Type of Use or Function
Urban Park	Both Current And Historic

Current and Historic Names:

Name	Type of Name
US Reservation 309 A	Both Current And Historic
Marconi Memorial	Both Current And Historic

Ethnographic Study Conducted: No Survey Conducted

Chronology:

Year	Event	Annotation
AD 1632	Established	Cecil Calvert, 2nd Lord Baltimore, receives a charter from Charles I of England for the new colony of Maryland, named for the Queen Consort Henrietta Maria.
AD 1727	Settled	James Holmead receives a land grant from Charles Calvert, 5th Lord Baltimore and governor of Maryland Colony, for much of the Mount Pleasant area. The Mount Pleasant area is divided into estates including John Holmead's 46-acre "Meridian Hill" estate west of 14th Street and north of Boundary Street.
AD 1750	Purchased/Sold	Anthony Holmead, Jame's Son, inherited the land, which included the present-day Mount Pleasant, Adams Morgan, Columbia Heights, Park View, and Pleasant Plains neighborhoods, renaming it Pleasant Plains.
AD 1760	Established	Robert Peter of Georgetown assembles portions of previous patents to form the Mount Pleasant estate in the Meridian Hill area.
AD 1791	Planned	Land including the future Mount Pleasant area is annexed by the Federal government in 1791 to create the federal city. The estates here are now part of Washington County.
AD 1802 - 1840	Maintained	The Washington Jockey Club's racetrack, established by Col. John Tayloe, is located in the area that became Mount Pleasant. It may have been an exact circle with a 1-mile perimeter centered on the line of 14th Street stretching from Park Road on the north to Girard Street on the south.
AD 1850	Purchased/Sold	J. Ross Brown buys a 73-acre portion of the remaining Holmead Pleasant Plains land.

	Purchased/Sold	William Selden, a former US Treasurer purchases Brown's 73 acres.
AD 1862	Purchased/Sold	During the Civil War, Maine native Samuel P. Brown buys the 73-acre parcel cheaply from Selden, a Confederate sympathizer who had fled to Virginia in 1861. At this time, the Union Army occupies the property.
AD 1865 - 1870	Platted	After the war, Brown begins developing Mount Pleasant Village (the highest elevation in the original Pleasant Plains estate between today's 14th and 17th Streets NW). He sells the land, attracting settlement of many New Englanders.
AD 1865 - 1902	Settled	The new Mount Pleasant Village is made up of wooden frame houses and small farms with commercial businesses centered near the intersection of today’s 14th Street and Park Road, NW.
	Settled	Early streets within the Mount Pleasant Village do not extend Washington City’s orderly grid and include haphazardly-angled streets like Mount Pleasant Street, Adams Mill Road, Park Road, and Newton Street.
AD 1867 - 1871	Platted	Much of the land surrounding Mount Pleasant Village is subdivided by speculators, including Missouri Senator John Sherman and his brother, General William Tecumseh Sherman.
AD 1873	Paved	16th Street is paved and extended from Florida Avenue to Columbia Road.
AD 1878	Established	Congress passes the DC Organic Act of 1878, eliminating Washington County by extending the boundaries of Washington City to be contiguous with those of the District of Columbia.
AD 1893	Planned	Congress passes the Highway Act in 1893, extending the L`Enfant street pattern to the District of Columbia line based on a plan developed by the Army Corps of Engineers. Street naming conventions are codified.

AD 1893 - 1917	Planned	The City Beautiful movement, sparked by the 1893 World`s Columbian Exposition in Chicago, becomes a force in American urban design. This aesthetic movement seeks to enhance American Cities with formal, ordered, and axially oriented improvements. It is associated with Beaux-Arts design and primarily influenced by the arts and architecture of the Renaissance and baroque eras.
AD 1898	Paved	16th Street is extended north of Columbia Road along the true north-south line.
AD 1898 - 1903	Land Transfer	With the formation of US Reservation 309 A, it comes under management of the Office of Public Buildings and Grounds (OPBG), US Army Corps of Engineers, War Department.
AD 1900 - 1920	Expanded	Missouri Senator John Henderson`s wife, Mary, and the 16th Street Improvement Association spearhead the idea of creating an "Avenue of the Presidents" populated by churches, grand homes, and monuments. They succeed in widening and straightening 16th Street, attracting some embassies, and securing an Electric Streetcar line operated by Samuel Brown.
AD 1900 - 1940	Expanded	As the city expands beyond its Florida Avenue boundary to the north, most of Washington County is incorporated, platted, developed, and made accessible to the center of the city. Mount Pleasant grows along 16th Street, NW.
	Built	Streetcar lines, many privately financed by suburban developers, are built beyond the center into, and eventually beyond, the surrounding District, improving access.
AD 1901 - 1902	Planned	The McMillan Plan forms the keystone of the City Beautiful movement. The plan proposes that an18-acre reservation be established at Meridian Hill, bounded by Fuller Street to the north; Florida Avenue to the south; 17th Street to the west, and 14th Street to the east (the actual Meridian Hill Park that was ultimately established is rectangular and only 12 acres). No other small parks or reservations are proposed for Mount Pleasant by this plan.
AD 1910	Established	The Mount Pleasant Citizens Association is founded and campaigns for the construction of parks and community buildings, including a school and a branch library.

AD 1925	Land Transfer	The Office of Public Buildings and Grounds (OPBG), renamed the Office of Public Buildings and Public Parks (OPBPP), is transferred from the Army Corps of Engineers to the office of the US President.
AD 1926	Planned	Field drawing by L.W.R. shows improved reservation. The dominant feature is a concrete sidewalk fronting 16th Street and Lamont Street. Four benches sit along the 16th portion of the sidewalk per a 1927 photo. Several large shrubs dominate the south corner of the reservation.
AD 1930 - 1935	Built	A decorative cast-iron fence is installed along the Lamont Street side of the reservation.
AD 1930 - 1950	Built	Large apartment buildings on 16th Street bring traffic and short-term residents to the community.
AD 1933	Land Transfer	Under Executive Order 6166, June 10, 1933, all public lands and buildings are transferred to the Office of National Parks, Buildings, and Reservations, Department of the Interior. On March 2, 1934, the name of this federal bureau is changed to the National Park Service. The OPBPP becomes National Capital Parks.
AD 1938	Memorialized	President Franklin Roosevelt authorizes the Marconi Memorial Foundation to erect a memorial to Marconi in Washington, DC
AD 1940	Memorialized	Marconi Memorial is erected on reservation 309 C. Landscape plan for the site is submitted in 1939/1940 to the Fine Arts Commission.
AD 1950	Maintained	Wymer photo shows the completed memorial at the site. The memorial is surrounded by trees, shrubs, and one visible bench.
AD 1961	Abandoned	DC Transit System converted 2 of its four remaining Washingotn streetcar lines, including the Mount Pleasant Line, to bus operation.
AD 1987	Preserved	The area encompassing Reservation 309 A from 16th Street to the east; Harvard Street to the south; Rock Creek Park to the west; and Piney Branch Park to the north is designated the Mount Pleasant Historic District (National Register of Historic Places).

AD 1988	Rehabilitated	As part of a rehabilitation program that year, which affected 309 A and several other National Park Service reservations in the Mount Pleasant neighborhood, the landscape is updated and the circulation pattern is modified.
	Paved	The concrete walk along 15th Street that then turned east to 16th Street along the front of the memorial is removed. The east-west section of this walk in front of the memorial is replaced with a herringbone pattern brick walk, and the north-south section along Fifteenth Street was replaced with a hedge of William Penn barberry interplanted with 2 milky way dogwood trees.
	Removed	Bricks set in sand around base of the four American elm trees between the former walk and the curb along 15th Street are removed.
	Planted	Along the east side of the new barberry hedge, the old hedge of glossy leaf privet is replaced with a new hedge of gnome pyracantha.
	Planted	A bed of big blue liriope is established along the east side of the pyracantha hedge (between the hedge and the lawn), and 5 milky way dogwood trees are planted in this bed along with 2 sugartyme crabapple trees that frame the memorial.
	Planted	The turf is replaced with new sod.
	Maintained	One maple and 3 English oak trees grow on DC property along 16th Street.
	Removed	The 2 Washington hawthorn trees are removed from either side of the memorial.
	Planted	The pyracantha and juniper behind the memorial are replaced with 3 American holly trees and a groundcover of scarlet leader cotoneaster.
	Planted	Cotoneaster is planted along the new brick walkway to the front of the memorial.

	Planted	The hedges on either side of the memorial are replaced with more gnome pyracantha.
	Planted	The dogwood trees and yew shrubs on the east side of the reservation are replaced with a sugartyme crabapple and a tuscarosa crape myrtle. Another sugartyme crabapple and two more tuscarosa crape myrtle trees are planted west of the memorial.
	Rehabilitated	Displaced granite curbing along 15th Street is replaced or reset, and mulch is installed along the curbs and around the existing elm trees.
	Rehabilitated	Three wood and cast iron benches are installed on concrete slabs; the trash receptacles are reinstalled with new concrete footings; and the existing iron fence is wire-brush cleaned, primed, and painted black.
	Planted	US Reservation 361, just to the northwest across 15th Street, is also rehabilitated with 3 sugartyme crabapple and one tuscarosa crape myrtle tree planted among a groundcover of 115 scarlet leader cotoneaster shrubs.
AD 1989 - 2007	Removed	Two milky way dogwood trees are removed from the southern end of the reservation.
	Removed	All scarlet leader cotoneaster shrubs have died and been removed, and the grass turf has been expanded north to the edge of the brick paving along the memorial.
	Removed	Only a small section of the William Penn barberry shrubs remains in the northwestern portion of the reservation.
	Removed	The 4 American elm trees along 15th Street, NW deteriorate and are removed, and a large, pre-1988 maple DC street tree is removed from the southern tip of the park and replaced with a young sugar maple.
	Planted	A young American elm has been planted as a DC street tree along Lamont Street, NW at the northern tip of the park.
	Removed	At adjacent Reservation 361, all of the cotoneaster groundcover has died, been removed, and replaced with turf.

AD 2006	Restored	The bronze sculptures of the Marconi Memorial are re-gilded, and the park cuts down the 3 American holly trees behind (north) of the memorial to prevent them from scratching the new gilding. Stumps are left in the hopes that the hollies will regenerate as shrubs.

Physical History:

1635-1903: From Rural Farms to Urban Parks

Reservation 309 A is part of a land patent extended by the King of England to Cecil Calvert, the Second Lord Baltimore, in 1632. As part of the establishment of the colony of Maryland, the Calvert family subdivided their original patent into smaller land grants. Through a cycle of land grants, marriages, and deaths, the land that would become Reservation 309 A was under the ownership of the Holmead family, who built their home, Holmead Manor, in the area during the 1700's. Holmead land spanned from roughly present-day Seventh Street, NW to Georgetown. The area of Holmead land in the hills overlooking what became the District of Columbia came to be known as Pleasant Plains and later took the name of the nearby village of Mount Pleasant. Over the course of the nineteenth century, subsequent Holmeads subdivided the family estate (Emery 1930:191).

The first formal subdivision of the Pleasant Plains/Mount Pleasant area occurred in 1845 when William Holmead divided the area that had previously served as a race course for the Washington Jockey Club. Fred Emery, the President of the Society of Natives, speaking in 1935, described the process as follows: the Holmeads "subdivided it [the property], first into five acre lots in 1845 and then, in 1848, into parcels of four and six arces [sic] each as country residences" (Emery 1930: 195).

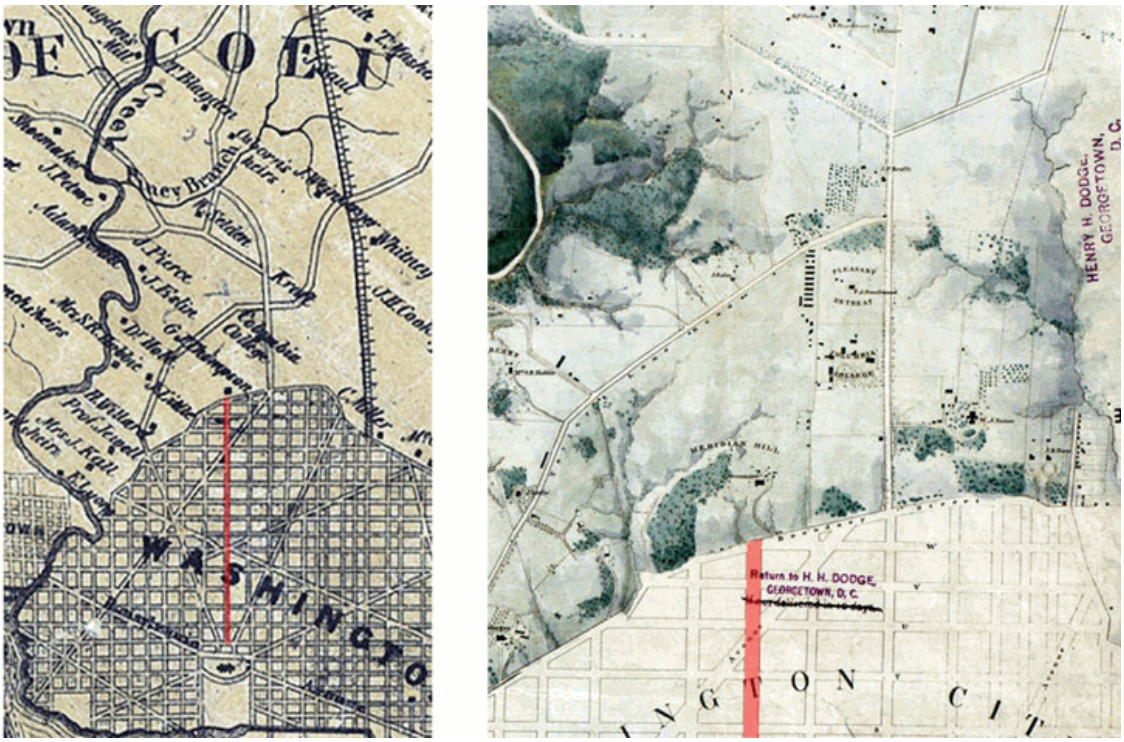
Subdivisions continued to decrease the size of the Holmead estate, and in 1850 J. Ross Brown purchased the land that now contains Reservation 309 A. He sold it to William Selden a month later. In 1862, Selden, a former Treasurer of the United States and a Confederate sympathizer, was forced to sell his holdings at a depressed rate to S.P. Brown while they were occupied by the Union Army (Records of Historic Mount Pleasant 1974, Collection 37, MLK Library.; The Story of Mount Pleasant and milestones of its later day development 1923: 8; Emery 1930: 208).

Following the Civil War, Mount Pleasant came into its own as an active village. Despite additional attempts by Brown in the immediate post-war years to further subdivide his holdings, growth in the village of Mount Pleasant remained slower than had been anticipated, until the extension of the street car line to Park Road (The Story of Mount Pleasant and milestones of its later day development 1923). The extension of the street car was not by chance— Brown was the first president of the Metropolitan Street Car Company and the terminus of the street car line at the intersection of present-day Mount Pleasant Street and Park Road was directly across from Brown's home.

The street car encouraged the development of a thriving commercial district along what was then 16th Street (now Mount Pleasant Street) and also encouraged the creation of a suburban community, where government leaders and community leaders had the ability to live high on a hill, separated from the heat, noise, and congestion of the city below Boundary Street.

The bucolic idea of a Mount Pleasant village faded with the growth of the Nation's Capital in the 1890's. Mrs. John Henderson, the wife of the Senator from Missouri, planned to make 16th

Street into "The Avenue of the Presidents," either by moving the Presidential residence to an area that is now Meridian Hill Park or by capitalizing on the important axial role assigned to the street below Boundary Street (present-day Florida Avenue). Mrs. Henderson planned for the street, considered Washington's meridian, to be a gateway of embassies, mansions, and churches that would serve as an appropriate entry into the capital city. Investing in the area by not only purchasing land, Mrs. Henderson built an impressive sandstone castle directly across 16th Street from land that is now Meridian Hill Park.



1860s maps showing 16th Street, NW (in red) prior to its extension beyond Boundary Street [Florida Avenue]. The Mount Pleasant area to the north is suburban compared to the grid of the city. (Martenet 1865 and Michler 1867).



Left: 1886 map of proposed extension of streets between Rock Creek and Lincoln Ave. (the proposed 16th Street is red while existing affected streets are hatched). Right: 1907 map showing the street extension as built (Mount Pleasant Parks are green).

1903-1941: Marconi Arrives

By 1903, Mrs. Henderson's vision for the "Avenue of the Presidents" was on its way to being realized, albeit without the relocation of the Executive Mansion. According to the "Washington Post," 16th Street had "been opened as far north as the Piney Branch Road…[and]….has been paved with asphalt this fall as far north as Columbia Road, and the order has been issued for the laying of granolithic sidewalks" (Washington Post 1903: E4). The first outlines of Reservation 309 A were formed by the extension of 16th Street in 1898 and the platting of Lamont Street in the early part of the twentieth century.

The public use of minor reservations, such as triangles, was first formally proposed in the 1902 Report of the Senate Committee on the District of Columbia on the Improvement of the Park System of the District of Columbia (U. S. Senate Committee on the District of Columbia. Senate Report No. 166 [McMillan Report]). The commission argued that minor reservations should be reserved for a public use, such as schools and playgrounds. While 309 A is too small to support this type of usage, its use as a space for a memorial falls within the spirit of the Mrs. Henderson's ideas and the McMillan Plan's guidelines for the use of minor reservations, and a 1903 Washington Post article references the specific desire to make part of the nearby US Reservation 309 B (now the site of the Asbury Memorial) into a public park owned by the District of Columbia.

The reservation's current form was established by 1923, when a small curvilinear street named

15th Street, which was designed to service both the Asbury United Methodist Church and the Mount Pleasant Branch of the District of Columbia library, was built on the south and west side of the reservation (The Story of Mount Pleasant and milestones of its later day development 1923).

NCR lands photos and records indicate that, by 1927, Reservation 309 A clearly served a public use. A granite curb separated the reservation from the surrounding streets, and a grass strip and sidewalk paralleled Lamont and 16th Streets. Street trees along the reservation's west side were American elms. Other deciduous street trees, perhaps oaks or maples, grew in the grass strip along 16th Street. Four armless, wood-slat and iron benches were arranged in a row, facing and set back only a few feet from the 16th sidewalk. The southern end of the reservation was planted with dense dark shrubs of barberry, privet or spirea, along with 2 saucer magnolia trees. A weeping tree, likely a Camperdown elm, grew at the northeast corner of the reservation. Other plantings may have existed, but the remainder of the property was planted primarily with grass. Many large trees shaded the surrounding properties.

Plans to locate the memorial to Guglielimo Marconi did not initially include Reservation 309 A as a possible site. In September of 1938, representatives from the Marconi Memorial Foundation met with representatives for the US Commission of Fine Arts to select a site for the memorial. Initial sites considered by the Foundation and the Commission included Haines Point, the district line at Massachusetts and Western Avenues, NW, Anacostia Park near the Navy Yard, and Columbia Island (today Lady Bird Johnson Park; Fine Arts Commission Minutes 1938: C). Despite the strong push by the Marconi Memorial Foundation to locate the statue on Columbia Island, the Fine Arts Commission felt that "a memorial such as this would lose itself on Columbia Island," due to its relatively small scale in relation to the surrounding terrain and transportation systems (Fine Arts Commission Minutes 1938: 7). In October of 1938, the Fine Arts Commission offered a new suggested location for the memorial, outside of the traditional monumental core in Meridian Hill Park, west of the statue of the Italian philosopher Dante Alighieri. Unhappy with this proposed placement, Samuel Di Falco, the foundation's secretary, wrote in response, "the Directors do not feel that the statue of Marconi should be relegated to an inconspicuous spot in the city parks. The fact that the statue of Dante Alighieri was erected in that park does not seem to us to be a reason for us to place a statue of Marconi in the same park, irrespective of the greatness of Dante. Frankly, we believe that Marconi is so near to the Italians of today, as well as to other people all over the world, that he deserves more generous treatment than that which your Commission is now willing to accord the proposed monument" (Minutes of the Fine Arts Commission 1938: 3).

Commission members reconsidered the location within Meridian Hill Park and by January 1939 proposed Reservation 309 A as a possible location for the Marconi Memorial. A letter to Di Falco cited the fact that the location of the triangle was "the most appropriate, more particularly in view of its close proximity to the Italian Embassy, which is only one block away" (Minutes of the Fine Arts Commission 1939: Exhibit F).

Throughout the rest of 1939 and 1940, the Fine Arts Commission and the Marconi Memorial Foundation continued to correspond regarding various design elements of the memorial and the

landscape. While initial plans submitted appear to have been revised by the National Capital Parks, a site plan submitted in August of 1940 by Joseph C. Gardener, the landscape architect for the Foundation, roughly shows the reservation's landscape as built (DSC TIC 878/85293).

Under Gardener's plan, the landscape retained many characteristics from the early part of the century. For example, the sidewalks of 16th and Lamont Streets, the two main circulation routes around the reservation, continued to be the primary ways in which pedestrian traffic circumvented the reservation. The use of turf as a primary ground covering was also retained, as well as the existing street trees along 16th Street.

However, Gardener's plan did make some significant changes to the reservation. Along 15th Street (the drive that serviced the Asbury Methodist Church and the Mount Pleasant Branch Library), he added a bituminous concrete sidewalk that served as a way to bring pedestrians to the memorial. The walk, which curved to connect to 16th Street at both ends, opened into a small plaza at the foot of the Marconi Memorial. The walk was lined with metal edging. The square street tree beds between the walk and 15th Street were paved with brick laid in sand. Nine benches or "park seats (by others)" were proposed to line 15th Street along the west side of the sidewalk. Construction of the sidewalk necessitated replacement of the 4 American elm trees, which were replaced in kind.

In addition to modifying the circulation pattern, Gardener proposed plantings that would complement and highlight the memorial and improve the overall look of the reservation. On the southwestern corner of the reservation at the intersection of 15th and 16th Streets, Gardener's plan called for the planting a wintergreen barberry hedge that faced out along the curb line toward the Methodist church. Across the concrete walk, closer to the inside of the reservation, a hedge of glossy leaf privet was proposed to form a boundary between the walk and the reservation's lawn. Spreading yew shrubs defined the ends of the privet hedge and flowering dogwood trees were proposed at equal distances along the length of the privet hedge.

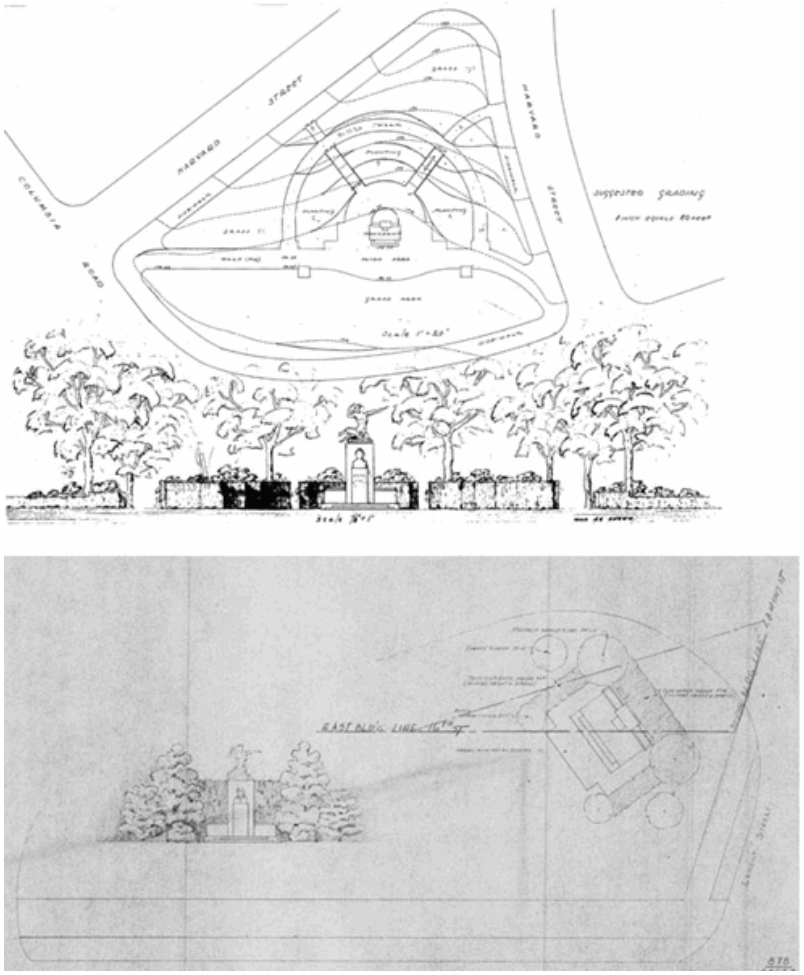
The memorial was installed on the north end of the reservation, with the back of the memorial facing the intersection of 15th and Lamont Streets. Gardener proposed a series of plantings, most of them evergreens, to provide a backdrop for the memorial. Directly behind the memorial, 4 pyracantha and 11 Sargent juniper shrubs were proposed. A stepped hedge of little-leaf Japanese holly framed either side of the memorial, and 4 Washington hawthorn trees punctuated this hedge. West of the memorial, facing the Mount Pleasant Branch Library, hedges of Sargent juniper and wintergreen barberry bordered the walk toward 15th Street. Six additional pyracantha shrubs and a flowering dogwood were proposed to be planted behind the juniper hedge. East of the memorial, facing 16th Street, a hedge of Sargent juniper was proposed with a flowering dogwood tree and 2 pyracantha shrubs to the north. Pachysandra groundcover was proposed for the area between and behind these plantings. Photos taken by John Wymer in May of 1949 indicate that most, perhaps all, of Gardener's landscape plan was installed (Wymer photo 1949 Kiplinger collection D.C Historical Society).



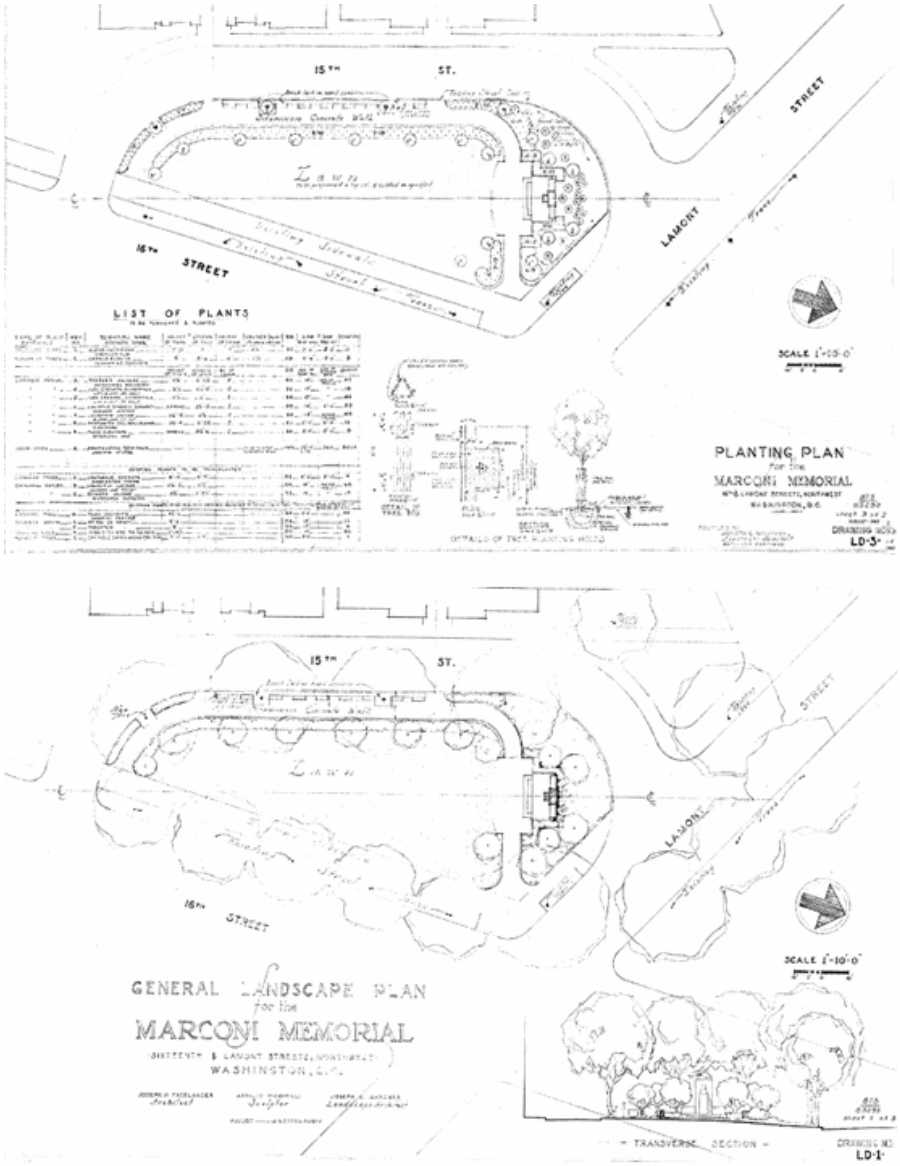
April 22, 1927 view north of US Reservation 309 A. from same vantage point as cover photo, 16th Street, NW is to the right. (NCR Lands Records 1927).



June 21, 1927 view north of US Reservation 309 A from same vantage point as cover photo. 16th Street, NW is to the right. (NCR Lands Records 1927).



C. 1940 plans for Marconi Memorial. Top: This plan considers US Reservation 309 C to the south for the memorial. (NCR Lands Records 69.309 C-15). Bottom: This plan for 309 A has similar characteristics to the plan ultimately built. (DSC TIC 878/85295).



1940 General Plan and Planting Plan for the Marconi Memorial, prepared by Joseph C. Gardener, landscape architect and Joseph Freelander, architect. (DSC TIC 878/85293).

1941-2007: Park Maintenance

In 1987, the area encompassing Reservation 309 A, from 16th Street to the east; Harvard Street to the south; Rock Creek Park to the west; and Piney Branch Park to the north, was designated the Mount Pleasant Historic District (Barsoum c draft National Register of Historic Places 2006). Meridian Hill Park, to the south along 16th Street, was listed on the register in 1974. The park was later designated a National Historic Landmark in 1994, as "an outstanding accomplishment of early 20th-century Neoclassicist park design in the United States." Construction of the park was begun in 1914, but the grounds were not transferred to the

National Park Service until 1933.

The landscape of 309 A remained relatively unchanged until 1988 when several of the reservations in the Mount Pleasant Park neighborhood were rehabilitated. The vegetation was updated with disease-hardy and pest-resistant plants, and the circulation pattern was modified.

The largest impact of the 1988 changes was the removal of the concrete walk that ran the length of the reservation along 15th Street and then turned east to 16th Street along the front of the memorial. The east-west section of this walk in front of the memorial was replaced with a herringbone-pattern brick walk set on a bed of concrete and wire mesh. Metal edging was again used to define the walk. The former north-south section along 15th Street was replaced with a bed of William Penn barberry shrubs in what may be assumed was an attempt to prevent pedestrian movement across the width of the reservation. Bricks set in sand around the base of the four American elm trees between the former walk and the curb along 15th Street were removed, and 2 milky way dogwoods were planted in the new barberry bed. Along the east side of the barberry hedge, the old hedge of glossy leaf privet was replaced with a new hedge of gnome pyracantha. A bed of big blue liriope was established along the east side of the pyracantha hedge (between the hedge and the lawn), and 5 milky way dogwood trees were planted in this bed along with 2 sugartyme crabapple trees that framed the memorial (Beautification Files reservation 309 A). The seven new milky way dogwood trees replaced the existing flowering dogwood trees and spreading yew shrubs that were planted at equal intervals along the former hedge line. The turf was replaced with new sod. One maple and 3 English oak trees grew on DC property along 16th Street.

The 1988 plan also involved changes in the plant materials immediately around the memorial. The 2 Washington hawthorn trees were removed from either side of the memorial. The pyracantha and juniper behind the memorial were replaced with 3 American holly trees and a groundcover of scarlet leader cotoneaster. Cotoneaster was also planted along the new brick walkway to the front of the memorial. The hedges on either side of the memorial were replaced with more gnome pyracantha. The dogwood trees and yew shrubs on the east side of the reservation were replaced with a sugartyme crabapple and a tuscarosa crape myrtle (Landscape Restoration Construction and Planting Plan 1988). Another sugartyme crabapple and two more tuscarosa crape myrtle trees were planted west of the memorial.

Displaced granite curbing along 15th Street was replaced/reset, and mulch was installed along the curbs and around the existing elm trees. Three wood and cast iron benches were installed on concrete slabs; the trash receptacle was reinstalled with new concrete footing; and the existing iron fence was wire-brush cleaned, primed, and painted black.

US Reservation 361, just to the northwest across 15th Street, was also rehabilitated in 1988. Three sugartyme crabapple and one tuscarosa crape myrtle tree were planted within a groundcover of 115 scarlet leader cotoneaster shrubs.

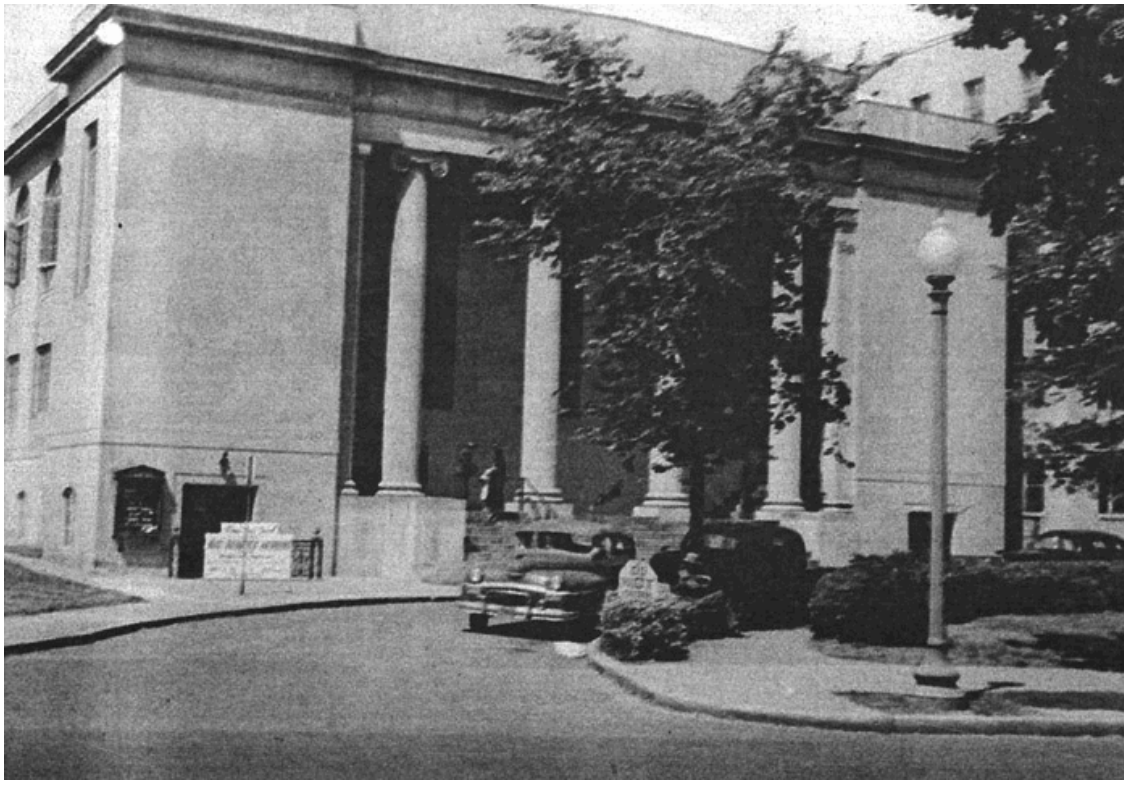
Since the 1988 rehabilitation, two milky way dogwood trees have died and been removed from the southern end of the reservation. All scarlet leader cotoneaster shrubs have died and been

removed, and the grass has been expanded north to the edge of the brick paving along the memorial. The big blue liriope beds are overrun with weeds, and only a small section of the William Penn barberry shrubs remains in the northwestern portion of the reservation.

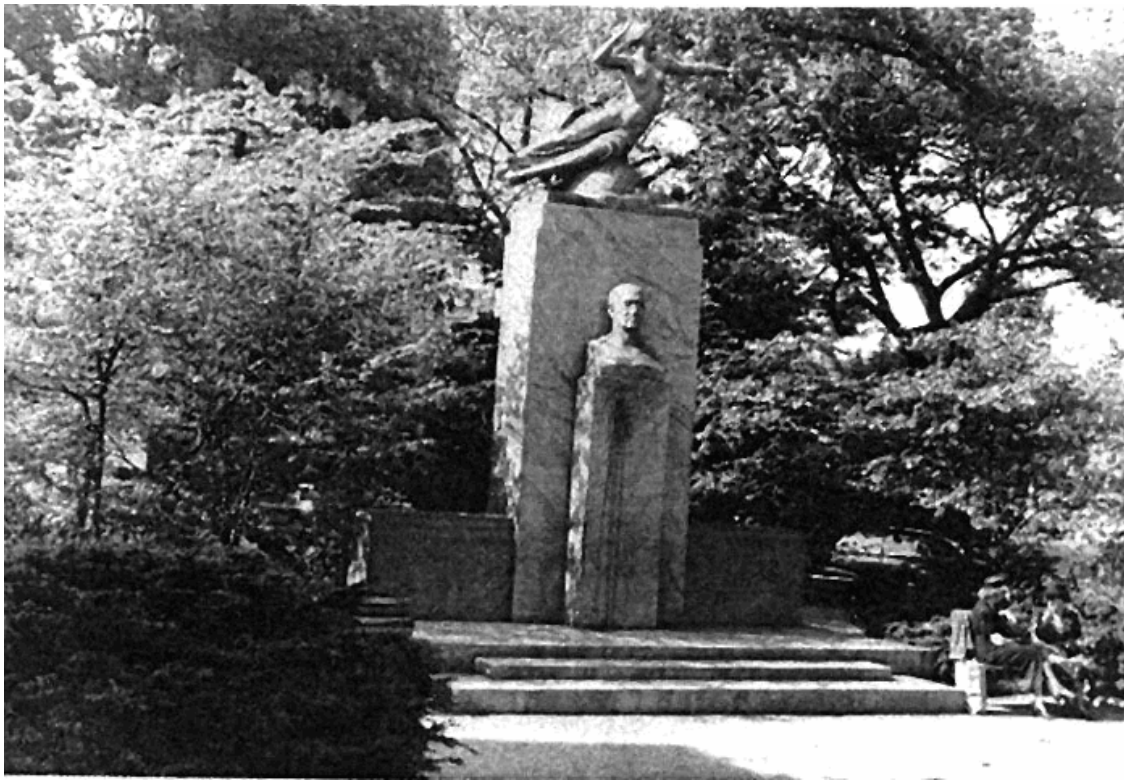
The 4 American elm trees along 15th Street, NW deteriorated and were removed, and a large, pre-1988 maple DC street tree has been removed from the southern tip of the park and replaced with a young sugar maple. A young American elm has been planted as a DC street tree along Lamont Street, NW at the northern tip of the park.

The bronze sculptures of the Marconi Memorial were re-gilded in September 2006 (Barsoum c draft National Register Nomination 2006: 2). The park cut down the 3 American holly trees behind (north) of the memorial at this time to prevent them from scratching the new gilding. Stumps were left in the hope that the hollies will regenerate as shrubs, and as of summer 2007, they were.

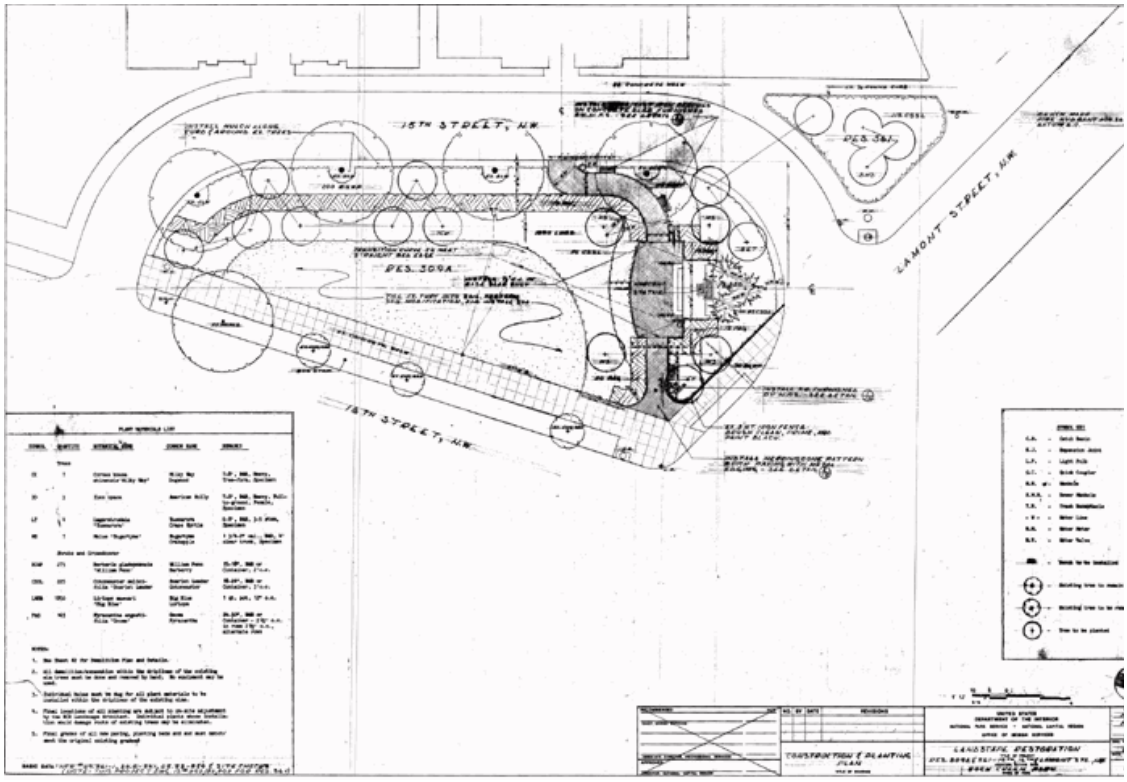
At adjacent Reservation 361, all of the cotoneaster groundcover has been removed and replaced with turf. The crape myrtle and 3 crabapple trees remain.



1949 photo of US Reservation 309 A in front of Asbury Methodist Church along 15th Street, NW ext. (Wymer Photograph, Kiplinger Library, Historic Society of Washington DC).



1950 photo of Marconi Memorial. (Wymer Photograph, Kiplinger Library, Historic Society of Washington, DC).



1988 Landscape Restoration Construction and Planting Plan, prepared by Darwina Neal, landscape architect. (DSC TIC 878/85304).

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 of US Reservation 309 A by comparing landscape characteristics and features present during the period of significance (1903-1941) with current conditions. Landscape characteristics are the tangible and intangible aspects of a landscape that allow visitors to understand its cultural value. Collectively, they express the historic character and integrity of a landscape. Landscape characteristics give a property cultural importance and uniqueness. Each characteristic or feature is classified as contributing or non contributing to the site's overall historic significance.

Landscape characteristics comprise landscape features. Landscape features are classified as contributing if they were present during the property's period of significance. Non-contributing features (those that were not present during the historical period) may be considered "compatible" when they fit within the physical context of the historic period and attempt to 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. Incompatible features are those that are not harmonious with the quality of the cultural landscape and, through their existence, can lessen the historic character of a property. For those features that are listed as undetermined, further primary research, which is outside the scope of this CLI, is necessary to determine the feature's origination date. Landscape characteristics and features, individually and as a whole, express the integrity and historic character of the landscape and contribute to the property's historic significance.

This section also includes an evaluation of the property's integrity in accordance with National Register criteria. Historic integrity, as defined by the National Register, is the authenticity of a property's identity, evidenced by the survival of physical characteristics that existed during the site's historic period. 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 not only must be shown to have significance under one of the four criteria, but must also retain integrity.

HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE
Reservation 309 A is within the boundaries of the Mount Pleasant Historic District with 16th Street to the east; Harvard Street to the south; Rock Creek Park to the west; and Piney Branch Park to the north. The district was designated in 1987 with a period of significance lasting from 1875 to 1949 and is significant at the state level under Criterion C in the areas of Architecture and Community Planning and Development. With regard to scale and proportion, sensitivity to the hilly terrain, and respect for the streetscape, this residential district illustrates the growth and development of one of Washington, DC's first suburbs in the transition from a rural to an urban context. Reservation 309 A, by virtue of its role as a public space, its landscape, and the Marconi Memorial, is part of the complementary mix of architectural styles and features that define this district.

The Reservation 309 A property is likely eligible for individual listing on the National Register under Criterion C in the area of Community Planning and Development. The period of significance begins with the extension and improvement of 16th Street past Florida Avenue in 1903 and ends with the installation of a memorial to Guglielmo Marconi in 1941. The reservation's cultural landscape, specifically designed to complement and enhance the memorial, contributes to the property's significance. The majority of the landscape features were designed by landscape architect Joseph Gardner and included vegetation, bituminous concrete walkways, and a central area of turf.

LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISTICS AND FEATURES
Contributing landscape characteristics identified for Reservation 309 A are spatial organization, topography, vegetation, circulation, views and vistas, and buildings and structures.

The spatial organization of the site remains similar to its arrangement during the period of significance. The Marconi Memorial still retains is role as the focal point of the reservation—the landscape and the circulation pattern established by Gardener in 1940 still shapes the organization of the reservation today.

The reservation is essentially flat. It retains the gentle grade changes that characterized its topography during the period of significance, including a gentle rise from the east and west edges to the center, as well as its location on a larger upslope from south to north. The greater topography of the area is part of the rise from Coastal Plain to Piedmont that characterizes much of the city of Washington, DC above Florida Avenue.

Despite the change in plant types, the vegetation still evokes the historic character of the property. The current reservation retains the historic use of evergreens as the primarily vegetative material surrounding the memorial; the majority of the reservation's central portion is still covered with turf; and the use of evergreen hedges on the north and west boundaries of the reservation is consistent with historic plantings. While most of the vegetation is non-contributing, it is compatible with the reservation's historic landscape. The existing vegetation taken as a whole reinforces the original appearance of the landscape.

Despite the removal of part of the walk and the change in paving material, the circulation pattern for Reservation 309 A contributes to the historic significance. The circulation within and surrounding the reservation, especially the walk and plaza footprint in front of the Marconi Memorial (part of the Gardner circulation pattern), evoke the property's history.

The views and vistas from Reservation 309 A evoke the historic prominent location of the reservation along busy 16th Street and its relation to the surrounding street grid and buildings in the immediate vicinity.

Today the Marconi Memorial, the work of prominent sculptor Attilio Piccirilli, remains the only existing building or structure on the reservation. The bronze sculptures of the Marconi Memorial were re-gilded in September 2006. The Guglielmo Marconi Memorial is significant as a rare example of the

commemoration of an individual associated with technology in Washington.

The small-scale features of the reservation have been substantially modified over time and have very limited integrity. Although most of the small-scale features are non-contributing, they are compatible with the historic character of the property.

THE SEVEN ASPECTS OF INTEGRITY
1. Location is the place where the historic property was constructed. US Reservation 309 A retains its original location at the corner of Lamont and 16th Streets, NW. It is a triangular park formed by the extension of 16th Street in the early part of the twentieth century.

2. Design is the composition of elements that create the form, plan, space, structure, and style of a cultural landscape or historic property. The current form of US Reservation 309 A was proposed by the Marconi Memorial Commission and modified by the National Park Service in 1940. Despite the 1988 rehabilitation, the reservation still retains integrity of design, especially with its spatial organization and circulation. Materials may have been changed, but the design intent remains.

3. Setting is the physical environment of a cultural landscape or historic property. The overall street intersection setting, with its linear and surrounding views, remains. The setting surrounding the reservation has somewhat changed over time, reflecting the modernization of the twentieth century. However, the neighborhood is preserved as a historic district. Reservation 309 A, by virtue of its role as a public space, its landscape, and the Marconi Memorial, is part of the complementary mix of architectural styles and features that defines this district. The setting within the reservation itself has also slightly changed over time, with some circulation changes and alterations to the vegetation. Despite these changes, the property's cultural landscape retains integrity of setting for the period of significance.

4. Materials are the physical elements of a particular period, including construction materials, paving, plants, and other landscape features. US Reservation 309 A does not retain integrity of materials. All materials remaining from the period of significance, other than the iron fence and the Guglielimo Marconi Memorial itself, have been replaced.

5. Workmanship is the physical evidence of the crafts of a particular period. With a lack of historic materials remaining in the cultural landscape of US Reservation 309 A, the landscape also lacks integrity of workmanship. The Guglielimo Marconi Memorial and the iron fence are the only evidence of the crafts of 1903-1941.

6. Feeling is the ability of a historic property to evoke the aesthetic or historic sense of a past period of time. Although most of the materials have changed within the reservation, the overall design and setting remain. A visitor today will experience much the same feeling as a visitor in 1941. The Guglielimo Marconi Memorial is still the focal point, accessed by a historic circulation pattern and framed by vegetation.

7. Association is the direct link between an important historic event or person and a historic property. While being part of a larger community planning and development effort, led by such luminaries as Mary Henderson and the members of the McMillan Commission, there is no historic event or person directly associated with this reservation.

CONCLUSIONS
This CLI finds that US Reservation 309 A retains integrity for its period of significance, 1903-1941. The landscape of 309 A remained relatively unchanged until 1988. As part of a rehabilitation program that year which impacted 309 A and several other National Park Service reservations in the Mount Pleasant Park neighborhood, the vegetation was updated and the circulation pattern was modified. Despite some deterioration, the results of the1988 rehabilitation are still clearly evident. While making some changes to the historic landscape, especially with regard to materials, the plan was sensitive to the original design intent. The vegetation massing and circulation still frame and highlight the memorial. The cultural landscape today evokes the historic significance of the property, retaining integrity of location, design, setting, and feeling.

Aspects of Integrity: Location

Design

Setting

Feeling

Landscape Characteristic:

Spatial Organization

Historic Conditions

The spatial organization of the reservation was established during the period from 1898 to 1942, as the system of permanent roads in Washington, DC was established. The boundaries of the reservation were defined by 16th Street NW on the east, Lamont Street NW on the north, and 15th Street NW on the west. During the period of significance, as well as today, the total size of the reservation was 0.23 acres. The reservation was located north of the original boundary of Washington, DC and was part of a long-standing residential neighborhood.

In 1938 Congress authorized the placement of a memorial to Guglielimo Marconi within the city limits of Washington, DC. After negotiations between the Marconi Memorial Foundation and the Commission of Fine Arts, Reservation 309 A was selected for its important location on 16th Street. According to the Fine Arts Commission, the site was “the most appropriate, more particularly in view of its close proximity to the Italian Embassy, which is only one block away” (Minutes of the Fine Arts Commission 1939: Exhibit F).

During the period of significance, the interior spatial organization was modified to accommodate the placement of the Marconi Memorial, designed by Joseph Freedlander and sculpted by Atillio Picirilli. The majority of the original landscape features were designed by landscape architect

Joseph Gardner and included vegetation, bituminous concrete walkways, and a central area of turf.

Existing Conditions

Despite some changes to the pattern of circulation and vegetation, the spatial organization of the site remains similar to its arrangement during the period of significance. The Marconi Memorial still retains is role as the focal point of the reservation—the landscape and the circulation pattern established by Gardener in 1940 still shapes the organization of the reservation today.

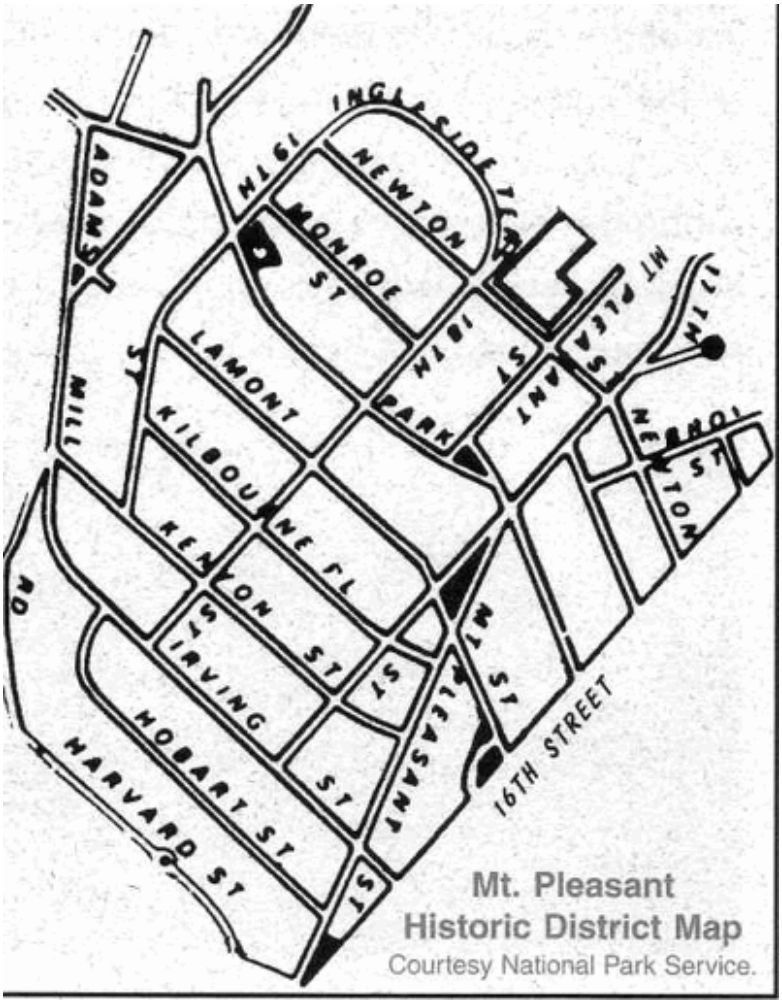
Character-defining Features:

Feature: Boundaries

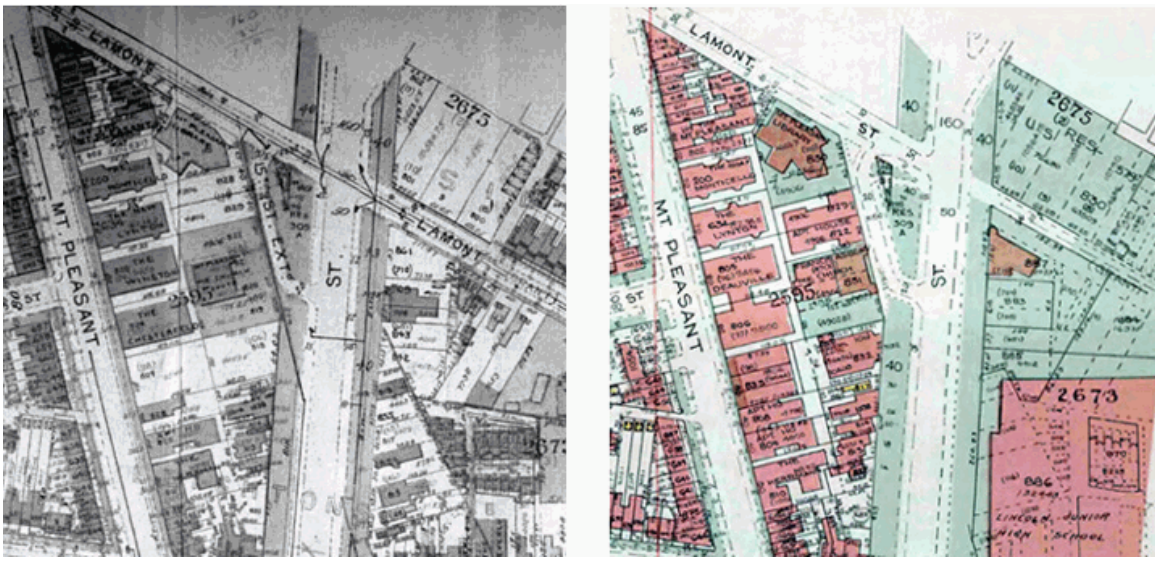
Feature Identification Number: 121454

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Mount Pleasant Historic District Map. US Reservation 309 A is adjacent to the '16th' in the 16th Street label. US Reservation 361 is just above 309 A. (Hughes 1987).



1919 (left) and 1968 (right) Baist maps showing the setting of US Reservation 309 A. (Baist 1919 and 1968).



View southwest from Lamont Street of US Reservation 309 A to the left and 361 to the right, separated by 15th Street, NW ext. (NCR CLP 2007).

Topography

Historic Conditions:

Reservation 309 A is located on the escarpment above the coastal plain that holds the original (L'Enfant city) portion of Washington, DC. Mount Pleasant acquired a reputation as a bucolic retreat from the city, where fresh air and unspoiled views were to be expected. During the period of significance, the reservations that make up the Mount Pleasant Park system were established, as both roads and streetcar tracks opened up what was previously a rural area to suburban development. Located on relatively flat land, 309 A exhibited no severe grade changes. The memorial to Guglielimo Marconi, located on the north end of the reservation, is located on the highest point in the reservation.

Existing Conditions

The reservation remains essentially flat, retaining the gentle grade changes that characterized its topography during the period of significance, including a gentle rise from the east and west edges, to the center, as well as its location on a larger upslope from south to north. The greater topography of the area is part of the rise from Coastal Plain to Piedmont that characterizes much of the city of Washington, DC above Florida Avenue.

Vegetation

Historic Conditions

The historic vegetation post-dates turn-of-the-century creation of the reservation. 1927 NCR Lands Records photos show that street trees along the reservation's west side were American elms. Other deciduous street trees, perhaps oaks or maples, grew in the grass strip along 16th Street. Street trees were not located on reservation property, but nonetheless contributed to the overall setting of the reservation. The southern end of the reservation was planted with dense dark shrubs of barberry, privet or spirea, along with 2 saucer magnolia trees. A weeping tree, likely a Camperdown elm, grew at the northeast corner of the reservation. Other plantings may have existed, but the remainder of the property was primarily turf. Many large trees shaded the surrounding properties.

New plantings were installed along with the Marconi Memorial in 1940-41, but the central portion of the reservation remained turf. Construction of the sidewalk necessitated replacement of the 4 American elm trees, which were replaced in kind.

Along the western side of the reservation, Gardener's plan called for the planting a wintergreen barberry hedge that faced out along the curb line toward the Methodist church. Across the concrete walk, closer to the inside of the reservation, a hedge of glossy leaf privet was proposed to form a boundary between the walk and the reservation's lawn. Spreading yew shrubs defined the ends of the privet hedge and flowering dogwood trees were proposed at equal distances along the length of the privet hedge.

The memorial was installed on the north end of the reservation, with the back of the memorial facing the intersection of 15th and Lamont Streets. Gardener proposed a series of plantings,

most of them evergreens, to provide a backdrop for the memorial. Directly behind the memorial, 4 pyracantha and 11 Sargent juniper shrubs were proposed. A stepped hedge of little-leaf Japanese holly framed either side of the memorial, and 4 Washington hawthorn trees punctuated this hedge. West of the memorial, facing the Mount Pleasant Branch Library, hedges of Sargent juniper and wintergreen barberry bordered the walk toward 15th Street. Six additional pyracantha shrubs and a flowering dogwood tree were proposed to be planted behind the juniper hedge. East of the memorial, facing 16th Street, a hedge of Sargent juniper was proposed with a flowering dogwood tree and 2 pyracantha shrubs to the north. Pachysandra groundcover was proposed for the area between and behind these plantings. Photos taken by John Wymer in May of 1949 indicate that most, perhaps all, of Gardener's landscape plan was installed.

Existing Conditions

The vegetation in Reservation 309 A remained relatively unchanged until 1988 when several of the reservations in the Mount Pleasant cluster were rehabilitated. Drawings by NPS landscape architect Darwina Neal indicate that many of the historic plantings were replaced, most with disease-hardy and pest-resistant plants.

The former north-south walk along 15th Street was replaced with a bed of William Penn barberry. Two milky way dogwood trees were planted in the new barberry bed. Along the east side of the barberry bed, the old hedge of glossy leaf privet was replaced with a new hedge of gnome pyracantha. A bed of big blue liriope was established along the east side of the pyracantha hedge (between the hedge and the lawn), and 5 milky way dogwood trees were planted in this bed along with 2 sugartyme crabapple trees that framed the memorial. The seven new milky way dogwood trees replaced the existing flowering dogwood trees and spreading yew shrubs that were planted at equal intervals along the former hedge line. The turf was replaced with new sod. One maple and 3 English oak trees grew on DC property along 16th Street.

The 1988 plan also involved changes in the plant materials immediately around the memorial. The 2 Washington hawthorn trees were removed from either side of the memorial. The pyracantha and juniper behind the memorial were replaced with 3 American holly trees and a groundcover of scarlet leader cotoneaster. Cotoneaster was also planted along the new brick walkway to the front of the memorial. The hedges on either side of the memorial were replaced with more gnome pyracantha. The dogwood trees and yew shrubs on the east side of the reservation were replaced with a sugartyme crabapple and a tuscarosa crape myrtle (Landscape Restoration Construction and Planting Plan 1988). Another sugartyme crabapple and two more tuscarosa crape myrtle trees were planted west of the memorial.

Since the 1988 rehabilitation, two milky way dogwood trees have been removed from the southern end of the reservation, and another has recently died. All scarlet leader cotoneaster shrubs have died and been removed, and the turf has been expanded north to the edge of the

brick paving along the memorial. The big blue liriope beds are overrun with weeds, and only a small section of the William Penn barberry shrubs remains in the northwestern portion of the reservation. Wild morning glory and English ivy have invaded the gnome pyracantha hedge along the western side of the reservation.

The 4 American elm trees along 15th Street, NW deteriorated and were removed, and a large, pre-1988 maple DC street tree has been removed from the southern tip of the park and replaced with a young sugar maple. A young American elm has been planted as a DC street tree along Lamont Street, NW at the northern tip of the park.

The park cut down the 3 American holly trees behind (north) of the memorial in 2006 to prevent them from scratching the memorial's new gilding. Stumps were left in hope that the hollies would regenerate as shrubs, and as of summer 2007, they did.

Despite the change in plant types, the vegetation retains a fair degree of integrity for several reasons. First, the current reservation retains the historic use of evergreens as the primarily vegetative material surrounding the memorial. Second, the majority of the reservation's central portion is still covered with turf. Third, the use of evergreen hedges on the north and west boundaries of the reservation is consistent with historic plantings. While most of the vegetation is non-contributing, it is compatible with the reservation's historic landscape. Street trees should be replanted along 15th Street to strengthen the historically prominent western border.

Character-defining Features:

Feature: Turf

Feature Identification Number: 121456

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: American holly shrubs

Feature Identification Number: 121458

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Big blue liriope

Feature Identification Number: 121460

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Tuscarosa crape myrtle trees

Feature Identification Number: 121462

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Gnome pyracantha hedge

Feature Identification Number: 121464

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Sugartyme crabapple trees

Feature Identification Number: 121466

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: William Penn barberry shrubs

Feature Identification Number: 121468

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: English ivy

Feature Identification Number: 121470

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:





Views of the reservation's western edge. Gaps in the pyracantha hedge, declining milky way dogwood trees, weeds in the liriope bed, and compacted turf soil are impacting the reservation's character. (NCR CLP 2007).





Views of the reservation's western edge show gaps in the pyracantha hedge, declining milky way dogwood trees, and invasive weeds. A barberry hedge has been removed from the mulched area since the 1988 rehabilitation. (NCR CLP 2007).



View of the northeastern corner of the reservation showing gaps in the pyracantha hedge with invasive morning glory vines beginning to cover the hedge. The hedges are intended to mirror the rectilinear planes of the the memorial. (NCR CLP 2007).



The American hollies behind the memorial, pruned back to the stump to protect the newly regilded statues in 2006, are beginning to regenerate. (NCR CLP 2007)

Circulation

Historic Conditions

The reservation's current boundaries were established before 1923 when a small curvilinear street named 15th Street, which was designed to service both the Asbury United Methodist Church and the Mount Pleasant Branch of the District of Columbia Library, was built on the south and west side of the reservation (The Story of Mount Pleasant and milestones of its later day development 1923).

By 1940, the time of the placement of the Marconi Memorial, the interior circulation pattern of the reservation had been established. As has already been mentioned, landscape architect Joseph Gardener created a circulation plan designed to complement the landscaping surrounding the memorial. Along 15th Street, Gardener planned a bituminous concrete walk which served as a way to bring pedestrians to the statue from the south end of the reservation or from the church. The walk, which also curved to connect to 16th Street, opened into a small plaza at the foot of the Marconi Memorial.

The exterior circulation pattern retained many characteristics from the early part of the century. For example, the sidewalks on 16th and Lamont Street continued to be the two main pedestrian circulation routes around the reservation.

Pedestrian and vehicular traffic flowed north and south along the 16th Street side of the reservation, east and west along the Lamont Street side of the reservation, and north and south along the 15th Street side of the reservation.

Existing Conditions

A landscape rehabilitation conducted by the National Park Service in 1988 modified the reservation's circulation pattern. The largest impact of the 1988 changes was the removal of the bituminous concrete walk that ran the length of the reservation along 15th Street and then turned east to 16th Street along the front of the memorial. Bricks set in sand around the base of the four American elm trees between the former walk and the curb along 15th Street were also removed. The north-south portion of this walk was replaced with vegetation, while the east-west section of this walk and plaza in front of the memorial was replaced with the same footprint with a herringbone pattern brick walk with steel edging.

Despite the removal of part of the walk and the change in paving material, the circulation pattern for Reservation 309 A contributes to the historic significance. The circulation within and surrounding the reservation, especially the walk and plaza footprint in front of the Marconi Memorial (part of the Gardner circulation pattern), evoke the property's history.

Character-defining Features:

Feature: Walk and plaza

Feature Identification Number: 121472

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



The brick walk curving from 15th Street, NW ext. toward the memorial. (NCR CLP 2007).



The brick walk and plaza in front of the Marconi Memorial. (NCR CLP 2007).



The sidewalk along Lamont Street north of the memorial. (NCR CLP 2007).

Views and Vistas

Historic Conditions

Mount Pleasant, at its founding, was well-sited to take advantage of views that overlooked the entire Washington area to the Potomac River (Emery 1930: 199). During the period of significance, the growth of the city, and the important axial role of 16th Street, reshaped both the actual views and vistas and the role that views and vistas played in defining the property.

In 1809 William Lambert and other members of the Columbian Institute for the Promotion of Arts and Sciences made the bold claim that the meridian line of Washington, DC, drawn in 1772 by Andrew Ellicot, was wrong. Members claimed that the true meridian of Washington bisected the White House and not the Capitol (Wiley 2005: 9). Accepted by Congress, this new meridian line played an important role in shaping the subsequent development of the 16th Street corridor and Mount Pleasant Parks. The axial role of 16th Street, combined with the plans of Mary Henderson and the Beaux-Arts preferences of the McMillian Commission, which favored wide streets with a terminated vista, ensured that the views from the Mount Pleasant Park cluster were impressive. The view along the 16th Street corridor during the period of significance included the spires of several area churches, embassies, and landmarks such as the Washington Monument. Theoretically, Reservation 309 A was sited so that one could stand directly adjacent to the reservation in the middle of 16th Street and see the White House to the south. During the latter portion of the period of significance, the reservation gained a view to

the west of the Carnegie-funded Mount Pleasant Branch Library and the former Francis Asbury Methodist Church.

Existing Conditions

The views and vistas for Reservation 309 A have retained a remarkable degree of continuity to the later portion of the period of significance. A view to the south still includes the spires of the three churches located at the intersection of 16th Street and Columbia Road. The Mount Pleasant Branch Library and the former Francis Asbury Methodist Church (now Meridian Hill Baptist Church) are still located to the west. As a major site line and transportation corridor, 16th Street still retains its central role in defining the reservation's views.

Today drivers along the 16th Street corridor enjoy views of the city when heading south, but also enjoy interesting views when approaching the reservation when driving north along 16th Street. Surrounded by an interesting mix of architectural styles, such as the Beaux-Arts Mount Pleasant Branch Library and several Art Deco apartment buildings, the views near the reservation reflect the gradual growth and development of the Mount Pleasant neighborhood.

The views and vistas from Reservation 309 A exhibit a great deal of integrity due to the relatively unchanged nature of the surrounding street grid and buildings in the immediate vicinity.

Character-defining Features:

Feature: View south to church spires

Feature Identification Number: 121474

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: View west to library and church

Feature Identification Number: 121476

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: 16th Street corridor views

Feature Identification Number: 121478

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



View south across the lawn toward the intersection of 15th Street, NW ext. with 16th Street NW. (NCR CLP 2007). The sign is visually intrusive.

Small Scale Features

Historic Conditions

Prior to the installation of the Marconi Memorial, the most notable small-scale features in the reservation were a series of four armless, wood-slat and cast iron benches that fronted 16th Street. With the 1940-41 installation of the memorial, these benches were removed and additional benches were added along 15th Street and in the plaza by the statue (NCR Lands Records Files; Kiplinger collection D.C Historical Society Wymer Photos 1949). 1927 photos show that the street boundaries of the reservation were square granite curbs.

A decorative cast-iron fence was installed northeast of the memorial along Lamont Street during the mid-1930s. The 1988 rehabilitation plans and the 1950s Wymer photographs corroborate this date. The fence was composed of long panels connected at both ends to urn-finial-topped posts. Each panel contained 3 horizontal rails and was divided into 5 bays by thin vertical balusters. The 2 rails running along the top of the fence formed an open fascia element, containing scrollwork in the bays adjacent to the posts. This type of decorative iron fence was installed in other downtown parks in the 1930s, including Farragut Square, McPherson Square, and Franklin Park. At least in the case of Franklin Park, the fencing is known to have been manufactured by the Anchor Fence Company of Baltimore.

Existing Conditions

The reservation still maintains a primary focus on the memorial. The three benches installed in 1988 have been replaced, and each one is located along the path to the memorial (two closer to 15th Street and one closer to 16th Street). They are a new design with three arms – two side arms and a center arm. The cast-iron supporting structure has curving legs, arms, and struts, with legs at either side joined by a single strut. The iron seat back and arms terminate on each side in a scroll containing a flat disk that bears the National Park Service arrowhead. The continuous slats are made of dense, rot-resistant purpleheart wood (Fanning 2005:12).

A park rules metal sign, mounted on a 5-feet-tall wooden post southwest of the memorial and south of the walk, announces that "alcoholic beverages prohibited" and that "All pets must be on a leash. Clean up after pets." The placement of the sign is visually intrusive, as it impacts all views to the memorial from the south.

The iron fence along Lamont Street remains, although it is badly damaged in some areas. Many posts are missing their urn finials. The 1988 landscape rehabilitation included the installation of new trash receptacles and benches. The NPS standard cast-iron and wood benches have since been replaced with contemporary ones of a different design, and the tulip-type trash receptacles have been replaced with 2 inappropriate large brown plastic ones that sit at both ends of the path to the memorial. The benches post-date the period of significance, but they are compatible with the historic landscape.

The grass strip between the reservation and 16th Street contains three small-scale features under municipal ownership; a bus stop, a street light, and square granite curbs. The granite curbs are standard for the District and also line the 15th Street and Lamont Street sides of the reservation.

The small-scale features of the reservation have been substantially modified over time and have very limited integrity. Several are intrusive and incompatible. In fact, some are intrusive and incompatible.

Character-defining Features:

Feature: Iron fence

Feature Identification Number: 121480

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Trash receptacles

Feature Identification Number: 121482

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: NPS benches

Feature Identification Number: 121484

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Park rules sign

Feature Identification Number: 126957

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Iron fence, trash receptacle, and NPS bench at northeast corner of US Reservation 309 A. (NCR CLP 2007).

Buildings and Structures

Historic Conditions

As has already been stated, prior to the instillation of the Marconi Memorial, Reservation 309 A had no buildings or structures. The 1940-41-era memorial was the only building and structure present on the reservation during the period of significance.

Existing Conditions

Today the Marconi Memorial remains the only existing building or structure on the reservation.

The bronze sculptures of the Marconi Memorial were re-gilded in September 2006.

Character-defining Features:

Feature:	Guglielimo Marconi Memorial
Feature Identification Number:	121486
Type of Feature Contribution:	Contributing
IDLCS Number:	5873
LCS Structure Name:	Marconi; Guglielmo Marconi Memorial
LCS Structure Number:	309-A1

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Statue atop Marconi Memorial after being regilded in 2006. (NCR CLP 2007).

Condition

Condition Assessment and Impacts

Condition Assessment: Fair

Assessment Date: 08/30/2007

Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:

Though the Marconi Memorial, U.S. Reservation 309 A still retains many features of its 1940 design, it is subject to heavy pedestrian use including homeless individuals. This use affects the soil and vegetation of the park as well as the memorial itself. Since it is a small reservation, declining vegetation has a big impact on its condition. The vegetation is an important part of the reservation's design highlighting and framing the memorial. The current rectilinear hedges, while noncontributing, are compatible with the historic character of the reservation, echoing the granite blocks of the memorial as the historic design intended. The condition of hedges is declining, and within 3-5 years, if left untreated, the important structure that they provide to the reservation and memorial will be weakened. Additional plants such as the milky way dogwood trees and the big blue liriope groundcover are also declining. Weeds and invasive vines are spreading throughout the beds. The vegetation should be rehabilitated to improve the landscape to good condition. The 1940 and 1988 landscape plans may serve as a guide.

Impacts

Type of Impact: Deferred Maintenance

External or Internal: Internal

Impact Description: Regular cyclic maintenance is needed to weed the planting beds.

Type of Impact: Deferred Maintenance

External or Internal: Internal

Impact Description: Several Korean dogwood trees have died in recent years and need to be replaced to maintain the historic plant massings along the western edge of the reservation.

Type of Impact: Erosion

External or Internal: Internal

Impact Description: Lawn in the park is subject to erosion where grass has been worn away by pedestrian traffic or lack of irrigation. The lawn becomes extremely dry and spotty in summer months.

Type of Impact:	Exposure To Elements
External or Internal:	Internal
Impact Description:	As an outdoor monument, the memorial is exposed to weather and pollution and requires periodic cleaning and maintenance. The base also requires repointing. The statues were regilded in 2006 – PMIS 63126: Preserve Guglielmo Marconi Memorial Statue. The decorative cast-iron fence north of the memorial is prone to rust, and should be repainted on a regular basis.
Type of Impact:	Pruning Practices
External or Internal:	Internal
Impact Description:	American holly trees behind the memorial must be kept pruned away from the memorial to protect the gilding from scratching. The historic planted form of the rectilinear hedges should be maintained, so the hedges continue to echo the granite blocks of the memorial.
Type of Impact:	Soil Compaction
External or Internal:	Internal
Impact Description:	The high volume of pedestrian traffic through the park results in soil becoming compacted in eroded areas, making it difficult for water to filter through to tree and shrub roots.
Type of Impact:	Vandalism/Theft/Arson
External or Internal:	Internal
Impact Description:	Graffiti on the granite base is a constant problem.
Type of Impact:	Vegetation/Invasive Plants
External or Internal:	Internal
Impact Description:	The plant bed along the western edge of the reservation has been infiltrated with weeds. The weeds are crowding out the liriope. English ivy and morning glory vines are choking the pyracantha hedge. Several Korean dogwood trees have died in recent years and need to be replaced to maintain the historic plant massings along the western edge of the reservation. Rehabilitation is needed; see PMIS 63102: Replace Shrubbery at Res. No. 309A 309B

Type of Impact: Visitation

External or Internal: Internal

Impact Description: Reservation 309 A is located within a busy section of the Mount Pleasant neighborhood, and many visitors pass through the park daily. It also attracts a large number of homeless persons, and serves as a gathering place for local residents and workers. The volume of visitors is often too great, causing soil compaction that impacts the plants.

Treatment

Treatment

Approved Treatment: Undetermined

Approved Treatment Document Explanatory Narrative:

There is a PMIS Statement (63102) titled "Replace Shrubbery at Res. No. 309A, 309B." Description: Replant 800 shrubs in Res. Nos. 309A and 309B of the 16th Street parks per the original landscape plan. Justifications: Presently shrubs in these park areas are either dead, missing, or overgrown. This project will bring these parks areas up to the original intended standard.

Approved Treatment Completed: No

Approved Treatment Costs

Landscape Treatment Cost: 60,000.00

Level of Estimate: C - Similar Facilities

Cost Estimator: Park/FMSS

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Citation Title:	Historic Society of Washington, DC, 801 K Street, NW at Mount Vernon Square, Washington, DC 20001.
Source Name:	Other