
National Park Service
Cultural Landscapes Inventory
2007



Montrose Park
Rock Creek Park - Montrose Park

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Inventory Summary

The Cultural Landscapes Inventory Overview:

CLI General Information:

Purpose and Goals of the CLI

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

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

Scope of the CLI

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

treatment guidelines for the cultural landscape.

Inventory Unit Description:

Montrose Park (U.S. Reservation #324) is a sixteen-acre park located on the heights overlooking Georgetown. It is bordered on the south by R Street and a residential area; on the west by the richly designed landscape of Dumbarton Oaks Gardens (masterpiece of Landscape Architect, Beatrix Farrand); on the north by a forested tributary property for Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway (U.S. Reservation 360); and on the east by the rolling rural landscape of Oak Hill Cemetery.

Some of the unique features of Montrose Park originated during the period when the property was a prominent estate from 1804-1911. They include the Ropewalk, Summerhouse, Boxwood Gardens, and several mature canopy trees along the edge of the plateau. When Montrose Park was purchased by the United States Government in 1911, it became a public park, and the Office of Public Buildings and Grounds (OPBG) assumed the responsibility for transforming the property. Together, OPBG landscape architects George Burnap and Horace Peaslee prepared designs for the park that integrated features from the former estate's landscape and incorporated new elements for public park use. Management of the park was transferred to the National Park Service (NPS) in 1933. In 1967 Montrose Park was listed in the National Register of Historic Places as part of a joint designation with Dumbarton Oaks Park. The NPS went on to complete a Cultural Landscape Report (CLR) in 2004, which was followed by the listing and acceptance of the individual National Register documentation of Montrose Park in 2007.

Based on the information from the CLR and National Register nomination, this Cultural Landscape Inventory (CLI) proposes two periods of significance, 1804-1911 and 1911-1919. The first period includes the year 1804, when the Ropewalk was initially established by Richard Parrott, and extends to 1911, encompassing the period when this property was developed into a unique estate. The second period directly follows the first, and includes the formative development years of Montrose Park. During the second period, landscape architects from the Office of Public Buildings and Grounds incorporated elements of the estate era into an early twentieth-century public park for the Georgetown community. This CLI suggests that the second period of significance ends in 1919, a date which differs from the approved National Register nomination. This end date was chosen because it marks the termination of the formative development of Montrose Park, when the property "reached its most fully conceived landscape character and the period to which it is largely intact today" (CLR: 192). Changes made after this point were few, and without apparent plans or logic. The only physical developments evident in Montrose Park since the second period of significance are the following: the addition of a tennis court and reorientation of the Ropewalk tennis court (1925); the addition of an asphalt path from the Summerhouse to the Circle (c. 1935); the installation of the Sarah Louisa Rittenhouse Memorial (1956); and installation of a contemporary play area (2001).

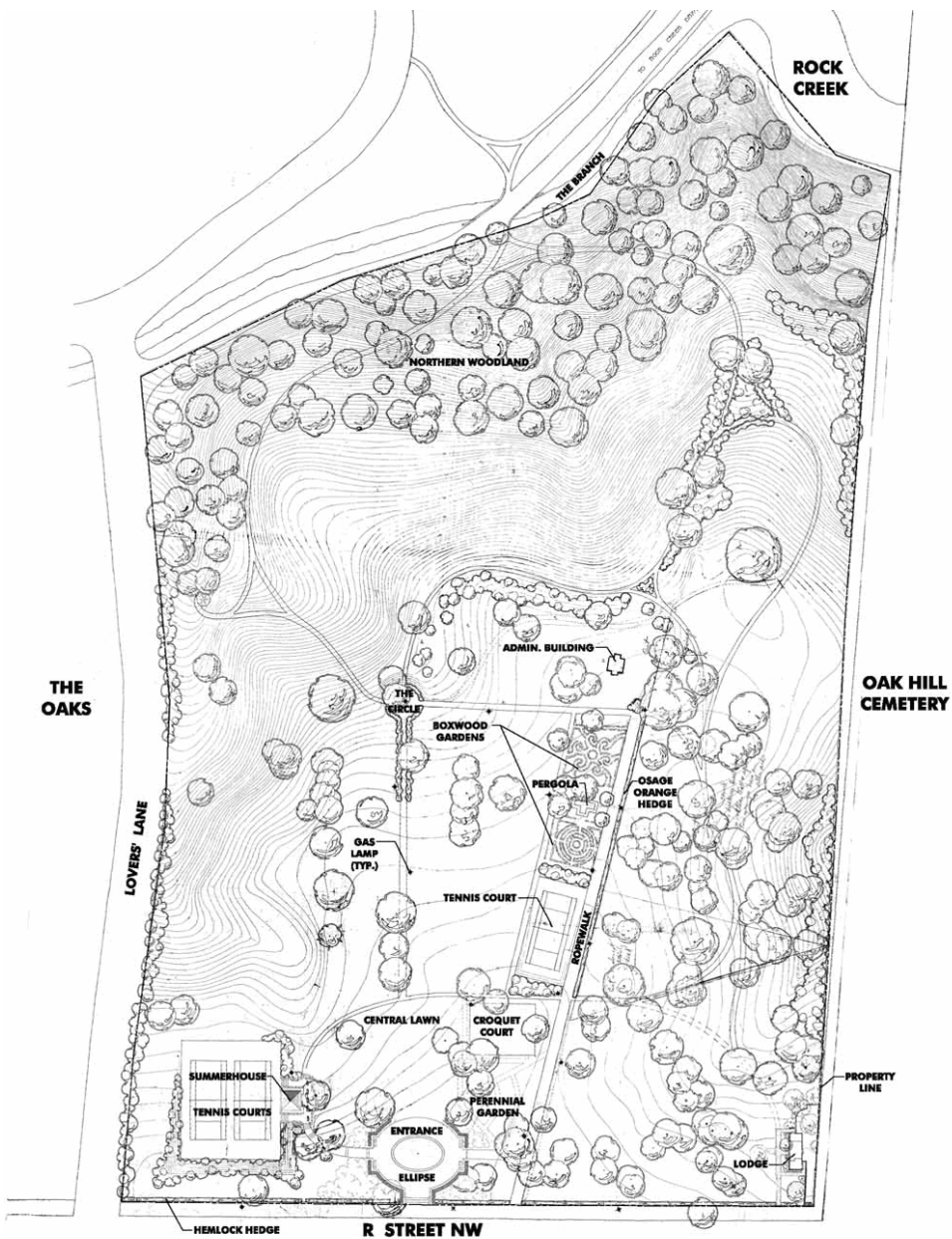
This CLI finds that Montrose Park retains integrity for its two periods of significance, 1804-1911 and 1911-1919. The landscape has been altered slightly by the changes implemented in 1925, c. 1935, 1956, and 2001 (as mentioned above). Even with these changes, however, the property still represents a nineteenth-century estate that was gracefully transformed into an early twentieth-century public park. Because a Cultural Landscape Report (CLR) for Montrose Park (2004) has been completed, a narrative history has not been included in this CLI. Instead an annotated chronology based on the CLR

Montrose Park

Rock Creek Park - Montrose Park

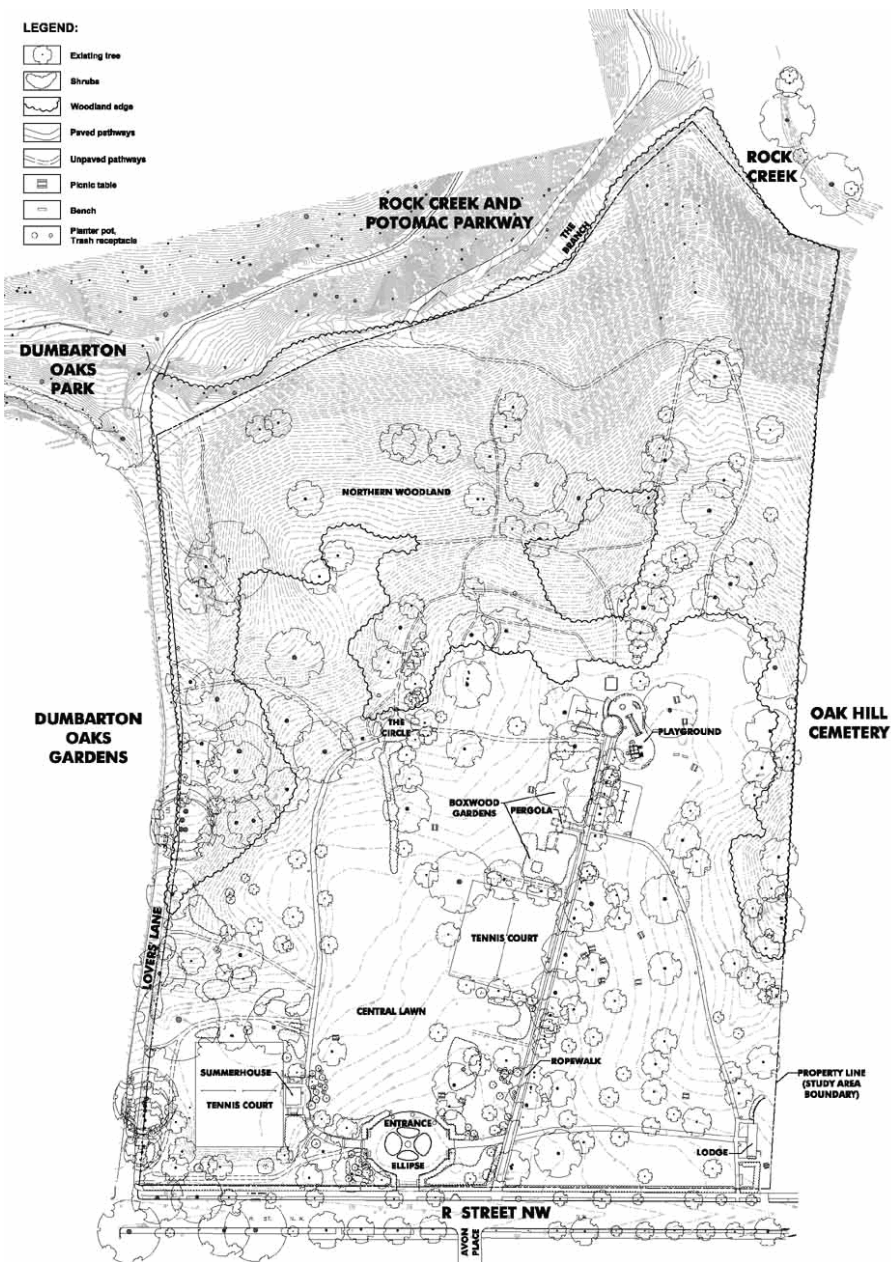
and National Register nomination (2007) provides a detailed list of significant physical events that affected the Montrose landscape.

Site Plan



Historic Period Plan, 1919 (from Montrose Park Cultural Landscape Report, 2004).

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Montrose Park Existing Conditions, 2008 (from Montrose Park Cultural Landscape Report, 2004).

Property Level and CLI Numbers

Inventory Unit Name:	Montrose Park
Property Level:	Landscape
CLI Identification Number:	600115
Parent Landscape:	600115

Park Information

Park Name and Alpha Code:	Rock Creek Park - Montrose Park -ROCR
Park Organization Code:	345D
Subunit/District Name Alpha Code:	Rock Creek Park - Montrose Park - ROCR
Park Administrative Unit:	Rock Creek Park

Concurrence Status

Inventory Status: Complete

Completion Status Explanatory Narrative:

The Montrose Park Cultural Landscape Inventory was entered into the database in the summer of 2008 by Maureen D. Joseph, Regional Historical Landscape Architect, National Capital Region. The majority of the information is derived from a Montrose Park Cultural Landscape Report that was completed in 2004 by professionals from Architrave p.c., architects; Rhodeside & Harwell, Inc.; and Robinson & Associates, Inc. Additional information came from a National Register nomination for Montrose Park prepared by Eve Barsoum, Architectural Historian, National Capital Region, approved by the Keeper in November 2007. No further research was required to complete the inventory. Field investigations and existing conditions photography were completed in the summer of 2008.

Concurrence Status:

Park Superintendent Concurrence:	Yes
Park Superintendent Date of Concurrence:	09/24/2008
National Register Concurrence:	Eligible -- SHPO Consensus Determination
Date of Concurrence Determination:	09/25/2008

National Register Concurrence Narrative:

The State Historic Preservation Officer for the District of Columbia concurred with the findings of the Montrose Park Cultural Landscape Inventory on September 25, 2008, 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:

Montrose Park
Rock Creek Park - Montrose Park



United States Department of the Interior

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

September 4, 2008

Memorandum

To: Regional Historical Landscape Architect, National Capital Region
From: State Historic Preservation Officer, District of Columbia
Subject: Statement of Concurrence, Montrose Park Cultural Landscapes Inventory

I, David Maloney, District of Columbia State Historic Preservation Officer, concur with the findings of the Montrose Park CLI as submitted on September 4, 2008.



David Maloney
District of Columbia
State Historic Preservation Officer

9/25/08

Date

Concurrence memo for FY2008 signed by the DC SHPO on 9/25/2008.

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SEP-24-08 10:28 FROM-

T-811 P.002/002 F-433



United States Department of the Interior

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

September 4, 2008

Memorandum:

To: Cultural Landscape Inventory Coordinator, National Capital Region
From: Superintendent, Rock Creek Park
Subject: Statement of Concurrence, Montrose Park Cultural Landscape Inventory

I, Adrienne Applewhite-Coleman, Superintendent of Rock Creek Park, concur with the findings of the Cultural Landscape Inventory for Montrose Park, 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 Montrose Park is hereby approved and accepted.

Superintendent, Rock Creek Park

9/24/08
Date

Concurrence memo for FY2008 signed by the ROCK Superintendent on 9/24/2008.

Geographic Information & Location Map

Inventory Unit Boundary Description:

Montrose Park (Reservation #324) is a sixteen acre neighborhood park serving the Georgetown community within the District of Columbia. It is located in the northern section of Georgetown, bordered on the south by R Street and a residential area. Two institutions, Dumbarton Oaks Research Library and Collection, and Oak Hill Cemetery, both with landscaped grounds and limited public access, flank Montrose Park on its west and east sides, respectively. Lovers' Lane runs along the west side of Montrose Park separating it from Dumbarton Oaks and Dumbarton Oaks Park (Reservation #637) abuts it on the northwest. Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway (Reservation #360) completes the boundary on the north.

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State and County:

State: DC

County: District of Columbia

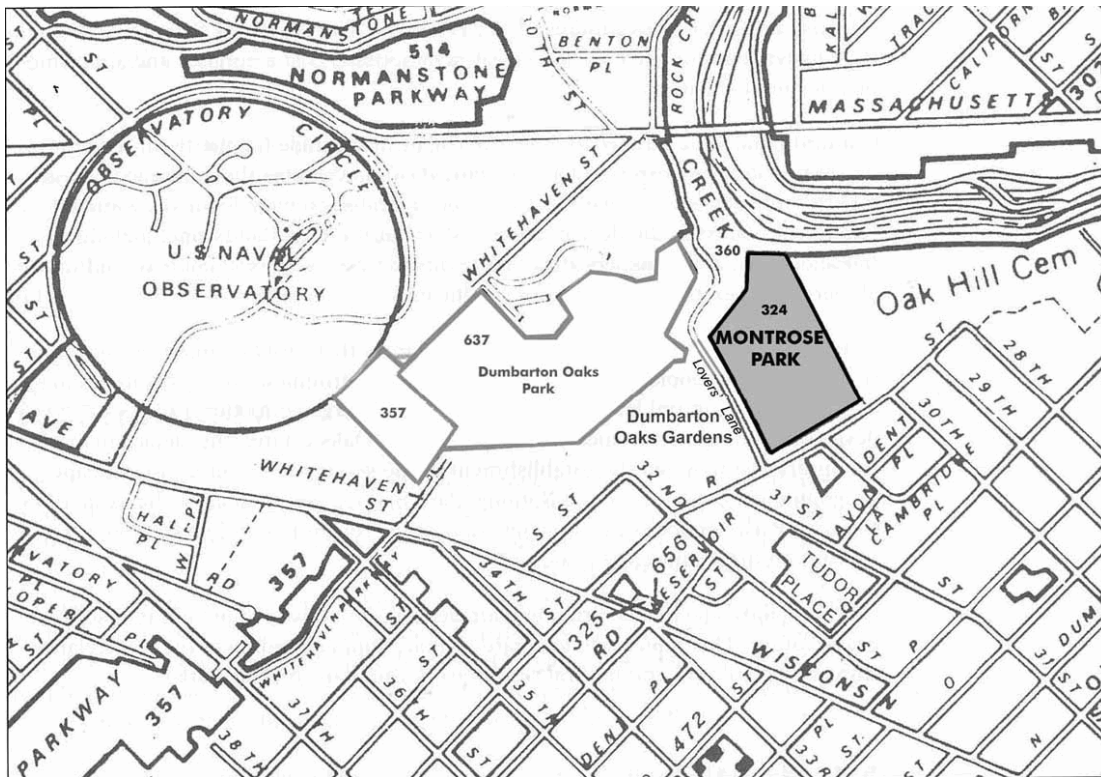
Size (Acres): 16.00

Boundary UTMS:

Source:	USGS Map 1:24,000
Type of Point:	Point
Datum:	NAD 27
UTM Zone:	18
UTM Easting:	321,455
UTM Northing:	4,309,450
Source:	USGS Map 1:24,000
Type of Point:	Point
Datum:	NAD 27
UTM Zone:	18
UTM Easting:	321,499
UTM Northing:	4,309,394
Source:	USGS Map 1:24,000
Type of Point:	Point
Datum:	NAD 27
UTM Zone:	18
UTM Easting:	321,401
UTM Northing:	4,309,101
Source:	USGS Map 1:24,000
Type of Point:	Point
Datum:	NAD 27
UTM Zone:	18
UTM Easting:	321,203
UTM Northing:	4,309,157
Source:	USGS Map 1:24,000

Type of Point:	Point
Datum:	NAD 27
UTM Zone:	18
UTM Easting:	321,223
UTM Northing:	4,309,055
Source:	USGS Map 1:24,000
Type of Point:	Point
Datum:	NAD 27
UTM Zone:	18
UTM Easting:	321,245
UTM Northing:	4,309,162

Location Map:



Montrose Park, or US Reservation 324 (Map A, Park Systems of the Nations Capital and Environs. "NCR, Plan and Drawing Collection, with modified boundary shown in Montrose Park CLR, 2004).

Tract Numbers: US Reservation #324

Management Information

General Management Information

Management Category: Should be Preserved and Maintained

Management Category Date: 09/24/2008

Management Category Explanatory Narrative:

The management category is "Should be Preserved and Maintained," because Montrose Park is listed on the National Register of Historic Places as significant for landscape architecture. The park serves the Georgetown neighborhood which is a National Historic Landmark Historic District.

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

Agreements, Legal Interest, and Access

Management Agreement:

Type of Agreement:

NPS Legal Interest:

Type of Interest: Fee Simple

Public Access:

Type of Access: Unrestricted

Explanatory Narrative:

Montrose Park is closed at dusk.

Adjacent Lands Information

Do Adjacent Lands Contribute? Yes

Adjacent Lands Description:

Montrose Park is bordered by the wooded area of Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway on the north, Oak Hill Cemetery (Important rural cemetery landscape) to the east, Dumbarton Oaks Research Library and Collection (Landscape Architect Beatrix Farrand's masterpiece) to the west, and R Street on the south. The adjacent historic landscapes are representative of the nineteenth-century development of Georgetown Heights and noteworthy twentieth-century historic designed landscapes.

National Register Information

Existing NRIS Information:

Other Names:	Montrose Park, 67000028
Primary Certification Date:	05/28/1967
Other Names:	Montrose Park, 07001178
Primary Certification Date:	11/15/2007

Significance Criteria: C - Embodies distinctive construction, work of master, or high artistic values

Period of Significance:

Time Period:	AD 1804 - 1911
Historic Context Theme:	Expressing Cultural Values
Subtheme:	Landscape Architecture
Facet:	The Late Victorian Eclectic Landscape
Time Period:	AD 1911 - 1919
Historic Context Theme:	Expressing Cultural Values
Subtheme:	Landscape Architecture
Facet:	Parks Produce A New Profession
Time Period:	AD 1911 - 1919
Historic Context Theme:	Expressing Cultural Values
Subtheme:	Landscape Architecture
Facet:	The City Beautiful Movement

Area of Significance:

Area of Significance Category:	Landscape Architecture
Area of Significance Subcategory:	None

Statement of Significance:

Montrose Park

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Based on the documentation of the historic landscape features and review of archival material, Montrose Park has two periods of significance, 1804-1911 and 1911-1919. The first period includes the year 1804, when the Ropewalk was initially established by Richard Parrott on the heights overlooking Georgetown, and extends to 1911, to include the period when this property was developed into a unique estate. The second period directly follows the first, and includes the formative development years of Montrose Park. During the second period, landscape architects from the Office of Public Buildings and Grounds incorporated elements of the estate era into an early twentieth-century public park for the Georgetown community. The proposed period of significance for this CLI ends in 1919, a date which differs from the approved National Register nomination. This end date was chosen because it marks the end period of the formative development of Montrose Park when the property “reached its most fully conceived landscape character and the period to which it is largely intact today” (CLR: 192). Changes made after this point were few and without apparent plans or logic. The only physical developments evident in Montrose Park are the following: the addition of a tennis court and reorientation of the Ropewalk tennis court (1925); the addition of an asphalt path from the Summerhouse to the Circle (c. 1935); the installation of the Sarah Louisa Rittenhouse Memorial (1956); and the installation of a contemporary play area 2001.

Criterion C

Montrose Park is significant under Criterion C as the work of George E. Burnap and Horace W. Peaslee, both notable landscape architects for the Office of Public Buildings and Grounds (OPBG). “The park was important in their careers designing parks in Washington, D.C. – particularly for Burnap, who featured his work at Montrose Park in his nationally published book, ‘Parks: Their Design, Equipment and Use.’ Both men completed important improvements and projects within Montrose Park as described in the ‘Analysis and Evaluation’ section” (CLR: 193).

Montrose Park is also significant under Criterion C as an “early-twentieth century example of the adaptation of a country estate as a community park” (CLR: 193). Landscape features from the estate era period of significance were carefully incorporated by the OPBG landscape architects, and are still extant today. These features contribute to the park landscape, including the views from the Entrance Ellipse, the spatial organization of the property, the layout of the primary circulation alignment along the Ropewalk, the use of the Summerhouse structure, and the unique vegetation patterns.

Although the mansion was removed due to its deteriorated condition, the original views north from its former location were accentuated by Peaslee’s design of the Entrance Ellipse. Two existing oak trees were retained to frame these views. “The Ropewalk (and subsequent ‘drive’), constructed by Richard Parrott in the early nineteenth century, for many years served as one of the main character-defining features of the estate, and this role was continued by Burnap in his design of [the] park” (CLR: 193). As one of the main organizing features, Burnap flanked the Ropewalk with the majority of his newly-designed recreational and garden features. The new pathway system was then linked to this unique pedestrian corridor. To highlight the Ropewalk’s importance, the OPBG designers selected a special pebble concrete surface (exposed aggregate) with a brick edge. Burnap also “retained and responded to the existing largely natural topography of the site – consisting of the lawn area on the upper plateau and a steeply sloping wooded area leading to a tributary of Rock Creek in the northern

part of the park” (CLR: 193). Burnap’s woodland trails, highlighted in his book, served as a complement to the formal paths he laid out on the upper plateau. Burnap and Peaslee developed designs for some features and structures “to give the estate a more park-like character” (CLR: 194). Burnap’s design for the Pergola replaced a former gardener’s house that once occupied a part of the Boxwood Garden. Peaslee relocated the Summerhouse, the only remaining structure from the estate era, to a site adjacent to the southwest tennis court. He also designed a series of fieldstone walls and steps leading to the structure to give some permanency to the new location. The former estate featured a hedgerow of Osage orange, mature oak, poplar and beech trees, and an elaborate boxwood garden possibly designed by English landscape designer John Small in the 1850s. Working with mature vegetation for a “new” public park, Burnap and Peaslee succeeded in weaving the new features flawlessly within the existing estate landscape. Without their help in successfully adapting the remnant nineteenth-century estate into an early twentieth-century park, the character of Montrose Park would be notably diminished.

No other Criterion applies to this cultural landscape. Although the Montrose Park National Register nomination cites Criterion A as significant, this inventory does not find a strong enough association with events, activities, or patterns of history to meet this Criterion.

Chronology & Physical History

Cultural Landscape Type and Use

Cultural Landscape Type: Designed

Current and Historic Use/Function:

Primary Historic Function: Urban Park

Primary Current Use: Urban Park

Other Use/Function

Estate Landscape

Other Type of Use or Function

Historic

Current and Historic Names:

Name

Montrose Park

Parrott's Woods

Elderslie

Montrose

Type of Name

Both Current And Historic

Historic

Historic

Historic

Ethnographic Study Conducted: No Survey Conducted

Chronology:

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Year	Event	Annotation
AD 1100 - 1200	Inhabited	The present-day Georgetown area is first inhabited by the Anacostans, an Algonquin people.
AD 1632	Inhabited	After being kidnapped and then released by the Anacostans, Henry Fleete returns to the site of present-day Georgetown to set up trade relations with the Native Americans.
	Land Transfer	King Charles I grants land known as the Proprietor's Manor of Calverton to Cecilius Calvert, the second Lord of Baltimore. The tract stretches from the Wicomico River to the Potomac River, and from there west along the Potomac.
AD 1663 - 1686	Land Transfer	During these years, the lands between the Potomac and Anacostia Rivers is patented by Lord Baltimore.
AD 1688	Land Transfer	Henry Darnell obtains warrants for approximately 6,000 acres in the present-day Washington metropolitan area, including Rock Creek Park, Forest Glen, Silver Spring, and Takoma.
AD 1700	Land Transfer	By this year, frontiersmen had come to the area around Rock Creek to live, work, and trade.
AD 1703	Purchased/Sold	Henry Darnell sells 795 acres of his land west of the intersection formed by the Potomac River and Rock Creek to Ninian Beall, who is hoping to increase his landholdings in the area. Beall names the tract "The Rock of Dumbarton" after a picturesque stone formation he knew in his homeland of Scotland.
AD 1720	Land Transfer	George Beall, son of Ninian, patents an additional 1,380 acres in the same area and names it "Addition to Rock of Dumbarton".
AD 1743	Land Transfer	George Gordon, a fellow Scottish immigrant, purchases 300 acres west of Beall's Rock of Dumbarton and names it "Knave's Disappointment," which is later revised to "Rock Creek Plantation." These tracts combined become the original core of Georgetown.

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AD 1751	Established	At the request of George Gordon, the Maryland Assembly purchases 60 acres of land from the holdings of Gordon and Beall to establish the town of Georgetown, named for Britain's George II.
AD 1785 - 1802	Developed	The Potomac Canal Company gradually opens its canal through Georgetown, which makes the town a terminal port at tidewater and pivotal to the lucrative western trading.
AD 1789	Developed	The town of Georgetown is incorporated.
AD 1790	Developed	According to the 1790 census, Georgetown's total population is 720, and slaves accounted for 591 of the total.
AD 1791	Established	George Washington announces that the permanent capital of the United States will be built on land at the confluence of the Potomac and Anacostia Rivers.
AD 1804	Purchased/Sold	Thomas Beall, grandson of Ninian Beall, sells the land between the road, now known as Lovers' Lane, and the Beall land, now known as Oak Hill Cemetery, to Richard Parrott.
AD 1804 - 1806	Built	Richard Parrott builds a "Ropewalk" for manufacturing rope along the edge of some woods on the east side of his new land, which was the site of present-day Montrose Park.
AD 1806 - 1809	Built	Parrott constructs a Federal-style mansion and names the property Elderslie.
	Planted	Parrot installs a garden and orchard northwest of the Ropewalk.
AD 1810 - 1811	Inhabited	Parrott's Grove, which includes some of the woods in present-day Montrose Park, was used for the Columbian Agricultural Society's second and third Agricultural Fairs held in the United States. In subsequent years this land was used for other purposes such as picnics, funerals, and Independence Day celebrations.
AD 1814	Destroyed	Parrott's Ropewalk is burned by British troops during the War of 1812.

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AD 1820	Abandoned	Parrott abandons his estate sometime after a fire destroys his textile mill, which was located near the intersection of present-day Q and 27th Streets.
AD 1822 - 1828	Purchased/Sold	Clement Smith purchases Parrott's estate, upon the latter's death, and continues to call it Elderslie.
AD 1837	Purchased/Sold	Mrs. Mary McEwan Boyce purchases the present-day Montrose Park area from Clement Smith. Soon afterwards, Mary's husband, William M. Boyce, renames the estate "Montrose" in recognition of his ancestral ties with the earls of Montrose, who were traditionally daring and romantic Scottish noblemen-soldiers.
AD 1847	Purchased/Sold	William M. Boyce purchases the woodland associated with the old Parrott estate, possibly in addition to what he and his wife Mary already owned.
AD 1848 - 1850	Planted	John Henry Small, Landscape Garden Designer, plants the original boxwood garden on the Boyce estate sometime after arriving from England in 1848. One of Small's first commissions was to design a garden for the Boyce's neighbors on the Linthicum estate (now known as Dumbarton Oaks Research Library and Collection).
AD 1849	Established	The Oak Hill Cemetery is incorporated by an Act of Congress on March 3, 1849.
AD 1850	Planted	Osage orange trees, originally brought east by Lewis and Clark, are made commercially available in the east. The Boyces may have introduced the plant to the Montrose estate around this time.
AD 1856	Built	Sometime around 1856, the summerhouse is constructed to the west of the main house. By this point, there is also a small frame stable and larger brick stable to the northeast of the residence. A number of service additions to the main house are present, including a greenhouse (on the southeast corner) and kitchen (on the east).
AD 1856 - 1859	Built	By this time, the old Ropewalk site was being used as a drive into the Montrose estate.

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AD 1879 - 1899	Maintained	After Mary Boyce's death in 1879, several families rent the property. A custodian (gardener?) of the property continues to maintain the grounds during these years.
AD 1879 - 1894	Maintained	The property is still a favorite among the local Georgetown community. The gardens that had previously been established are maintained and kept open to the public for their enjoyment.
AD 1894 - 1899	Abandoned	The Montrose estate and mansion are vacated by tenant John E. Beall, and subsequently are left to fall into disuse and disrepair.
AD 1895	Altered	Georgetown's government is merged with that of the City of Washington, and the streets acquire their current names.
AD 1899 - 1900	Established	The Georgetown Citizens' Association is established to advocate before Congress for improvements to their community. One of their first initiatives is to secure the Boyce property for use as a public park.
AD 1900	Altered	The road running along the western border of the Montrose estate is renamed "Lovers' Lane", for its reputation as a gathering place for young lovers.
AD 1900 - 1902	Planned	The Senate Park (McMillan) Commission recommends including the Boyce property as a link between the proposed Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway and Potomac Palisades via the "Georgetown Parkway", and also "to afford a much-needed local park and playground" (NR: 8-7).
AD 1904 - 1911	Purchased/Sold	At the urging of Sarah Louise Rittenhouse, the United States Congress passes a bill to purchase the 16-acre Montrose estate and convert it into a public park. Montrose Park is officially established on June 15, 1911.
AD 1910	Established	The Commission of Fine Arts (CFA) is created by the U.S. Congress to advise the Federal and District of Columbia governments on matters of art and architecture affecting the appearance of the nation's capital.

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AD 1912	Rehabilitated	The Office of Public Buildings and Grounds (OPBG) undertakes its first steps to rehabilitate Montrose Park by mowing the grass, raking the park, and filling cesspools and cisterns.
	Removed	Several dilapidated stone walls and some poison ivy are removed from the grounds of the park.
	Built	The OPBG installs 17 gas lights modeled after the Newport style in Montrose Park.
AD 1913	Restored	Repairs are made to the Boxwood Garden and to the kitchen wing of the old house, for use as a comfort station.
	Planted	Additional Osage orange trees are planted along the Ropewalk to fill in the gaps in the existing hedge. Rhododendrons and rose bushes are also planted.
	Built	Croquet and tennis courts are constructed on the west side of the Ropewalk.
	Demolished	The old gardener's house and stable are demolished.
AD 1914	Planned	Some of the earliest plans for Montrose Park are drawn up by George Burnap, landscape architect for the OPBG. These were likely the second set of approved plans for the property, as an earlier set was made sometime before 1913.
	Demolished	The mansion on the property is demolished as part of the overall plan for the park.
	Built	The Pergola is constructed on the site of the nineteenth-century gardener's house in the Boxwood Gardens, based on plans by George Burnap.
AD 1914 - 1916	Planted	Boxwoods in the Boxwood Gardens are possibly replanted at this time, based on the 1913 Burnap drawing (TIC 891/80005).
AD 1914	Rehabilitated	The Ropewalk is improved and repaved with an exposed aggregate concrete surface, and edged with bricks. It measures 509 feet long and ten feet wide.

	Built	A pedestrian circulation system is developed, involving the installation of 315 linear feet of flagstone steps on the newly laid out woodland walks and other unknown locations.
	Planted	Extensive planting takes place within the park, including the installation of forty-six evergreens, twenty-five dogwoods, 350 feet of hedge, and 1,025 herbaceous plants (which were most likely planted in two perennial beds).
	Designed	The Commission of Fine Arts approves George Burnap's preliminary plan for the entrance terrace.
AD 1915	Planted	At this time the metal and wood fences which lined R Street are removed. The R Street frontage is lined by two separate hedges. A mock orange (<i>Philadelphus</i> sp.) hedge is possibly planted in 1914 from Lovers' Lane to the west side of the Ropewalk entry. A beech (<i>Fagus</i> sp.) hedge planted sometime during the estate-era is located to the east side of the Ropewalk entrance and continues to the Oak Hill Cemetery boundary.
	Restored	The OPBG repairs the old Summerhouse and installs a new metal roof.
	Moved	An old tool house is repaired and moved from Lincoln Park, on Capitol Hill, to the north end of the Ropewalk.
	Built	Two tennis courts are constructed on the southwest corner of the park, near the junction of R Street and Lovers' Lane. The excavated material from the tennis court is used to build up an area which had been proposed for use as an entrance terrace.
	Designed	Burnap prepares extensive planting plans for the area around the tennis courts, though it is not known if these plans were fully implemented as designed.
	Built	The pedestrian circulation system is expanded and improved with the laying of 450 square yards of gravel walks and repairing 350 square yards of gravel walks. An additional 135 linear feet of flagstones for steps and terrace protection is also completed.

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	Removed	Landscape Architect George Burnap is suspended from the OPBG.
AD 1915 - 1917	Planned	Charles Diggs, landscape designer, assumes the lead role for the park's development over the next two years with the oversight of Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr, CFA landscape architect.
AD 1916	Developed	Charles Diggs prepares a plan of Montrose Park that serves as guide for the future development of the site. The CFA approves the plan and immediately implements five suggestions: 1) pull back the terrace away from R Street; 2) allow the Osage Orange hedge along the Ropewalk to grow into a tree form; 3) locate a new park lodge in the southeastern corner of the park; 4) maintain one continuous hedge across the front of the park; and 5) remove the existing park lodge.
	Built	The first play area is developed in an area at the northern end of the Ropewalk. It includes a swing set and backstop. (TIC 891/80028)
AD 1916 - 1917	Demolished	The former kitchen wing, which had previously been converted into a comfort station, is removed from the entrance terrace area.
AD 1917	Built	Horace W. Peaslee, architect and landscape architect, is appointed as lead designer for the OPBG. His site plan for a new lodge/comfort station is approved and built in the southeast corner of the park. It is unclear who actually designed the lodge.
AD 1918	Planted	The mock orange and beech hedges are replaced by a continuous hemlock (<i>Tsuga canadensis</i>) hedge along the R Street boundary.
	Moved	The Summerhouse is moved to a location near the southwest tennis courts, in line with the new lodge on the southeast corner of the park. Based on Peaslee's 1917 plan (TIC 891/80035), the building is placed on a raised concrete platform and surrounded by a fieldstone wall on three sides, as well as gravel walkways lined by additional fieldstone walls and steps leading to the tennis courts.

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AD 1919	Built	Peaslee's design for the Entrance Ellipse is installed. It includes a herringbone brick pavement surrounding a central elliptical pool.
AD 1922	Built	Three pedestal drinking fountains are installed.
AD 1922 - 1925	Built	Another tennis court is added along the Ropewalk, doubling the size of the tennis area, and the courts themselves are reoriented.
AD 1924 - 1925	Land Transfer	The name of the Office of Public Buildings and Grounds is changed to the Office of Public Buildings and Public Parks, and the office is transferred from the Army Corps of Engineers to the office of the U.S. President.
AD 1925	Maintained	The Office of Public Buildings and Public Parks inventories the park resources and notes a childrens' playground, sandbox, volleyball court, and a backstop for the baseball field; 27,874 square feet of shrub beds, 12,202 square feet of flower beds, 528,397 square feet of lawn, and 16,900 square feet of forest area; five types of walks, including 1,022 linear feet of macadam, sixty-seven linear feet of asphalt, 674 linear feet of concrete, 1,381 linear feet of brick, and 3,437 linear feet of gravel paths.
	Built	Brick edging (2,054 linear feet) is installed along the sides of bituminous walks.
AD 1926	Planted	The Georgetown Garden Club presents the Office of Public Buildings and Public Parks with a twelve-foot Nordman fir (<i>Abies nordmanniana</i>) Christmas tree in a dedication ceremony on November 3, 1926. The tree is planted to the northeast of the Entrance Ellipse.
AD 1927	Established	Georgetown Garden Club sponsors a flower show under a tent in Montrose Park, the first to be held in Washington. This continued annually until 1939, when the All Hallows Guild started the Flower Mart in May 1939 (this was associated with the Cathedral Church of St. Peter and St. Paul, now known as the Washington Cathedral) (NR: 8-27).
AD 1931	Built	A water fountain or bubbler is installed, possibly as part of the water basin at the Entrance Ellipse.

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AD 1933	Established	The National Park Service assumes management of Montrose Park after President Roosevelt approves Executive Order 6166, which abolished the Office of Public Buildings and Public Parks.
AD 1935	Maintained	The National Park Service develops a survey plan of Montrose Park that serves as the base map for numerous proposals for the redesign of the park. The plan shows the location of various recreational features including swings, baseball backstop, sandbox, volleyball court, basketball court, slide, trapeze bar and see-saw.
	Planned	Several plans are proposed to alter the character of Montrose Park by removing active recreational uses in favor of passive recreation (outdoor amphitheaters and curvilinear pleasure walks), but these are never implemented.
AD 1935 - 1936	Retained	The Georgetown Citizens' Association opposes the elimination of the existing playgrounds and recreational facilities. The Association agrees that Montrose Park should be predominately a quiet, passive-recreation park with limited playground features. The NPS abandons the plan to eliminate facilities and redesign the park.
AD 1940 - 1944	Rehabilitated	Peaslee's Entrance Ellipse is modified. The central water basin is removed and replaced by an elliptical rose bed.
AD 1944	Planted	The 1918 hemlock hedge is replaced with another hemlock hedge.
AD 1948	Rehabilitated	The Newport gas lights are mechanized (prior to this point a lamplighter had been responsible for them).
AD 1953	Established	Senator Earle Clements sponsors a bill which ultimately becomes Congressional Act (P.L. 152), to erect a memorial in Montrose Park to honor Sarah Louisa Rittenhouse. The Georgetown Garden Club also gains approval by the Commission of Fine Arts for the design to place a memorial at the Entrance Ellipse.
AD 1956	Built	In April, the NPS erects a "bird station" on a grassy slope away from the playground.

	Memorialized	The Garden Club selects architect Gertrude Sawyer's memorial design. Sawyer's bronze armillary sphere is set on top of a limestone pedestal and placed in the center of the elliptical rose bed. The existing roses are removed and replaced with "Fashion" roses. The Garden Club also plants dwarf Ilex around the base of the pedestal. Four diagonal brick walkways converge at the center, providing access to the memorial. Four large existing azalea beds surround the Entrance Ellipse brick terrace, completing the layout of the memorial.
AD 1965	Built	A new entrance sign is erected along the R Street sidewalk, at the Entrance Ellipse.
AD 1969 - 1971	Removed	The hemlock hedge and chain link fence are removed along the R Street side of the park.
AD 1970 - 1977		The Welsbach Electric Company donates the seventeen original gas lights-- which had originally been rented-- to the National Park Service.
AD 1972 - 1987	Planted	An Osmanthus hedge is planted to replace the hemlock hedge along the R Street sidewalk.
AD 1979	Demolished	The building relocated from Lincoln Park in 1915, and at times called the administration building and the field house, is demolished by the National Park Service.
	Paved	The clay tennis courts are resurfaced as hard courts. The back courts along the ropewalk are also enlarged.
AD 1980 - 1995	Moved	Several of the gas lights are moved and placed along the Ropewalk during this period. In 1992, the Cafritz Foundation provides the NPS with \$35,000 for the restoration of the gas lights.
AD 1982	Planted	The roses in the Entrance Ellipse bed are removed and replanted with the same variety (Fashion).
AD 1984	Planned	The Rock Creek Park Superintendent requests emergency funding for the following: 1) replacement of historic "Rope Walk" and other internal walkways; 2) rehabilitate Grape Arbor & Gazebo [the Pergola]; and 3) develop & implement historic landscape plan (topographic survey may be required) (Architrave: 70).

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AD 1985	Platted	A topographic survey is completed for Montrose Park.
AD 1985 - 1989	Removed	The basketball court is removed.
AD 1986	Rehabilitated	The Ropewalk is reconstructed using exposed aggregate concrete paving, with brick running-bond edging.
AD 1987	Built	A Ropewalk interpretive wayside is installed near the R Street entrance.
AD 1994		.The rose garden around the armillary sphere is restored by the newly-founded non-profit citizens organization, the Friends of Montrose and Dumbarton Oaks Parks.
AD 1995	Established	A Memorandum of Agreement is signed between the National Park Service and the Friends of Montrose and Dumbarton Oaks, enabling the Friends to fund-raise to benefit the parks.
AD 2000	Rehabilitated	The Pergola is rehabilitated. The deteriorated roof, seats and slats are replaced with replicated pieces, following the original Burnap design.
AD 2001	Built	The play area is removed and a redesigned play area is installed by the NPS. Three-foot-high hairpin-style fencing is installed around the play areas.
AD 2003	Built	New benches and trash receptacles are installed throughout the park.
AD 2003 - 2004	Developed	A Cultural Landscape Report is developed to serve as the preferred treatment document for Montrose Park.
AD 2006	Established	The Historic American Landscape Survey's (HALS) Witness Tree Protection Program documents a large tulip poplar (<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>) located in the northwest part of Montrose Park. Casey Trees designates this tree as the second largest tree in the District, and the largest tulip poplar currently surveyed in the city.
	Paved	The brick-edged gravel walkway is paved with asphalt connecting the Summerhouse walkway to the boxwood circle and the northern end of the Ropewalk.

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AD 2007	Stabilized	The woodland path flagstone steps are reset and cleared of vegetation by a Student Conservation Crew. Several waterbars are also installed to control erosion.
	Developed	A National Register Nomination is completed for Montrose Park and approved by the Keeper on November 15, 2007.

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 Montrose Park by comparing landscape characteristics and features during the two periods of significance, the estate landscape (1804-1911) and park development (1911-1919), with the 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, and each characteristic or feature is classified as contributing or non-contributing to the site's overall historic significance.

Landscape characteristics also comprise landscape features. Landscape features are classified as contributing if they were present during the property's period of significance, and non-contributing if they were not present during that period. Some non-contributing features 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.

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 must be shown to have significance under one of the four criteria, and must also retain integrity to the period of significance.

HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE

LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISTICS AND FEATURES

Contributing landscape characteristics identified for Montrose Park are spatial organization, land use, circulation, topography, vegetation, views and vistas, buildings and structures, and small-scale features.

The spatial organization closely resembles the landscape's layout when the park was originally designed for public use. Vestiges of the estate landscape are still evident, particularly where open lawns occupy the plateau portion of the site. On the other hand, the steeply-sloping woodland area has changed somewhat where invasive vegetation and unmanaged successional growth has impacted the original southern portion of open woodland.

Although Montrose Park no longer serves as a residence, as it did during the estate era, the public park continues to provide the Georgetown community with opportunities for passive and active recreation.

The property retains the majority of its historic circulation patterns, but has also changed and evolved over time. Several key elements of the park development period include the Entrance Ellipse, the Lodge and Summerhouse paths, and remnant sections of the northern woodland paths. Only one element remains from the estate era, the Ropewalk, which was later modified during the park era, when it was paved with concrete and given a brick edging.

Montrose Park retains its relatively flat topography on the south-end and steeply sloping ground to the north. This level area was essential in the construction of a six hundred-foot-long ropewalk, and also served as the location of major development during the estate and park eras.

The current vegetation of the Montrose landscape differs somewhat from what was present during the two periods of significance. The general character of the vegetative areas remains the same, with the open nature of the shade trees and lawn areas, as well as the wooded edges on the east and west boundaries and northern half of the woodland, much as they appeared in the historic period. However, the planting plans developed by Burnap and Peaslee have been largely lost. Only a few estate-era plantings remain that were incorporated into the park design.

The most important historic views, including the one looking down the Ropewalk and the vista from the Entrance Ellipse, still remain from estate and park eras. The view from the Entrance Ellipse is no longer framed by two large oaks trees, but is flanked by a staggered grouping of evergreen trees.

Montrose Park still retains its most prominent park-era structures, with the exception of the utilitarian tool shed. The Summerhouse is the only structure remaining from the estate era; during the park era, it was moved to its current location to serve as a shelter near the southwest tennis courts.

The majority of the small-scale features that remain on the property represent the efforts of the Office of Public Buildings and Grounds (OPBG) and National Park Service (NPS) to transform the site into a public park. The tennis courts represent the largest and most prominent feature from the park era. Various walls and gas lights are the only other features that are considered contributing.

THE SEVEN ASPECTS OF INTEGRITY

1. Location is the place where the historic property was constructed. Montrose Park occupies its historic location on the heights above Georgetown, bordered by R Street, Lovers' Lane, an unnamed tributary, and Oak Hill Cemetery. One of the estate-era buildings, the Summerhouse, was moved to its present location during the park era and therefore has diminished integrity to the estate era.
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, and reflects the plans developed by OPBG landscape architects George Burnap and Horace Peaslee and implemented by 1919. After that year, additional elements were designed and installed with only minor revisions to existing landscape features.
3. Setting is the physical environment of a cultural landscape or historic property. Montrose Park is set within a historic Georgetown neighborhood, along a prominent ridge line. The richly landscaped

grounds for Dumbarton Oaks Gardens and Oak Hill Cemetery abut the public park. To the south, other spacious estates used to occupy this area, but now this area is made up of smaller lots and dense residential development. Forested lands still remain to the north. The setting within the reservation has changed very little over time, except for some alteration to the vegetation and removal of perennial flower beds. Despite these changes, the property's cultural landscape retains integrity of setting.

4. Materials are the physical elements of a particular period, including construction materials, paving, plants and other landscape features. Montrose Park retains integrity of materials. Materials remaining from the periods of significance include all the buildings, fieldstone and brick walls, herringbone brick paving, gas lights, and a number of trees and shrubs.

5. Workmanship includes the physical evidence of the craft of a particular period. Given the historic built materials and vegetation that remain at Montrose Park, the landscape there retains integrity of workmanship.

6. Feeling is the property's expression of the aesthetic or historic sense of a particular period. Montrose Park retains integrity of feeling, just as it retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials and workmanship. The visitor today experiences a nineteenth-century estate adapted as a public park during the early-twentieth-century to serve the Georgetown community. The only remarkable difference is the contemporary playground equipment.

7. Association is the direct link between an important historic event or person and a historic property. Notable landscape architects George E. Burnap and Horace W. Peaslee developed the plans to transform the Montrose estate into a public park; therefore this landscape also has integrity of association.

CONCLUSIONS

This CLI finds that Montrose Park retains integrity for its two periods of significance, 1804-1911 and 1911-1919. The landscape has been altered slightly by the changes implemented in 1925 (addition of a tennis court and reorientation of Ropewalk tennis courts), c. 1935 (addition of asphalt path from Summerhouse to Circle), 1956 (installation of the memorial armillary sphere to honor Sarah Louisa Rittenhouse) and 2001 (installation of contemporary play area). Even with these changes, however, the property still represents a nineteenth-century estate that was gracefully transformed into an early twentieth-century public park.

Landscape Characteristic:

Spatial Organization

Historic Conditions

When Montrose was an estate, the southern portion of the property, including the buildings and landscape, were organized in a formal layout, with the Federal-era mansion as the centerpiece and the support buildings and gardens clustered around it on the relatively level terrace. For the northern portion of the property, the elevation change limited development and prompted a more informal arrangement of features.

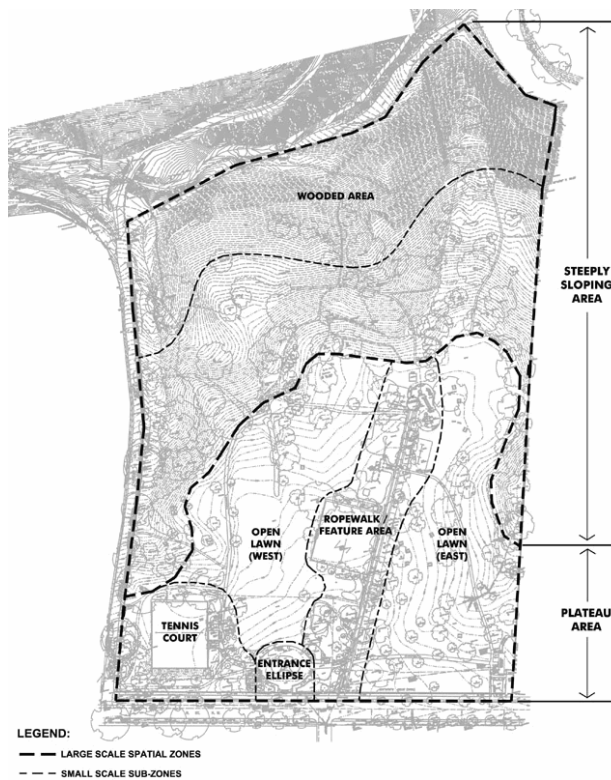
With the transition to a public park in 1911, park designers George Burnap and Horace Peaslee adapted some of the estate features to meet the new uses of the landscape, while others were removed. One of the most significant features integrated into the design was the Ropewalk.

This linear corridor was used to link a formal arrangement of gardens and recreational features. The location of the mansion continued to serve as a centerpiece with the development of Peaslee's Entrance Ellipse. The concentration of formal uses on the southern portion of the property also continued.

Existing Conditions

The spatial organization of Montrose Park remains very similar to that of the historic period. Only one portion of the “steeply sloping area,” as defined by the Montrose Park Cultural Landscape Report, no longer functions or appears as intended. For this southern-most area, invasive and unmanaged successional vegetative growth impacts what was originally an open slope.

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Map showing the spatial organization of Montrose Park (from *Montrose Park CLR* 2004:145).

Land Use

Historic Conditions

Land use corresponds to two phases of development, the estate era and the park era. A large portion of the estate was historically devoted to passive recreational pursuits (gardens and lawns). When the Office of Public Buildings and Grounds (OPBG) started to prepare designs

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for the public park, they developed new designs, but incorporated many features from the estate era into the park, in order to reemphasize the passive recreation uses (pathways, gardens, lawns). The OPBG designed active recreational facilities (tennis courts and a croquet court) into the landscape, as well, to support an underserved Georgetown community. On the whole, the designers struck a balance between passive and active recreational uses.

Existing Conditions

Although it no longer serves as a residential estate, the public park continues to provide the Georgetown community with passive and active recreation. Active uses have increased slightly since 1919, with the addition of another tennis court and a formalized playground. Passive uses that continue include strolling through the grounds, hiking the woodland paths, and picnicking. One new passive use is dog walking, which did not appear to exist historically in the park, or at least was not as prevalent as it is today. Even with these minor changes in use, the park still functions as originally planned.

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



North elevation of house and grounds, no date. Note the lawn rollers on the walk on the axis north from the house, and men holding badminton rackets (Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division).



View of play area on March 15, 1944 showing slide, basketball court and shed building originally from Lincoln Park (ROCR Cultural Resources, Historic Photograph files).

Circulation

Historic Conditions

The estate era's existing circulation network was integrated into the public park's pathway system. George Burnap and Horace Peaslee, OPBG Landscape Architects, incorporated the existing features into the landscape's changing uses as a park. The park consisted of two major loop walks, one in the southern plateau section and the other in the northern, steeply sloping woodland. Burnap and Peaslee's southern plateau path system included formalized entrances to Montrose Park, formal axial walkways and winding gravel paths.

Entrance Ellipse and Summerhouse pathways

Three pedestrian entrances at the Entrance Ellipse, Ropewalk and Lodge provided adequate access from the R Street side of the park. The Entrance Ellipse, which was the formal park entry point designed by Horace Peaslee, was situated on the site of the former mansion. Peaslee created an elliptical water basin surrounded by a brick plaza laid out in a herringbone pattern. His plan raised the plaza above the surrounding landscape and connected it with three broad steps leading up from the R Street sidewalk. One pathway extended to the east to connect to the Ropewalk, while another continued west to the Summerhouse tennis courts. Peaslee also developed the final design for connection to the Summerhouse. A series of five sets of stone steps lead down from the Entrance Ellipse to a gravel pathway. Fieldstone walls border the pathway and Summerhouse placement adjacent to the tennis courts. Two sets of

stone steps lead to the tennis court.

Ropewalk and Pergola pathways

The Ropewalk served as a formal link between the two loop systems. This feature originated in the early nineteenth century, when Richard Parrott built a “Ropewalk” in order to make rope and twine. A long strip of land was set aside on a relatively level area to the east of Parrott’s main house. After the ropewalk structure burned in 1814 during the War of 1812, the feature was a driveway during the estate period. Burnap retained and paved the Ropewalk as a defining pathway that linked important features along its length. The linear pathway angles slightly to the northeast (about eighty degrees) from the R Street sidewalk. Based on photo documentation, the paved surface treatment was exposed aggregate concrete with a brick edging. One short walkway segment off the Ropewalk, leading to the Pergola in the Boxwood Gardens, had the same paving treatment.

Lodge pathways

The pathway in front of the Lodge was also designed by Horace Peaslee. This rectilinear concrete path extended from the R Street sidewalk entrance along the front of the Lodge and connected to an existing gravel pathway. Concrete paths provided access to the Lodge’s restroom and service area. One other concrete walkway teed off to the west, on center with the Lodge service entrance. There is no evidence indicating whether this walkway connected with an existing path. A service court and driveway to the east of the Lodge provided the only official vehicular access to Montrose Park.

Southern plateau pathways

On the eastern portion of the plateau, a series of winding gravel walkways traveled through a lawn area under an open grove of trees. The pathways provided an alternative route for people wishing to venture onto the woodland pathways or continue on around to the western plateau. Two connections were designed to lead around to the west. One led between the Ropewalk tennis court and croquet court and continued to the west, through the central lawn to the Summerhouse tennis courts. The other path continued west at the northern end of the Ropewalk to a boxwood Circle. This Circle is the northern end of the “Long Walk” (another feature retained from the estate era), where a path originally led from the main house north through a boxwood allée to a Circle surrounded by boxwood. When the Entrance Ellipse was completed in 1917, the Long Walk was reduced in length at the southern end where it intersected with the path that lead between the Summerhouse and Ropewalk tennis court.

Northern steeply sloping woodland pathways

Burnap included two images of the Montrose Park woodland paths in his 1916 book “Parks: Their Design, Equipment and Use”. Based on these photographs, it appears that gravel was the path surface, and flagstones were used for steps on steep sections. It is possible that some of these paths were from the estate era. The woodland paths provided a connection to Lovers’ Lane and to paths located along an unnamed stream that fed Rock Creek.

Existing Conditions

Although the circulation of the park has changed and evolved over time, several key elements from the period of significance are present today.

Peaslee's Entrance Ellipse remains similar to its original layout, with the exception of the four diagonal brick pathways that lead to the Rittenhouse Memorial located in the center of an elliptical planting bed. These non-contributing diagonal pathways date to 1956 during the Rittenhouse Memorial installation and redesign of the center portion of the Entrance Ellipse. The herringbone brick plaza is cracked and shows signs of heaving due to an unsettled base. Brick deterioration can also be seen in the entry steps. The alignments of the pathways extending east and west from the ellipse are present, but are now asphalt instead of gravel. A recent NPS project repaved a section of deteriorated asphalt pathway leading from the ellipse to the Summerhouse. The series of flagstone steps remains, however. The pathway by the Summerhouse is covered with a layer of soil. This build-up gives the area an un-kempt feel. The southern set of stairs that lead to the Summerhouse tennis court is blocked by wisteria vines, which prevents anyone from using them.

The Ropewalk continues to serve the park as a defining link between features. The Pergola cruciform pathway is also in its original configuration. In 1986, the National Park Service repaved the surface of these paths with the same specifications as the original 1914 treatment. One major change to the Ropewalk was the addition of a circular extension at the northern end, adjacent to the playground.

The pathways by the Lodge are also intact. These concrete pathways now connect to non-contributing asphalt walkways that lead to the Entrance Ellipse and Pergola, taking the place of the previous winding gravel walkways. The short pathway segment from the end of the Ropewalk to the ill-defined boxwood hedge Circle is still in use, but is now composed of asphalt. From the Circle, a brick-edged asphalt pathway continues along the top of the plateau to the Summerhouse paths (This non-contributing path from 1926-1935 replaced the need for the "Long Walk"). Although this path is non-contributing, it is considered a compatible feature, because it provided an important link between historic features and reinforced the parks primary circulation loop.

Remnant sections of the northern woodland paths still remain in use, although they are deteriorated. A recent Rock Creek Park trail project removed vegetation and debris and reset some of the stone risers for a steep section of path. Still other areas of the woodland paths are either ill-defined where encroaching vegetation covers the paths, or the path surface is washed out and heavily eroded.

The National Park Service defined an official service entrance and road (non-contributing) to the park from Lovers' Lane near R Street. A gate prevents unauthorized use of this well-defined service access road, which continues around the west and north sides of the Summerhouse tennis courts. A worn path (non-contributing) also starts at this Lovers' Lane entrance and follows a rise to the south of the tennis courts, connecting to the steps between the Summerhouse and Entrance Ellipse.

Character-defining Features:

Feature: Ropewalk
Feature Identification Number: 130227
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing
IDLCS Number: 573419
LCS Structure Name: Montrose Park; Ropewalk
LCS Structure Number: 324-09

Feature: Pergola cruciform shaped pathway
Feature Identification Number: 130229
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Entrance Ellipse
Feature Identification Number: 130231
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Summerhouse pathways
Feature Identification Number: 130233
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Lodge service court driveway
Feature Identification Number: 130235
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Path from north end of Ropewalk to circle
Feature Identification Number: 130237
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Northern Woodland path remnants
Feature Identification Number: 130239
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Diagonal brick paths, inner bed of Entrance Ellipse
Feature Identification Number: 130269
Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

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Feature: Path from Lodge to Ropewalk (opposite Entrance Ellipse)

Feature Identification Number: 130271

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Path from Lodge to Ropewalk (opposite Pergola)

Feature Identification Number: 130273

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Path from circle to Summerhouse

Feature Identification Number: 130275

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Most paths within Northern Woodland

Feature Identification Number: 130277

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Unpaved access road from Lovers` Lane

Feature Identification Number: 130279

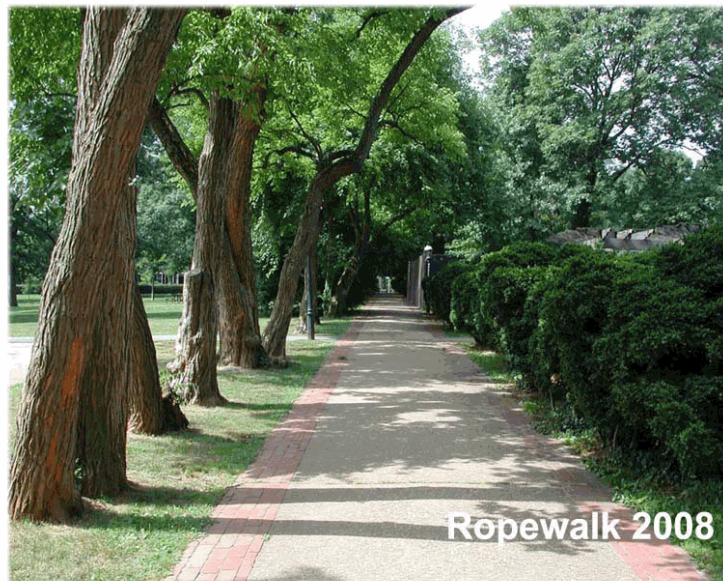
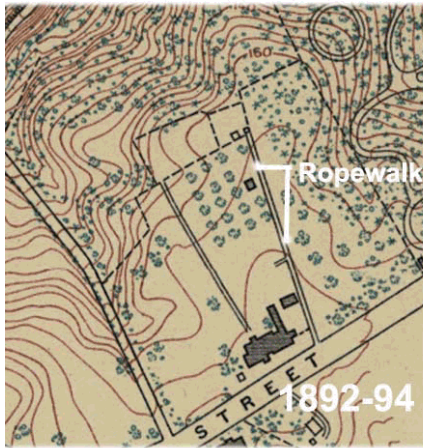
Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Unpaved path from Lovers` Lane

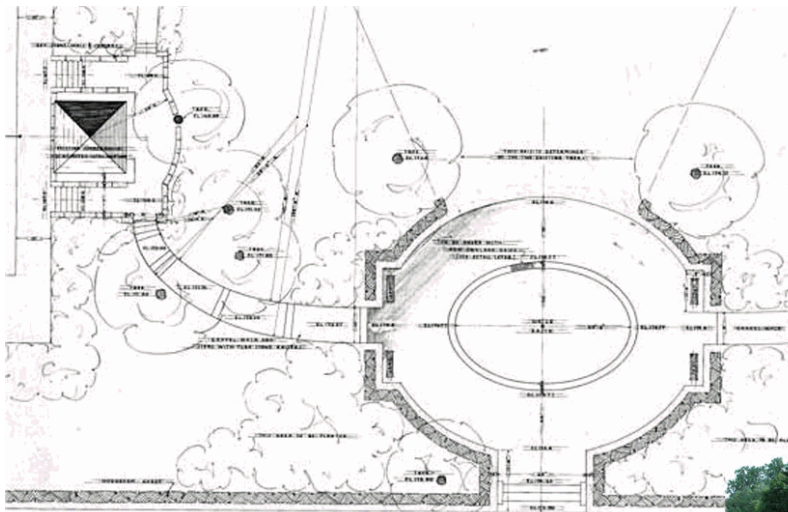
Feature Identification Number: 130281

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



At left, a US Coast and Geodetic Survey Map from 1892-94 shows the location of the Ropewalk (from Library of Congress, Geography and Map Division). At right, the Ropewalk as it appears today, lined by a row of Osage orange trees (CLP 2008).

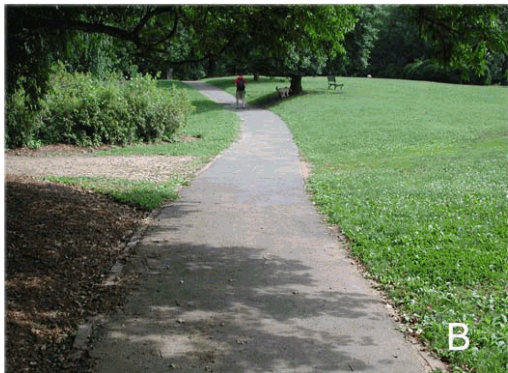


Peaslee - 1917
Entrance Ellipse and Summerhouse

At left, Peaslee's 1917 design for the Entrance Ellipse and relocated Summerhouse (DSC TIC 891/80032). A) Flagstone steps leading to the Entrance Ellipse; B) Brick paved Entrance Ellipse with redesigned center portion (CLP 2008).



*Comparison photos of historic flagstone steps in the woodland: A and B, from c. 1916 (from *Parks: Their Design, Equipment, and Use* by George Burnap, 1916); C) Remnant steps covered in 2003 (from *Montrose Park CLR* 2004:89); D) Steps uncovered (CLP 2008).*



A) Lovers' Lane corridor; B) Brick-lined asphalt path leading from the Summerhouse; C) Worn access road and path from Lovers' Lane (CLP 2008).

Topography

Historic Conditions

The topography of Montrose Park historically consisted of a relatively flat plateau on the south end, which gradually descended north to a bluff. There the land sloped steeply down to an unnamed tributary of Rock Creek. The level ground proved to be a good location for the construction of a ropewalk in the early nineteenth century, which required about six to nine hundred feet in length on level ground. It appears that Richard Parrott's ropewalk was at least six hundred feet long. After the ropewalk's destruction in 1814, Parrott and later owners utilized this linear feature as a driveway and further developed the plateau, constructing the main house and various outbuildings on the southern-most portion, planting an orchard and laying out formal walkways through the grounds. The sloping ground on the north end of the property remained undeveloped.

With the transition from estate to park, the Office of Public Buildings and Grounds altered the gentle slope in the southwest corner of the park for the installation of two tennis courts. This excavated soil was used to build up the terrace for the proposed Entrance Ellipse located on the south central part of the plateau. Localized grading occurred in other areas of the park, but these modifications were relatively minor. At this time pathways were also laid out on the sloping ground of the northern woodland. Burnap designed a system of trails through the area and added flagstone steps in areas with significant grades.

Existing Conditions

The topography of the site today is very similar to that of the period of significance, since the vast majority of the park has remained unchanged. Since 1919, the only noticeable alteration to the grade occurred when the second tennis court was installed along the Ropewalk, sometime between 1922 and 1925. Other smaller changes include the addition of the playground and backstop/ball field area. Otherwise, the few modifications in grade on the property are due to the natural process of erosion and human use of the paths.

Vegetation

Historic Conditions

Prior to Parrott's settlement of the land, this ridge was covered with virgin white oaks (*Quercus alba*). These oak groves were remnants of the climax forest that covered the heights above Georgetown. By the early 1900s, the estate property contained "a large grove of magnificent forest trees and undulating slopes of beautifully kept lawn." (CLR: 158; Evening Star January 8, 1914) The property also contained a small orchard due north of the main house, a boxwood garden (possibly designed by English landscape designer John Small in the 1850s) on the west side of the Ropewalk, an Osage orange (*Maclura pomifera*) hedgerow along the east side of the Ropewalk, and an English boxwood (*Buxus sempervirens* 'Suffruticosa') allee along a walkway (to be known as the "Long Walk") and around the Circle.

When the property was purchased by the Federal Government to develop a public park, most of the features from the estate era were retained and integrated into the design by OPBG landscape architects George Burnap and Horace Peaslee. They developed planting plans for the area around the Summerhouse tennis courts, the Entrance Ellipse, and the perennial garden along the Ropewalk. They also augmented the existing palette by planting groupings of Rhododendrons (*Azalea* sp.) beside the woodland paths and installed a hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*) hedge along the R Street boundary (CLR: 160). In addition to Burnap and Peaslee's proposals, the Commission of Fine Arts directed the OPBG to allow the Osage orange hedge to grow into trees, forming a row along the Ropewalk.

Boxwood Gardens

There is still speculation about when the Boxwood Gardens were planted. The most likely scenario, which differs somewhat from the hypothesis presented in the Montrose Park Cultural Landscape Report, is that the present boxwoods are originally from the 1850s. John H. Small, an English landscape designer, was hired by the Boyces to design a boxwood garden for their property. A custodian, or likely a gardener, continued to maintain the grounds even after Mrs. Boyce's death in 1879, and worked there up until his death in the early 1900s. Soon after the Federal Government purchased the property in 1910, the boxwood gardens were "patched", meaning gaps in the layout were in-filled with new English boxwood. Burnap's 1913 drawing and a photograph included in his 1916 publication shows a well-established boxwood garden. (Historically boxwoods were used as edging [not hedging] around planting beds and pruned to a twenty-four inch height, as indicated in the photograph.) In 1922 when OBPBG Landscape Architect Irving Payne prepared a drawing of the Boxwood Gardens area (It is actually called a "Revised Rose Garden."), there is speculation that the new layout of the boxwoods was a

redesign. Evidence indicates that Payne instead prepared a simplified plan of the earlier boxwood layout and proposed roses (*Rosa* sp.) planted within the interior of the beds. Portions of the original plan are still evident, however, including the circular bed in the middle of the two defined gardens to the north and south of the Pergola, and arrangement of the walkways. In the end, it seems the intricate design shown in the 1913 plan became problematic to maintain within a public park, so the layout was simplified.

Entrance Ellipse

Peaslee's design for the Entrance Ellipse specified a hornbeam (*Carpinus* sp.) hedge (not planted) along R Street and around the perimeter of the plaza, with an opening on the north face. Hemlocks were most likely planted as a substitute. He centered the ellipse on a prominent north axis between two large oaks (*Quercus* sp.) that once flanked the north entrance of the mansion. Behind the hedge, he proposed beds of shrubs in the four quadrants (not planted).

Existing Conditions

The Montrose Park vegetation today is different from what existed historically, but the general character of the vegetative areas remains the same. "The open nature of the shade trees and lawn areas on the eastern and western sides of the Ropewalk still exists, as well as the wooded edges on the east and west boundaries of the park and the northern half of the forested area of the Northern Woodland" (CLR: 164).

There is still a substantial stand of mature canopy trees from the earliest period located on the brow of the steeply sloping woodland. A few estate-era features also remain, including an overgrown Boxwood Gardens (although in-filled by Burnap and simplified by Irving Payne, OBPG Landscape Architect), remnant boxwoods along the Long Walk and Circle, and Osage orange trees along the Ropewalk and Lovers' Lane. Extant features from the original designs of both Burnap and Peaslee include the wisteria (*Wisteria* sp.) and other plantings around the tennis courts and Summerhouse, and the remnants of shrubs and planting beds around Peaslee's Entrance Ellipse. Although the hedge is a different species (*Osmanthus* sp.), it still reflects the original intent of having an evergreen hedge in this location. "While the composition of individual plants within the various zones has changed over time, the character of the areas has not, with the exception of the southern zone of the Northern Woodland" (CLR: 164). Within this southern section, invasive vegetation and vines continue to outcompete the native species and intrude on the desired open character of this area. A massive 71" (dbh) tulip poplar (*Liriodendron tulipifera*) that grows within this area is noted as the second largest tree within the District of Columbia. In 2006, the Historic American Landscapes Survey (HALS) documented this tree for inclusion in the "Witness Tree Protection Program," which records trees that are biologically and historically significant.

The historic character of vegetation on the property varies greatly from what existed historically. For instance, Osage orange trees now tower above the Ropewalk and create the desired effect the Commission of Fine Arts sought over ninety-years ago, but in the Boxwood

Gardens, the shrubs are overgrown, declining, and no longer exhibit the size and form of their originally intricate layout. Burnap's perennial garden along the Ropewalk is gone, along with most of his plantings around the Summerhouse. But Peaslee's planting layout for the Entrance Ellipse remains. Here an Osmanthus hedge surrounds the plaza, along with beds of azaleas (*Rhododendron* sp.) in four quadrants, similar to what was shown in his 1917 plan. There are however, a few differences from the original plan. The two oaks that once framed the view north of the Ellipse are gone, and a bed of roses and lavender now grows in the center of the Ellipse, where Peaslee designed a water basin.

One addition to the area northeast of the Entrance Ellipse is a Nordman fir (*Abies nordmanniana*) planted by the Georgetown Garden Club in 1926, for use as a community Christmas tree. (NR: 8-26; this date is from the National Register Nomination and differs from the date in the CLR, which is incorrect.) Although this tree is considered non-contributing because it was planted after 1919 (end period of significance), it is a compatible feature that does not detract from the vegetative layout and openness of the central lawn.

Character-defining Features:

Feature: Shade tree / lawn areas

Feature Identification Number: 130173

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Wooded edges

Feature Identification Number: 130175

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Northern half of the Northern Woodland

Feature Identification Number: 130177

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Osage orange trees along Ropewalk

Feature Identification Number: 130179

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Osage orange trees in the hedgerow along Lovers` Lane

Feature Identification Number: 130181

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Boxwood Gardens

Feature Identification Number: 130183

Montrose Park

Rock Creek Park - Montrose Park

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Boxwood along former Long Walk

Feature Identification Number: 130185

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Remnants of boxwood around the Circle

Feature Identification Number: 130187

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Location of hedge along R Street

Feature Identification Number: 130189

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Tulip poplar witness tree

Feature Identification Number: 130191

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Oaks and other large pre-park era trees

Feature Identification Number: 130219

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Wisteria vine flanking Summerhouse

Feature Identification Number: 130201

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Silverbell shrub north of Summerhouse

Feature Identification Number: 130199

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Location of hedge round Entrance Ellipse

Feature Identification Number: 130205

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Shrub beds around Entrance Ellipse

Feature Identification Number: 130193

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Montrose Park
Rock Creek Park - Montrose Park

Feature: Shrub area north of the Lodge
Feature Identification Number: 130223
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Rhododendrons in Northern Woodland
Feature Identification Number: 130195
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Southern half of the Northern Woodland
Feature Identification Number: 130213
Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

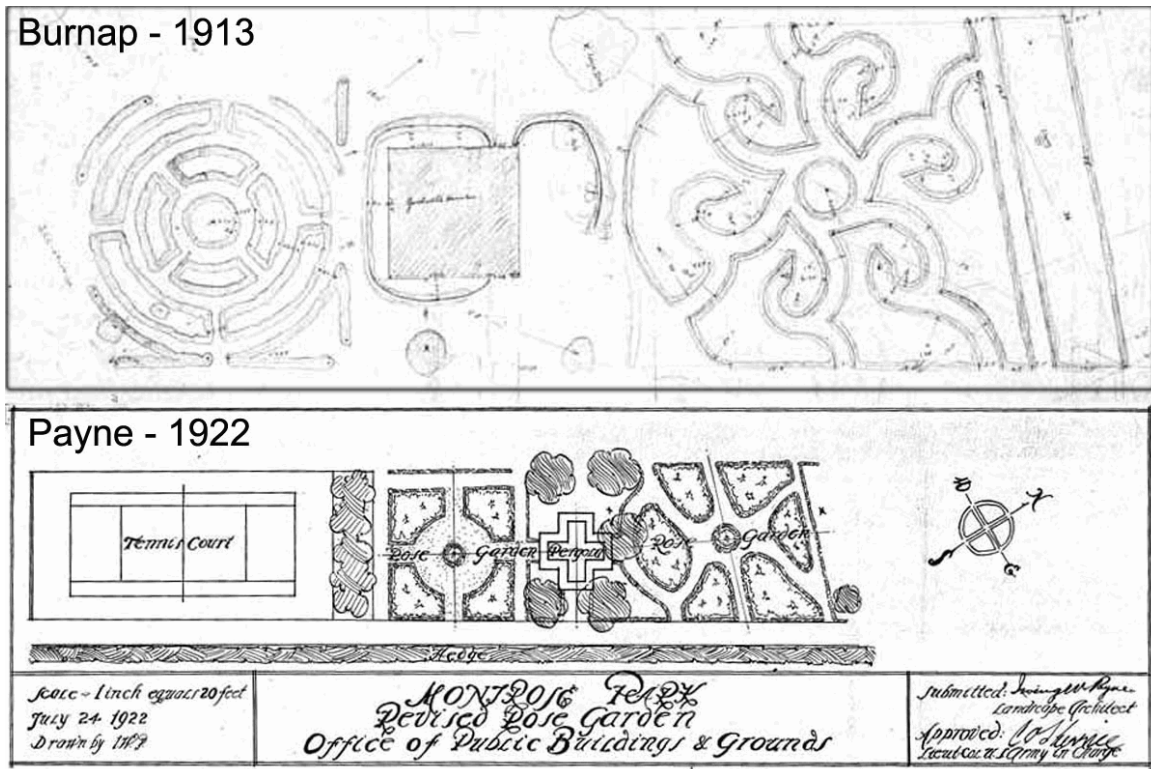
Feature: Invasive plants
Feature Identification Number: 130197
Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Nordman fir, GGC Christmas Tree
Feature Identification Number: 130217
Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Historic vegetation from the estate period: A) Osage orange trees along Ropewalk (CLP 2008); B) Grove of American beech trees on northernmost edge of plateau (CLP 2007); C) Tulip poplar witness tree (Photograph by Jet Lowe, HALS DC-10, 2007).



Above, Burnap's 1913 drawing of the Boxwood Gardens (DSC TIC 891/80011). Below, Payne's 1922 drawing of the Revised Rose Garden (DSC TIC 891/80038).



The Boxwood Gardens, as they appeared around 1916, and the newly constructed Pergola (Parks : Their Design, Equipment and Use'by George Burnap, 1916).



View of Boxwood Gardens as they appeared in 2003, in an overgrown condition (Montrose Park CLR 2004:165).



Other vegetative features: A) Osmanthus hedge along R Street boundary; B) Invasive vegetation encroaching on the woodland edge, on open sloping ground; C) Georgetown Garden Club Nordman fir Christmas tree (CLP 2008).

Views and Vistas

Historic Conditions

There are several significant designed views within Montrose Park. The earliest is derived from Richard Parrott's early nineteenth-century Ropewalk, which was destroyed in 1814. Burnap's development plans reemphasized the importance of this corridor by adding features such as a perennial garden, croquet and tennis courts, to the already existing Boxwood Gardens on the west side. On the east side of the Ropewalk, the Osage orange hedges were allowed to grow into trees forming an arcade over the path.

Two other prominent designed views that originated from the estate era were the northern vista from the Entrance Ellipse and the view northwest from the end of the Circle. The Entrance Ellipse is situated slightly east of the axis used by the original mansion site. Peaslee wrote on his 1917 drawing: "This axis is determined by the two existing trees" which shifted the view to a wider expanse of land to the north. The Circle was intended as a viewing area as well. Located at the end of the Long Walk, the Commission of Fine Arts envisioned a break in the hedge on the northwest side, to open the views down the slope to a large tulip poplar and open woodland beyond.

The two new entrances to the Entrance Ellipse and in the southeast corner of the park also

created open views leading beyond the hedge into the plaza and open lawn areas.

Existing Conditions

The historic views down the Ropewalk and the vista from the Entrance Ellipse still remain as they were during the period of significance. The Ropewalk continues to be a strong visual axis lined by a mature row of Osage orange trees arching over it. The vista from the Entrance Ellipse is still the most prominent view, but it is no longer framed by the two large oak trees as Peaslee intended. Instead, a staggered grouping of evergreen trees now serves this function.

To the north of the central lawn, there are only remnant plantings at the Circle that loosely define the vantage point to the northwest, toward a magnificent tulip poplar and northern woodland beyond.

The remaining entrances to the park at the Entrance Ellipse, and near the southeast corner of the park, still provide an open view looking out beyond the R Street hedge.

A few non-contributing views have also developed over the years, including a view from a rock outcropping within the Northern Woodland to Rock Creek, the Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway, and the Massachusetts Avenue bridge beyond. In addition, there is a view into the park from an unofficial entrance on the southwest corner, at the service access drive, from Lovers' Lane.

Character-defining Features:

Feature: View north from Entrance Ellipse

Feature Identification Number: 130283

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: View northwest from Circle toward the champion tulip poplar

Feature Identification Number: 130285

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: View from R Street entrance to Entrance Ellipse

Feature Identification Number: 130287

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Views along the Ropewalk corridor

Feature Identification Number: 130289

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: View from R Street, southeast entrance into park

Feature Identification Number: 130291

Montrose Park

Rock Creek Park - Montrose Park

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: View from rock outcropping to Rock Creek, Potomac Parkway and Mass. Ave bridge

Feature Identification Number: 130293

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: View from Lovers' Lane service access to park

Feature Identification Number: 130295

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Prominent view looking north from the Entrance Ellipse in 2003 (from Montrose Park CLR 2004:105).



Axial view looking north down the Ropewalk from R Street entrance in 2003 (from Montrose Park CLR 2004:172).

Buildings and Structures

Historic Conditions

The Federal-style mansion, stable, and all the outbuildings were standing, but in disrepair, when the Office of Public Buildings and Grounds (OPBG) assumed management of the property. Unlike some of the other landscape characteristics, which tended to utilize pre-existing elements for the future development of Montrose Park, only one building, the Summerhouse, was retained from the estate era. The OPBG designers, George Burnap and Horace Peaslee, prepared plans for two new buildings, a pergola and lodge, as part of the initial development of Montrose Park during the period of significance. The only remaining structure in the park was a tool shed, which was moved from Lincoln Park on Capitol Hill to Montrose and placed to the west of the Ropewalk, at the north end.

Summerhouse (Contributing)

The Victorian-era Summerhouse was relocated in 1918 to just northwest of its original location, to serve as a sheltered sitting area for the southwestern tennis courts. Peaslee's plan for the relocated structure placed the Summerhouse on a raised concrete platform surrounded by a low fieldstone wall. Before the structure was moved, Burnap prepared sketches for new seats to be installed at the interior corners in 1915. The small, open-air decorative wooden structure with exposed wood-framed beams is surmounted by a pyramidal standing seam roof.

Pergola (Contributing)

The Pergola is the only Burnap-designed structure that was constructed in Montrose Park. It is located “on the site of a nineteenth-century gardener’s house immediately west of the Ropewalk between two boxwood mazes,” and is laid out in a Greek cross plan. The brick piers have bluestone bases and caps supporting a cypress, open-framed roof with profiled rafter tails. Oak benches are inset between the piers and backed by a panel of vertical wood slats and latticework. The whole structure is built on a concrete foundation, and outlined with brick paving infilled with “pebble-in-concrete.” (CLR: 175-176)

Lodge (Contributing)

For a short time after the park was originally established, the mansion kitchen served as a comfort station, with an understanding that a more permanent facility would be constructed when the necessary funds were available. A site plan from 1916 placed a building in the southeastern-most corner of the park. This may have represented the desired location for the new comfort station that was designed by Horace Peaslee and constructed a year later. The “Lodge” as it became known, was a five-bay wide, symmetrical brick utilitarian building. Entrances to the rest rooms were located on the north and east elevations, with brick walls enclosing the entries. A service yard was located on the east side.

Existing Conditions

Montrose Park still retains its most prominent structures, with the exception of the utilitarian tool shed, which was demolished in 1979. The Summerhouse remains largely intact and is the oldest structure on the property. All wood elements of the structure are painted green, and some portions are suffering from minor wood rot and deterioration. The standing seam ‘tin’ roof is painted with aluminized paint and may either be a replacement roof from 1915 or have originated in the late-nineteenth-century. The roof is otherwise in good condition.

The Pergola is “indistinguishable from the structure described in Burnap’s January 11, 1913 drawings” and is in excellent condition (CLR: 110).

The remaining structure, the Lodge, shows signs of wear and deterioration, although its exterior appears similar to its historic condition. The service yard pier is tilted, causing the wooden gates to the yard to be out of plumb. The slate roof and gutters are in relatively good condition, though several of the downspouts are failing.

Character-defining Features:

Feature:	Summerhouse
Feature Identification Number:	130167
Type of Feature Contribution:	Contributing
IDLCS Number:	11948
LCS Structure Name:	Montrose Park; Summerhouse
LCS Structure Number:	324-07

Montrose Park
Rock Creek Park - Montrose Park

Feature: Pergola

Feature Identification Number: 130169

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 11946

LCS Structure Name: Montrose Park; Pergola

LCS Structure Number: 324-05

Feature: Lodge

Feature Identification Number: 130171

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 11945

LCS Structure Name: Montrose Park; Lodge

LCS Structure Number: 324-04

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



A) Summerhouse in original location, late 1800 (Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division); B) Summerhouse (CLP 2008); C) Pergola (CLP 2008); D) Lodge in 1926 (ROCR Historic Photograph files); E) Lodge in 2003 (Montrose Park CLR 2004:87).

Small Scale Features

Recreational Features

Historic Conditions

During its initial development, two sets of tennis courts were constructed. One was placed along the west side of the Ropewalk, and another two were placed in the southwest corner of the park. Early on a chain-link fence surrounded the courts, except for a portion of the southwest court, where the Summerhouse abutted the courts. By 1916, the OPBG installed various play equipment including a swing set and backstop near the northern end of the Ropewalk. (See 1916 map of Montrose Park, TIC 891/80028 for location of features)

Existing Conditions

The three historic tennis courts still exist, but the Ropewalk court was expanded in the 1920s and reoriented to fit an additional court in the same area. Chain-link fences still surround the courts, although now the fences enclose the entire southwest edge of the courts, including the spot where the Summerhouse is located. One of the entry gates on the south side of the Summerhouse tennis court is blocked by the wisteria vines growing on the fence and gate. The entry gate for the Ropewalk court is also difficult to open because the bottom of the gate is resting on the ground. In order to open this gate, it must be lifted up so it no longer drags. The court surfaces suffer from severe cracking and poor drainage, causing the ponding of water and sediment build-up.

The play area is expanded in the 1920s and 1930s (in addition to the swings and backstop) to include a sandbox, volleyball court, basketball court, slides, trapeze bar and see-saw. (See 1935 map, TIC 891/80050) In 2001, all the childrens' play equipment was removed, except the backstop, and a new play area designed to meet current safety standards was installed. These features are considered non-contributing.

Fences, Gates, and Walls

Historic Conditions

A decorative iron fence lined the property's frontage on R Street with a gate opening at the front of the house when the Boyce family lived at Montrose. Two large curb stones marked the entrance to the driveway, formerly the Ropewalk. During the transformation to a public park, the fence was removed and replaced with a hedge. A low fence was installed to protect the hedge. A low stone retaining wall marked the western boundary along Lovers' Lane, and a board fence separated the eastern boundary from Oak Hill Cemetery.

George Burnap initially designed a series of walls by the southwestern tennis courts, which were later expanded upon by Horace Peaslee when the Summerhouse was relocated to this area. Low field stone walls surrounded the Summerhouse concrete platform, and flanked the walkways to the tennis courts and from the Entrance Ellipse. The Office of Public Buildings and Grounds also installed brick walls as part of the service yard for the Lodge.

Montrose Park

Rock Creek Park - Montrose Park

Existing Conditions

None of the historic fences remain today, but the alignment of the current chain-link fence separating Montrose Park and the Oak Hill Cemetery is the same. One of the curb stones that marked the entrance to the driveway/Ropewalk may still remain, but now lies on its side at the Ropewalk entrance. All the historic walls remain, and are mostly in good condition, with the exception of the stone retaining wall along Lovers' Lane. Its condition ranges from fair to poor where large sections of capstones or wall stone are missing. Although the wall is outside the boundary of Montrose Park, it is an important feature and acts as a visual definition of the park's western boundary.

Signs

Historic Conditions

There is no evidence of the existence of signs during the early years of the park's development.

Existing Conditions

In 1998 the National Park Service installed a 1940s replica entrance sign for Dumbarton Oaks Park at the corner of R Street and Lovers' Lane. The Montrose Park entrance sign is a NPS standard brown and white metal sign located at the Entrance Ellipse's R Street entrance. An interpretive wayside along the Ropewalk describes the history of the Parrott Ropewalk. There are two other signs that provide information about vegetation - one is attached to an Osage orange tree and provides the common and botanic name, and the other, near a downed tree, and states: "White Oak – about 180 years old". A large information board used for posting a park map and neighborhood information is located near the paved path between the Ropewalk and the Lodge. Other signs on the property are various standard regulatory signs. All the signs are non-contributing.

Site Furnishings

Historic Conditions

During the early park development of Montrose Park, the OPBG installed seventeen "Newport" gas lamps, as recommended by Burnap. The lights were placed primarily along R Street, the Ropewalk, and the axis north of the Entrance Ellipse.

There is no record as to when other site furnishings were installed during the period of significance. In a 1925 inventory, six trash cans and three drinking fountains were noted in the park. Historic photographs from 1934 and 1944 show various benches and picnic tables in the park, ranging from rustic wood benches to more ornate wood slat benches with cast-iron legs. Burnap thought it important to locate park benches to have attractive views. Benches were integral to the designs of the Entrance Ellipse, Pergola, and the relocated Summerhouse.

Existing Conditions

The gas lamps are the only historic site furnishings that remain in the park today, although the ten that remain are in different locations from their original ones. Nine are located along both sides of the Ropewalk, and one is located by the Summerhouse. Some of the fixtures are no

longer functioning, are missing elements or lean dramatically to one side.

All the remaining site furnishings are non-contributing. There are three types of trash receptacles, three drinking fountain styles, four bench styles, and two types of picnic tables. One public pay telephone is located by the Lodge, and an emergency telephone is located near the childrens' play area.

In 1956 an armillary sphere supported by a marble pedestal was installed in the center of the Entrance Ellipse in memory of Sarah Louisa Rittenhouse. Although this feature is outside the period of significance for the cultural landscape and is non-contributing, the layout and design of the memorial respects the design intent of Peaslee's Entrance Ellipse, and is considered compatible.

Character-defining Features:

Feature: Summerhouse tennis courts

Feature Identification Number: 130965

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 573422

LCS Structure Name: Montrose Park; Tennis Courts

LCS Structure Number: 324-11

Feature: Ropewalk tennis court eastern half

Feature Identification Number: 132190

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 573422

LCS Structure Name: Montrose Park; Tennis Courts

LCS Structure Number: 324-11

Feature: Fieldstone walls around Summerhouse

Feature Identification Number: 130969

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Brick wall at Lodge service yard

Feature Identification Number: 130971

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 573427

LCS Structure Name: Montrose Park; Brick Wall

Montrose Park

Rock Creek Park - Montrose Park

LCS Structure Number: 324-13

Feature: Stone retaining wall along Lovers' Lane

Feature Identification Number: 130973

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 573418

LCS Structure Name: Montrose Park; Boundary Wall

LCS Structure Number: 324-08

Feature: Gas lights along Ropewalk

Feature Identification Number: 130975

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 5877

LCS Structure Name: Montrose Park; Gas Lights

LCS Structure Number: 324-03

Feature: Gas light at Summerhouse

Feature Identification Number: 130977

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 5877

LCS Structure Name: Montrose Park; Gas Lights

LCS Structure Number: 324-03

Feature: Ropewalk tennis courts western half

Feature Identification Number: 132192

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Playground

Feature Identification Number: 130961

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Backstop

Feature Identification Number: 130963

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Low curb and concrete steps on east side of Ropewalk tennis court

Montrose Park

Rock Creek Park - Montrose Park

Feature Identification Number: 130979

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Wooden gates enclosing service area behind Lodge

Feature Identification Number: 130981

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Service gate at southwest corner

Feature Identification Number: 130983

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Chain-link fencing around both sets of tennis courts

Feature Identification Number: 130985

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Benches

Feature Identification Number: 130987

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Drinking fountains

Feature Identification Number: 130989

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Trash receptacles

Feature Identification Number: 130991

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Picnic tables

Feature Identification Number: 130993

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Armillary sphere

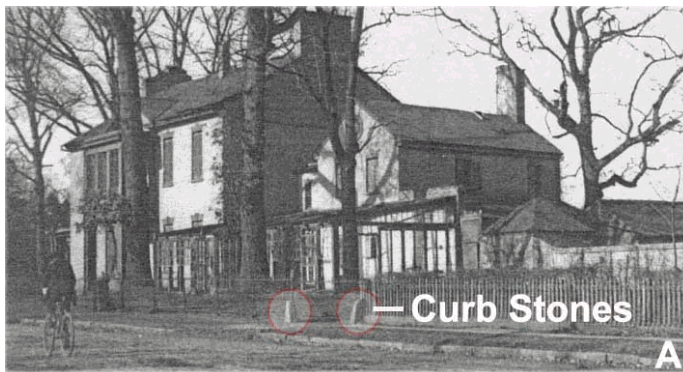
Feature Identification Number: 130995

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



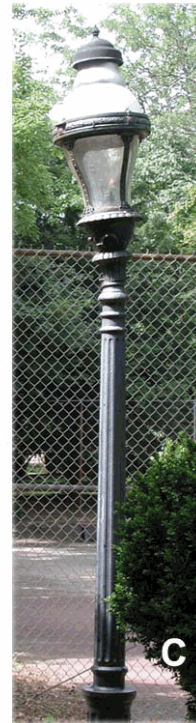
A) View of Summerhouse tennis courts and Summerhouse, c. 1950 (ROCR Historic Photograph files); B) Summerhouse tennis courts; C) Ropewalk tennis courts and sediment build-up; D) Summerhouse fieldstone walls (CLP 2008).



A



B



C



D

A) Location of two curb stones at Ropewalk entrance, c. 1900 (Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division); B) Possible remnant curb stone lying on its side, 2003 (Montrose Park CLR 2004:185); C and D) Newport's style light fixtures (CLP 2008).

Montrose Park
Rock Creek Park - Montrose Park



A



B



C

A) Contemporary bench with cast iron frame and wooden slats; B) Sarah Louisa Rittenhouse Memorial; C) Fenced-in play area (CLP 2008).

Condition

Condition Assessment and Impacts

Condition Assessment: Fair

Assessment Date: 09/24/2008

Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:

The condition has not changed since the 2007 reassessment. All actions remain the same. In order to improve the condition of the landscape from fair to good, the following measures should be completed.

1. Drainage / Circulation issues Use water bars or other erosion control devices to remediate drainage and erosion problems. The CLR treatment plan calls for stabilized soil for the paths in the Northern Woodland. Repair paved surfaces to prevent further deterioration.
2. Control invasive vegetation where it affects the integrity of historic vegetation and hinders the visitor experience. Vegetation management practices should be applied to selectively remove invasive species and encourage the overall health of this woodland zone.
3. Deterioration of historic vegetation – Deterioration of the park’s historic vegetation should be treated with proper rejuvenative pruning or in kind replacement. The large oak and tulip poplar tree specimens should be monitored carefully and treated as necessary. Shrubs should be pruned to the proper size and replanted as needed. Ideally, the historic design of the Boxwood Gardens should be reestablished as described in the CLR.
4. Deterioration of historic tennis courts - The tennis courts should be rehabilitated by resurfacing, reestablishing their historic layout, and installing new appropriate fencing in its historic configuration. This will enable park visitors to effectively use these unique historic recreational features.

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

Condition Assessment: Fair

Assessment Date: 10/18/2007

Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:

The cultural landscape of Montrose Park shows clear evidence of minor disturbances and deterioration caused by natural and 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. The Montrose Park Cultural Landscape Report, completed in 2004, provides management directions, and portions of the treatment plan have been applied. The Assessment Date refers to the date that the park superintendent concurred with the Condition Assessment.

Condition Assessment: Fair

Assessment Date: 07/02/2002

Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:

A cultural landscape report is being developed for Montrose Park to assist with the future management

of the park and stabilize the historically significant features.(FY2002)

Impacts

Type of Impact:	Visitation
External or Internal:	Internal
Impact Description:	Heavy visitor use by dogwalkers and local Georgetown community. Most dogs are unleashed and create social trails and degraded turf through the site.
Type of Impact:	Vegetation/Invasive Plants
External or Internal:	Internal
Impact Description:	About one third of the park is wooded. It is threatened by invasive vegetation that detracts from the historic character and feeling of the park.
Type of Impact:	Deferred Maintenance
External or Internal:	Internal
Impact Description:	The brick paving of the entrance ellipse is deteriorating (cracked and heaved). Some other areas of paving throughout the park are also deteriorating.
Type of Impact:	Erosion
External or Internal:	Internal
Impact Description:	Improper drainage has been and will continue to lead to erosion of soil on sloping areas, especially in the Northern Woodland.
Type of Impact:	Improper Drainage
External or Internal:	Internal
Impact Description:	Sloped areas and paths, especially in the Northern Woodland, have drainage issues that are causing erosion. Poor drainage are impacting the health of the heavily-used lawn areas.
Type of Impact:	Deferred Maintenance
External or Internal:	Internal
Impact Description:	The boxwoods that were once part of the historic Boxwood

Gardens by the pergola are seriously overgrown and in decline. They are so large that views to and from the Pergola are obscured.

Type of Impact: Deferred Maintenance
External or Internal: Internal
Impact Description: The court surface for the tennis areas is failing. Severe cracking, poor drainage and overall deterioration of the surface effects usage of the recreational courts.

Treatment

Treatment

Approved Treatment: Rehabilitation
Approved Treatment Document: Cultural Landscape Report
Document Date: 08/01/2004

Approved Treatment Document Explanatory Narrative:

The recommendations are based on the approved treatment plan from the Montrose Park Cultural Landscape Report. See ROCR PMIS # 77829 "Rehab Montrose Park and Lodge" (\$727,000) and PMIS #145864 "Rehabilitate Montrose Park Tennis Courts" (\$300,000)

Approved Treatment Completed: No

Approved Treatment Costs

Landscape Treatment Cost: 1,027,000.00
Cost Date: 08/01/2004
Level of Estimate: C - Similar Facilities
Cost Estimator: Park/FMSS

Bibliography and Supplemental Information

Bibliography

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| Citation Author: | architrave p.c., architects; Rhodeside & Harwell, Inc; and Robinson & Associates, Inc. |
| Citation Title: | Cultural Landscape Report, Montrose Park |
| Year of Publication: | 2004 |
| Citation Publisher: | National Park Service, Washington, DC |
| Citation Author: | Barsoum, Eve L. |
| Citation Title: | Montrose Park National Register of Historic Places Registration Form |
| Year of Publication: | 2007 |
| Citation Publisher: | National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers |