
National Park Service
Cultural Landscapes Inventory
2007



Gibbons Memorial, US Reservation 309 G
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:

The triangular US Reservation 309 G is bordered to the north by Park Road, to the east by Pine Street, NW, and to the west by 16th Street. The reservation is 0.22 acre. It is administratively part of Rock Creek Park; however, this is for management purposes only, as it shares no thematic relation to the park other than its nearby location.

The inventory unit is not located within a historical unit, and it is not currently located within the boundaries of a property determined to be eligible for the National Register. It is located directly across 16th Street from 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 findings of this CLI may be useful for future national register amendments if the boundaries of the district are ever expanded across 16th Street to include this inventory unit.

The Gibbons Memorial (statue and base), located within US Reservation 309 G, has been found to be significant with both the Cardinal James Gibbons 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). The memorial has been found to be significant under National Register Criterion C in the area of art with a 1932 period of significance, the year of its installation and dedication. The nomination was approved by the Keeper in October of 2007.

The Reservation 309 G 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 Cardinal James Gibbons in 1932. The 1918 landscape design by landscape architect John H. Small, Jr. predates the memorial. The cultural landscape, despite some changes to plant material, reflects the community desire for the public use of the reservation and contributes to the property's significance. Mount Pleasant residents themselves wanted to ensure that some triangular reservations would become public parks ideal for statuary and memorials.

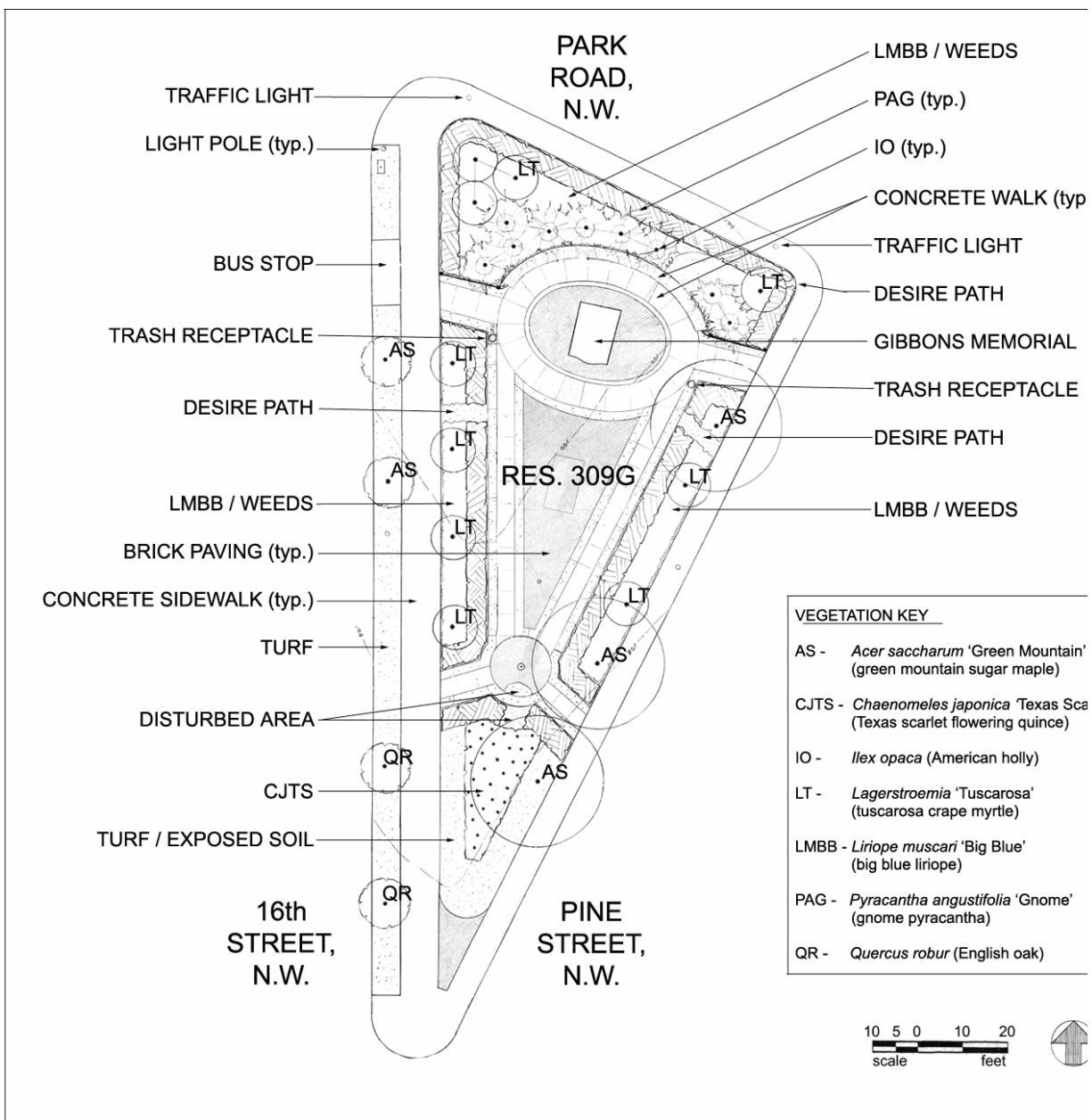
This CLI finds that US Reservation 309 G retains integrity for its period of significance, 1903-1932. The landscape of 309 G has been altered slightly with changes made in 1946, 1966, and 1988. In 1988, several of the reservations in the Mount Pleasant Park neighborhood, including Reservation 309 G, were rehabilitated. Despite some deterioration, the results of the 1988 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. The property's historic circulation is remarkably intact. The cultural landscape today evokes the historic significance of the property, retaining integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, and feeling.

Though the Gibbons Memorial, U.S. Reservation 309 G still retains many features of its 1918-1932 design, the cultural landscape is in fair condition. It is subject to heavy pedestrian use, particularly from

commuters passing through daily on their way to and from work, local residents and workers, and homeless individuals. This use affects the soil, vegetation, brick and concrete pavement, and furnishings of the park.

To bring the reservation's landscape to good condition, the brick pavement should be repaired, and the concrete pavement should be replaced. The vegetation, especially the American holly trees and pyracantha hedge, should be rejuvenated with proper pruning and maintenance. The 1924 and 1988 landscape plans may serve as guides.

Site Plan



2007 existing conditions plan of Gibbons Memorial, US Reservation 309 G. (NCR CLP 2007).
 This plan is adapted from the National Capital Region 1988 landscape rehabilitation plans
 prepared by Darwina Neal. (DSC TIC 878/86413).

Property Level and CLI Numbers

Inventory Unit Name:	Gibbons Memorial, US Reservation 309 G
Property Level:	Component Landscape
CLI Identification Number:	975381
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 Gibbons Memorial, US Reservation 309 G 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:

Gibbons Memorial, US Reservation 309 G
Rock Creek Park - DC Street Plan Reservations

 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, Gibbons Memorial, US Reservation 309 G Cultural Landscape Inventory

I, Adrienne Applewhaite-Coleman, Superintendent of Rock Creek Park, concur with the findings of the Cultural Landscape Inventory for Gibbons Memorial, US Reservation 309 G 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 Gibbons Memorial, US Reservation 309 G is hereby approved and accepted.

 8/30/07
Superintendent, Rock Creek Park Date

Rock Creek Park Superintendent Statement of Concurrence.

Gibbons Memorial, US Reservation 309 G
Rock Creek Park - DC Street Plan Reservations



United States Department of the Interior

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

August 16, 2007

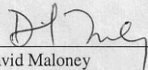
Memorandum

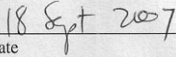
To: Cultural Landscapes Inventory Coordinator, National Capital Region

From: Acting State Historic Preservation Officer, District of Columbia

Subject: Statement of Concurrence, Gibbons Memorial, US Reservation 309 G
Cultural Landscapes Inventory

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


David Maloney
District of Columbia
Acting State Historic Preservation Officer


Date

District of Columbia State Historic Preservation Office Statement of Concurrence.

Geographic Information & Location Map

Inventory Unit Boundary Description:

The triangular US Reservation 309 G is bordered to the north by Park Road, to the east by Pine Street, NW, and to the west by 16th Street. Starting at the northernmost point at the intersection of 16th Street and Park Road, the reservation boundary follows the south side of the Park Road sidewalk for 91.69 feet before curving 12.6 feet southwest. The boundary then follows the west side of the Pine Street sidewalk for 186.22 feet. At the apex the boundary then follows the east side of the 16th Street sidewalk for 207.56 feet, then curves for 12.6 feet and reconnects with the northernmost point. The reservation is 9691 square feet or 0.22 acre.

State and County:

State: DC

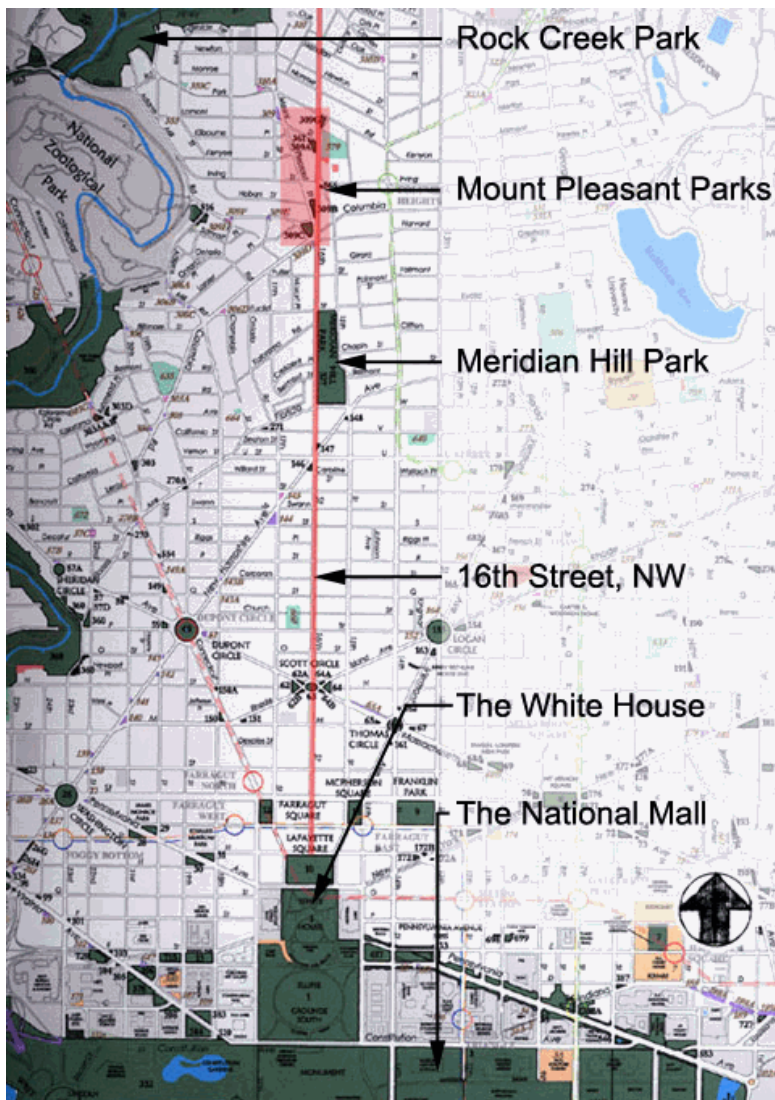
County: District of Columbia

Size (Acres): 0.22

Boundary UTMS:

Source:	USGS Map 1:62,500
Type of Point:	Point
Datum:	NAD 27
UTM Zone:	18
UTM Easting:	323,474
UTM Northing:	4,310,899

Location Map:



Gibbons Memorial, US Reservation 309 G, is located along 16th Street, NW in the Mount Pleasant neighborhood of Washington, DC. The reservation 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 was approved and erected following an act of Congress, and it 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 sign states, "Alcoholic beverages prohibited."

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 - 1932

Historic Context Theme: Expressing Cultural Values

Subtheme: Landscape Architecture

Facet: Urban Planning in the Twentieth Century

Time Period: AD 1903 - 1932

Historic Context Theme: Expressing Cultural Values

Subtheme: Painting and Sculpture

Facet: Realism 1850-1926

Other Facet: Naturalism

Area of Significance:

Area of Significance Category: Community Planning and Development

Area of Significance Subcategory: None

Statement of Significance:

Located at the intersection of 16th and Pine Streets, and Park Road NW, Reservation 309 G is a triangular park formed by the extension of 16th Street in the early part of the twentieth century. Reservation 309 G is the end of a chain of six discontinuous 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.

The Reservation 309 G 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 for the reservation begins with the extension and improvement of 16th Street past Florida Avenue in 1903 and ends with the installation of a memorial to Cardinal James Gibbons in 1932. The reservation's cultural landscape contributes to the property's significance. While the landscape slightly predates the installation of the memorial, it was clearly designed to compliment the subsequent memorization and community use of

the site.

The reservation is located across from the Shrine of the Sacred Heart and the most prominent feature of Reservation 309 G is a statue of Cardinal James Gibbons, Archbishop of the diocese of Baltimore, erected in 1932. Reflective of naturalism, the memorial “is a rare example (in Washington, DC) of a portrait statue of a leader of a religious community. A gift of the Knights of Columbus, the memorial was approved by an Act of Congress on April 23, 1928 (Congressional Act of 1928) and dedicated on August 14, 1932. Leo Lentelli sculpted the work and architect George Kayl designed the pedestal. The memorial is significant under Criterion C in the area of Art” (Barsoum 2006a and 2006b).

Reservation 309 G lies outside of, but adjacent to, the eastern boundary of the Mount Pleasant Historic District. The district is bounded by 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. Although not currently included within the district’s boundaries, Reservation 309 G by virtue of its role as a public space, its landscape, and the Gibbons 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.

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 G 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 the land which is now Meridian Hill Park, her new estate. 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" (Plan Noble Highway: Splendid Aims of 16th Street Association 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 (Plan Noble Highway: Splendid Aims of 16th Street Association 1903: E4). Reservation 309 G is located across from the Sacred Heart Church. By the 1920's, this and several other large public buildings had been built along the 16th Street Corridor.

1918 plans from the Office of Public Buildings and Grounds established the reservation's landscape. At the north end of the reservation, a large ellipse designated a public space. Early plans indicate that a gazebo or other structure was to fill this ellipse, but site plans from 1926-1927, indicate that this spot had been selected for the Cardinal Gibbons Statue. Radiating from the ellipse were two paths that were delineated with benches on the outside and a hedge on the inside. These paths came together in a smaller circle in roughly the middle of the reservation. Paths provide access to the sidewalks along Pine and 16th Street radiating out from the ellipse and the small circle. Large evergreen trees provided a backdrop for the memorial.

It is not surprising that 309 G would be selected as the site where a statue honoring one of the most

important Catholic leaders in America during the late 1800's to early 1900's would be placed. First, the location of the reservation sits in the shadow of the Shrine of the Sacred Heart, a large Catholic Church completed in the early twentieth century. Second, the pastor of the Shrine of the Sacred Heart was Monsignor P.C. Craven, who, according to the Washington Post, "was associated with the Cardinal for many years at the Cathedral in Baltimore as secretary to his eminence and as the chancellor of the archdiocese" (McCann, Francis Anthony 1934: SM3).

"Wearing clerical robes and cap, the cardinal sits in a chair recalling ancient Roman curules. His right hand is raised and depicted in the act of blessing the observer. The hand is configured in the traditional Roman Catholic form for the blessing, the thumb and first two fingers extended, symbolizing the Trinity. The left hand holds a cross. The top of the rectangular granite pedestal features a carved band of peacocks alternating with Greek and Latin crosses; in Christian art, peacocks symbolize the Resurrection and immortality. The front of the pedestal is inscribed with Gibbons' name with his dates in Roman numerals. Both sides of the pedestal are embellished by a coat of arms and cardinal's hats with flanking tassels. The shield on the left represents the Archdiocese of Washington and the Gibbons' family coat of arms is depicted on the right. The five tiers of tassels symbolize the clerical ranks Gibbons achieved: priest, monsignor, bishop, archbishop, and cardinal. The rear of the pedestal features the Latin inscription: 'Emitte Spiritvm Tvvm.' The phrase comes from the well-known liturgical prayer Veni, Sancte Spiritus (Come Holy Spirit), sung at the Feast of Pentecost. The phrase is the first portion of the cantor's intercession. The complete line in the prayer is as follows: 'Emitte Spiritum tuum et creabuntur, et renovabis faciem terrae.' It translates to: 'Send forth Thy Spirit and they shall be created, and you will renew the face of the earth.'" (Barsoum 2006b).

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

Urban Park

Other Type of Use or Function

Both Current And Historic

Current and Historic Names:

Name

US Reservation 309 G

Gibbons Memorial

Type of Name

Both Current And Historic

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 today's 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 dominant motif and 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.

Gibbons Memorial, US Reservation 309 G
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AD 1898 - 1903	Land Transfer	With the formation of US Reservation 309 G, 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 an 18-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 1918	Designed	Development plans by landscape architect John H. Small, Jr. establish a circulation pattern that still exists today. The 1918 proposed vegetation is similar to that actually installed at least in structure. The future spot of the Gibbons Memorial was originally intended to either be a gazebo or an ornamental fountain.
	Maintained	A row of 6 London plane trees grow between the sidewalk and 16th Street, NW.

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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	Engineered	Field drawing by L.W.R. dated 1926 indicates the improved reservation including the Cardinal Gibbons Statue.
AD 1928		A resolution to erect a memorial to Cardinal Gibbons on Reservation 309 C is introduced in the House of Representatives.
AD 1930 - 1935	Built	A decorative cast-iron fence is installed along the two walks to 16th and Pine Streets from the ellipse at the north end of the reservation.
AD 1930 - 1950	Built	Large apartment buildings on 16th Street bring traffic and short-term residents to the community.
AD 1932		August 14th. Gibbons statue is presented to the United States by Martin Carmody, Supreme Knight of the Knights of Columbus. Statue is accepted by Herbert Hoover. Unveiling draws a crowd of 20,000 for parade and ceremony.
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 1946		An existing conditions plan indicates that the spatial organization and circulation pattern first proposed in 1918 remains. A 4-foot-high beech hedge surrounds the reservation. A row of jetbead lines the inside of the hedge along the east and west sides of the park; flowering quince is contained by hedge at the apex; and 10 American holly trees form a screen between the memorial and Park Road.

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Rock Creek Park - DC Street Plan Reservations

	Maintained	A continuous, semicircular bench curves along the walk behind the memorial. Eight benches are located around the edges of the central brick-paved triangle. A structural iron fence separates the access and egress walks from the plantings at the north end of the reservation.
	Maintained	A row of 6 London plane trees still grows in the tree space between the sidewalk and the curb along 16th Street, NW.
AD 1949 - 1950		Wymer Photograph shows the statue of Gibbons surrounded by brick pavers and a stone curb. Standard issue NPS benches ring the the surrounding walk.
AD 1961	Abandoned	DC Transit System converted 2 of its four remaining Washingt n streetcar lines including the Mount Pleasant Line to bus operation.
AD 1987	Conserved	Knights of Columbus votes to appropriate \$13,000 for the refurbishment of the Gibbons Statue.
	Maintained	Existing plants include a bordering beech hedge lined by American holly trees behind the memorial and lined by jetbead shrubs in front of the memorial; flowering quince near the apex of the triangle; 1 maple tree; and 2 maple trees and 3 English oaks on DC property along Pine Street.
	Rehabilitated	Landscape rehabilitation plan is prepared and implemented by the National Capital Region. Three Green Mountain sugar maple trees; 275 gnome pyracantha shrubs; 130 William Penn barberry shrubs; 34 Texas scarlet flowering quince shrubs; 2 American holly trees (to fill in gap in existing holly grove); 10 tuscarosa crape myrtle trees; and 1650 big blue liriop e plants are planted.
	Rehabilitated	The drinking fountain is replaced, and the circular concrete pad beneath it is replaced with brick paving.
AD 1990 - 2007	Removed	All benches (3 rows north, east , and west of the memorial) have been removed; 1 American holly; all 130 William Penn barberry shrubs; and 1 pre-1987 sugar maple tree have been removed; the drinking fountain has been removed; 4 desire paths have been cut through the gnome pyracantha hedges; and the big blue liriop e beds have been invaded with weeds.

Physical History:

1635-1903: Farm Fields to Urban Parks

Reservation 309 G 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 G was under the ownership of the Holmead family, who built their home, Holmead Manor, in the area during the 1700s. 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 small village of Mount Pleasant, which was located nearby. 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 acres [sic.] each as country residences” (Emery 1930: 195).

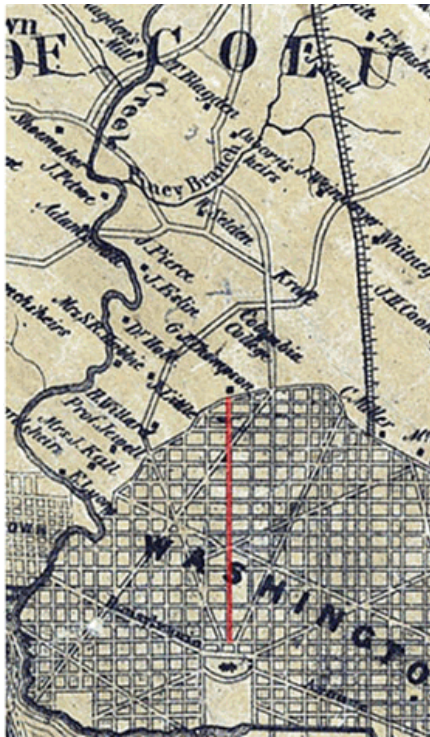
Subdivisions continued to decrease the size of the Holmead estate, and in 1850 J. Ross Brown purchased the land that now contains Reservation 309 G. He sold it to William Selden a month later. In 1862, Selden, a former Treasurer of the United States and a Confederate sympathizer, was forced to sell his 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; 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 S.P. 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 1890s. Mrs. John Henderson, the wife of the Senator from Missouri, planned to make 16th

Street into “The Avenue of the Presidents,” by 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 the meridian of Washington, 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 what later became 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).

1903-1932: The Cardinal 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." (Plan Noble Highway: Splendid Aims of 16th Street Association 1903: E4). The boundaries of reservation 309 G were established with the 1898 extension of the current 16th Street along a North/South axis to Park Road (Records of Historic Mount Pleasant, Collection 37, MLK Library 1974:2).

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, often schools and playgrounds. While 309 G 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. As well, the use of small reservations for a public use was a community desire; a 1903 Washington Post article references the specific desire to make part of Reservation 309 B, which would later hold the memorial to Francis Asbury, into a public park owned by the District of Columbia.

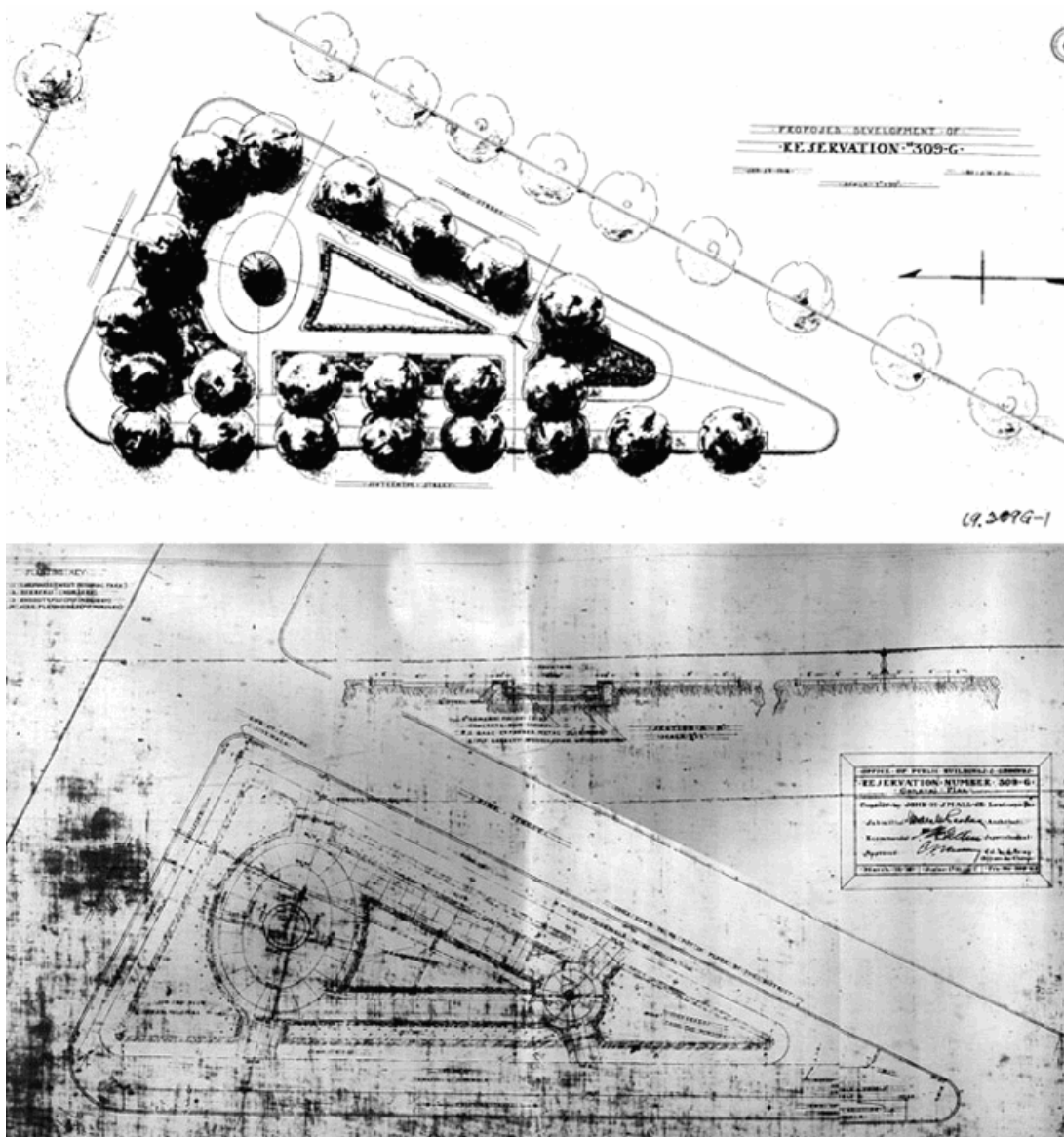
It is unclear when Pine Street, the eastern boundary of the reservation, was created. While a 1902 map of the permanent system of highways does not show Pine Street, a reproduction of an 1887 Real Estate Atlas indicates Pine Street predates the extension of 16th Street (Historic Mount Pleasant Files Folder 1, Historic Society of Washington, DC). Despite this apparent conflict, early plans for the reservation's improvements dating from 1918 clearly identify Pine Street as forming the eastern boundary of the reservation.

A series of development plans were prepared for Reservation 309 G in 1918 by John H. Small, Jr., a landscape designer with the Office of Public Buildings and Grounds, including one that proposed walks radiating from a semicircle centered on Pine Street much like a sunburst or wagon wheel spokes. One of Small's development plans appears to have been selected, establishing the circulation pattern that exists today (DSC TIC 878/86405). At the north end of the reservation, the plans called for a prominent elliptical space, where one version depicts a gazebo or bandstand, while another calls for an ornamental fountain. The plan called for the elliptical space to be surrounded by a walk bordered with benches. Radiating from the elliptical walk, two paths were lined on the outside by benches. These paths converged in a concrete circle that contained a drinking fountain closer to the southern end of the reservation. Paths that provided access to the sidewalks along Pine and 16th Street radiated out both from the ellipse and the small circle. The plan proposed that the reservation's walks be concrete with ornamental exposed-aggregate concrete edges. A sidewalk and curb were proposed for along Pine Street to the east. Sidewalks already existed along 16th Street to the west and Park Road to the north.

The 1918 vegetation plan called for the central spaces and walks to be bordered with hornbeam hedge rows. The hedge-enclosed spaces were to be planted with shrubs like barberry and jetbead. Norway maple trees were to be planted along the inside of the walks along 16th Street, Park Road, and Pine Street. Norway maple trees already existed between the walk and curb along 16th Street.

An aerial photo taken as part of a promotional campaign by the Riggs Bank around 1923 and a field drawing done in 1926 (The Story of Mount Pleasant and milestones of its later day development 1923; Field Work Plan Res. 309 G 1926) indicates that the 1918 plan was installed with perhaps only minor variations. It is clear that by the early 1920s, 309 G was one of the most improved reservations in the Mount Pleasant Park chain—the 1926 site plan indicates that as early as six years before its dedication, the elliptical space was already reserved for a memorial to Cardinal Gibbons.

The dedication of the memorial on August 14, 1932 drew an estimated 20,000 people to Reservation 309 G. Leo Lentelli sculpted the work and architect George Kayl designed the pedestal. Given to the United States by the Knights of Columbus, members timed the memorial dedication to coincide with the golden anniversary of the organization (Gibbons' Work Lauded at Statue Rite Washington Post 1932 1, S8). Notable people present at the dedication included Martin Carmody, supreme knight of the Knights of Columbus, Maryland Governor Albert Ritchie, and President Herbert Hoover, who spoke at the memorial's dedication.



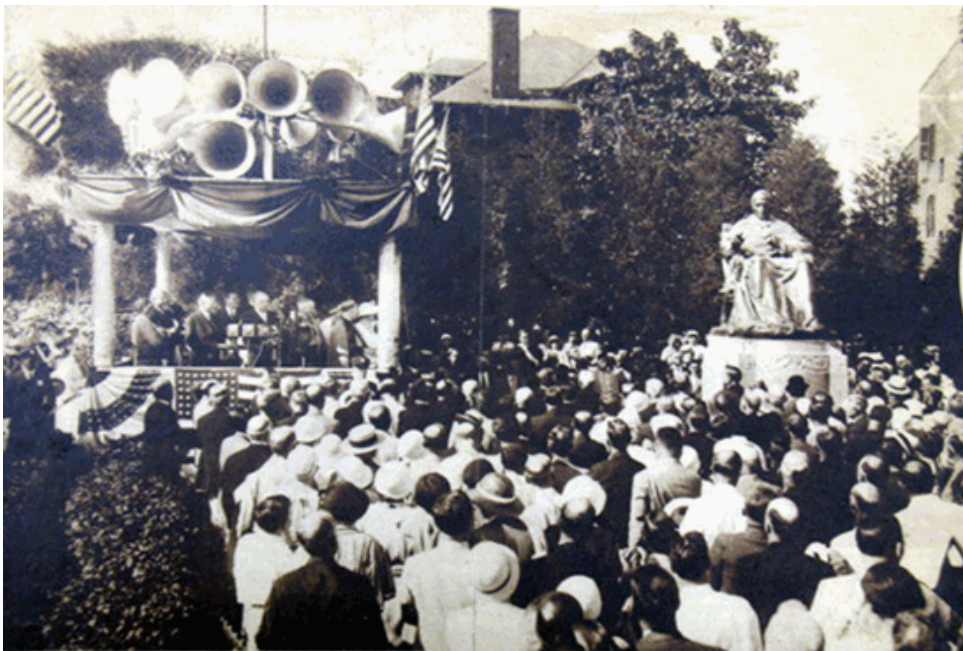
1918 Proposed Development of Reservation 309 G plans, prepared by John H. Small, Jr., landscape architect. (DSC TIC 878/86405).



1927 view north of US Reservation 309 G. (NCR Lands Records).



Post-1918 and pre-1932 birdseye view of US Reservation 309 G in front of the Sacred Heart Catholic Church. (Photo by R. Burgan, Washingtoniana Room, Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Library).



Dedication of Gibbons Memorial, August 21, 1932. (Washingtoniana Room, Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Library).

1932 to 2007: Park Maintenance

A 1946 NPS plan of US Reservation 309 G documented the site's existing conditions as well as rehabilitation planting (NCR Lands Records 69.309G-10). Although this plan post-dates the close of the period of significance by 14 years, it provides the best evidence of the actual built landscape for that period. The circulation pattern first proposed in 1918 by John H. Small, Jr. remained. Between 1932 and 1946, the elliptical area beneath the memorial, the triangular area to the south between the ellipse and the circle, and the triangular area at the apex, were paved with brick in a herringbone pattern. The walks both within and surrounding the park were concrete. The concrete circle near the south end of the park was retained, and the circa 1920s photos, as well as the 1946 plan, indicate the presence of a drinking fountain there as originally proposed in 1918.

Lost or damaged plants were replaced. Six mature Norway maple trees grew between the walk and 16th Street, NW, and four Norway maple trees grew along the west side of the Pine Street sidewalk inside the park. A four-foot-high beech hedge surrounded the reservation on all sides. A row of jetbead lined the inside of beech hedge along the east and west sides of the park, and flowering quince was contained by beech hedge at the apex. The row of columnar evergreens trees (possibly cryptomeria or juniper) behind the memorial was replaced with 10 American holly trees, 16 to 18 feet in height. The new holly trees, like their predecessors, formed a screen between Cardinal Gibbons and Park Road. Glossy privet shrub masses grew north of the holly trees inside the two corners of the beech hedge. A "structural" iron fence separated the external walks along 16th and Pine Streets from the plantings at the north end of the reservation, while a continuous bench did the same along the north side of the elliptical walk.

It is unclear how many benches were in the center portion of the park. A photograph taken in the 1920s indicates that two (possibly four) benches were located around the edges of the central triangle, but the 1946 plan shows no existing benches here, but proposes eight new ones (Washingtoniana Room, MLK Library, Burgan 1920c.). A 1943 photograph taken of the memorial indicates that at least one of the benches marked "proposed" on the 1946 plan was already in place (Washingtoniana Room, MLK Library, Highton 1943).

A 1966 NPS plan of US Reservation 309 G drawn by Wood and Davis and titled "Topography" shows the existing conditions at this time (DSC TIC 878/86411). The circulation pattern and materials had not changed. The ornamental exposed-aggregate concrete borders of the park's walks are described as "scrub finish." The vegetation had changed little. Much of the vegetation remained, but the condition was in decline. Shrubs appeared spotty, and gaps had formed in the hedges. Only 1 of the original 4 Norway maple trees survived along the eastern edge of the park. The long continuous bench still lined the north edge of the elliptical walk, and the eight individual park benches in the center of the park, had been replaced by two long continuous benches along the edges of the internal walks.

F.C. Babb prepared design plans for Reservation 309 G in the 1970s that proposed radical changes to the circulation and vegetation, leaving only the memorial and the brick ellipse beneath it untouched. This asymmetrical plan expressed an aesthetic of its time and was not developed.

In 1987, the area adjacent to Reservations 309 G on the opposite (west) side of 16th Street was designated the Mount Pleasant Historic District (Barksome National Register of Historic Places 2006). The district is bounded by 16th Street to the east; Harvard Street to the south; Rock Creek Park to the west; and Piney Branch Park to the north. 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 it was not transferred to the National Park Service until 1933.

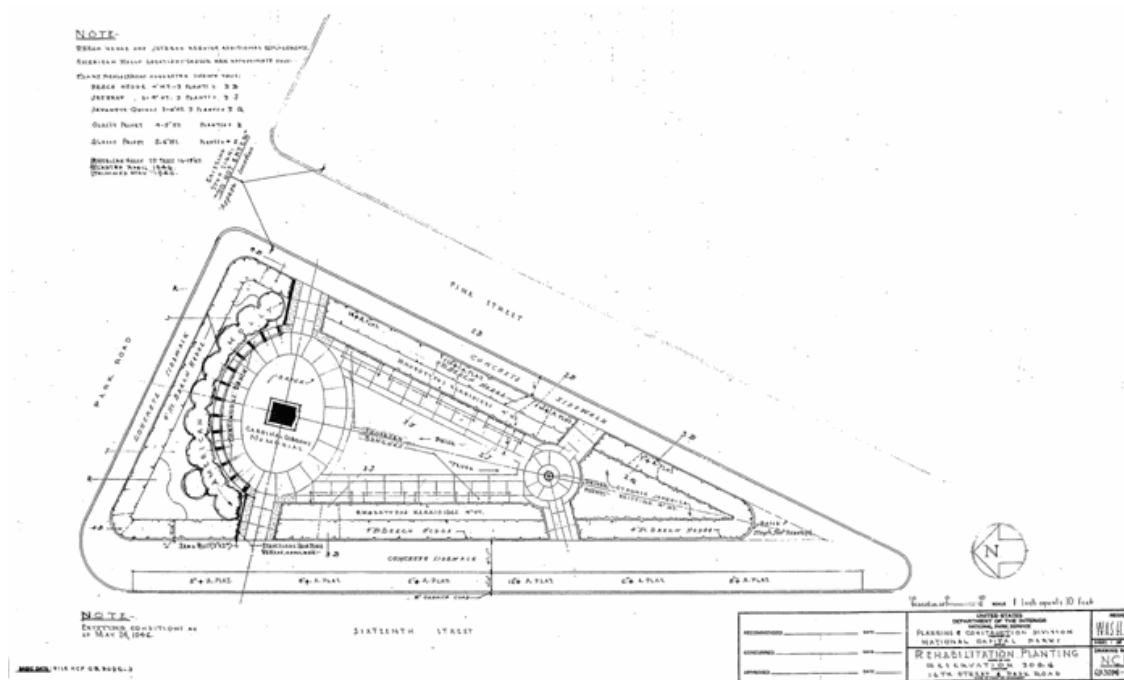
By 1987, the landscape of Reservation 309 G was in need of rehabilitation. Plans prepared by the National Capital Region of the Park Service indicate that much of the preexisting vegetation was replaced, while the circulation pattern was retained. The beech hedge surrounding the reservation was removed. At the north end of the reservation, the old hedge was replaced with a *gnome pyracantha* hedge. Two of the missing or declining American hollies behind the memorial were replaced in-kind. Four *tuscarosa* crape myrtle trees were planted in the former open areas at the northwest and northeast corners. *Jetbead* shrubs along the inside of the old beech hedge were replaced with a *gnome pyracantha* hedge south of the memorial, and the beech hedge was replaced with big blue *liriope*. Crape myrtles were planted within these areas (4 on the west side of the reservation and 2 on the east side). The flowering quince shrubs at the south end of the reservation were replaced with 34 Texas scarlet flowering quince shrubs. However, this new planting was now bordered by a hedge of 130 William Penn barberry shrubs to the south and more *gnome pyracantha* to the north. Existing street trees including maples and English oaks were retained whenever possible, but 3 green mountain sugar maples were planted along the eastern edge of the reservation to accompany an existing maple and fill in the tree line. The drinking fountain south of the memorial near the apex of the reservation was replaced, and the paved concrete circle beneath it was replaced with a brick circle matching other pavement on site.

The reservation still reflects the rehabilitation of 1987. One major difference is that all benches, the 3 rows north, east, and west of the memorial have been removed from the reservation. One American holly; all 130 William Penn barberry shrubs; and 1 pre-1987 sugar maple tree have been removed. Four desire paths cut through the *gnome pyracantha* hedges, and the big blue *liriope* beds have been invaded with weeds. The drinking fountain has been removed, and the old valves are covered by a metal plate.



*View east of Gibbons Memorial and Sacred Heart Church taken between 1923 and 1946.
(Martin Luther King Memorial Library).*

Gibbons Memorial, US Reservation 309 G
Rock Creek Park - DC Street Plan Reservations



1946 Rehabilitation Planting Plan, Reservation 309 G. (NCR Lands Records 69.309G-10).

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 G by comparing landscape characteristics and features present during the period of significance (1903-1932) 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 in 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 G is adjacent to, but outside 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 G, by virtue of its role as a public space, its landscape, and the Gibbons Memorial, is part of the complementary mix of architectural styles and features that define this adjacent district, and would be addition to the district if the boundaries are ever amended.

The Reservation 309 G 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 Cardinal James Gibbons in 1932. The 1918 landscape design by landscape architect John H. Small, Jr. predates the memorial. The cultural landscape, despite some changes to plant material, reflects the community desire for the public use of the reservation and contributes to the property's significance. Mount Pleasant residents themselves wanted to ensure that some triangular reservations would become public parks ideal for statuary and memorials.

LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISTICS AND FEATURES

Contributing landscape characteristics identified for Reservation 309 G 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 Gibbons Memorial still retains its role as the focal point in the center of the reservation — the landscape and the circulation pattern established in 1932 still shapes the spatial organization of the reservation today. The reservation still retains its intention of being approached from the south.

The reservation retains the slight grade change from north to south following the contour of 16th Street that characterized its topography during the period of significance.

While much of the today's vegetation is non-contributing, it is compatible with the reservation's historic landscape. The existing trees, hedges, and shrub masses, reproduce the historic planting design that characterized the site, even where different plant species have replaced historic ones. Hedges still define the property, and a screen of American holly trees provides a backdrop to the memorial.

Currently 309 G retains the circulation pattern and most of the paving materials from the period of significance. Only the concrete circle that once contained the drinking fountain has been repaved - with brick set in a herringbone pattern. Recent foot traffic has created a few desire paths through the hedges.

The views and vistas for Reservation 309 G retain continuity to the later portion of the period of significance. The views from the reservation reflect the gradual growth and development of the Mount Pleasant neighborhood along the busy 16th Street corridor, including Beaux-Arts and Art Deco apartments, single family row houses, and grand public structures such as the Shrine of the Sacred Heart. Drivers and pedestrians experience views of the memorial, especially when heading north.

The small-scale features of the reservation have been substantially modified over time and have very limited integrity. Only the iron fences along the walks from the memorial to 16th and Pine Streets remain.

All benches have been removed to prevent loitering, and the drinking fountain has been removed.

There are two modern brown plastic trash receptacles on the property along the northernmost walks to 16th and Pine Streets.

Today the Gibbons Memorial remains the only existing building or structure on the property. The memorial, the work of sculptor Leo Lentelli and architect George Kayl, has been found to qualify for listing on the National Register under Criterion C in the area of Art (Bansoun draft National Register Nomination 2006).

THE SEVEN ASPECTS OF INTEGRITY

1. Location is the place where the historic property was constructed. US Reservation 309 G retains its original location in the Mount Pleasant neighborhood of Washington, DC, bordered by 16th and Pine Streets, NW and Park Road, NW.
2. Design is the composition of elements that create the form, plan, space, structure, and style of a cultural landscape or historic property. The landscape design has a high degree of integrity. It dates to 1918, predating the memorial's 1932 dedication by 14 years. Photographs show that the design was actually implemented by the 1920s.
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. The reservation is located across from the Shrine of the Sacred Heart, one of Mount Pleasant's historic buildings. Reservation 309 G, by virtue of its role as a public space, its landscape, and the Gibbons Memorial, is part of the complementary mix of architectural styles and features that defines this district. The setting within the reservation itself has changed very little over time, with some alterations to the plant species. 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 G retains integrity of materials. Materials remaining from the period of significance include concrete walks with "scrub finish" borders, herringbone brick plazas, iron fences, flowering quince shrubs, and the Gibbons Memorial.
5. Workmanship is the physical evidence of the crafts of a particular period. With historic built materials and planted form, such as hedges, remaining at US Reservation 309 G, the landscape retains integrity of workmanship.
6. Feeling is the ability of a historic property to evoke the aesthetic or historic sense of a past period of time. The landscape of US Reservation 309 G easily retains integrity of feeling, as it retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, and workmanship. A visitor today will experience much the same feeling as a visitor in 1932. The Gibbons Memorial is still the focal point highlighted by the historic circulation and 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 G retains integrity for its period of significance, 1903-1932. The landscape of 309 G has been altered slightly with changes made in 1946, 1966, and 1987. In the late 1980s, the vegetation was updated. Despite some deterioration, the results of the 1988 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 property's historic circulation is remarkably intact. The cultural landscape today evokes the historic significance of the property retaining integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, and feeling.

Aspects of Integrity:	Location
	Design
	Setting
	Materials
	Workmanship
	Feeling

Landscape Characteristic:

Spatial Organization

Historic Conditions

The spatial organization of the reservation was established during the period from 1898 to 1924, as the system of permanent roads in Washington, DC was established. The boundaries of the reservation were defined by Pine Street NW on the east, 16th Street NW on the west, and Park Street NW to the north. During the period of significance, as well as today, the total size of the reservation was 0.22 acres. Located 16 blocks west of the Capitol Building, the reservation was located north of the original boundary of Washington, DC and was part of a long-standing residential neighborhood.

It is unclear when Pine Street, the eastern boundary of the reservation, was created. While a 1902 map of the permanent system of highways does not show Pine Street, a reproduction of the 1887 Hopkins Real Estate Atlas indicates Pine Street predates the extension of 16th Street (Historic Mount Pleasant Files Folder 1, Historic Society of Washington, DC). Despite this apparent conflict, early plans for the reservation's improvements dating from 1918 clearly identify Pine Street as forming the eastern boundary of the reservation.

The 1918 plan established the spatial organization of the reservation. At the north end of the reservation, a large ellipse was established that created a public space. Early plans indicate that a gazebo or other structure was to fill this ellipse, but subsequently a memorial to Cardinal James Gibbons, the Archbishop of Baltimore, and an early leader of the Roman Catholic Church in America, was installed. Radiating from the ellipse were two paths that were delineated with benches on the outside and a hedge on the inside. These paths came together in a smaller circle in roughly the middle of the reservation. Paths that provided access to the sidewalks along Pine and 16th Street radiated out from the ellipse and the small circle where the paths terminated.

The memorial itself holds a commanding position in the reservation—from the apex of the triangle the statue of the seated Gibbons appeared to be looking out over 16th Street, casting a watchful eye over the neighborhood and the adjacent Shine of the Sacred Heart. The massing hollies behind the memorial framed and highlighted the statue.

Existing Conditions

Despite some changes to the vegetation, the spatial organization of the site remains similar to its arrangement during the period of significance. The Gibbons memorial still retains its role as the focal point of the reservation—the landscape and the circulation pattern established in 1918 still shape the spatial organization of the reservation today. Even with vegetative changes, the reservation still retains its effective approach from the south.

Character-defining Features:

Feature:	Boundaries
Feature Identification Number:	121356
Type of Feature Contribution:	Contributing

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:

Topography

Historic Conditions:

Reservation 309 G 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 the both roads and streetcar tracks opened up what was previously a rural area to suburban development. 309 G exhibited no severe grade changes, and the memorial to Cardinal James Gibbons was located on the north end of the reservation at a similar elevation to the apex of the triangle.

Existing Conditions

The reservation retains the slight grade change from north to south that follows the grade of 16th Street. This grade change is part of a larger rise from Coastal Plain to Piedmont that characterizes much of the city of Washington, DC above Florida Avenue.

Vegetation

Historic Conditions

During the period of significance, 309 G was one of the most highly improved reservations in the Mount Pleasant area. A four-foot-high beech hedge surrounded the reservation on all sides. A row of jetbead lined the inside of the beech hedge along the east and west sides of the park, and flowering quince was contained by beech hedge at the apex. Behind the memorial, 2 masses of glossy privet and a row of evergreen trees (perhaps cryptomeria or juniper) formed a screen between Cardinal Gibbons and Park Road. Six mature Norway maple trees grew between the walk and 16th Street, NW.

Existing Conditions

The vegetation in Reservation 309 G underwent some change between 1932 and 1987. By 2007, the vegetation was mainly derived from a 1988 landscape rehabilitation effort by the National Park Service. The rehabilitation was sensitive to retaining the park's original planted form.

The beech hedge at the north end of the reservation has been replaced with 105 gnome pyracantha shrubs. The American holly trees, planted in 1946, inside the hedge were retained, although two have been replaced in kind, and all of them have been limbed up. At the corner of Park and Pine Streets one tuscarosa crape myrtle tree has been planted and at the corner of Park and 16th Street three tuscarosa crape myrtle trees have been planted. Big blue liriopie is planted within this bed as groundcover

Along 16th Street, the hedges of jetbead and beech have been removed and replaced with 70

gnome pyracantha shrubs behind a bed of big blue liriop. Planted within the liriop at equal intervals are four tuscarosa crape myrtle trees. Across the reservation facing Pine Street, a similar planting scheme has been implemented with gnome pyracantha and liriop. Two Green Mountain sugar maple trees anchor the north and south ends of this bed and two tuscarosa crape myrtle trees have been planted between the maples. The central maple tree, which predated the 1987 rehabilitation, has been removed since. The liriop beds along the eastern and western edges of the reservation provide a looser boundary than the historic beech hedge.

At the apex, the beech hedge has also been removed and is now an area of turf. Behind this turf, thirty four Texas scarlett flowering quince shrubs have been planted replacing the original flowering quince mass. The quince is now separated from the inside of the reservation by a hedge of gnome pyracantha, although a portion of this hedge is missing, allowing access to the quince. A third Green Mountain sugar maple tree grows near the northeast corner of the quince.

The DC street trees that were present during the period of significance have been removed and most have been replaced with sugar maple or oak trees.

Character-defining Features:

Feature: Texas scarlet flowering quince shrubs

Feature Identification Number: 121362

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: American holly trees

Feature Identification Number: 121364

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Big blue liriop

Feature Identification Number: 121368

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Tuscarosa crape myrtle trees

Feature Identification Number: 121372

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Gnome pyracantha hedge

Feature Identification Number: 121378

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Green Mountain sugar maple trees

Feature Identification Number: 121382

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



The sugar maple and crape myrtle trees, pyracantha hedge, and lirioppe bed along Pine Street, NW showing heavy visitation. (NCR CLP 2007).



*Desire path at northeast corner of reservation linking Park Road and the elliptical plaza.
(NCR CLP 2007).*



Desire path from 16th Street sidewalk (top) to the internal triangle of the reservation and from the triangle to Pine Street (bottom). (NCR CLP 2007).



Heavy visitation and the resulting soil compaction has lead to thinning vegetation such as the pyracantha hedges (top and bottom) and holly trees (top). (NCR CLP 2007).

Circulation

Historic Conditions

The current circulation pattern for the Reservation 309 G was established between 1918 and 1922; nearly fifteen years after the extension and paving of 16th Street firmly established the boundaries of the reservation (The Story of Mount Pleasant and milestones of its later day development 1923). Concrete sidewalks along 16th and Pine Streets and Park Road served pedestrians walking along the reservation. From the 16th and the Pine Street sidewalks, concrete walks led to the concrete elliptical walk surrounding the plaza containing the Gibbons Memorial. Concrete walks, that paralleled 16th and Pine Streets, led south from here to the concrete circle containing the drinking fountain. All of the internal concrete walks were

bordered on both sides with ornamental exposed-aggregate (“scrub finish”) concrete. The triangular interior space between the internal walks the triangular apex, and the elliptical plaza were paved with brick in a herringbone pattern between 1932 and 1946.

Existing Conditions

Currently 309 G retains the circulation pattern and most of the paving materials from the period of significance. Only the concrete circle that once contained the drinking fountain has been repaved - with herringbone pattern brick in 1987. Foot traffic has created desire paths from the northeast corner of the reservation (near the intersection of Park Road and Pine Street) to the statue walk and from 16th and Pine Streets to the center of the reservation through the gnome pyracantha hedge.

Character-defining Features:

Feature:	Elliptical walk
Feature Identification Number:	121388
Type of Feature Contribution:	Contributing
Feature:	Elliptical plaza
Feature Identification Number:	121392
Type of Feature Contribution:	Contributing
Feature:	Walks to 16th Street
Feature Identification Number:	121400
Type of Feature Contribution:	Contributing
Feature:	Walks to Pine Street
Feature Identification Number:	121404
Type of Feature Contribution:	Contributing
Feature:	Internal walk paralleling 16th Street
Feature Identification Number:	121410
Type of Feature Contribution:	Contributing
Feature:	Internal walk paralleling Pine Street
Feature Identification Number:	121412
Type of Feature Contribution:	Contributing
Feature:	Internal triangles

Feature Identification Number: 121416

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Drinking fountain circle

Feature Identification Number: 121420

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Desire paths

Feature Identification Number: 121422

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



The brick-paved apex of the reservation where the 16th (right) and Pine (left) Street sidewalks meet. The barberry hedge has been lost from the foreground. (NCR CLP 2007).



The brick internal triangle has settled beneath the internal walks, and soil and moisture is accumulating, causing weed growth. A visitor feeds pigeons here daily. (NCR CLP 2007).



Bricks are loose and missing from the drinking fountain circle. (NCR CLP 2007).



The brick and concrete walks and plazas are settling, causing soil accumulation, tripping hazards, and cracking. Note the iron fence along the walks to 16th Street (left) and Pine Street (right) from the elliptical walk. (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 reshaped both the actual views and vistas and the role that views and vistas played in defining the property. The axial role of 16th Street combined with the plans of Mary Henderson and the Beaux-Arts preferences of the McMillan Commission which favored wide streets with a terminated vista, ensured that the views from the Mount Pleasant Park cluster were impressive.

Reservation 309 G sat along the 16th Street corridor in the shadow of the Shrine of the Sacred Heart. This church and three others nearby dominate the skyline. The views along 16th Street also include embassies and landmarks such as the Washington Monument. Theoretically, Reservation 309 G 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.

Existing Conditions

The views and vistas for Reservation 309 G have retained a remarkable degree of continuity to the later portion of the period of significance. 16th Street continues to play an important role in defining the views and vistas—as a major sight line and transportation corridor.

Today, drivers along the 16th Street corridor enjoy views of the city when heading south and views of an interesting mix of architectural styles, including Beaux-Arts and Art Deco apartments, single family row houses, and grand public structures, when heading north. The views near the reservation reflect the gradual growth and development of the Mount Pleasant neighborhood. The Gibbons Memorial also plays an important role in shaping the views in the area—drivers and pedestrians heading north along 16th Street view Cardinal Gibbons seated near the impressive dome of the Shrine of the Sacred Heart. The views and vistas from Reservation 309 G 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: 16th Street corridor views

Feature Identification Number: 121500

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: View east to Sacred Heart

Feature Identification Number: 121498

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



*View east of US Reservation 309 G from 16th Street, NW toward Sacred Heart Church.
(NCR CLP 2007).*

Small Scale Features

Historic Conditions

Photos and plans from the period of significance indicate the presence of at least two and likely four benches and one drinking fountain (Washingtoniana Room, MLK Library, Borgan 1920c). The drinking fountain was located on the concrete circle near the apex of the triangle and the benches were placed along the interior walkways facing the center of the reservation. A long continuous bench, that was installed prior to 1946, lined the north side of the elliptical walk. A low iron hoop fence, installed between 1932 and 1946, surrounded the ellipse that held the memorial.

“Structural” iron fence separated the walks to 16th and Pine Streets from the plantings at the north end of the reservation. This decorative cast-iron fence was installed during the mid-1930s. 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

Today all benches have been removed to prevent loitering. The drinking fountain, replaced in 1988, has been removed. The iron fences along the walks from the memorial to 16th and Pine Streets remain, although the urn finials are missing from the posts. There are two brown plastic trash receptacles on the property along the northernmost walks to 16th and Pine Streets. A metal sign, mounted on a 5-foot-tall wooden post at the apex of the reservation just north of the flowering quince, warns “alcoholic beverages prohibited.” Along 16th Street, outside of the boundaries of the reservation, a bus stop and traffic control box are the dominant features, along with temporary metal fencing designed to prevent vehicle access that has been placed at the intersection of Pine and 16th Streets.

Character-defining Features:

Feature: Iron fence

Feature Identification Number: 121426

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Trash receptacles

Feature Identification Number: 121428

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Metal sign

Feature Identification Number: 121430

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Buildings and Structures

Historic Conditions

Prior to the installation of the Francis Cardinal Joseph Gibbons Memorial, 309 G had no buildings or structures. The 1932-era memorial was the only building and structure present in the reservation during the period of significance. Leo Lentelli sculpted the work and architect George Kayl designed the pedestal.

Existing Conditions

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

Character-defining Features:

Feature:	Cardinal Joseph Gibbons Memorial
Feature Identification Number:	121432
Type of Feature Contribution:	Contributing
IDLCS Number:	11965
LCS Structure Name:	Gibbons; James Cardinal Gibbons Statue
LCS Structure Number:	309G

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



View northeast of Gibbons Memorial c. 1932 (left) and 2007 (right). (Lands Records 1932 and NCR CLP 2007).



Views of west side (top) and east side (bottom) of Gibbons Memorial. The latter side shows signs of graffiti. (NCR CLP 2007).

Condition

Condition Assessment and Impacts

Condition Assessment: Fair

Assessment Date: 08/10/2007

Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:

Though the Gibbons Memorial, U.S. Reservation 309 G still retains many features of its 1918-1932 design, it is subject to heavy pedestrian use, particularly from commuters passing through daily on their way to and from work, local residents and workers, and homeless individuals. This use affects the soil, vegetation, brick and concrete pavement, and furnishings of the park. The historic concrete and brick pavement is damaged in many places, and will continue to degrade when it is rehabilitated and maintained.

To bring the reservation's landscape to good condition, the brick pavement should be repaired, and the concrete pavement should be stabilized and patched. The vegetation, especially the American holly trees and pyracantha hedge, should undergo rejuvenative pruning and maintenance. The 1924 and 1988 landscape plans may serve as a guide.

Stabilization Measures:

PMIS Statement: Preserve Cardinal James Gibbons Statue #113278 entails: 1) repairs to bronze; 2) wash and walnut shell blast; 3) wax; 4) removal of deteriorated mortar; 5) repointing; 6) crack repair; and 7) cleaning base, including graffiti removal. Over the years the statue has been subject to vandalism and urban environmental conditions. This project represents initial treatment for establishing baseline preservation of the statue.

Impacts

Type of Impact:	Deferred Maintenance
External or Internal:	Internal
Impact Description:	Many sections of the brick and concrete walks are damaged with cracks, missing or loose bricks, and/or uneven settlement
Type of Impact:	Deferred Maintenance
External or Internal:	Internal
Impact Description:	Weeds should be removed from the planting beds and brick pavement.
Type of Impact:	Erosion

Other Impact:	Soil in the park is subject to erosion where shrubs, groundcover, and mulch have been worn away by pedestrian traffic. Sugar maple and American holly tree roots are exposed.
External or Internal:	Internal
Type of Impact:	Exposure To Elements
Other Impact:	The memorial is exposed to weather and pollution and requires periodic cleaning and maintenance. The base requires repointing. PMIS 113278: Preserve Cardinal James Gibbons Statue. The decorative cast-iron fence is prone to rust, and should kept painted.
External or Internal:	Internal
Type of Impact:	Improper Drainage
Other Impact:	Water pools form in many places where the pavement has settled, and may lead to heaving, erosion, and weed growth
External or Internal:	Internal
Type of Impact:	Soil Compaction
Other Impact:	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 roots. The American holly trees and pyracantha hedges suffer damage as a result.
External or Internal:	Internal
Type of Impact:	Vandalism/Theft/Arson
Other Impact:	Graffiti on granite base is a constant problem.
External or Internal:	Internal
Type of Impact:	Vegetation/Invasive Plants
Other Impact:	The pyracantha hedge and liriop groundcover have been thinned by pedestrian desire paths and soil compaction. A few of the American holly trees are leaning and have hollow or damaged trunks.
External or Internal:	Internal
Type of Impact:	Visitation

Other Impact: The reservation serves as a gathering place for local residents and workers and attracts a large number of homeless persons who sleep on the liriope beds beneath the trees. Pickup soccer games and other inappropriate uses have become commonplace here.

External or Internal: Internal

Stabilization Costs

Landscape Stabilization Cost: 30,000.00

Cost Date: 12/08/2006

Level of Estimate: C - Similar Facilities

Cost Estimator: Park/FMSS

Treatment

Treatment

Approved Treatment: Undetermined

Approved Treatment Completed: No

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