National Park Service
Cultural Landscapes Inventory

2017

Grant Circle
Rock Creek Park - DC Street Plan Reservations

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Inventory Summary

The Cultural Landscapes Inventory Overview:

CLI General Information:

Purpose and Goals of the CLI

The Cultural Landscapes Inventory (CLI) is an evaluated inventory of all significant landscapes in units of the national park system in which the National Park Service has, or plans to acquire any enforceable legal interest. Landscapes documented through the CLI are those that individually meet criteria set forth in the National Register of Historic Places such as historic sites, historic designed landscapes, and historic vernacular landscapes or those that are contributing elements of properties that meet the criteria. In addition, landscapes that are managed as cultural resources because of law, policy, or decisions reached through the park planning process even though they do not meet the National Register criteria, are also included in the CLI.

The CLI serves three major purposes. First, it provides the means to describe cultural landscapes on an individual or collective basis at the park, regional, or service-wide level. Secondly, it provides a platform to share information about cultural landscapes across programmatic areas and concerns and to integrate related data about these resources into park management. Thirdly, it provides an analytical tool to judge accomplishment and accountability.

The legislative, regulatory, and policy direction for conducting the CLI include:

National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (16 USC 470h-2(a)(1)). Each Federal agency shall establish…a preservation program for the identification, evaluation, and nomination to the National Register of Historic Places…of historic properties…

Executive Order 13287: Preserve America, 2003. Sec. 3(a)…Each agency with real property management responsibilities shall prepare an assessment of the current status of its inventory of historic properties required by section 110(a)(2) of the NHPA…No later than September 30, 2004, each covered agency shall complete a report of the assessment and make it available to the Chairman of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and the Secretary of the Interior… (c) Each agency with real property management responsibilities shall, by September 30, 2005, and every third year thereafter, prepare a report on its progress in identifying… historic properties in its ownership and make the report available to the Council and the Secretary…

The Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Federal Agency Historic Preservation Programs Pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act, 1998. Standard 2: An agency provides for the timely identification and evaluation of historic properties under agency jurisdiction or control and/or subject to effect by agency actions (Sec. 110 (a)(2)(A)

Management Policies 2006. 5.1.3.1 Inventories: The Park Service will (1) maintain and expand the following inventories…about cultural resources in units of the national park system…Cultural Landscape Inventory of historic designed landscapes, historic vernacular landscapes,… and historic sites…

Cultural Resource Management Guideline, 1997, Release No. 5, page 22 issued pursuant to Director's Order #28. As cultural resources are identified and evaluated, they should also be listed in the appropriate Service-wide inventories of cultural resources.

Responding to the Call to Action:

The year 2016 marks the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service. A five-year action plan entitled, "*A Call to Action: Preparing for a Second Century of Stewardship and Engagement*" charts a path toward that second century vision by asking Service employees and partners to commit to concrete actions that advance the agency's mission. The heart of the plan includes four broad themes supported by specific goals and measurable actions. These themes are: Connecting People to Parks, Advancing the NPS Education Mission, Preserving America's Special Places, and Enhancing Professional and Organizational Excellence. The Cultural Landscape Inventory relates to three of these themes:

Connect People to Parks. Help communities protect what is special to them, highlight their history, and retain or rebuild their economic and environmental sustainability.

Advance the Education Mission. Strengthen the National Park Service's role as an educational force based on core American values, historical and scientific scholarship, and unbiased translation of the complexities of the American experience.

Preserve America's Special Places. Be a leader in extending the benefits of conservation across physical, social, political, and international boundaries in partnership with others.

The national CLI effort directly relates to #3, Preserve America's Special Places, and specifically to Action #28, "Park Pulse." Each CLI documents the existing condition of park resources and identifies impacts, threats, and measures to improve condition. This information can be used to improve park priority setting and communicate complex park condition information to the public.

Responding to the Cultural Resources Challenge:

The Cultural Resources Challenge (CRC) is a NPS strategic plan that identifies our most critical priorities. The primary objective is to "*Achieve a standard of excellence for the stewardship of the resources that form the historical and cultural foundations of the nation, commit at all levels to a common set of goals, and articulate a common vision for the next century.*" The CLI contributes to the fulfillment of all five goals of the CRC:

1) Provide leadership support, and advocacy for the stewardship, protection, interpretation, and management of the nation's heritage through scholarly research, science and effective management;

2) Recommit to the spirit and letter of the landmark legislation underpinning the NPS

3) Connect all Americans to their heritage resources in a manner that resonates with their lives, legacies, and dreams, and tells the stories that make up America's diverse national identity;
4) Integrate the values of heritage stewardship into major initiatives and issues such as renewable energy, climate change, community assistance and revitalization, and sustainability, while cultivating excellence in science and technical preservation as a foundation for resource protection, management, and rehabilitation; and
5) Attract, support, and retain a highly skilled and diverse workforce, and support the development of leadership and expertise within the National Park Service.

Scope of the CLI

CLI data is gathered from existing secondary sources found in park libraries, archives and at NPS regional offices and centers, as well as through on-site reconnaissance. The baseline information describes the historical development and significance of the landscape, placing it in the context of the landscape'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 and generates spatial data for Geographic Information Systems (GIS). The CLI also identifies stabilization needs to prevent further deterioration of the landscape and provides data for the Facility Management Software System

Inventory Unit Description:

Grant Circle is a cultural landscape located in the Northwest Quadrant of Washington, DC, at the intersection of New Hampshire and Illinois Avenues NW and 5th and Varnum Streets NW. The cultural landscape includes Reservation 312, a 1.8-acre urban park, located within a traffic circle, and reservations 312A and 312I, two .20-acre triangle parks located directly north and south of the circle.

HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

Grant Circle, named after Ulysses S. Grant, is located in the heart of the Petworth neighborhood, in northern Washington, DC. Petworth was the first suburb in the District to conform to the pattern of the L'Enfant Plan for the City of Washington. In accordance with an 1888 law mandating that new streets and avenues in the city be laid out in alignment with those of the historic core, Petworh developers hired DC surveyor, William Forsyth, to plan the neighborhood based on L'Enfant's pattern of broad avenues, streets and circles.

Despite its design and subdivision in 1889, Petworth's development stalled during the 1890s. Streets were unpaved until the early 1910s, when houses finally began to populate the parcels around Grant Circle. In 1916 Commissioners of the District of Columbia made several recommendations for improving the neighborhood, including grading Grant Circle, laying a concrete sidewalk around its perimeter and paving the traffic rotary surrounding it. Between 1920- and 1924, Irving W. Payne, architect for the Office of Public Buildings and Grounds of the National Capital, produced a plan for landscaping the circle and its surrounding triangle parks. Construction and planting was completed between 1925 and 1928.

Upon its completion in the 1930s, the Petworth neighborhood became the only area in Washington, D.C. where the 18th century design for the capital was faithfully extended outside the city's original boundaries. Grant Circle was the major impetus for development in the area, and it remains an important feature in the neighborhood.

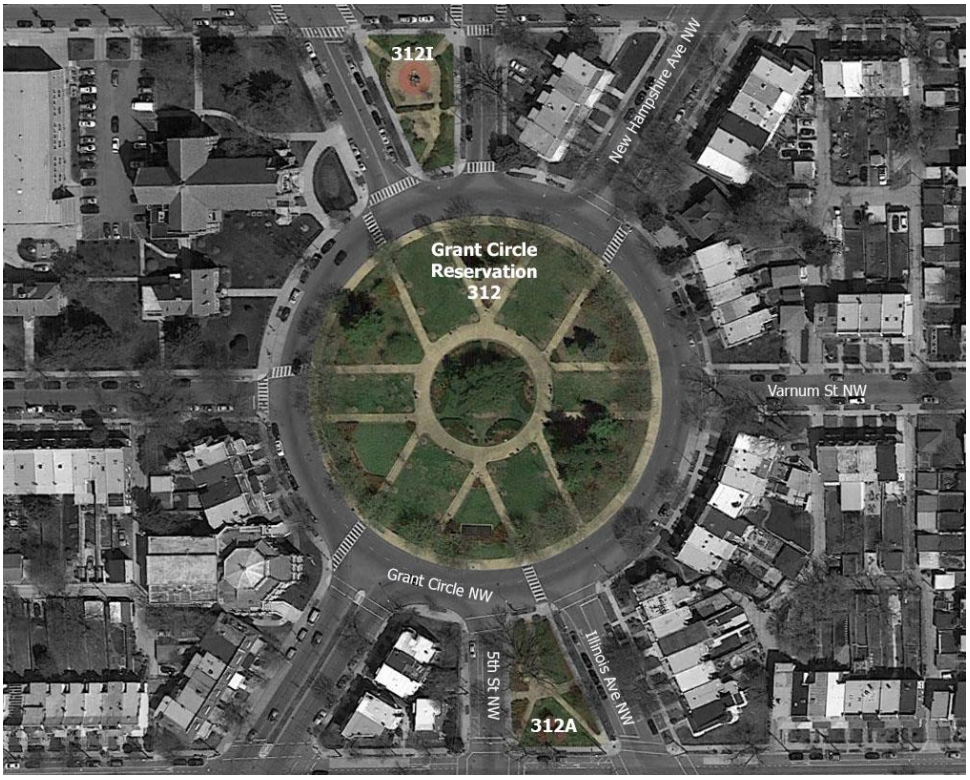
SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY

This CLI finds that the Grant Circle Cultural Landscape, which includes US Reservations 312, 312A and 312I, is eligible for listing in the National Register under Criteria A, in the area of Community Planning and Development. The Grant Circle Cultural Landscape represents a significant period in the development and expansion of Washington, DC. It is an important and singular example of the attempt to reconcile the legacy of the planned Federal City with the suburban expansion necessary to support its growing population.

ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION SUMMARY AND CONDITION

This CLI finds that Grant Circle Cultural Landscape retains integrity from both periods of significance: the period of its initial platting (1889) and the period during which it was finally designed and built (1916-1928). Grant Circle has original landscape characteristics and features and displays many of the aspects that determine integrity as defined by the National Register of Historic Places, including: location, design, setting, materials, feeling and association.

Site Plan



2016 Google Earth map of Grant Circle showing reservations 312, 312A and 312I.

Property Level and CLI Numbers

Inventory Unit Name:	Grant Circle
Property Level:	Component Landscape
CLI Identification Number:	600164
Parent Landscape:	600163

Park Information

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

Concurrence Status

Inventory Status: Complete

Completion Status Explanatory Narrative:

This Cultural Landscape Inventory was researched and written by Shannon Garrison, Research Associate, University of Pennsylvania. Primary and secondary source material from within the National Park Service and local repositories was utilized to complete the inventory and is listed in the bibliography. Research and editorial was provided assistance was provided by: Martha Temkin, Cultural Resource Specialist, National Capital Region, National Park Service; Maureen Joseph, Regional Historical Landscape Architect, National Capital Region; Randall Mason, Associate Professor and Chair, Historic Preservation, University of Pennsylvania; and Molly Lester, Research Associate, University of Pennsylvania.

Concurrence Status:

Park Superintendent Concurrence: No

Park Superintendent Date of Concurrence: 06/14/2017

National Register Concurrence: Eligible -- SHPO Consensus Determination

Concurrence Graphic Information:

Statement of Concurrence
Grant Circle Cultural Landscape Inventory

The preparation of this CLI for Grant Circle is part of the National Park Service's efforts to update cultural resource inventories, as required by Section 110(a)(1) of the National Historic Preservation Act.

- The District of Columbia State Historic Preservation Office concurs with the findings of the Grant Circle Cultural Landscape Inventory. In addition, it concurs that the identified cultural landscape resources of the Grant Circle cultural landscape retain integrity to the site's identified periods of significance: 1889; and 1916-1928.

David Maloney
District of Columbia Historic Preservation Officer

1/19/2017
Date

Grant Circle Concurrence Signed by DC SHPO David Maloney (received by NCR in Dec 2016).

IN REPLY REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior

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

Memorandum

To: Regional Landscape Architect, National Capital Region

From: Superintendent, Rock Creek Park

Subject: Statement of Concurrence – Grant Hill Cultural Landscape Inventory

I, Julia Washburn, Superintendent of ROCR, concur with the findings of the Grant Circle Cultural Landscape Inventory for, including the following specific components:

MANAGEMENT CATEGORY: Must be Preserved and Maintained

CONDITION ASSESSMENT: Good

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 Grant Circle is hereby approved and accepted.

Acting Superintendent, ROCR — Date 6/14/17

Superintendent concurrence FY 2017

Geographic Information & Location Map

Inventory Unit Boundary Description:

The Grant Circle Cultural Landscape is located in North West Washington, DC. It is comprised of reservations 312, 312A and 312I—all small urban parks administered by the National Park Service's Rock Creek Park unit. The street and sidewalks immediately surrounding these reservations are not owned by the NPS and are therefore outside the scope of this CLI.

Grant Circle has a diameter of 360 feet and contains approximately 1.8 acres of land. It is entirely bounded by a circular roadway that is also called Grant Circle. Four roadways radiate from this rotary: New Hampshire Avenue NW, 5th Street NW, Varnum Street NW and Illinois Avenue NW.

Reservation 312A is located directly southeast of Grant Circle, bound by 5th Street NW on the west and Illinois Avenue NW on the east. The reservation is bound by Grant Circle NW and Upshur Street NW to the north and south, respectively. It contains approximately .2 acres of land. Reservation 312I is located directly northwest of the Circle, bound by Illinois Avenue NW to the west and 5th Street NW to the east. Grant Circle NW and Webster Street NW form the south and north borders, respectively. The reservation contains approximately .2 acres of land.

State and County:

State: DC

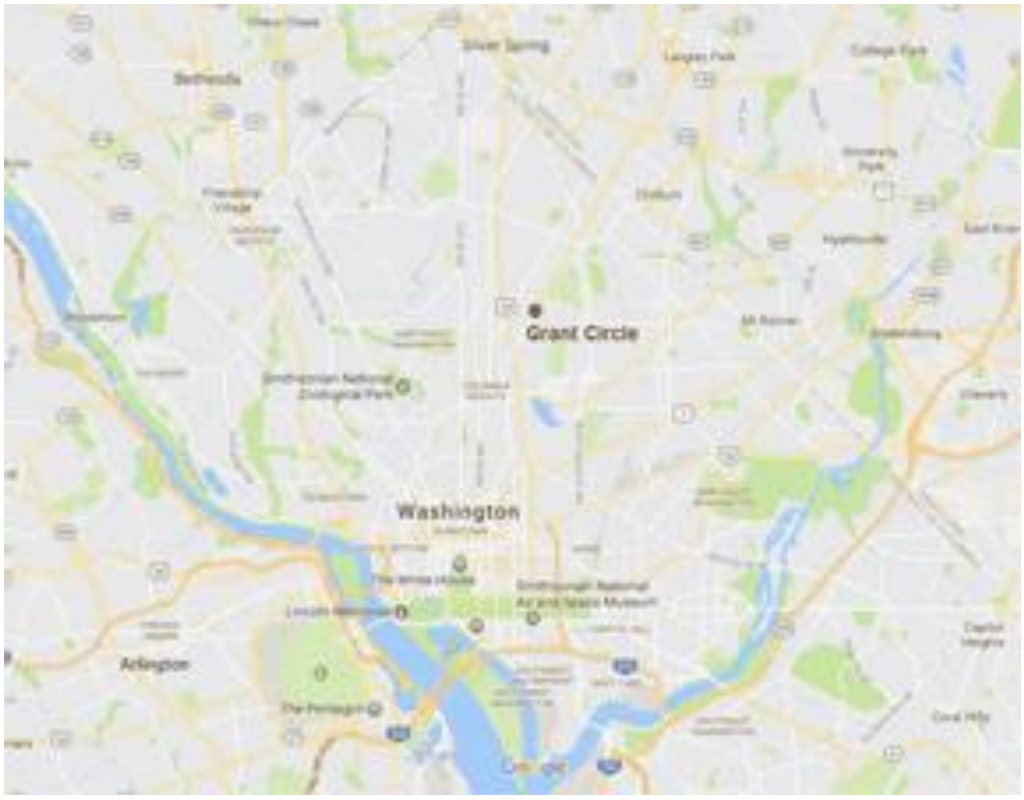
County: District of Columbia

Size (Acres): 2.20

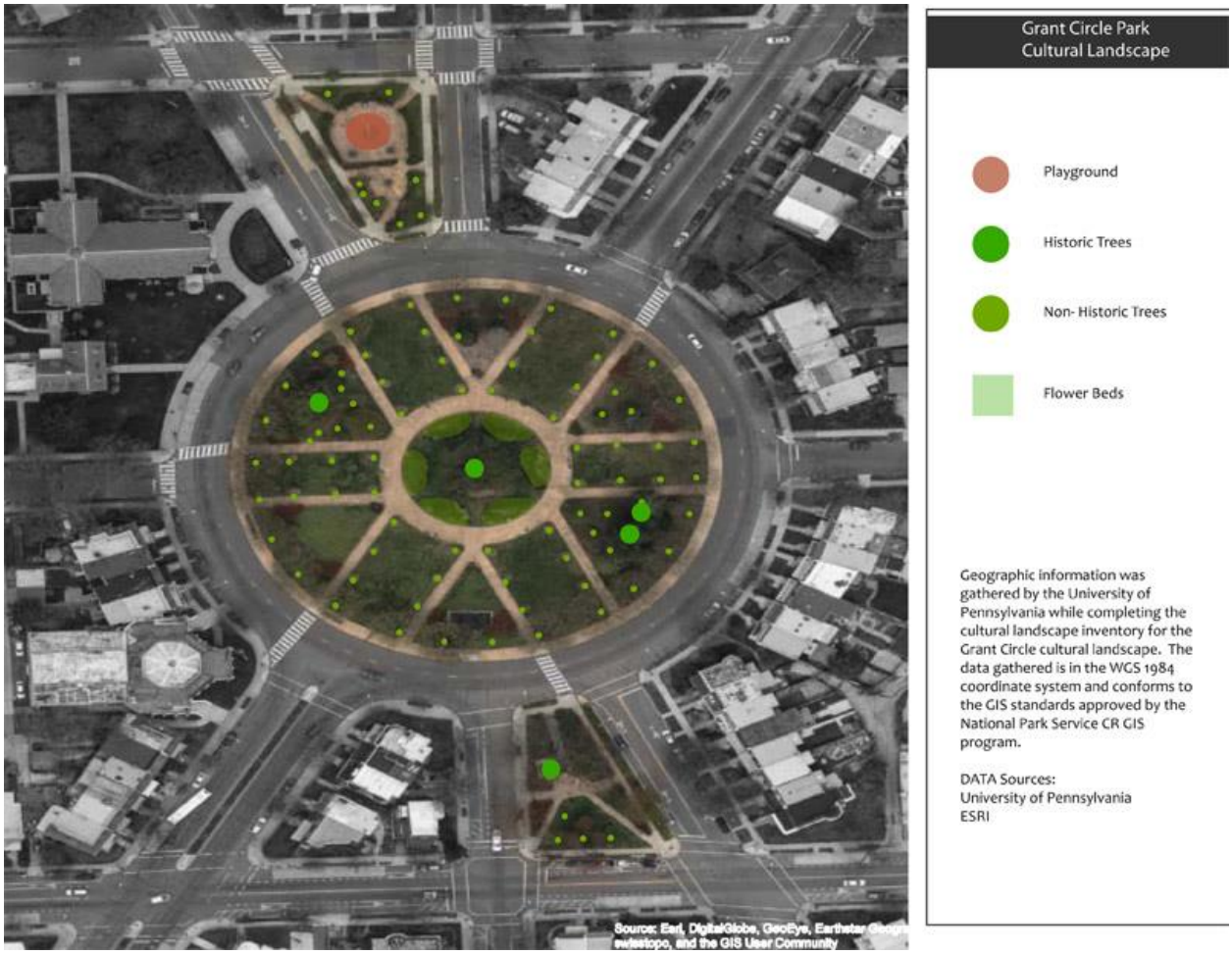
Boundary Coordinates:

Source:	GPS-Differentially Corrected
Boundary Source Narrative:	The point provided is the centroid of the cultural landscape and is derived from data collected and maintained by the NCR GIS program.
Type of Point:	Point
Latitude:	-77.0192470000
Longitude:	38.9431300000

Location Map:



2016 Google Map showing Grant Circle in relation to the National Mall. Grant Circle is located approximately four miles from the U.S. Capitol Building.



Map of Grant Circle showing GIS data collected by the University of Pennsylvania

Management Unit: Rock Creek Park

Tract Numbers: 312, 312A, 312I

Management Information

General Management Information

Management Category: Must be Preserved and Maintained

Management Category Date: 06/14/2017

Management Category Explanatory Narrative:

Grant Circle Cultural Landscape is listed in the National Register of Historic Places as a contributing feature of the Grant Circle Historic District, which was entered into the National Register in October of 2015. The Grant Circle Historic District encompasses Grant Circle, the associated triangle parks, as well as the private residential and religious properties in the immediate vicinity. Webster Street NW roughly binds the historic district to the north and Upshur Street NW to the south. 4th Street NW forms the eastern boundary and 7th Street NW forms the western boundary

Maintenance Location Code: 29333

Agreements, Legal Interest, and Access

Management Agreement:

Type of Agreement: Other Agreement

Other Agreement: Volunteer Agreement

Expiration Date: 2016-2017

Management Agreement Explanatory Narrative:

SOLVE Agreement with Carole Herwig—Community Volunteer/Organizer to pick up trash and report hazards. The agreement is renewed annually.

NPS Legal Interest:

Type of Interest: Fee Simple

Public Access:

Type of Access: Unrestricted

Adjacent Lands Information

Do Adjacent Lands Contribute? Yes

Adjacent Lands Description:

Adjacent lands outside of the boundaries of the park include the streets and sidewalks bordering Grant Circle and Reservations 312A and 312I. These are owned, managed and maintained by the District of Columbia. The mostly intact streetscape of historic buildings surrounding Grant Circle also contribute to the site's significance and are listed in the National Register as part of the Grant Circle Historic District.

National Register Information

Existing National Register Status

National Register Landscape Documentation:

Entered Inadequately Documented

National Register Explanatory Narrative:

Grant Circle is listed on the National Register as part of the Grant Circle Historic District (2015). The Grant Circle Historic District nomination form identifies local significance under criterion A, in the area of community planning and development. The periods of significance are listed as 1889, the date of Petworth's subdivision and Grant Circle's initial platting, 1913-1939, which encompasses the period during which Grant Circle and its adjacent blocks were fully developed and 1951-1964, during which time Petworh evolved from a predominantly white to African American population.

National Register Eligibility

National Register Concurrence:	Eligible -- SHPO Consensus Determination
Contributing/Individual:	Contributing
National Register Classification:	Site
Significance Level:	Local
Significance Criteria:	A - Associated with events significant to broad patterns of our history
Period of Significance:	
Time Period:	CE 1889
Historic Context Theme:	Expressing Cultural Values
Subtheme:	Landscape Architecture
Facet:	Urban Planning In The Nineteenth Century
Time Period:	CE 1916 - 1928
Historic Context Theme:	Expressing Cultural Values
Subtheme:	Landscape Architecture
Facet:	Urban Planning in the Twentieth Century

Area of Significance:

Area of Significance Category:	Community Planning and Deve
Area of Significance Category:	Entertainment - Recreation
Area of Significance Category:	Landscape Architecture

Statement of Significance:

Periods of Significance: 1889; 1916-1928

This CLI finds that the Grant Circle Cultural Landscape, which includes US Reservations 312, 312A and 312I, is eligible for listing in the National Register under Criteria A, in the area of Community Planning and Development. The Grant Circle Cultural Landscape represents a significant period in the development and expansion of Washington, DC. It is an important example of the attempt to reconcile the legacy of the planned Federal City with the suburban expansion necessary to support its growing population.

The proposed periods of significance for Grant Circle are 1889, which encompasses the sites initial platting and 1916-1928, during which the site was designed and constructed.

Grant Circle is currently listed as part of a local historic district on the DC Inventory of Historic Sites and on the National Register as part of the Grant Circle Historic District. The Grant Circle Historic District Nomination lists the periods of significance as 1889, 1913-1939 and 1951-1964. Local listing was approved in April 2015 and National Register listing was approved in October 2015.

CRITERION A
Local – Community Planning and Development
Grant Circle was platted in 1889, as part of the Petworth neighborhood, and is located in northwest Washington, DC. In accordance with an 1888 law mandating “exact alignment” of new streets and avenues with those of the city’s historic core, Petworth became the first suburb in the District to conform to the pattern of the L’Enfant Plan for the City of Washington. Petworth developers hired William Forsyth, a DC surveyor, to lay out the neighborhood based on L’Enfant’s pattern of broad avenues, streets and circles.

Despite its design and subdivision in 1889, Petworth’s development stalled during the 1890s. Streets were unpaved until the early 1910s, when houses finally began to populate the parcels around Grant Circle. In 1916 Commissioners of the District of Columbia made several recommendations for improving the neighborhood, including grading Grant Circle, laying a concrete sidewalk around its perimeter and paving the traffic rotary surrounding it. Between 1920 and 1924, Irving W. Payne, architect for the Office of Public Buildings and Grounds of the National Capital, produced a plan for

landscaping the circle and its surrounding triangle parks. Construction and planting was completed between 1926 and 1928.

Upon its completion in the 1930s, the Petworth neighborhood became the only area in Washington, D.C. where the 18th century design for the capital was faithfully extended outside the city's original boundaries. The 1888 Subdivision law proved short-lived, and a comprehensive plan for the former Washington County eventually abandoned L'Enfant's plan in favor of a more flexible design. Petworth, in the meantime, was built in strict accordance with L'Enfant's layout. The streets, avenues and open spaces are faithful to his plan in both scale and size. Together with Sherman Circle, Grant Circle is one of only two traffic circles outside the boundaries of the L'Enfant Plan that match the monumentality and character of the city's original, historic circles. The circle and surrounding neighborhood are significant as part of the earliest attempt to reverse a trend of speculative development that characterized Washington D.C. in the decades following the Civil War.

State Register Information

Date Listed: 04/02/2015

Name: Grant Circle Historic District

Explanatory Narrative:

The Grant Circle Historic District meets District of Columbia Designation Criteria A (Events) and B (History) for being "the site of events that contributed significantly to the development of the District of Columbia,' and for being associated with "patterns of growth and change that contributed significantly to the heritage, culture or development of the District of Columbia." The District also meets DC Criterion D (Architecture and Urbanism) because it is "an expression of urban planning, landscape architecture, siting and design significant to the appearance and development of the District of Columbia."

The Historic District nomination identifies three distinct periods of significance: 1888-1889; 1913-1939; and 1951-1964. The first period, 1888-1889, represents and important period of urban planning in DC. The 1889 subdivision of Petworth, laid out in accordance with the 1888 Subdivision Act provides an exemplary and profound illustration of that Act's short-lived intent. The second period, 1913-1939, represents that period of time in which Grant Circle reached maturity. During this period, the Circle and its associated triangle parks were improved and landscaped, while cohesive collections of houses and two religious properties were built around it. Together, the buildings frame the rotary and create a striking urban space in a suburban residential neighborhood and thereby embody the distinguishing characteristics of urban planning and design. The third period, 1951-1964, is associated with the transformation of the neighborhood from a white middle class neighborhood to an African American middle-class one and is thus associated with the historical periods, social movements and pattern of growth and change that contributed to the heritage and culture of the District of Columbia.

Chronology & Physical History

Cultural Landscape Type and Use

Cultural Landscape Type: Designed

Current and Historic Use/Function:

Primary Historic Function: Streetscape

Primary Current Use: Vehicular Circulation

Other Use/Function	Other Type of Use or Function
Pedestrian Circulation	Both Current And Historic

Current and Historic Names:

Name	Type of Name
Grant Circle	Both Current And Historic

Ethnographic Study Conducted: No Survey Conducted

Chronology:

Year	Event	Annotation
CE 1000 - 1608	Domesticated	Woodland peoples fished, farmed domesticated plants, and settled villages along the Potomac and Anacostia Rivers.
CE 1608	Explored	Captain John Smith is first Englishman to explore and map the Potomac River and its Eastern Branch
CE 1624	Platted	Captain John Smith publishes Generall Historie of Virginia, which maps his explorations along the Potomac River and its Eastern Branch (later named the Anacostia River).
CE 1632	Platted	On June 20, 1632, King Charles I grants Maryland to Cecilius Calvert, the second Lord Baltimore.
CE 1634	Settled	Maryland is settled by Englishmen sent by Cecilius Calvert, the second Lord Baltimore
CE 1772	Platted	King George III grants a 536-acre tract to James White. James White erected a log cabin and names the tract Pleasant Hill.
CE 1790	Established	Maryland cedes land to the federal government for the establishment of a permanent seat of government for the United States, including White`s tract.

CE 1791	Designed	Pierre L`Enfant lays out the new federal city of the District of Columbia, sited between the Potomac and Anacostia Rivers.
CE 1801	Established	Congress passes the District of Columbia Organic Act, which legally incorporates the District of Columbia and divides the territory into two counties: Washington County to the north and east of the Potomac River and Alexandria County to the west and south. The present-day Petworth neighborhood is located within Washington County.
	Purchased/Sold	James White dies and heirs sell Pleasant Hillproperty to a Captain Balch.
CE 1803 - 1828	Platted	Col. John Tayloe, III renames the tract Petworth and uses it as his country seat within Washington County, District of Columbia.
CE 1828	Land Transfer	Col. John Tayloe, III dies on March 23, 1828. His heirs subdivide the 536-acre tract and sell off a 286-acre portion.
CE 1855	Land Transfer	Petworth is further divided and the site of the present day Grant Circle sold to Theodore Mosher, as part of a 186-acre plot.
CE 1855 - 1857	Built	Mosher Builds large house near present day Sherman Circle.
CE 1865 - 1887	Farmed/Harvested	Remainder of Petworth is leased as a farm. According to Evening Star classified advertisements and District directories, Benjamin W. Summy was possibly the farmer that rented Petworth from mid-1860s to late-1870s.
CE 1868	Land Transfer	Mosher's 186-acre tract acquired by Marshall Brown, owner of the Indian Queen Hotel, on Pennsylvania Avenue.
CE 1881	Land Transfer	Marshall Brown dies and his land is sold to the Marshall Brown Syndicate, a family run investment group, for $47,500. Members of the Brown family reside in the mansion built by Theodore Mosher through 1899.

CE 1887	Purchased/Sold	The Marshall Brown Syndicate merges with an investment syndicate who had recently purchased the remaining 250-acres of the Tayloe plot form Tayloe`s heirs.
CE 1888	Established	Congress approved the Subdivision Act (45 Stat. 451) requiring new subdivisions to conform to the plan of the City of Washington.
	Platted	Petworth suburban subdivision is established by Brainard H. Warner, Myron M. Parker, George E. Emmons.
CE 1889	Platted	The plat of the Petworth subdivision is officially recorded on January 16, 1889, and it becomes the first such property in the former Washington County to be laid out in accordance with the city`s preexisting plan. The District of Columbia`s surveyor, William Forsyth hired to layout the Petworth suburban subdivision. A pair of traffic circles figure prominently in the design of the Petworth subdivision. These are the sister sites of Grant and Sherman Circles.
CE 1913 - 1919	Built	17 private residential row houses constructed around Grant Circle.
CE 1915 - 1916	Built	Petworth Methodist Episcopal Church (now Petworth United Methodist Church), designed by Maurice F. Moore, built at 33 Grant Circle.
CE 1916	Planned	Commissioners of the District of Columbia make several recommendations for improvement in the Petworth neighborhood, including: grading, paving and laying sidewalks along Varnum Street from Seventh Street to Grant Circle, macamizing Fifth Street between Rock Creek Church Road and Grant Circle; and improving Grant Circle itself.
CE 1920	Planned	A plan is produced to pave and plant Reservation 312A, the triangle park south of Grant Circle.
CE 1921	Planned	A plan for the permanent improvement and landscaping of Grant Circle was produced in April 1921 by Irving W. Payne, a landscape architect for the Office of Public Buildings and Grounds of the National Capital.

CE 1923 - 1930	Built	St. Gabriel`s Catholic Church, consisting of four major buildings designed by Maginnis & Walsh, built at 26 Grant Circle.
CE 1924	Designed	New set of drawings, also by Payne and nearly identical to orignal set are adopted for Grant Circle.
CE 1925 - 1926	Planted	Majority of planting and additional grading of Grant Circle completed.
CE 1927	Planted	A large flower bed in Grant Circle was replaced with a grove of evergreen trees and shrubs.
CE 1928	Built	Sidewalks in the interior of the circle were constructed
CE 1933	Land Transfer	The OPB & PP is abolished by Executive Order, and its functions and responsibilities are transferred to the new Office of National Parks, Buildings, and Reservations. The new office also takes possession of all federal property formerly administered by the OPB & PP, including Grant Circle.
CE 1934	Land Transfer	The Office of National Parks, Buildings, and Reservations is redesignated as the National Park Service. The NPS assumes the functions, responsibilities, and administration of all federal lands formerly managed by the Office of National Parks, Buildings, and Reservations, including Grant Circle.
CE 1934 - 1980	Maintained	NPS maintains Grant Circle, no major new designs or plantings introduced at the site.
CE 1980 - 1994	Neglected	Grant Circle and the surrounding Petworth neighborhood deteriorates. Budget shortfalls result in deferred maintenance to DC streets. Grant Circle becomes overgrown. Lack of lighting at the park contributes to its reputation as dangerous after dark.
CE 1988	Planted	Some replacement planting occurs at Grant Circle. 3 Ginko bilobas, 23 Ulmus Americana, 6 Malus x astrosanuinea, 2 Mallus floribunda, 4 Pinus Griffith and 4 Abies concolor planted.
CE 1990	Designed	Complete rehabilitation of Grant Circle planned.

CE 1991	Planned	Washington Metro announces plans for construction of a new Petworth stop on the city's Green Line. The original proposal requires demolition of at least 10 homes between Upshur Street and the circle, to make way for a fan shaft and powerstation.
CE 1992	Planned	After protest from Petworth homeowners, a new plan is devised to install the fan shaft and a subterranean power station below Grant Circle.
CE 1994 - 1996	Built	Metro constructs a subterranean power substation beneath Grant Circle. All plants and topsoil are removed from the site, with the exception of four mature conifers—the central Himalayan Cedar, two rare firs and a Himalayan Pine.
CE 1996 - 1997	Restored	Grant Circle is restored to original 1924 plan, following completion of Metro construction. Topsoil is replaced and new turf and deciduous trees replaced in kind with original site plan. A "tot lot," subsisting of a small fenced play area with a slide and some surrounding benches, was constructed on Reservation 312I.
	Restored	Grant Circle is restored to original 1924 plan, following completion of Metro construction. Topsoil is replaced and new turf and deciduous trees replaced in kind with original site plan. A "tot lot," subsisting of a small fenced play area with a slide and some surrounding benches, was constructed on Reservation 312I.
CE 2015	Planned	Reservation 312 (Grant Circle), 312A and 312I are included in designation of Grant Circle Historic District to the District of Columbia Inventory of Historic Sites and added to the National Register, as part of the Grant Circle Historic District.
	Planned	Reservation 312 (Grant Circle), 312A and 312I are included in designation of Grant Circle Historic District to the District of Columbia Inventory of Historic Sites and added to the National Register, as part of the Grant Circle Historic District.
8000 - 1000 BCE	Inhabited	Archaic-Indian peoples hunted, fished, and seasonally camped along the Potomac and Anacostia Rivers.

8000 BCE	Inhabited	Paleo-Indian peoples hunted in the Coastal Plain along the Potomac and Anacostia Rivers.

Physical History:

PRECOLONIAL HISTORY AND NATIVE AMERICAN SETTLEMENT, 15,000 BC to 1608 AD

Archeological and historical evidence suggests that humans have inhabited the area around Washington, D.C. since 15,000 BC. From 12,000 to 7,500 BC (the Paleo-Indian Period) humans survived in small, mobile bands of hunter-gatherers. Seasonal migrations followed large game such as elk, caribou and deer and tools were made of stone, bone and wood. During the Archaic Period, which lasted from 7,500 to 1,000 BC, warming climates and rising sea levels forced native populations to adapt. They developed new technologies for hunting, fishing and food preparation. Larger, more permanent settlements were established along the Potomac circa 2200 BC. As the size and permanency of tribal populations grew, local resource exploitation increased and new social hierarchies emerged. New tools included large, heavy stone points, or "broadspears," mortars and pestles and large bowls carved out of steatite and soapstone. Huge numbers of quartzite cobbles were taken from the hillside beds along some of the bluffs around Rock Creek, south of Military Road. These cobbles were chipped and shaped into tools at nearby campsites. Soapstone was also quarried around Rock Creek and used for bowls and cooking vessels. These developments continued through the Woodland Period (1,000 to 1,600 BC) as Native Americans began to experiment with farming, cultivating crops such as maize as early as 1000 BC. (Commisso 2013:54, Bedell 2011:1.9-12; Bedell 2008:3).

These developments continued through the Woodland Period (1,000 to 1,600 BC) as Native Americans began to experiment with farming, cultivating crops such as maize as early as 1000 BC. In the years immediately preceding European settlement, Eastern Algonquin tribes, known as the Conoy or Kanawha, inhabited the area around present day Washington. The Conoy are believed to have arrived on the inner coastal plain in the early fifteenth century. Their territory extended from St. Mary's County, Maryland, at the mouth of the Potomac River, to Washington, DC, and the falls, possibly including lands on the Virginia side of the Potomac River (Commisso 2013:54; Potter 1993:19)

The largest Native American settlement in the area was located directly south of present day Washington, on the southeastern side of the junction of the Anacostia and Potomac Rivers. The seat of the Algonquin-speaking Nacotchtank tribe, the settlement was comprised of approximately 400 to 500 people, who lived in a cluster of riverside villages. From their base in the central Nacotchtank village, inhabitants of the area were ideally situated to take advantage of trade routes and various resources found along the rivers. The inner coastal plain of the Potomac River attracted a wide range of species, including herring, shad, salmon and sturgeon, which local tribes relied on. Subsistence among Algonquin-speaking people also included hunting and foraging and slash-and-burn agriculture. Corn, beans, gourds, pumpkins and other crops were cultivated. These practices continued before and after European contact (Donaldson GWMP CLI 2009:33).

COLONIAL HISTORY AND SETTLEMENT, 1608 to 1790 AD

In 1608, Captain John Smith led the first documented exploration of the area around the Potomac River and initiated contact with local tribes. His maps and writings document encounters with the Nacotchtanks, and European settlers quickly formed trade relationships with the tribe, dealing in furs, metal and eventually firearms. In the fertile soil between the Anacostia and Potomac rivers, settlers adopted Algonquin methods of cultivation, planting crops like corn and tobacco.

As European settlement increased during the 17th century, local Native American settlements were abandoned or taken by force. Hostilities between tribes contributed to Native American displacement during the period, but by the 18th century many of these had subsided and the English emerged as the clearest threat to indigenous populations. Native forests were cleared to make way for agriculture as subsistence farmers began to plant for profit. Thus, by the early eighteenth century the great majority of modern day Washington was planted with a single crop: tobacco (Donaldson War Memorial CLI 2009:28; Bushong 1990:12,16).

European acquisition of land in the area around Grant Circle began in 1772, when James White received a direct grant of 536 acres from King George III of Great Britain. The land included the present day Petworth neighborhood and the future site of Grant Circle. White built a log cabin and named the densely forested tract “Pleasant Hill.” (Pliska 2011:33; Beisert 2015:VIII.13-14)

FOUNDING THE FEDERAL CAPITAL, 1791 to 1792

In 1790, the Residence Act authorized President Washington to select the location for the permanent capital of the United States of America. On January 24, 1791, Washington announced the capital would be built on a ten-mile tract at the confluence of the Potomac and Eastern Branch (Anacostia) rivers. Washington appointed three commissioners to survey the development of the city and oversee the construction of government buildings. Andrew Ellicott and Benjamin Banneker surveyed a diamond-shaped area measuring ten miles on each side and encompassing the forks of the Potomac River and its Eastern Branch. Forty boundary stones, laid at one-mile intervals, established the boundaries based on celestial calculations made by Banneker, a self-taught astronomer of African descent, and one of the few free blacks living in the vicinity. (Leach 1997:VIII.7). Maryland and Virginia ceded the area within the 100-square-mile diamond to the federal government. The future site of Grant Circle was included as part of Maryland’s ceded land and became part of the newly named District of Columbia. Within the district, the area at the meeting of the Potomac and Eastern Branch rivers was laid out as the City of Washington

After surveying the site of the new capital city, Major Pierre Charles L’Enfant, a French artist and engineer who had formed a friendship with George Washington while serving in the Revolutionary War, developed a baroque plan for the new capital city. It featured ceremonial spaces and grand radial avenues. L’Enfant’s plan drew on both European and colonial traditions, boldly transforming the practicality of the ubiquitous American grid through a profound native understanding of the European Baroque style. The result was a system of orthogonal streets with intersecting diagonal avenues radiating from the two most significant

buildings sites; that of the legislative branch at the Capitol and the seat of the executive branch at the White House. The diagonals would provide sweeping vistas of monuments and significant buildings, while the intersection of the streets and the avenues would create opportunities for ornamented green spaces filled with fountains, obelisks or statues dedicated to military and political heroes (Leach, et al 2000:47-49; Leach 1997:VIII.7).

The open spaces included in L'Enfant's plan were as integral to the design of the new capital as the buildings to be erected around them. Along with streets and avenues, L'Enfant delineated circles, squares and triangles defined by blocks that were to be subdivided, sold and developed. The original plan was altered slightly by Andrew Ellicott, after L'Enfants's dismissal from the project, in 1792. Ellicott's map eliminated notes regarding the specifically designed treatment of the city's open spaces. As a result, these reservations would be delineated, and developed slowly and in a piecemeal fashion throughout the 19th century (Leach, et al 2000:50-51).

Figure 1: Plan for the original city of Washington within the District of Columbia, engraved by W.D. Lizars, ca. 1819. The brown dot marks the approximate location of the future Grant Circle cultural landscape (LOC, Geo & Maps Div.).

EMERGING CAPITAL CITY 1800 – 1865 AD

The federal government officially moved from Philadelphia to Washington in 1800. Scattered buildings were erected between the new president's house and the Capitol Building, but outside this small area of development the new city remained rural or heavily forested (NPS 2007:103).

The future site of Grant Circle, and the surrounding Petworth neighborhood, was part of Washington County, which was established by the District of Columbia Organic Act of 1801. That same year, James White's heirs sold their holdings in the Pleasant Hill tract to Captain

Balch, who owned the property for only two years, until his death in 1803. Some, or all, of Balch's property was then purchased by Colonel John Tayloe III, who renamed it "Petworth." It is presumed the name Petworth was chosen in reference to Petworth Manor, located in West Sussex, England (Gordon 1979:3-4; Proctor 1944). The English site was well known for it's expansive park, designed by Lancelot "Capability" Brown.

Colonel Tayloe was a member of one of the wealthiest and most well-established families in the United States. A prominent plantation owner, Tayloe's other real estate holdings included a family estate in Mount Airy, Virginia, various properties in Prince William County, VA and "The Octagon House" in Washington, DC. (Pliska 2011:33). During Tayloe's lifetime, Petworth primarily functioned as a horse farm. The original boundaries of the farm are believed to have extended from Rock Creek Cemetery, in the east, to Piney Branch Park, in the west, and from Rock Creek Church Road, in the south, to the vicinity of the Piney Branch watercourse, in the north. The property was at least partially enclosed by a post and rail fence and contained a manor house and racetrack (Gordon 1979:3-4; Proctor 1944; Boschke 1861; Pliska 2011:33).

Colonel Tayloe died in 1828, leaving Petworth to his son, Benjamin Ogle Tayloe. Like his father, Benjamin Ogle Tayloe was a politically influential businessman. He owned plantations throughout Virginia and Alabama and was reputed to be one of the richest men in America at the start of the Civil War. Tayloe sold 186 acres of the Petworth farm to Theodore Mosher in 1855. This tract comprised the northern portion of Tayloe's holdings and included the future site of Grant Circle (Boshcke 1861). Between 1856 and 1857, Mosher constructed a large house on what is today the 600 block of Delafield Place, NW. The house and its associated out-buildings were the only structures in the immediate vicinity until the early 20th century (Martin and Metcalf 1976:192; Morgan 1899:237; Pliska 2011:34).

Albert Boschke's map of 1861 captures the young capital city, on the eve of the Civil War. Development in Washington was beginning to expand north and west from Pennsylvania Avenue NW, beyond L'Enfant's original plan. Washington County, including the area around Theodore Mosher's property, remained rural—a patchwork of farms and pockets of uncultivated, densely forested land.

Figure 2: Detail from an 1861 DC map by surveyor Albert Boschke, showing the approximate boundaries of the present-day Petworth neighborhood and approximate location of Grant Circle, which was part of Theodore Mosher's estate (LOC, Geo. & Maps Div.).

POST CIVIL WAR GROWTH: SUBDIVISION AND SUBURBANIZATION 1865-1889 AD

The beginning of the Civil War, in 1861, put a halt to all public works projects that were not directly tied to the war effort. Meanwhile, former slaves, escaped or freed, flooded into the city. Many thousands of troops passed through on their march toward further fields of battle. Men seeking to profit from the war and its aftermath found Washington a convenient place to conduct business. By the time peace was declared in April 1865, Washington's population had nearly doubled (Pliska 2011:38).

By the 1870s, land speculation in the District of Columbia had become a highly profitable business. The population boom of the 1860s caused a spike in the value of land within the boundaries of the original city. Investors began to look northward, toward the District's outlaying farms and country estates, for cheaper real estate. The introduction of horse-drawn streetcars during the war made travel to these areas increasingly convenient. Speculators

began buying out large landowners, betting that they could turn a profit by subdividing the property into squares and lots and selling these smaller parcels off in bundles to developers, or individually to prospective homeowners. Real estate interests promoted affordable homes in the "heights" of Washington County, emphasizing the area's cool, comfortable climate as a healthy alternative to the mosquito infested, marshy ground of city (Leach 1997:VIII.19; EHT Traceries 2009:6-7; Pliska 2011:37-38).

In 1871, Washington County was consolidated with the City of Washington and Georgetown as part of the District of Columbia Organic Act. By this time, Theodore Mosher had sold his property—including modern-day Grant Circle—to Marshall Brown, a well known Washingtonian and proprietor of the Indian Queen Hotel on Pennsylvania Avenue. Brown owned the Petworth property from 1868 until his death in 1881. In 1886, acting on instructions in their father's will, Brown's son and daughter sold the property to a real estate investment consortium for the sum of $47,500 (Pliska 2011:34). In 1888, this group, known as the "Marshall Brown Syndicate," legally merged with another syndicate that had recently purchased the remainder of the Tayloe family's holdings. The investors that made up the Marshall Brown Syndicate included a plethora of businessmen and capitalists, the famous vaudevillian actor Nat Goodwin and several U.S. Congressmen, including James McMillan, the future senator from Michigan and driving force behind the McMillan Plan. Their combined property encompassed a total of 387 acres. The size and location of this property continues to define the boundaries of the present-day Petworth neighborhood. ((EHT Traceries 2009:16; Gordon 1979:5; Gilmore and Harrison 2003: 49; Harrison 2002:39; Proctor 1944: Pliska 2011:34).

Developers of land in northern Washington were free to subdivide their property in whatever manner they pleased. Consequently, the layout of squares and lots in new "streetcar suburbs" were typically platted in order to maximize profits from upcoming land sales. Because the terrain was frequently hilly and uneven, the internal arrangement of new subdivisions often reflected local topography, and typically bore no resemblance whatsoever to the original plan of the city of Washington. Conditions on the ground made it difficult to continue L'Enfant's arrow-straight streets and avenues into the new settlements. The historic city's wide thoroughfares were expensive to build, pave and maintain, and required extra land that might otherwise be used for additional lots or more profitable improvements, like lawns and porches (Harrison 2002:27-29; EHT Traceries 2009:11; Pliska 2011:38-39).

The lack of an overall plan for development outside the capital's core resulted in the creation of several "misfit subdivisions." The design of neighborhoods like Le Droit Park and Trinadad did not follow historic street conventions and were difficult to connect with the existing city, and one another. A particularly scathing editorial, printed in the Evening Star, characterized these new developments as "a chaos of narrow and irregular streets, commencing anywhere and ending nowhere" (Evening Star, April 4, 1888; Harrison 2002:29-34; Pliska 2011:39).

It quickly became apparent that this type of haphazard growth threatened old and new Washington alike. In 1877, the same year the creation of the 387-acre Petworth tract was announced, legislation was introduced that aimed to regulate the development of all new subdivisions within the District of Columbia. On August 27, 1888, Congress passed an act stipulating that no future subdivision plats would be accepted "unless made in conformity with the general plan of the city of Washington" (US Congress 25 Stat. 451 1888). The Subdivision

Act, as it came to be called, also empowered the Commissioners of the District of Columbia, a group of three men that served in lieu of a mayor, and reported directly to Congress, to "make and publish such general orders as may be necessary to regulate the platting and subdividing of all lands and grounds in the District of Columbia" (25 Stat. 451 1888; EHT Traceries 2009:11-15; Harrison 2002:37-38; Pliska 2011:39).

The following December, the DC Commissioners published a set of rules that established the minimum widths for new squares, lots, streets, avenues, and alleys. They also amended the Subdivision Act slightly, declaring that street and avenues should be in alignment with L'Enfant's plan "whenever practicable," while reserving the right to impose additional avenues, traffic circles, and public open spaces on any new subdivision plan (1887-88 Annual Report of the Commissioners of the District of Columbia, 257-58, quoted in EHT Traceries 2009:16; Harrison 2002:39; Pliska 2011:39).

It was under this new set of regulations that initial planning for the development of the Petworth subdivision began.

PLANNING PETWORTH 1889-1900 AD

The plat of the Petworth subdivision was officially approved on January 16, 1889. It was the largest proposed suburb in the history of the district, and the first such planned development to gain the necessary approval of the DC Commissioners (Pliska 2011:39). The Marshall Brown Syndicate hired William Forsyth, the District Surveyor, to lay out the new development. Apart from a slight deviation, resulting from Forsyth's use of the magnetic meridian instead of the true meridian, Petworth's design rigidly adhered to L'Enfant's Washington plan, East-west running streets were regularly spaced, and the ensuing gridiron arrangement was traversed by three bisecting diagonal avenues. Two new diagonal thoroughfares, Kansas and Illinois Avenues, were introduced, while a third, New Hampshire Avenue, was extended northwest. (EHT Traceries 2009:16-17; Gilmore and Harrison 2003:49-50; Harrison 2002:39; Pliska 2011:40).

Traffic circles, designed on a scale commensurate with the large circles that populated L'Enfant's plan, marked the intersections of Kansas and New Hampshire Avenues and Kansas and Illinois Avenues. Like L'Enfant's open spaces, the circles were intended for commemorative purposes and named after Civil War Union Generals William Tecumseh Sherman and Philip Henry Sheridan. After a new Sheridan Circle was dedicated along Massachusetts Avenue in 1889, Petworth's Sheridan Circle was renamed Grant Circle, in honor of Union Commanding General and former President, Ulysses S. Grant. Shortly thereafter, in June 1889, both circles and some associated triangle parks—eleven reservations total—were formally donated to the United States Government (Pliska 2011:40; Beisert 2015:VIII.18-19; The Washington Post, Jan. 21, 1889).

The Marshall Brown Syndicate's plans for the Petworth neighborhood included a horse-drawn streetcar line along Seventh Street, which would connect the suburb to Boundary Street and the existing District Line. The Brightwood Railroad Company, owned and funded by the syndicate, was authorized to begin construction of the line in 1888. The syndicate spent $40,000 in preparing to erect residences in the southernmost section of the subdivision, but the nationwide financial panic of 1893 halted the group's plans. As a result, Petworth experienced no substantial development before 1900. (EHT Traceries 2009:17; Pliska 2011:39-40; Beisert

2015:VIII.19).

Figure 3:1895 Part of an Engineer Department map showing the plan of Petworth, compared Washington's historic core and early surrounding subdivisions (LOC, Geo. & Maps Div.).

BUILDING PETWORTH AND GRANT CIRCLE 1900 – 1932 AD

Baist's Real Estate maps track the actual development of the Petworth neighborhood between 1900 and 1930. Initial construction was focused on the southwest section of the tract, between Randolph and Upshur Streets. Frame semi-detached and detached homes were first built along Georgia Avenue NW, followed by masonry rows facing Randolph and 7th Street NW (Baist 1903:25; Baist 1907:18;; Baist 1909:18; Baist 1913:18).

In 1913, Leo J. Long built the first house on Grant Circle, on Lot 17 (later 16 Grant Circle). The area around the circle had originally been divided into fifteen parcels, including two on triangular parks formed by the intersection of the neighborhood's diagonal and gridded streets. Long's detached frame structure was the only owner-built property constructed on these plots. Between 1913 and 1929 several small developers filled in most of the remaining lots with

masonry rowhomes. In 1915 the builder B.H. Gruver filed a permit to construct ten row houses on two parcels that had been further subdivided into 20-feet wide lots. That same year M.L. Gottwals began to develop the lots adjacent to Gruver's in the same row house style. The Charles E. Wire company began construction of four slightly larger, more ornate row houses, in December of 1915. The last residential development of the circle commenced in 1919, when Gruver and developer Harris Shapiro enlisted well-known Washington architect, George T.

Satmyers, to design matching row houses for lots 29-33 and 45,48 and 49, respectively. The remaining plots were occupied by Petworth Methodist Episcopal Church, constructed in 1915-1916, and St Gabriel's Catholic Church, founded in 1919 and constructed in 1930 (Beisert 2015:VIII.20-22).

Despite the rapid development surrounding it, Grant Circle itself remained undeveloped for much of this time. A US GS Map from 1917 shows that less than half of Petworth's planned streetscape had actually been constructed. Grant Circle was present, but only New Hampshire and Illinois Avenues NW and 5th St NW had been extended to the circle. Sherman Circle, and the remaining streets surrounding Grant Circle, had still not been cut (Beisert 2015:VIII.24; USGS 1917; Pliska 2011:40).

In 1916, Commissioners of the District of Columbia recommended grading, paving and laying sidewalks along Varnum Street from Seventh Street to Grant Circle, macadamizing Fifth Street between Rock Creek Church Road and Grant Circle and improving Grant Circle itself. But in 1919 the circle still lacked sidewalks and curbing. In senate appropriations hearings, the Grant Circle project was discussed, but deemed a low priority. Bureaucratic issues unique to the District were partly to blame for the circle's slow development. The Office of Public Buildings and Grounds (OPBG), responsible for federal lands like Grant Circle, did not usually begin improving a public space until sidewalks were installed. Sidewalk installation was a function of the District of Columbia, and required land to be transferred back to the local municipality for construction. This transfer, and subsequent sidewalk construction, did not occur until 1925 (Second Hearing District of Columbia Appropriations Bill 1920:1919; Beisert 2015:VIIII.24).

Irving W. Payne, landscape architect for the OPBG, produced the first plan for permanent improvement of Grant Circle in April 1921. Payne's plan entailed a radial system of pedestrian walkways that divided the reservation into a smaller central circle surrounded by 12 alternating grass panels (six-wedged-shaped and six rectilinear). The 1921 plan called for 72 trees and six border beds of shrubbery to be planted in the 12 panels. Specific plant types were not identified in the original plan and no treatment of the center circle identified (Beisert 2015:VIII:26; Pliska 2011:45).

Upon announcement of the plan, a front-page article in the Evening Star, which described the reservation as "nothing but a circle of unimproved land," highlighted the consequential loss of play space the new design would mean for neighborhood children. Though Grant Circle had no formal improvements to recommend it during the first two decades of the 20th century, Petworth citizens had, in fact, found many uses for the site. Beginning in 1909 it played host to the suburb's annual Fourth of July celebration, which included concerts, fireworks, gun salutes and a flag-raising. City-sponsored concerts were held in the circle during summers and it was also the site of informal after-school baseball games. Most crucially, it provided a safe, open area for local children to gather, in a neighborhood otherwise described as having "no play

space, except the traffic-filled streets" (Evening Star, April 6 1922; Evening Star, June 5, 1920).

Payne's new design for the circle actively discouraged large gatherings and recreational activities. An archetypical example of a "passing-through park," the primary purpose of the

Grant Circle design was to move pedestrians through the park as quickly and efficiently as possible, while providing some visual interest in the form of landscaping. This type of park was promoted by landscape architect, George Burnap, Payne's predecessor at the OPBG. He coined the term "passing-through park" to describe small "park areas located at points of street divergence or termination" (Burnap 1916:78). According to Burnap, a proper passing-through park "should aim for maximum accommodation of means of walks and gravel spaces without losing, however, their identity as parks. Direct cross lines, well-proportioned spaces and auxiliary ornamentation is the order of design is recommended…Trees and turf are the most appropriate types of plants for this style of park, with beds of shrubbery useful in breaking up the monotony, so long as the planting scheme retains an overall regularity" (Burnap 1916:80-86). Benches and other amenities, which might encourage lingering, were discouraged. As ornamentation, fountains were preferred over statues, as they might be viewed equally from all sides and did not require close examination to appreciate. Even better, according to Berman, were colorful flower-beds, which could be viewed from a distance and did not interfere with views through the landscape (Burnap 1916:82,90,286); Pliska 2011:47).

Additionally attractive to the OPBG, was the reduced cost of maintenance the implementation of simple designs like Payne's would require. Victorian landscape principals such as meandering walkways and grandiose planting plans, were not only considered outmoded, buy parks designed in this fashion were costly to maintain. Payne's designs for both Grant and Sherman Circles were later praised for their economy and appropriateness for pedestrian use. In the 1930s, Conrad L. Wirth, landscape architect for the National Park Service (NPS), undertook a redevelopment of the Victorian-era DuPont Circle according to plans that included many of the general design principals then present at Grant and Sherman Circles (Wirth 1928:11; Pliska 2011:47).

In 1921, Congress approved $37,000 for repaving the roadway around Grant Circle with standard asphalt. Curbs were also reset at this time (Senate Documents vol.16 192; 2; Evening Star Jan. 26, 1921). Following repaving, bus service was extended to the Petworth neighborhood and the 16th Street line began operation, leaving Petworth from Grant Circle beginning in 1922 (Evening Star, August 4, 1921).

Payne produced a new set of drawings for the circle in 1924. These were largely identical to the earlier set and used when construction on the circle finally began in 1925. In these drawing Payne designated the central circle as a "Site for Memorial," with evergreen shrubs and a Lebanon cedar located in its center (Payne 1924) The final grading, sodding and a majority of planting of Grant Circle appears to have been conducted between 1925 and 1926. The 1926 annual report of the Director of Public Buildings and Public Parks notes that the majority of improvements had been implemented by the end of that year, but recommended that an additional $5,000 be spent to complete the project. During this time the Office of Public Buildings and Public Parks (OPBPP), successor to the OPBG, transferred a ring of land around Grant Circle to the DC Commissioners, for construction of a sidewalk (Beisert 2015:VIII.25; Col. Carey H. Brown, Engineer NCPPC, to Col. Grant, Jan. 5, 1927,

1460/34/66A-1097/79 FRS; Pliska 2011:45).

Improvements and alterations were made to the site over the next few years. In 1926, after a proposal to move the Bartholdi Fountain from the old Botanical Garden to Grant Circle was rejected, a large flowerbed was planted in the center of the circle. The following year, according to OPBPP's 1927 Annual Report, plans were underway to replace the flowers with a "large bed of evergreen trees and shrubs" (OPBPP Annual Report 1926-1927). More research is needed to determine when, exactly, the evergreen bed was planted in the center of the circle. A Washington Post article from March 1927 describes a slightly altered "tentative plan" to plant a single "stately evergreen tree" in the circle's center. A survey photo from the same year shows an open landscape at Grant Circle, with no trees planted in the center circle, and no paving laid (Beisert 2015: VIII:26; NPS Land files). The evergreens, including the large central cedar, appear to have been planted in the circle by 1928. In December of that year local residents complained about the OPBPP's refusal to let them use the tree fir their Christmas celebration (Evening Star, Dec. 19, 1928). The 1927-1928 OPBPP Annual Report describes "damages sustained" to an evergreen bed after and automobile was driven through it. "Five large evergreens and one deciduous tree were necessarily replaced (OPBPP Annual Report 1927-1928).

Payne's 1924 plan to plant several evergreens in the center of Grant Circle always included space for a large Lebanon Cedar. In accordance with this design, a Himalayan Cedar (Cedrus deodara – often misidentified as a Cedar of Lebanon) was planted in the circle's center, with other evergreens spread in small beds located on the wedge-shaped sections of the circle. By the end of 1928, it seems that a planting plan closely resembling Grant Circle's current design was in place. Additional species listed Payne's 1924 planting plan, and like planted throughout the circle included: Maidenhair trees (Ginko biloba), Bhutan pines (Pinus wallichiana), White fir (Abies nordmanniana), Arralia (Acanthopanax pantaphyllum), Abelia (Abelia grandiflora), Masson's pine (Pinus massoniana), Cephalonian fir, (Abies cephalonica), Umbrella pine (Sciadopitys verticillata), Picea excelsa, Pink pfitzer juniper (Juniperus pfitzeriana), Pink flowering apples (Malus astrosanguinea) Parkman crab (Malus parkmanni) and American elm (Ulmus americana) (Payne Grant Circle Planting Plan 1924). A jointing plan produced by the Office of Public Buildings and Public Grounds notes that the interior sidewalks were scheduled to be laid in 1928 (Beisert 2015: VIII.25-26)

The improvement of Reservation 312A (southeast of Grant Circle) appears to have been conducted in tandem with the circle itself. A plan was produced in August of 1920 to pave and plant the triangle park. The plan appears to be a kind of hybrid of the more modern, geometric style of Grant Circle, and older, more naturalistic designs favored by the Victorians. A fieldstone path cuts through the center of the reservation's south half where it meets a concrete semicircle, located in the center of the reservation. Two short concrete paths lead from either side of the semicircle to stepped entrances at 5h St. and Illinois Avenue, and two additional concrete paths lead diagonally from the semicircle to the northern corners of the reservation. Shrub beds surround the entire parklet, lending it an enclosed feeling, much different from open, functional quality of Grant Circle's pedestrian friendly design. Another difference is the amenities included as part of Reservation312A's original design. Benches line the diagonal walkways and a pedestal drinking fountain was planned for the semicircular centerpiece. More research is needed to determine when exactly these improvements were completed, but the

existing configuration of the park is largely faithful to this original design. As late as the 1960s Reservation 312I, north of the circle, contained some plantings but no interior paving. No plans for the reservation have been located and it is not clear when, or if, that triangle was ever improved (Beisert 2015:VIII; Payne Reservation 312A Planting Detain 1920).

Development of the Petworth neighborhood was largely complete by the time Grant Circle's sister park, Sherman Circle, was finally planted in 1930. Many neighborhood events, including the Fourth of July celebration, moved north to Sherman Circle in the late 1920s. Grant Circle remained the site of various church activities and occasional concerts but mainly served residents by providing easy pedestrian access across a busy traffic circle and generally beautifying the neighborhood (Pliska 2011:44).

Most significantly, upon its completion in the 1930s, the Petworth neighborhood became the only area where the 18th century design for the city of Washington was extended outside the city's original boundaries. The streets, avenues and open spaces designed for Petworth were faithful to L'Enfant's plan in both scale and size. No other development adhered to such strict interpretation of the 1888 Subdivision Law, and the law itself proved short-lived. DC Commissioners quickly realized that the topography of Washington County, and the nature of its development, required a more flexible interpretation of the L'Enfant plan. In 1893 Congress passed a bill allowing the Commissioners to draw up a new comprehensive plan for former Washington County. The final design, developed in segments between 1896 and 1900, extended L'Enfant's grid where practical, while incorporating long curving blocks where topography was more varied. In some areas a rectilinear system was abandoned entirely (Harrison 2002: 39-52).

Figure 4: Baist Insurance maps from 1903 and 1907 showing the development of the Petworth neighborhood around Grant Circle (LOC, Geo. & Maps Div.).

Figure 5: Baist Insurance maps from 1911 and 1913 showing the development of the Petworth neighborhood around Grant Circle (LOC, Geo. & Maps Div.).

Figure 6: Detail from 1917 USGS map, showing the actual development of Petworth in 1917 with streets around Grant Circle partially uncut.

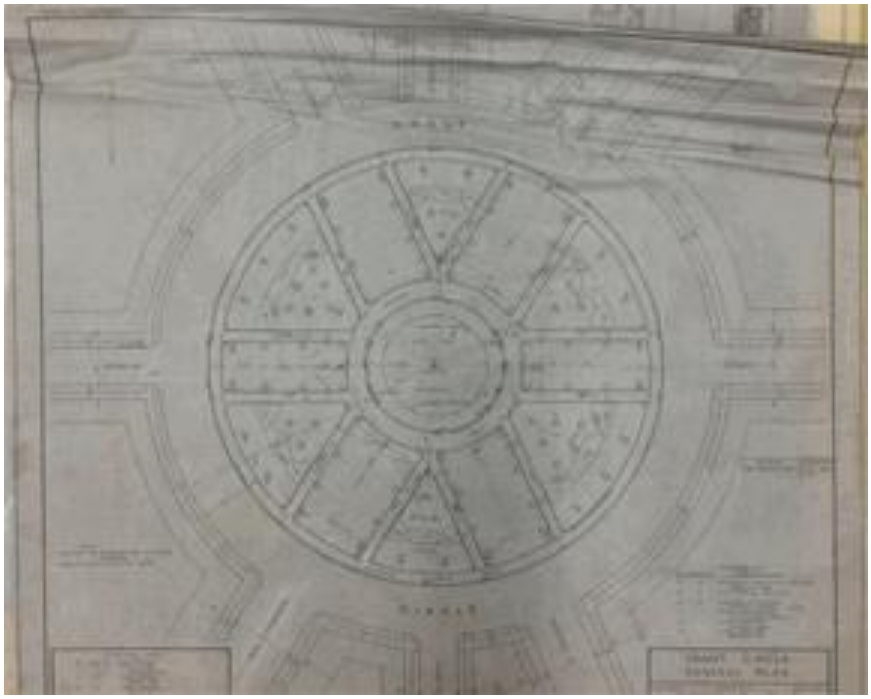


Figure 7: Detail of 1924 General Plan for Grant Circle the Lebanon cedar is in the center. Completed c.1928, the basic arrangement of trees and walks is still present today and continues to define the cultural landscape (LOC, Geo. & Maps Div.).

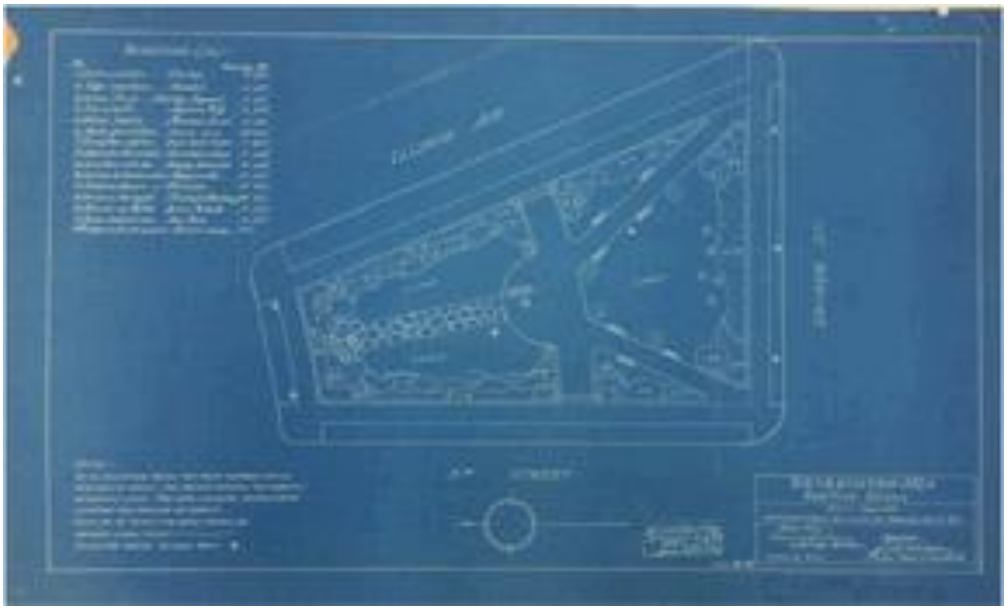


Figure 8: 1920 Planting Plan for Reservation 312A. The same basic arrangement of trees and walks is still present today and continues to define the cultural landscape (LOC, Geo. & Maps Div.).

A NEIGHBORHOOD IN TRANSITION 1933-1990 AD

In 1933, the Office of Public Buildings and Public Parks was dissolved, and responsibility for federal lands transferred to the short-lived Office of National Parks, Buildings and Reservations. The Office was reorganized as part of the National Park Service (NPS), on March 2, 1934. All property previously administered by the OPBPP was transferred to the NPS to manage and maintain (Heine 1953:36).

At Grant Circle, the NPS appears to have made very few, if any changes to the park. No mention of major projects or plantings between 1933 and 1989 were discovered during the course of research for this CLI. It appears that the park was well-cared for through the 1960s. Correspondence from Petworth residents complaining about the condition of Sherman Circle in the 1940s remark favorably on the appearance of Grant Circle, with it's "beautiful tree directly in its center, which attracts the eye from no matter what avenue or street one approaches the park [from]." Grant Circle's comparative condition suggests to the letter writer that it is "less difficult to maintain" than Sherman Circle, which he proceeds to complain is overgrown and in disrepair (Devlin to Thomspon, Mar. 20, 1946, 1460/66A-1097/79 FRS; Pliska 2011:57).

Though Grant Circle remained much the same through the end of the 1960s, the surrounding Petworth neighborhood experienced a profound demographic change. Until the 1950s, Petworth was almost exclusively white. Original homeowners were middle class Protestants, Italian Catholics and Jews. This began to change post World War II. Lured by the promise of a new kind of suburban life – designed around modern amenities and the automobile – white residents of Petworth left the neighborhood en masse. Observing the neighborhood from sleepy Grant Circle, a Washington Post writer describes a younger generation eager to move out of the city. "Until recently, the natives [of Petworth] had a feeling of permanence that is unusual in the transient atmosphere of the Nation's capital. But younger generations are moving from the Circle to the suburbs. The legion of trades people who lived a quiet village-like life, is giving way to newcomers" (The Washington Post, Dec. 10, 1951).

More often than not, these "newcomers" were middle class African Americans. Discriminatory real estate practices had previously barred black families from neighborhoods like Petworth. However, these neighborhoods opened up to African Americans as white families rushed to leave the city behind. On November 11, 1950, the Evening Star published an advertisement seeking a "colored" buyer for a house on Grant Circle. The advertisement states that it is the first time property on the circle has been offered for sale to African Americans (Beisert 2015:VIII:30).

In 1954, desegregation of DC.'s schools and playgrounds intensified white flight from the city. That same year, the beginning of redevelopment in southwest Washington, displaced tens of thousands of poor and working class African-Americans. Many moved to Northern neighborhoods. Existing neighborhood institutions struggled with changing demographics and tensions in Petworth ran high through the 1950s and 1960s. Grant Circle's Petworth Methodist Church, once an all white congregation, was more than a quarter black by 1967. Church leaders debated hiring a black minister, though they acknowledged it would accelerate the loss of the church's remaining white members. Ultimately, two white pastors were hired (The Washington Post, Feb. 4, 1967; Wice 1998:58-59).

In April 1968, following the death of Martin Luther King, Jr., rioting erupted throughout Washington, DC. In Petworth "hundreds of businesses and homes were burned" (The Washington Post, May 2, 1969). The riots marked the beginning of the neighborhood's generation-long decline. A nationwide recession in the 1970s was followed by a crack cocaine epidemic and dramatic increase in crime that affected cities throughout the U.S. in the 1980s. Petworth felt increasingly isolated. In 1969, it was announced that the newly proposed Metro Green line would bypass the area. Budget shortfalls had forced officials to scrap a planned Petworth station. In the 1980s and 1990s, city-wide budget cuts led to maintenance deferrals and city services like street-sweeping was suspended. Residents who could afford to moved out. Homes fell into disrepair. Grant Circle was taken over by drug dealers and addicts. The park had no lights, making it particularly dangerous after dark. In the early 1990s, the circle was described as "overgrown" with "weeds and trees so thick you could not see from one end of the park to the other" (The Washington Post, May 2, 1969; The Washington Post, March 7, 1992; The Washington Post, Sept. 18, 1999). The Park Service undertook some replanting in 1988, following the rehabilitation of Sherman Circle, and planned a complete landscape rehabilitation at the site, but expansion of the Metro delayed implementation (NPS Planting Rehabilitation 1990).

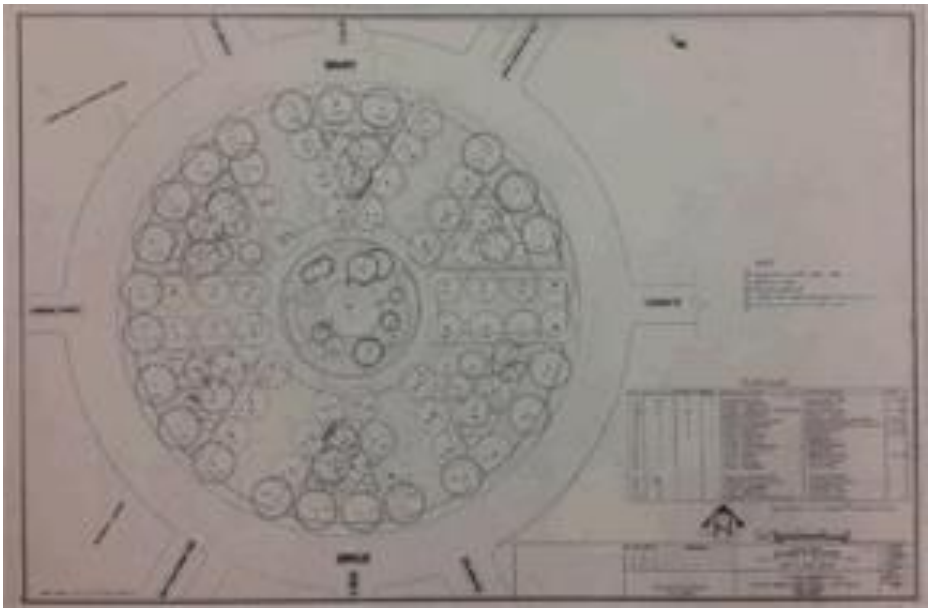


Figure 9: Detail of 1990 Rehabilitation Plan for Grant Circle (LOC, Geo. & Maps Div.).

RESTORATION AND RENEWAL 1991-TODAY

In 1991, Washington Metro announced plans for construction of a new Petworth stop on the city's Green Line. The original proposal required demolition of at least 10 homes between Upshur Street and the circle, to make way for a fan shaft and power station. The new station would be located at New Hampshire and Georgia avenues. After protest from Petworth homeowners, a new plan was devised to install the fan shaft and a subterranean power station at Grant Circle (The Washington Post, March 7, 1992).

The National Park Service allowed Metro access to Grant Circle and Reservation 312I in exchange for a promise to preserve the park's four mature conifers—the central Himalayan Cedar, two rare firs and a Himalayan Pine. The conifers, fist planted in the late 1920s, had thrived at Grant Circle, and neighbors were anxious that the trees not be harmed. Upon completion of the project, Metro also agreed to restore the site according to its original 1924 plan. (The Washington Post, Dec.26, 1997).

Crews broke ground at Grant Circle in 1994, using Reservation 312I as a construction staging area. For three years the site was a "wasteland—a nexus of blocked-off streets, a parking lot for dump trucks and a crane that dipped into a deep hole and plucked out rubble from tunnel construction for the region's subway" (The Washington Post, Dec.26, 1997). Crews digging a shaft for tunnel tailings bored more than 90-feet-deep in order to avoid disturbing the Himalayan Cedar's roots. Before excavation Metro scraped the topsoil from the circle, storing it offsite so they could reuse it when the project was finished. An arborist made weekly visits to the site to check on the health of the four conifers. (The Washington Post, Dec.26, 1997; The Washington Post, Sept. 18, 1999).

Between 1996 and 1997, Metro spent nearly $700,000 restoring the circle. Topsoil was replaced and grass replanted. The conifers had survived the construction, but all deciduous trees had been removed and needed replacement. Saplings were planted and a radial concrete sidewalks poured, all according to Payne's 1924 design. Some new elements were added, including streetlights and a watering system. The only sign of the Metro station now located below are the two metal grates, utility boxes and pipes located at the south and west sides of the park. A "tot lot," subsisting of a small fenced play area with a slide and some surrounding benches, was constructed on Reservation 312I. Reservation 312A was unaffected by construction (The Washington Post, Dec.26, 1997).

Grant Circle officially reopened in spring of 1997. The Petworth station was completed in September on 1999. Since then, another shift has begun in the neighborhood. A nationwide reversal of the post-war urban exodus saw middle class and wealthy Americans moving back to cities in the late 1990s and early 2000. With the opening of the new Metro stop, Petworth is a newly desirable neighborhood and beginning to gentrify. In 1992, the average home price in Petworth was less than $150,000. In 2015, homes in the area were selling for more than $500,000. Development pressures around Grant Circle, including the demolition of 16 Grant Circle—the oldest house on the block—in 2015, have led residents to seek local protection for the area. They hope to preserve Petworth's built heritage and history as an affordable enclave for middle class families. Grant Circle, which has been well-maintained over the past decade, continues to be a source of pride for the community. It features centrally in The Grant Circle Historic District nomination, which was approved by Washington, DC in summer of 2015, and added to the National Register, as part of the Grant Circle Historic District, in October 2015.

Analysis & Evaluation of Integrity

Analysis and Evaluation of Integrity Narrative Summary:

This section provides an evaluation of the physical integrity of Grant Circle cultural landscape by comparing the existing conditions with those landscape characteristics and features present during the periods of significance (1889 and 1916-1928). Landscape characteristics are the tangible and intangible aspects of a landscape that allow visitors to understand its cultural value. Collectively, they express the historic character and integrity of a landscape. Landscape characteristics give a property cultural importance and comprise the property's uniqueness.

Each characteristic or feature is classified as either contributing or non-contributing to the site's overall historic significance. Landscape characteristics and 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. Non-contributing features may be considered "compatible" if they are determined to fit within the physical context of the historic period and match the character of contributing elements in a way that is sensitive to the construction techniques, organizational methods or design strategies of the historic period. Features designated as "incompatible" are those that are not harmonious with the quality of the cultural landscape, and whose existence can lessen the historic character of the property. For those features that are listed as undetermined, further primary research, which is outside the scope of this CLI, is necessary to determine the feature's origination date. Landscape characteristics and features, individually and as a whole, express the integrity and historic character of the landscape and contribute to the property's historic significance.

This section also includes an evaluation of the property's integrity in accordance with National Register criteria. As defined by the National Register, historic integrity 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 or more criteria and retain integrity to the period of significance.

Contributing landscape characteristics identified for the Grant Circle cultural landscape are land use, topography, circulation, vegetation, small-scale features, spatial organization and views and vistas.

Land Use:
During the first period of significance, Grant Circle was platted and its land set aside for use as a public park. The circle and its associated reservations were designed and built during the second period of significance. Since that time, the site has served as an urban park and retains integrity to the first and second periods of significance.

Topography:
Grant Circle was graded, filled and leveled during its initial phase of development, between 1916 and 1926. The site's flat terrain was part the platting plan for the Petworth development and has been

maintained to the present day. Its topography retains integrity to the first and second periods of significance.

Circulation Pattern:
Irving Payne's 1921 and 1924 designs for Grant Circle established a system of radiating concrete walkways as the site's organizing circulation pattern. A 10-foot wide circular sidewalk was installed along the edge of the park. A larger, 15-foot wide circular walkway ringed the site's central focal point, an approx. 110-foot diameter circle, planted with a large Himalayan Cedar. Twelve lateral crossways ran between the two circular walkways, extending out to the Grant Circle traffic rotary. The walkways measured 8-feet across and were situated inline with the edges of New Hampshire and Illinois Avenues and Varnum Street. The entire arrangement resembled a wheeled spoke and created twelve grass panels that were planted with turf, trees and shrubs. The circulation pattern at Grant Circle remained unchanged until the 1990s when the entire site was excavated in order to install a DC Metro substation underneath the park. In 1997, the site was fully restored according to Payne's 1924 plan, and the original circulation pattern, established during the second period of significance, was reinstalled. The historic circulation design for Reservation 312A has likewise been maintained and remains present today. The circulation patterns at Grant Circle and Reservation 312A retain a high degree of integrity to the second period of significance. No formal circulation pattern was designed for Reservation 312I during either period of significance, though a perimeter sidewalk was installed during the second period of significance. The current circulation dates to the 1997 rehabilitation of the landscape by DC Metro and does not retain integrity to either period of significance.

Vegetation:
The majority of the vegetation at Grant Circle, originally planted between 1926 and 1928, seems to have survived through the late 1980s. Original trees consisted mainly of ginkgo trees (Ginkgo bilobas) American elms (Ulmas americana) and various evergreens, including a large Himalayan cedar (Cedrus deodora), planted in the center of the circle. Between 1988 and 1990, a rehabilitation plan called for the replacement of many of the original gingkos and elms. These were replaced in kind. In 1994, the construction of a power substation underneath Grant Circle required the removal of all vegetation, with the exception of the Himalayan cedar and three other pines. The circle was restored in 1997, and new plantings installed, according to Irving Payne's 1924 plan. All vegetation was replaced in kind, with the exception of the Himalayan Cedar and three original pines, which survived the excavation. As these four trees are the only vegetation remaining from the second period of significance, the sites retains partial integrity of vegetation.

Small-Scale Features:
Nearly all small-scale features of the Grant Circle cultural landscape post-date the period of significance. The only historic small scale features at the site are a cast-concrete pedestal-style drinking fountain, perimeter curbing and three small stairways at Reservation 312A The present curbing at Grant Circle is all replica; it was reinstalled in 1997 after Metro's excavation of the site. All other small-scale features currently in place throughout the cultural landscape are modern additions with no historic significance to the cultural landscape. The site's small-scale features retain partial integrity to the second period of significance.

Spatial Organization:
The current spatial organization of the Grant Circle cultural landscape is nearly identical to that envisioned by Irving Payne during the second period of significance. The primary organizing elements from this period are bilateral symmetry, circular geometry and straight-line axes. These elements were expressed through walkways and plantings and are still in effect today. Reservation 312A was organized with a similar focus on geometry and symmetry, a focus which has been maintained since its initial planning in 1920. The current spatial organization at Reservation 312I dates to the 1997 restoration of Grant Circle following Metro's excavation of the site. Prior to 1997, the site was organized as a triangle park with perimeter sidewalk. Despite the relatively new organization of Reservation 312I, overall Grant Circle cultural landscape retains a high integrity of spatial organization dating to the second period of significance.

Views and Vistas:
Views radiating out from the center of Grant Circle, down the surrounding avenues and streets, were part of Irving Payne's original design for the site. These views have been maintained and are still present today. Views toward the large Himalayan Cedar at the center of Grant Circle were not part of the original plan, but became an important element of the site once the large tree was planted, between 1927 and 1928. These views are also still intact and the site has high integrity to the second period of significance.

INTEGRITY
Location: Location involves the place where the cultural landscape was constructed and/or where historic events occurred. The external boundaries of Grant Circle and Reservations 312A and 312I were first platted in 1889. They have not changed since that time. Their internal acreages remain the same as when the sites were first delineated in the 1910s. The Grant Circle cultural landscape retains a high degree of integrity to the first and second periods of significance.

Design: Design is the combination of elements that create the form, plan, space, structure and style of a cultural landscape or historic property. The 1889 Petworth plan created the boundaries of Grant Circle and its associated reservations and made future development of the cultural landscape possible. Irving Payne's final 1924 plan for Grant Circle is still maintained today. The layout, pattern and composition of the original radial concrete walkways and Payne's planting plan are all in evidence, although most original materials have been replaced. The same is true of the sidewalks in and around Reservation 312A and for the curbing present throughout the site. The cultural landscape retains integrity of design to the first and second periods of significance

Setting: Setting is the physical environment of a cultural landscape. During the first period of significance Grant Circle was planned as part of a new suburban development called Petworth. By the time the circle and Reservation 312A were constructed, the lots surrounding the circle had been developed. Single-family brick row houses and two churches were built around the circle in the 1910s. The setting surrounding Grant Circle remains residential. Both churches and all but one of the original houses surrounding the circle remain. The site, therefore, retains high integrity to the first and second

periods of significance.

Materials: Materials are the physical elements of a particular period, including construction materials, paving, plants and other landscape features. Four historic trees within Grant Circle and one historic tree at Reservation 312A constitute the only surviving landscape fabric dating to the historic period. Some concrete and flagstone walkways and steps at Reservation 312A may be original. A cast concrete pedestal water fountain is also original to that reservation. All other original material at Grant Circle has been replaced. Consequently, there is integrity of materials within the Grant Circle cultural landscape but it is extremely limited.

Workmanship: Workmanship includes the physical evidence of the crafts of a particular culture or people during a given period. Original workmanship from the periods of significance was lost with the replacement of original materials, and the Grant Circle cultural landscape lacks integrity of workmanship.

Feeling: Feeling is a property's expression of the aesthetic or historic sense of a particular period. Because the original design, setting and land use of Grant Circle cultural landscape remains intact, and original materials have been replicated in kind, visitors today experience Grant Circle in fundamentally the same way as visitors during the second period of significance. The site retains a high degree of integrity of feeling.

Association: Association is the direct link between an important historic event or person and a cultural landscape. Grant Circle is associated with the body of work Irving W. Payne and William Forsyth. While Grant Circle takes its name from Ulysses S. Grant, he has no actual association with the site.

CONCLUSION

This CLI finds that the Grant Circle cultural landscape retains integrity to both periods of significance. Subsequent changes have altered the landscape, especially with regard to materials, but it nonetheless continues to evoke the historic significance of the property.

Aspects of Integrity: Materials

Location

Design

Setting

Feeling

Association

Landscape Characteristic:

Spatial Organization

Historic Condition
Two key concepts have always defined the spatial organization of the Grant Circle cultural landscape: symmetry and geometry. Grant Circle was designed to be symmetrical along multiple axes; Irving Payne employed a series of geometric shapes to emphasize and extend the surrounding streetscape. Radiating from the park's central circle was a circular walk, made up of a grid of square concrete panels, surrounded by an alternating pattern of rectangular and triangular landscaped areas all encircled by another gridded walkway and a ring of elm trees. The rectangular grass segments extended the surrounding streetscape into the park, following the centerlines of surrounding Illinois and New Hampshire Avenues and Varnum Street. Linear rows of gingko trees planted along these segments further emphasized the connection to the surrounding streetscape, creating sightlines down three of the four surrounding streets.

While much simpler in its design, Reservation 312A followed the same organizational principles as Grant Circle. Though the diagonal of Illinois Avenue made actual symmetry impossible at the site, creating a sharp, acute angle at the park's southeast corner, Payne attempted to enforce an imperfect symmetry onto the reservation by organizing his circulation and planting plans along a bilateral north/south central axis. Straight lines, a central arced platform and diagonal walkways added geometric interest to the small park.

No specific designs for Reservation 312I were located during the research for this CLI. Historic photos show that the organizing principle at the site was based around a simple perimeter walkway.

Existing Condition
The key design concepts governing the spatial organization of Grant Circle cultural landscape mostly remain in effect today. Features within the circle itself still exhibit bilateral symmetry along multiple axes, though changes to the historic vegetation have slightly diminished the quality of this characteristic. The division of the site into various geometric shapes has also been maintained. Like Grant Circle, Reservation 312A is little changed since its original design and also retains a circulation and planting plan organized around symmetry and geometry.

Reservation 312I was completely redesigned in 1997 after the site's excavation as part of the DC Metro project at Grant Circle. While the design for the site was inspired by Payne's 1924 plan for Grant Circle, and elements like sidewalks and curbing match those of Grant Circle, the spatial organization is not based on Payne's emphasis on symmetry and strict geometric division of space. The site displays no symmetry and the small, planted areas that border the central "tot lot" curve around interior spaces and are more biomorphic in shape than the planting areas designed for Grant Circle.

Analysis
The spatial organization of the Grant Circle cultural landscape has a high degree of integrity and contributes to the historic character of the site. While Reservation 312I retains no integrity to the period of significance, the organizing principles used to design Grant Circle and Reservation

312A are still in evidence at both sites.

Character-defining Features:

Feature: Bilateral symmetry of Grant Circle and partial symmetry of Reservation 312A

Feature Identification Number: 178753

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Latitude Longitude

0.0000000000

Feature: Concentric circles within Grant Circle (walkways, trees and curbing), geometric shapes throughout the site (square-paneled walkways, triangular and rectangular planted areas) and at Reservation 312A (semi-circular concrete platform, geometric division of

Feature Identification Number: 178755

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Latitude Longitude

0.0000000000

Feature: Axes along New Hampshire and Illinois Avenues and Varnum Street, reinforced by grass panels, lateral crosswalks, and linear rows of trees within Grant Circle.

Feature Identification Number: 178757

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Latitude Longitude

0.0000000000

Land Use

Historic Condition
Though included in the 1889 Petworth plat, Grant Circle and its associated reservations were not created on the ground until the 1910s, when New Hampshire and Illinois Avenues and 5th Street were cut through to the current site. The Circle itself appears in the Baist Atlas survey of Petworth as early as 1907. Though land for the site had been reserved for Grant Circle since its initial platting in 1989, the circle itself was not formally delineated until 1916. It first appears on a USGS Map of Petworth in 1917.

Despite its lack if improvements, local residents were quick to adopt the circle, developing a strong attachment to the place. Beginning in 1909, Grant Circle was the venue for neighborhood Fourth of July celebrations. It provided much needed green space for local children, who used it

as an impromptu baseball field throughout the early 1920s. However, it was landscape architect Irving W. Payne's historic 1924 design for Grant Circle that would come to define its principle use during the second period of significance. While it had always been planned, and previously been used, as urban parkland, the 1926 implementation of Payne's design firmly established Grant Circle as a "passing through" park. This type of park was promoted by landscape architect George Burnap, Payne's predecessor in the Office of Public Building and Grounds (OPBG). Burnap coined the term to describe small "park areas located at points of street divergence or termination" (Burnap 1916: 78). A proper passing through park allowed pedestrians a safe and convenient place to cross the street, while providing a brief, but verdant respite from their urban surroundings. Lingering was not encouraged. At Grant Circle, Payne designed a spoke-like system of walkways that allowed people to move quickly through the park. The landscape was designed to be enjoyed in the short amount of time it took to walk from one end of the park to the other.

Reservations 312A and 312I were also developed during the second period of significance. While historic maps suggest that these reservation were platted for real estate development in the 1910s, the Marshall Brown Syndicate donated the sites to the federal government in 1898, along with Grant Circle (Reservation 312), suggesting that all three were always intended for use as small urban parks (Pliska 2011; Beisert 2015:VIII.18-19; Washington Post, Jan. 21, 1889). Payne's 1920 plan for Reservation 312A is in keeping with his design for Grant Circle, and is focused on pedestrian use, though unlike Grant Circle, Reservation 312A's original plan included benches for resting. Reservation 312I appears to have been developed in a much simpler manner than Grant Circle and Reservation 312A, but served a similar purpose as a pedestrian friendly park.

Existing Condition
The land use at the Grant Circle cultural landscape remains unchanged since its initial platting, design and development. It still serves as urban parkland, and remains faithful to Payne's design as a passing through park, despite the addition of new elements like benches, streetlights and a small playground, installed at Reservation 312I in 1997. Though these small-scale features encourage lingering, the Circle's primary users remain pedestrians, who use the circle to cross the traffic rotary.

Analysis
The use and purpose of the Grant Circle cultural landscape has not changed since the period of significance. Grant Circle and its associated reservations were established as urban parks and continue to be used and administered as such. The site retains high integrity of land use.

Character-defining Features:

Feature: Continued function of cultural landscape as urban parkland.

Feature Identification Number: 178759

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Latitude Longitude

0.0000000000

Topography

Historic Condition
In 1916, Commissioners of the District of Columbia recommended grading and laying sidewalks around Grant Circle. Though sidewalks were not laid until the 1920s, it is likely the circle and its associated reservations were first graded prior to 1916. A survey of the circle in 1915 depicts a relatively flat site, with some uneven curbing around the circle's edge (Grant Circle Map: 1915; Topographic Survey of Grant Circle: 19XX). The site was further filled and leveled during its construction in 1926. Reservation 312A was graded at a very slight slope, rising from south to north, to accommodate Payne's design for small stepped entrances at the north, east and west sides of the parklet (Reservation 312A General Plan: 1920). No plans for Reservation 312I were located during the research for this CLI, but it appears the site was planned much like Grant Circle, as a flat parcel of land without any significant rises or depressions.

In the 1990s, the topography of Grant Circle was temporarily altered when a 90-foot deep hole was dug at the site, to facilitate construction of a Metro substation underneath the circle. Upon completion, the circle was reconstructed according to the original 1924 design for the site. The circle was infilled to its original level, and flattened in accordance with the site's historic topography (The Washington Post, Dec.26, 1997).

Existing Condition
The topography of Grant Circle and its associated reservations does not appear to have changed significantly since the historic period. All three reservations retain the even topography shown in historic photographs and maps. A slight grade change at Reservation 312A still exists but overall the landscape appears relatively flat with a regular topography.

Analysis
Despite its excavation in the 1990s, there is little evidence to suggest the topography of Grant Circle has changed since the close of the historic period. Reconstruction of the circle in 1997 restored the original grade and level topography designed for the site. Reservation 312I, used as a construction yard during the Metro excavation, was also restored to its original grade at this time. There is no evidence to suggest that the topography of Reservation 312A has changed since the historic period. The faithful restoration of Grant Circle and Reservation 312I to their historic grades and the unchanged topography of Reservation 312A, therefore contribute to the site's historic integrity.

Character-defining Features:

Feature: Relatively flat topography of the cultural landscape established in the 1910s and 1920s. Slight grading upward at the northern end of Reservation 312A.

Feature Identification Number: 178763

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Latitude	Longitude
0.0000000000	

Vegetation

Historic Condition
The first documentation of vegetation at Grant Circle dates to 1915, when a survey of the site notes a ring of trees planted around the circle's perimeter, 2-feet from the circle's uneven curbing (Grant Circle Map: 1915). More research is need to determine when these trees were planted and by who. No other vegetation is mentioned at the site. The first formal planting plan for Grant Circle dates to 1921, and was designed by Irving Payne, OPBG landscape architect. Payne revised this plan in 1924 and the majority of planting took place between 1926-1928. Payne's 1924 plan called for turf grass panels, lined with a variety of trees and shrubs. Rectangular panels were planted with two rows of ginkgo trees (Ginkgo bilobas), which reinforced axial views down surrounding streets and avenues. Triangular panels contained different combinations of pink flowering apple trees (Malus astrosanguinea), Bhutan Pines (Pinus wallichiana), Masson's Pine (Pinus Massoniana), Cephalonian Firs (Abies cephalonian), White firs (Abies concolor), Nordman firs (Abies nordmanniana) and Aralia (Acanthopanax Pentaphyllum) and Abelia (Abelia Grandiflora) shrubs. Though Payne's 1924 plan for the central, circular panel originally called for a Cedar of Lebanon to be placed in a central location, the panel was originally planted with a decorative flower bed. This bed was replaced with a grove of cedar trees, including a centerpiece Himalayan cedar (Cedrus deodora), in 1927. American elms (Ulmas americana) were planted around the site's perimeter. In total 102 trees and 684 shrubs were planted at Grant Circle between 1926-1928. A full list of trees and shrubs planted within Grant Circle, according to Payne's 1924 plan is as follows:
Trees:
Himalayan cedar (Cedrus deodora) – 1
Maidenhair tree (Ginko biloba) – 36
Bhutan pine (Pinus wallichiana) – 4
White fir (Abies concolor) – 4
Nordman fir (Abies nordmanniana) – 4
Masson's pine (Pinus Massoniana) – 2
Cephalonian fir (Abies cephalonian) – 4
Umbrella pine (Sciadopitys verticillata) – 4
Norway Spruce (Picea excels) – 4
Pfitzer juniper (Juniperus pfitzeriana) – 8
Pink flowering Crabapples (Malus astrosanguinea) – 6
Parkman crab (Malus halliana) – 4
American elm (Ulmus americana) – 26

Shrubs:
Aralia (Acanthopanax Pentaphyllum) – 272
Abelia (Abelia Grandiflora) – 412

In 1920, Payne also designed a planting plan for Reservation 312A. The design incorporated

five existing street trees, all American elms (Ulmus americana) and two tress located in the center of the reservation, at least one of which was an American elm (Ulmus americana) still extant today. New plantings included a perimeter of shrubs: Honesuckle (Lonicera tartarica rubra), Pfitzeriana (Juniperus chinensis) and Thunberg's Barberry (Barberis thunberg) along Illinois Avenue and 5th Street; Japanese holly (Ilex crenata) along Grant Circle; and Arbutus shrub (Abelia grandiflora) and Bridal wreath (Spiraca van Houttei) along Upshur Street. An interior perimeter at the parklet's northern half featured Mountain laurel (Kalmia latifolia), Arbutus shrub (Abelia grandiflora), Broad leaved creeper (Euorymus vegetus), Chinese quince berry (Coteneaster horizontalis) and Drooping Andromeda (Leucothoe catesbaei). Japanese spurge (Pachysandra terminalis) was planted as ground covers along the interior shrub beds. Two hemlock (Tsuga Canadensis) trees were planted at each of the Reservation's northern corners. Box bushes (Buxus sembervireans) were located on either side of the semi-circular path at the center of the parklet. The triangular panel panel at the sites southern end was planted with six Pin oaks (Quercus palistris) and five Flowering dogwoods (Cornus florida). All the area between interior paths and the exterior sidewalk was planted with turf grass. More research is needed to determine when the actual planting of Reservation 312A occurred, but historic photos located in the NPS land files show that the site was complete by 1928 (Payne Reservation 312A Planting Detail: 1920). A full list of trees and shrubs planted within Reservation 312A, according to Payne's 1920 plan is as follows:

Trees:
Pin oak (Quercus palistris) – 6
Hemlock (Tsuga Canadensis) – 4
Flowering dogwood (Cornus florida) – 5

Shrubs:
Japanese holly (Ilex crenata) – 16
Mountain laurel (Kalmia latifolia) – 10
Arbutus shrub (Abelia grandiflora) – 44
Broad leaved creeper (Euorymus vegetus) – 9
Chinese quince berry (Coteneaster horizontalis) – 17
Drooping andromeda (Leucothoe catesbaei) – 16
Honeysuckle (Lonicera tartarica rubra) – 41
Pfitzeriana (Juniperus chinensis) – 24
Thunberg's Barberry (Barberis thunberg) – 28
Bridal wreath (Spiraca van Houttei) – 17
Box bush (Buxus sembervireans) – 2
Japanese spurge (Pachysandra terminalis) – 100

No planting plan for Reservation 312I was located during research for this CLI. Historic photos, located in NPS land files, appear to show a simple grass lawn surrounded by street trees, probably American elms (Ulmus americana), in keeping with the street tress surrounding the rest of Grant Circle. As late as the 1960s Reservation 312I, north of the circle, contained some plantings but no interior paving (Beisert 2015: VIII).

The majority of Grant Circle's original vegetation seems to have survived through the late 1980s. It is likely that some shrubs and trees were replaced between 1928 and 1988 at all three of the reservations, but no documentation of replacement was located during research for this CLI. Between 1988 and 1990 an NPS rehabilitation plan called for the replacement of many of the original gingkos (Ginkgo bilobas) and elms (Ulmas americana) at Reservation 312. These trees were replaced in kind.

In 1994 the construction of a power substation underneath Grant Circle required the removal of all vegetation, with the exception of the Himalayan cedar (Cedrus deodora), located in the circle's center, and two Bhutan pines (Pinus wallichiana) and one Masson's pine (Pinus Massoniana) located in two of the circle's triangular panels. With the help of a specialist, who visited the site weekly to monitor the health of the four original trees, the Himalayan Cedar, Bhutan pines and Masson's pine survived the site's excavation. The circle was restored in 1997, and new plantings installed, according to Irving Payne's 1924 plan. Most vegetation was replaced in kind.

As part of the 1997 restoration of Grant Circle., Metro also redeveloped Reservation 312I, which had been used for parking equipment during the three-year construction project. For the first time, interior paths and plantings were designed for the site. These included eight flowering Crabapples (Malus astrosanguinea) and three unidentified shrubs, placed throughout the park, Pyracantha shrubs surrounding the newly installed play area at the parks northern half and seating area at the southern half, and five turf grass panels along the park's perimeter sidewalk. Street trees (American elms) and turf were planted between the sidewalks and the street.

Existing Condition

The vegetation within Grant Circle underwent major changes in 1997, as a result of Metro construction at the site. The resulting restoration project, while largely faithful to Irving Payne's original planting plan for the park, required the replacement of nearly all of the circle's remaining historic trees and shrubs. Only five of Grant Circle's original trees are extent: the Himalayan cedar at the circle's center (Cedrus deodora), two Bhutan pines (Pinus wallichiana) and one Masson's pine (Pinus Massoniana) located in two triangular panels and one American elm (Ulmus americana) near the center of Reservation 312A.

Much of the vegetation planted in 1997 survives at the site today. All turf grass, perimeter American elms (Ulmus americana) and interior gingko trees (Ginko biloba) were replaced in kind, one-for-one, according to Payne's 1924 plan. Abelia grandiflora was also replaced in kind at the site's triangular panels, though original Aralia (Acantahopanax oebtaogyllum) has been replaced with Flowering quince (Chaenomeles speciose) Six conifers, three of which are original to Grant Circle's initial planting, are also located within four of the circle's triangular panels. The southeast panel, between Varnum Street NW and Illinois Avenue NW contains all three historic trees: two Bhutan pines (Pinus wallichiana) and one Masson's Pine (Pinus massoniana). Three more recently planted conifers—one Bhutan pines and two unidentified

pines—are located at three other triangular panels. Pink flowering Crabapples (Malus astrosanguinea), were all replaced in kind. Payne's original plan called for "evergreen shrubs" surrounding the central cedar and the surrounding turf grass panel is currently planted with six beds of Japanese yew (Taxus baccata) and Holly Osmanthus (Osmanthus hetrophyllus).

More research is needed to determine when the vegetation at Reservation 312A was replanted. Though the current planting plan is in keeping with Payne's original design, nearly all of the original plant material appears to have been replaced, not all of it in kind. The current perimeter shrub is mostly Abelia grandiflora with some unidentified shrubs mixed in. Some shrubs and ground cover, most notably the interior perimeter at the site's north end, have been removed completely. The six Pin oaks (Quercus palistris) and five dogwoods (Cornus florida) designed for the park's southern panel have been replaced with three unidentified trees and one American elm. The only remaining vegetation that dates to the period of significance is a large American elm (Ulmus americana) located near the reservation's center.

Any existing historic vegetation at Reservation 312I was removed in 1994, during Metro's excavation of Grant Circle. The site was used for equipment parking during this period. In 1997, the reservation was completely redesigned and planted with eight flowering Crabapples (Malus astrosanguinea) and three unidentified shrubs placed throughout the park, Pyracantha shrubs, surrounding the newly installed play area, at the parklet's northern half, and small seating area, at the southern half, and five irregularly shaped turf grass panels, bordering the park's perimeter sidewalk. Street trees (American elms) and turf were planted between the sidewalks and the street. All current vegetation at the site appears to date to the 1997 redesign.

The following list of trees within Grant Circle, Reservation 312A, was compiled in 2016 and is based upon field identification:
Grant Circle, Reservation 312
Trees:
Himalayan cedar (Cedrus deodora) – 1 historic
Ginko tree (Ginko biloba) – 36
Bhutan pine (Pinus wallichiana) – 3, 2 historic
Masson's pine (Pinus Massoniana) – 1 historic
Pink flowering Crabapples (Malus astrosanguinea) – 10
American elm (Ulmus americana) – 26
Unidentified non-deciduous trees –2

Shrubs:
Abelia (Abelia Grandiflora)
Flowering quince (Chaenomeles speciose)
Japanese yew (Taxus baccata)
Holly Osmanthus (Osmanthus hetrophyllus).

Reservation 312A

Trees:
American elm (Ulmus americana) –2, one historic
American elm (Ulmus americana) – 6 (street trees)
Unidentified trees – 3

Shrubs:
Abelia (Abelia Grandiflora)
Additional unidentified shrub

Reservation 312I
Trees:
Pink flowering Crabapples (Malus astrosanguinea) – 8
Unidentified – 3
American elm (Ulmus americana) – X (street trees)

Shrubs
Pyracantha (Pyracantha)

Analysis
Grant Circle Cultural Landscape retains partial integrity of vegetation. At Grant Circle (Reservation 312), though only four trees remain from the period of significance, the restoration of the circle in 1997 was in keeping with Payne's original planting plan, and most plant material was replaced in kind. Thus, the general character of Gran Circle's historic planting plan remains intact. At Reservation 312A, while some plant material has been removed and most trees and shrubs have not been replaced in kind, the existing vegetation still closely matches Payne's overall plan of turf grass panels surrounded by flowering shrubs and few trees. The large American elm (Ulmus americana) at the center of the site was present during the second period of significance. The vegetation at Reservatio312I all dates to the 1997 redesign of the site and is therefore non-contributing.

Character-defining Features:

Feature: General retention of 1924 planting plan of Grant Circle by means of historic tree and shrub locations currently planted with in kind vegetation

Feature Identification Number: 178769

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Latitude Longitude

0.0000000000

Feature: Himalayan cedar (Cedrus deodora) dating to the second period of significance, located at the center of Grant Circle, Reservation 312

Feature Identification Number: 178771

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Latitude Longitude

0.0000000000

Feature: Two Bhutan pines (Pinus wallichiana) dating to the second period of significance, located at Reservation 312

Feature Identification Number: 178773

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Latitude Longitude

0.0000000000

Feature: Historic Masson's Pine (Pinus massoniana) dating to the second period of significance, located at Reservation 312

Feature Identification Number: 178775

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Latitude Longitude

0.0000000000

Feature: Historic American elm (Ulmus americana) dating to the second period of significance, located at Reservation 312A

Feature Identification Number: 178777

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Latitude Longitude

0.0000000000

Feature: Turf grass panels throughout Grant Circle and Reservation 312

Feature Identification Number: 178779

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Latitude Longitude

0.0000000000

Feature: Turf grass panels throughout Grant Circle and Reservation 312A

Feature Identification Number: 178781

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Latitude Longitude

0.0000000000

Feature: 36 Gingko trees (Gingko biloba) at Reservation 312

Feature Identification Number: 178783

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Latitude Longitude

0.0000000000

Feature: 26 American elms (Ulmus americana) at Reservation 312

Feature Identification Number: 178785

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Latitude Longitude

0.0000000000

Feature: 2 unidentified non-deciduous trees at Reservation 312

Feature Identification Number: 178787

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Latitude Longitude

0.0000000000

Feature: 6 Pink flowering Crabapples (Malus astrosanguinea) at Reservation

Feature Identification Number: 178789

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Latitude Longitude

0.0000000000

Feature: 36 Gingko trees (Gingko biloba) at Reservation 312

Feature Identification Number: 178791

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Latitude Longitude

0.0000000000

Feature: 4 Parkman crab (Malus halliana) at Reservation 312

Feature Identification Number: 178793

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Latitude Longitude

0.0000000000

Feature: 26 American elms (Ulmus americana) at Reservation 312

Feature Identification Number: 178795

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Latitude Longitude

0.0000000000

Feature: Abelia (Abelia Grandiflora)

Feature Identification Number: 178797

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Latitude Longitude

0.0000000000

Feature: 2 unidentified non-deciduous trees at Reservation 312

Feature Identification Number: 178799

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Latitude Longitude

0.0000000000

Feature: Flowering quince (Chaenomeles speciose), Japanese yew (Taxus baccata), Holly Osmanthus (Osmanthus hetrophyllus) at Reservation 312

Feature Identification Number: 178801

Latitude Longitude

0.0000000000

Feature: 6 Pink flowering Crabapples (Malus astrosanguinea) at Reservation

Feature Identification Number: 178803

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Latitude	Longitude
0.0000000000	

Feature: 4 Parkman crab (Malus halliana) at Reservation 312

Feature Identification Number: 178805

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Latitude	Longitude
0.0000000000	

Feature: Abelia (Abelia Grandiflora)

Feature Identification Number: 178807

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Latitude	Longitude
0.0000000000	

Feature: Flowering quince (Chaenomeles speciose), Japanese yew (Taxus baccata), Holly Osmanthus (Osmanthus hetrophyllus) at Reservation 312

Feature Identification Number: 178809

Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing

Latitude	Longitude
0.0000000000	

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:

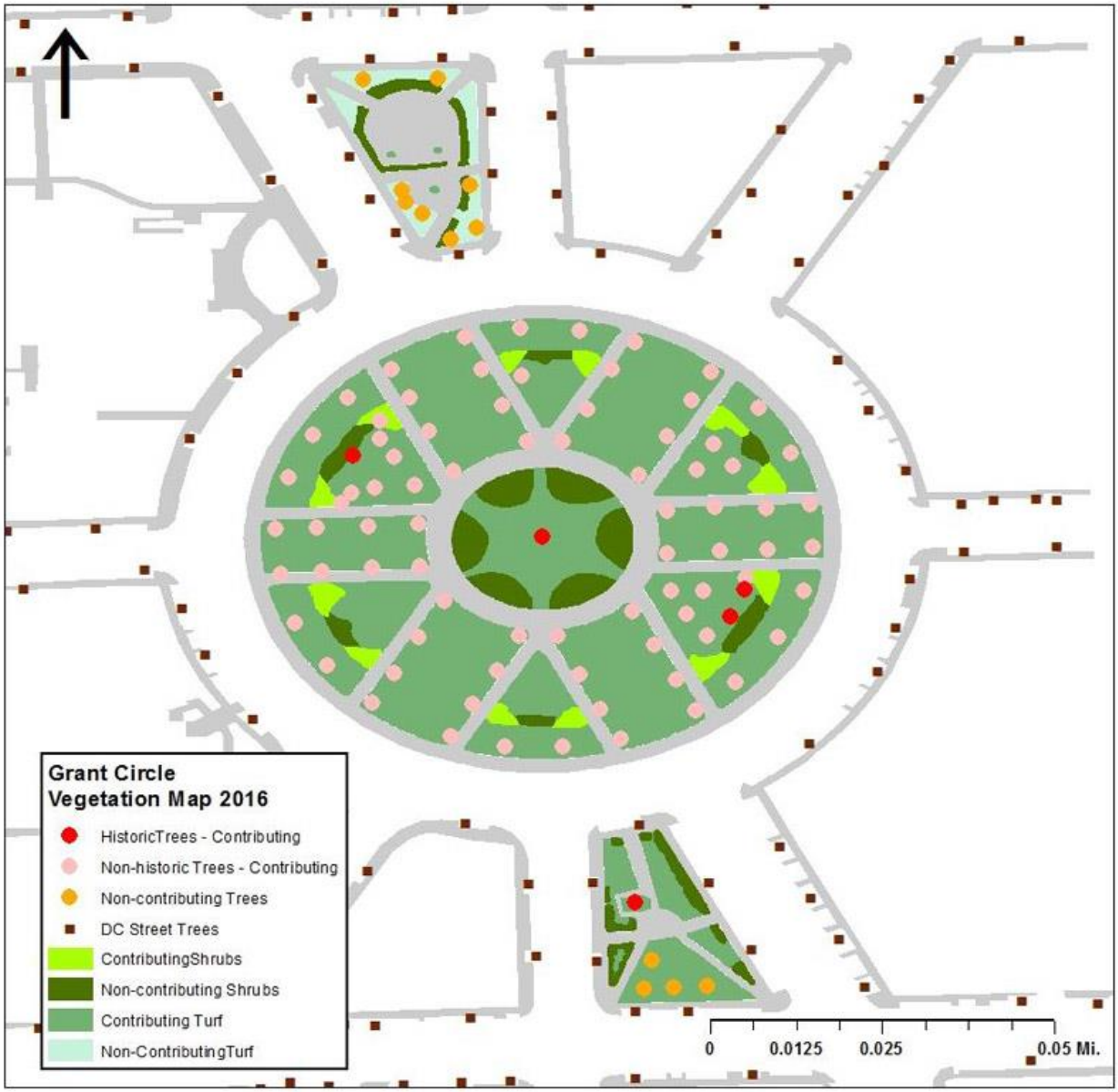


Figure 10: Existing vegetation at Grant Circle Cultural Landscape in summer 2016.

Figure 11: Two historic trees at Grant Circle Cultural Landscape. Top, the historic Himalayan cedar, located at the center of Reservation 312. Bottom, the historic American elm at reservation 312A. (Photo by author).

Figure 12: Two contributing trees at Grant Circle, Reservation 312. At left, a dead conifer. At right, a recently planted gingko.

Circulation

Historic Condition

During the historic period, the circulation system within the Grant Circle consisted of two basic components: the spoke-like radial arrangement of concrete pedestrian walkways inside Grant Circle and the corresponding concrete sidewalks installed at Reservations 312A and 312I.

Landscape architect Irving Payne submitted his first plan for the improvement of Grant Circle in 1921. It called for a radiating system of pedestrian walkways that divided the reservation into a smaller central circle surrounded by twelve alternating grass panels (six wedge-shaped and six rectilinear). According to the plan, a 12-foot-wide perimeter sidewalk was to comprise the outer edge of Grant Circle while a much wider, 20-foot wide paved area ringed the smaller circle at its center (check measurements on original plan). Twelve lateral crosswalks were designed to connect the two circular walkways. Payne arranged these lateral walks to line up with the sidewalks of New Hampshire and Illinois Avenues and Varnum Street, thereby visually linking Grant Circle with its surrounding environment.

Payne's circulation design focused on geometry and symmetry. In addition to their functional pedestrian use, the walkways evenly divided the circle into a series of triangles and rectangles, all set between two circles. The concrete sidewalks were composed of a series of square concrete slabs, adding further geometric interest. (Need photo of squares)

Similar sidewalks were installed through the center of Reservation 312A. Like Grant Circle, the circulation plan for this reservation is symmetrical and geometric, but also incorporates naturalistic design elements, of the type favored by Victorians. A fieldstone path cuts through the center of the parklet's northern half, where it meets a concrete semicircular platform (not raised, need better term), located in the center of the reservation. Two short concrete paths lead east and west from the platform to stepped entrances at 5h St. and Illinois Avenue, and two additional concrete paths radiate diagonally from the flat side of the semicircle to the southern corners of the reservation at Upshur Street. Perimeter sidewalks surround the entire reservation.

Perimeter sidewalks were also installed around reservation 312I during the second period of significance. They are present in land file photos from 1928. No other circulation pattern seems to have been designed for this site.

Existing Condition

The radial system of concrete walkways within Grant Circle is still present today, and the current configuration is nearly identical to that of 1926. All of the lateral walkways have been made handicap accessible where they meet the Grant Circle traffic rotary, but this change does not detract from their historic character. The actual concrete is not original to the second period of significance. All of the circle's sidewalks were re-poured during the site's reconstruction in 1997. The new sidewalks retain the original square panel pattern designed by Payne in 1924.

Concrete sidewalks are still present around Reservations 312A and have been made handicapped accessible at the corners. Given their good condition, it is almost certain that the sidewalks at Reservation 312A have been replaced at least once since the close of the period of significance. The current pattern is identical to the original design from 1920.

An entirely new circulation pattern was designed for Reservation 312I following the excavation

of the site in the 1990s. As part of a remediation with the surrounding neighborhood, DC Metro installed a "tot lot" at the reservation, which consists of a small, fenced-in play area, located at the center of the site. Soft foam padding covers a curricular concrete area, where tapered, rectangular panels mimic Payne's original walkway design for Grant Circle. On top of the padding a small slide has been installed. A small, asymmetrically designed seating area is located directly south of the tot lot and diagonal walkways extend from the various recreational areas to the southwest, northeast and northwest corners of the parklet. These walkways match the style of Payne's original concrete grid design for Grant Circle, with each two concrete square panels wide. The reservation is surrounded with similarly gridded perimeter sidewalks.

Analysis
The radial system of concrete walkways within Grant Circle and the sidewalks in and around Reservation 312A date to the second period of significance and contribute to the historic character of the cultural landscape. Since the original concrete has been replaced, these features lack integrity of material but retain a high degree of integrity of location, design, setting and feeling. The circulation pattern at Reservation 312I dates to the 1997 redevelopment of the site. The square paneled walkways and geometric design are compatible with the historic design for Grant Circle, but the site is not a contributing feature.

Character-defining Features:

Feature: Radial concrete sidewalks within and around Grant Circle

Feature Identification Number: 178819

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Latitude Longitude

0.0000000000

Feature: Concrete and fieldstone sidewalks and stairs in and around Reservations 312A

Feature Identification Number: 178821

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Latitude Longitude

0.0000000000

Feature: Concrete sidewalks in and around Reservation 312I

Feature Identification Number: 178823

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Latitude Longitude

0.0000000000

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:

Figure 13: Present circulation system at Grant Circle, Reservation 312, showing interior 10-foot wide circular sidewalk.

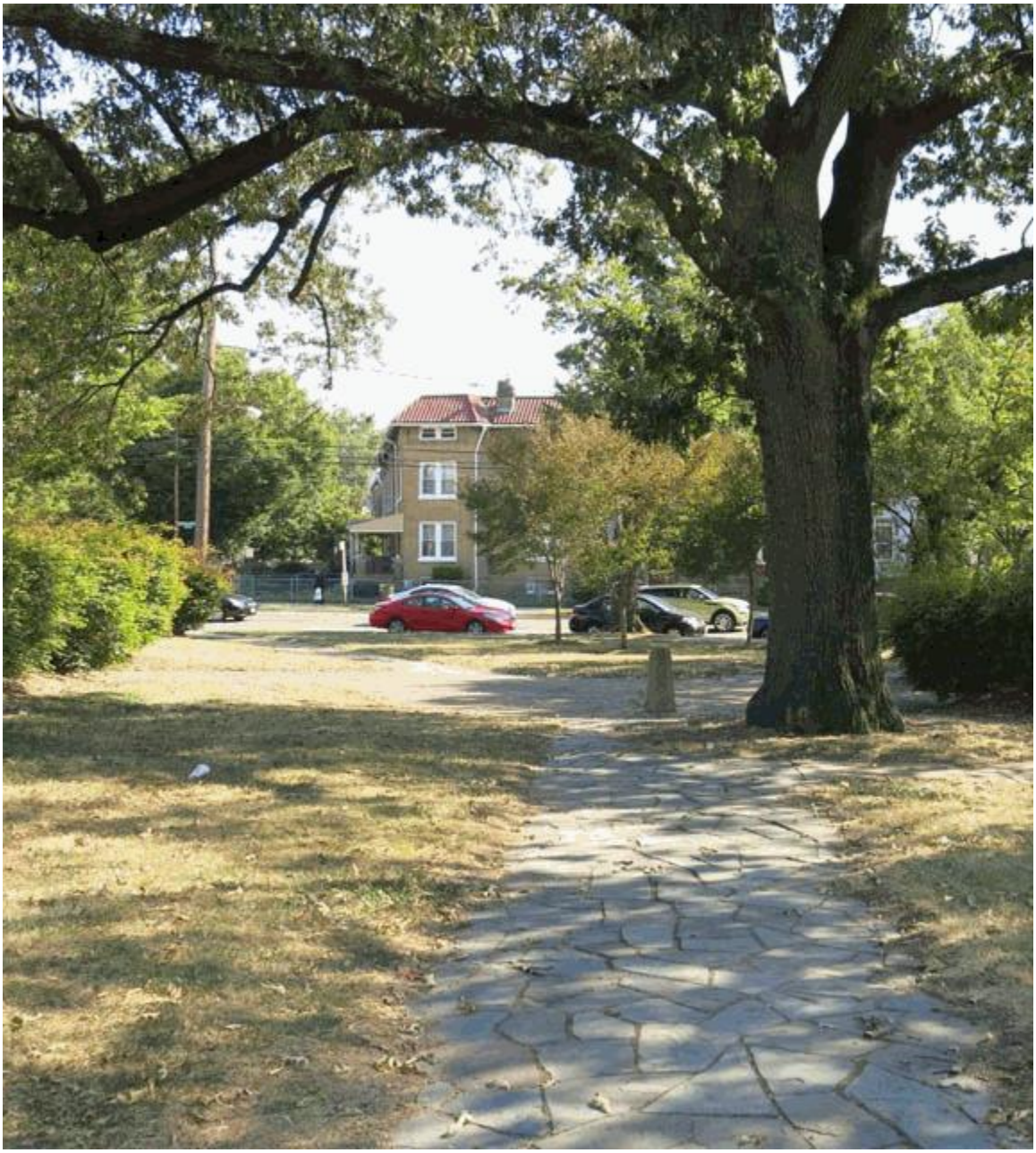


Figure 14: Present circulation system at Reservation 312A, showing fieldstone path.

Views and Vistas

Historic Condition

Views originating from the center of Grant Circle, out to the surrounding streets, were an important element of Payne's design for the site. The organization of the site emphasized the continuation of New Hampshire and Illinois Avenues and Varnum Street, through the circle, with rectangular grass panels matching the size and shape of the streets, meeting at the circle's

center. Rows of elms planted along the rectangular panels and perimeter walkways mimicked the street trees and sidewalks bordering these streets, and further encouraged these views.

Neither Irving Payne's 1921 or 1924 designs for Grant Circle stipulate a treatment for the center of the circle itself. It is therefore unclear whether Payne originally intended to maintain views through the center of the circle. George Burnap, Payne's predecessor at the Office of Building and Public Grounds, promoted the preservation of such views at "passing-through" parks, suggesting they be ornamented with low fountains or flowerbeds. While a central flowerbed was originally planted at the circle, its replacement with a large Himalayan Cedar in 1927 or 1928 effectively obstructed the view through the park, while creating important new views from the outer walkway, traffic circle and surrounding streets toward the large tree at the center of the park.

Existing Condition
All of the historic views designed for the Grant Circle historic landscape are present today. As defined from the center of Grant Circle, they include: northeast along New Hampshire Ave, east along Varnum Street, southeast along Illinois Ave, southwest along New Hampshire Ave, west along Varnum Street and northwest along Illinois Ave. As in the historic period, reciprocal views back toward Grand Circle and its centerpiece Himalayan Cedar function equally as well along each of theses sightlines. Views of the cedar from the surrounding circular walkway, traffic circle and streets and sidewalks have also been maintained.

Analysis
Both the inward and outward-looking views to and from the Grant Circle cultural landscape retain a high degree of integrity to the second period of significance and therefore contribute to the site's historic character. The continued presence of the grass panels, lateral walkways and rows of trees within the circle as well as the Petworth streetscape outside the circle, ensures that both the quality and condition of these views are fundamentally the same as during the period of significance.

Character-defining Features:

Feature: View northeast along New Hampshire Ave from the center of Grant Circle and reciprocal view back to the center of the circle.

Feature Identification Number: 178827

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Latitude	Longitude
0.0000000000	

Feature: View southwest along New Hampshire Ave from the center of Grant Circle and reciprocal view back towards circle.

Feature Identification Number: 178829

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Latitude Longitude

0.0000000000

Feature: View northwest along Illinois Ave from the center of Grant Circle and reciprocal view back toward the circle

Feature Identification Number: 178831

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Latitude Longitude

0.0000000000

Feature: View southeast along Illinois Avenue from the center of Grant Circle and reciprocal view back toward the circle.

Feature Identification Number: 178833

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Latitude Longitude

0.0000000000

Feature: View east along Varnum Street from the center of Grant Circle and reciprocal view back toward the circle

Feature Identification Number: 178835

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Latitude Longitude

0.0000000000

Feature: View west along Varnum Street from the center of Grant Circle and reciprocal view back toward the circle.

Feature Identification Number: 178837

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Latitude Longitude

0.0000000000

Feature: Views of Himalayan Cedar from outer Grant Circle walkway, traffic circle and surrounding streets.

Feature Identification Number: 178839

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Latitude Longitude

0.0000000000

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:

Figure 15: View from exterior of circle towards central Himalayan cedar

Figure 16: View from Grant Circle, Reservation 312 down New Hampshire Avenue NW.

Small Scale Features

Historic Condition

Several small-scale features were installed within the Grant Circle cultural landscape during the second period of significance. These included two types of concrete curbing, one used to delineate the reservations from the street and the other to define the interior grass panels. The former curbing was squared off and angular and matched the type used along streets and

sidewalks throughout DC. The later, interior curbing was quarter-round concrete. This curbing was uses to define the perimeters of the interior planed areas within Grant Circle. Small pyramid-toped concrete blocks break up the interior curbing near each of the grass panels' perimeter corners. These are used to mark the entrance to the circle from the street (need better picture of this). At the center circle, a small bronze plaque set into a low concrete pedestal was installed at an unknown date. The plaque reads:

Grant Circle was named in honor of Ulysses S. Grant (1822-1885)
General-in-Chief of the United States Armies, Secretary of War, and 18th President of the United States. Grant's military successes were instrumental in the surrender of the Confederate States of America at Appomattox Court Hours on April 9, 1865, bringing to an end the American Civil War and the enslavement of the African American people.

One historic drinking fountain was installed in Reservations 312A during the period of significance. It was an octagonal Art Deco-style pedestal fountain, of a type that was installed throughout the National Capital Parks during the 1920s and 30s. The concrete base was undecorated and tapers slightly toward the top. Other historic small-scale features at the site included seven benches (check this) installed during the second period of significance, and three small flights of stairs at the north, east and west sides of the parklet. All three stairways are concrete, the northern one is made up of four steps and the other two are both two steps (get measurements from plans).

Historic photos from 1928 show that curbing was the only small-scale feature present at Reservation 312I during the second period of significance Rectangular curbing matching that of Grant Circle lined the perimeter of the site and interior quarter-round curbing defined the interior grass area.

Existing Condition
Of the small-scale features installed during the historic period, only the curbing at Grant Circle and the historic drinking fountain and stairs at Reservation 312A remain in place today. The curbing at Grant Circle is all replacement; it was reinstalled in 1997 after the Metro excavation of the site. Both types match the original curbing as far as material and location. Additional small-scale features currently on site include six benches, six trashcans, two drinking fountains, twelve street lamps, and park signage, all of which dates to the 1997 restoration of the site. The installation of the Metro substation also required the addition of a large metal grate, 30 by 11 feet, located at the bottom of one of the circle's triangular grass sections, between 5th Street and New Hampshire Avenue. A metal utility box is located next the grate 18 city street lights are located around Grant Circle and also date to the 1997 park restoration.

The small scale features remaining at Reservation 312A are all historic. These include the original concrete drinking fountain and stairways. It is unclear when the benches included in Irving Payne's 1920 design for the parklet were removed, or if they were ever installed. Curbing may be replacement, but matches the original material and location.

Curbing matching the original was reinstalled at Reservation 312I following the excavation and redesign of the site in the 1990s. The rectangular street curbing follows the historic design of the site, but the interior quarter-round curbing was installed according to the new design for the park. Benches, trashcans, fencing, a water fountain and playground equipment was also installed at this time.

Analysis
As the only surviving small-scale features, the square and quarter-round curbs at Grant Circle and drinking fountain, stairways and curbs at reservation 312A, contribute to the historic character of the cultural landscape. Though the Grant Circle curbs were reconstructed with replacement material in 1997, they retain integrity of location, design, setting and feeling. At Reservation 312A it is believed that all small-scale features are all original to the second period of significance. Small-scale features at Reservation 312I date to the 1997 redevelopment of the site by DC Metro, and with the exception of the rectangular concrete curbing along the site's perimeter, are non-contributing.

Character-defining Features:

Feature: Rectangular perimeter curbing around Grant Circle and Reservations 312A and 312I

Feature Identification Number: 178843

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Latitude Longitude

0.0000000000

Feature: Quarter-round curbing around interior grassed areas of Grant Circle

Feature Identification Number: 178845

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Latitude Longitude

0.0000000000

Feature: Concrete drinking fountain at Reservation 312A

Feature Identification Number: 178847

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Latitude Longitude

0.0000000000

Feature: Concrete steps at Reservation 312A

Feature Identification Number: 178849

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Latitude Longitude

0.0000000000

Feature: Trash receptacles at Grant Circle and Reservations 312A and 312I

Feature Identification Number: 178851

Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing

Latitude Longitude

0.0000000000

Feature: Water fountains at Grant Circle and Reservation 312I

Feature Identification Number: 178853

Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing

Latitude Longitude

0.0000000000

Feature: Park signs

Feature Identification Number: 178855

Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing – compatible

Latitude Longitude

0.0000000000

Feature: City Street Lights

Feature Identification Number: 178857

Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing – compatible

Latitude Longitude

0.0000000000

Feature: Utility poles

Feature Identification Number: 178859

Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing

Latitude Longitude

0.0000000000

Feature: Metal fencing at Reservation 312I

Feature Identification Number: 178861

Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing

Latitude Longitude

0.0000000000

Feature: DC Metro grates and utilities

Feature Identification Number: 178863

Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing

Latitude Longitude

0.0000000000

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:

Figure 17: Historic drinking fountain at Reservation 312A

Figure 20: Metro signage (top) and stand pipe, meter and grate (bottom), installed within Grant Circle, Reservation312.

Figure 18: Curbing along interior of Grant Circle, Reservation 312.

Figure 19: Two types of National Park Service signage installed within Grant Circle, Reservation 312.

Figure 21: Commemorative plaque at Grant Circle, Reservation 312.

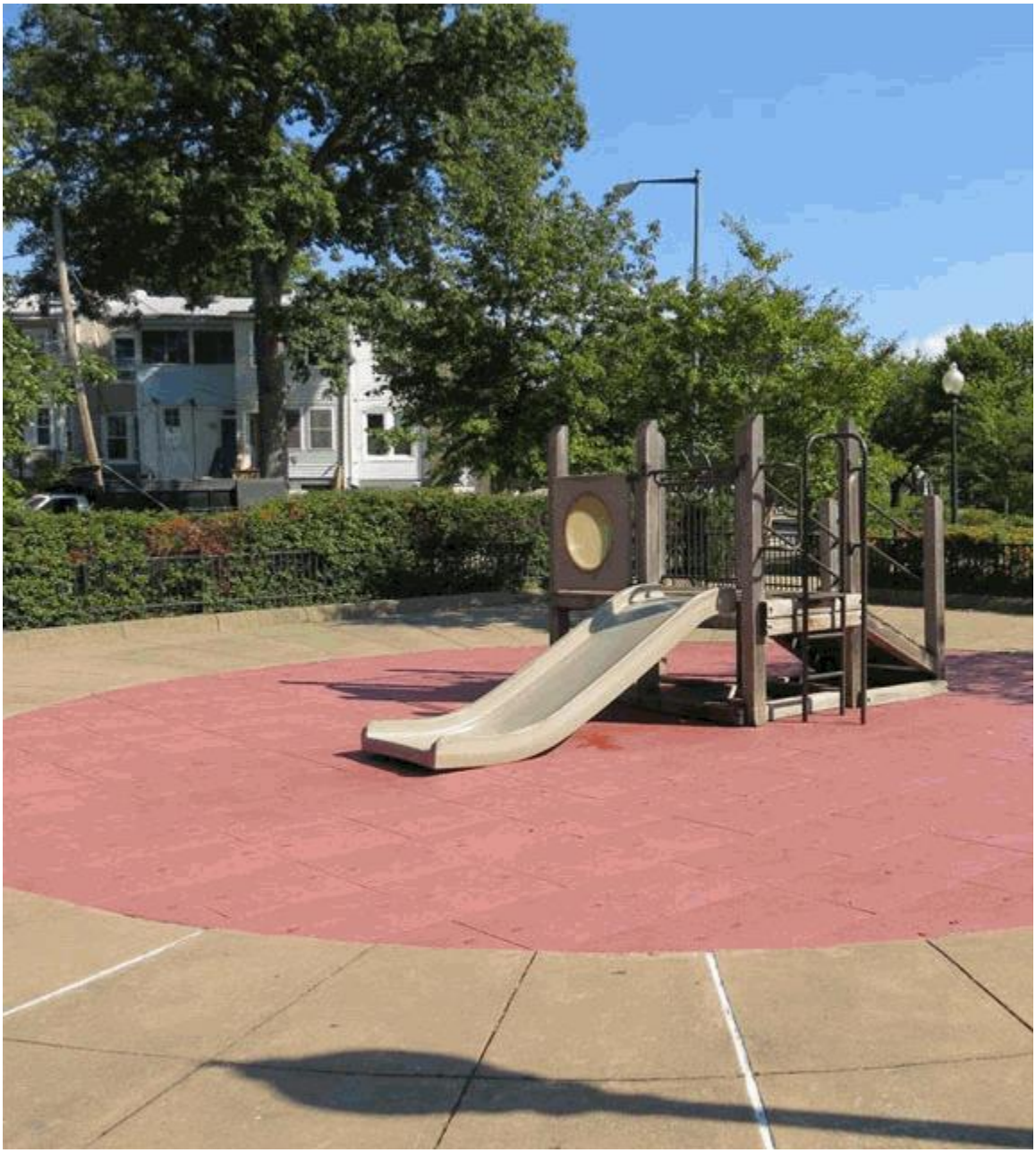


Figure 22: Playground equipment at Reservation 312I.

Condition

Condition Assessment and Impacts

Condition Assessment: Good

Assessment Date: 06/14/2017

Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:

The Grant Circle cultural landscape retains integrity to its periods of significance, 1889 and 1916-1928 and is in overall good condition. 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. Although no immediate corrective action is needed at this time, the following impacts should be addressed in order to ensure that the cultural landscape remains in good condition.

In order to retain a classification of "good," the following actions should be implemented:

-Invasive vegetation should be removed
- Routine monitoring and maintenance should be conducted on the cultural landscape

Impacts

Type of Impact: Adjacent Lands

External or Internal: External

Impact Description: Recent development pressure in the neighborhood surrounding Grant Circle has lead to the demolition if a historically significant homes, including one at 16 Grant Circle.

Type of Impact: Vegetation/Invasive Plants

External or Internal: Internal

Impact Description: The trees and shrubs planted within Grant Circle appear to be in good health, but there is some invasive species growing on top of crabapple shrubs which are in need of removal

Treatment

Bibliography and Supplemental Information

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Year of Publication: 1909
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Year of Publication: 2013
Citation Publisher: National Park Service, Washington, DC

Citation Author: District of Columbia, Engineer Department
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Year of Publication: 1895
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