National Park Service
Cultural Landscapes Inventory
2022



George Mason Memorial

National Mall and Memorial Parks

[Final]

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Introduction

Cultural Landscapes in the Cultural Resources Inventory System:

Cultural Landscapes in the Cultural Resources Inventory System:

CRIS is the National Park Service's database of cultural resources on its lands, consisting of archaeological sites, historic structures, ethnographic resources and cultural landscapes. The set of CRIS records for cultural landscapes is referred to as CRIS-CL. CRIS-CL records conform to a standardized data structure known as the Cultural Landscapes Inventory (CLI).

The legislative, regulatory and policy directions for conducting and maintaining the CRIS are: Section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act, NPS Management Policies (2006), Director's Order 28 (Cultural Resources) and Director's Order 28a (Archeology).

The Cultural Landscapes Inventory (CLI)
The CLI is the data structure within CRIS used to document and evaluate all potentially significant landscapes in which NPS has, or plans to acquire any enforceable legal interest. Each CRIS-CL record is certified complete when the landscape is determined to meet one of the following:

Landscape individually meets the National Register of Historic Places criteria for evaluation; or, Landscape is a contributing element of a property that is eligible for the National Register; or, Landscape does not meet the National Register criteria, but is managed as cultural resources because law, policy or decisions reached through the park planning process.

Cultural landscapes vary from historic sites, historic designed landscapes, historic vernacular landscapes to historic ethnographic landscapes, but may also fit within more than one type. Those eligible for the National Register have significance in the nation's history on a national, state or local level, as well as integrity or authenticity.

The legislative, regulatory and policy directions for conducting and maintaining the CLI within CRIS are: *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 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…

Executive Order 13287: Preserve America, 2003. Sec. 3(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.

General Information

Cultural Landscape Inventory Name	***George Mason Memorial***
Cultural Landscape Inventory Number	***976123***
Parent Cultural Landscape Inventory Name	***West Potomac Park***
Parent Cultural Landscape Inventory Number	***600007***
Park Name	***National Mall and Memorial Parks***
Park Alpha Code	***NAMA***
Park Org Code	***3408***
Property Level	***Component Landscape***

Landscape Description

The George Mason Memorial is a designed landscape located in West Potomac Park (Reservation 332) within the National Mall and Memorial Parks (NAMA) in Washington, DC. Situated in the southern part of West Potomac Park, nearby park development includes the Tidal Basin, Inlet Bridge, and the Thomas Jefferson Memorial. The Potomac River, located a short distance from the memorial, remains an important natural feature that defines the limits of park development on its western extent. While the majority of commemorative development associated with West Potomac Park is located to the north and west of the Tidal Basin, the George Mason Memorial and Thomas Jefferson Memorial serve to anchor the southern extent of the park.

The majority of the 3.68-acre George Mason Memorial cultural landscape sits at approximately eight to ten feet of elevation and is characterized by a designed garden and commemorative memorial landscape. Constructed on reclaimed tidal flats, the boundaries of the George Mason Memorial are defined by the George Mason Memorial Bridge on the south, by Ohio Drive SW on the west and by East Basin Drive SW on the north. Historic Fountain No. 4 (also identified as Number 4 Fountain) is located at the center of the cultural landscape and is surrounded by circular planting beds, while a memorial to George Mason occupies the eastern extent of the garden. Landscape improvements were first undertaken to the reclaimed tidal flats in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries and included the construction of Fountain No. 4 in 1905. Subsequent improvements were made in the late 1920s when the site was rehabilitated by the Office of Public Buildings and Public Parks of the National Capital into the pansy garden. Later, under the auspices of Lady Bird Johnson's Beautification program, planting plans were prepared

for the garden in an effort to enhance and reinvigorate the locale. In 2002, the George Mason Memorial was incorporated into the garden design. Modifications to the site included the addition of a columned garden trellis, stone benches, stone inscription walls, and a sculpture of George Mason as well as many other landscape improvements that were designed to be compatible with the historic character of the site. Most recently, in 2019, the George Mason Memorial was rehabilitated through a partnership between the NPS and the Trust for the National Mall.

The George Mason Memorial is a contributing site located within the boundaries of the 692.45-acre National Mall Historic District. The National Mall was administratively listed to the National Register of Historic Places in 1966 with preparation of a nomination to follow in 1981. The most recent National Register nomination for the National Mall Historic District was modified to include a boundary increase/additional documentation, which was signed by the Keeper on November 29, 2016. Fountain No. 4 was identified as a contributing object in the East and West Potomac Parks Historic District National Register nomination in 2001. The George Mason Memorial site is also located within Area I of the monumental core of the city of Washington, DC. In 1986, the Commemorative Works Act designated two areas of federal lands in Washington, DC, considered appropriate for memorials. Construction of the George Mason Memorial within Area I was authorized in 1992 through passage of H.J. Res. 402 (assigned Public Law No. 102-277), which was signed by President George H. W. Bush. Upon enactment of the joint resolution, authority was granted to construct a memorial to George Mason in Area I without further legislation.

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY

The George Mason Memorial cultural landscape is significant under Criterion A for its association with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of history, Criterion C embodying the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, and under Criteria Consideration F as a commemorative property and Criteria Consideration G as a property less than fifty years old. Under Criterion A, the period of significance begins in 1791 and extends to 2002 and is significant in the areas of politics/government and entertainment/recreation. Under Criterion C the period of significance begins in 1791 and extends

to 1965 for its significance in the areas of landscape architecture, engineering, and community planning and development. Criteria Consideration F and G have been applied to capture the commemorative significance of the George Mason Memorial, completed in 2002. See the statement of significance below for additional detail regarding applicable criteria for evaluation.

ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION SUMMARY AND CONDITION

Several landscape characteristics help to convey the historic character of the site, including natural systems and features, spatial organization, vegetation, circulation, small-scale features, buildings and structures, constructed water features, and views and vistas. Numerous features associated with the above-mentioned landscape characteristics contribute to the feeling and association of the property. Furthermore, the rich history that has defined and shaped the site are displayed through several structures including Fountain No. 4 as well as contemporary commemorative features associated with the George Mason Memorial. Other landscape features including radial paths around the fountain, existing mature canopy trees around the perimeter of the garden, and the configuration of the planting beds and associated hedges remain as character-defining features. Ultimately, the location, design, materials, and workmanship of these structures and associated landscape features convey the character of the George Mason Memorial site as it appeared during the periods of significance. While aspects of the setting, feeling, and association of the cultural landscape have been compromised as a result of encroaching development, they continue to convey the overall historic character of the designed landscape. Today, as a result of a 2019 rehabilitation effort, the George Mason Memorial cultural landscape remains in good condition.

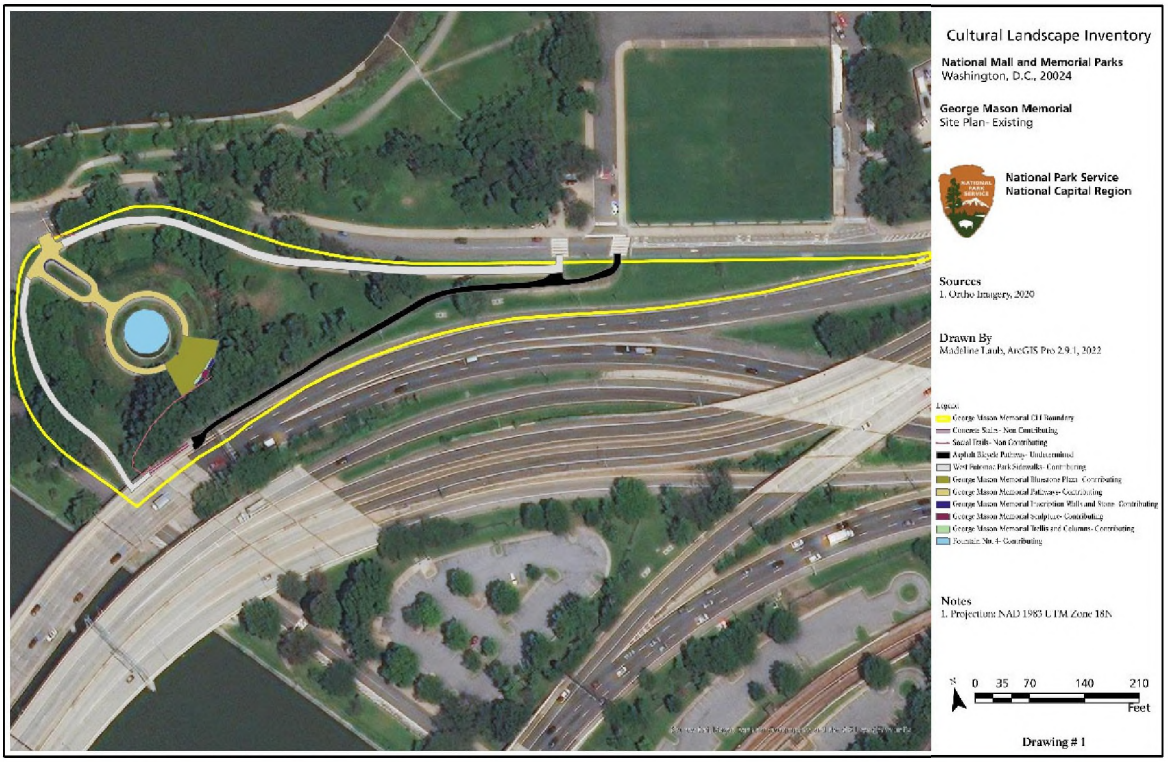
Landscape Hierarchy Description

The George Mason Memorial is a component landscape located within the West Potomac Park parent landscape.

Landscape Type

Historic Designed Landscape

Site Plan



Drawing: 1. Site plan showing the cultural landscape associated with the George Mason Memorial. See the supplemental information section at the end of the CLI for a larger version of the site plan (NCR, Cultural Landscapes Program, 2022).

Other Names

Name	Type
George Mason Memorial	Current
Pansy Beds	Historic
Pansy Garden	Historic
Fountain No. 4	Historic
No. 4 Fountain	Historic
Potomac Park	Historic
West Potomac Park	Both Current and Historic
Reservation 332	Both Current and Historic

Concurrence Information

Park Superintendent Concurrence

Yes

Park Superintendent Concurrence Date

8/30/2022

United States Department of the Interior

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

IN REPLY REFER TO:
1.B. (NCR-RESS)

August 30, 2022

Memorandum:

To: Cultural Landscapes Inventory Coordinator, National Capital Region

From: Superintendent, National Mall and Memorial Parks

Subject: Statement of Concurrence, George Mason Memorial

I, Jeffrey Reinbold, Superintendent of National Mall and Memorial Parks, concur with the findings of the George Mason Memorial Cultural Landscapes Inventory, including the following specific components:

PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE:	The George Mason Memorial cultural landscape retains integrity to the following periods of significance: 1791-2002 and 1791-1965
INTEGRITY:	The landscape displays the seven aspects of integrity (location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association) as defined by the National Register of Historic Places
MANAGEMENT CATEGORY:	Must be Preserved and Maintained
CONDITION ASSESSMENT:	Good

The Cultural Landscapes Inventory for the George Mason Memorial is hereby approved and accepted.

JEFFREY REINBOLD
Digitally signed by JEFFREY REINBOLD
Date: 2022.08.30 17:36:24 -04'00'

Superintendent, National Mall and Memorial Parks — Date

INTERIOR REGION 1 • NORTH ATLANTIC-APPALACHIAN
CONNECTICUT, DELAWARE, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, KENTUCKY, MAINE, MARYLAND, MASSACHUSETTS, NEW HAMPSHIRE, NEW JERSEY, NEW YORK, PENNSYLVANIA, RHODE ISLAND, VERMONT, VIRGINIA, WEST VIRGINIA

HPO Concurrence

Yes

HPO Concurrence Date

8/26/2022

Statement of Concurrence
George Mason Memorial Cultural Landscapes Inventory

The preparation of this Cultural Landscapes Inventory for the George Mason Memorial 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 D.C. Historic Preservation Office (DC HPO) concurs with the findings of the George Mason Memorial Cultural Landscapes Inventory. The D.C. HPO further concurs that the cultural landscape resources of the George Mason Memorial, as enumerated, retain integrity to the site's periods of significance (1791-2002 and 1791-1965) and contribute to its historic character.

David Maloney
District of Columbia Historic Preservation Officer

8/26/2022
Date

Please email signed PDF copy to Cortney Gjesfjeld, National Capital Region Cultural Landscapes Inventory Coordinator at cortney_c_gjesfjeld@nps.gov.

Completion Status Explanatory Narrative

The George Mason Memorial CLI was authored by Cortney Cain Gjesfjeld, NCR Cultural Landscapes Inventory Coordinator, National Capital Region, National Park Service. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, in-person research was limited to a select number of locations that were open to researchers. Primary and secondary source material from the National Park Service and from digital collections (supported by local repositories) was largely utilized to complete the CLI and is listed in the bibliography. In-person research was conducted at the landscape architecture firm of Rhodeside Harwell (RHI) in Alexandria, Virginia, and the NPS Museum Resource Center (MRCE). Editorial assistance was provided by: Catherine Dewey, Chief, Resource Management, National Mall and Memorial Parks; Caridad de la Vega, Cultural Resource Program Manager, National Mall and Memorial Parks, National Park Service; Julie

McGilvray Preservation Services Program Manager, National Capital Region, National Park Service and Angelina R. Jones, Cultural Landscape Architect, National Capital Region, National Park Service. GIS assistance and mapping was provided by Madeline Laub, Cultural Resource Data Manager, National Capital Region, National Park Service. Fieldwork assistance was also provided by Angelina R. Jones and Madeline Laub.

The CLI will be considered "Complete" once it has received park and District of Columbia Historic Preservation Office concurrence.

Geographic Information

Area (Acres)

3.68 acres

Boundary Description

The George Mason Memorial cultural landscape is located on National Park Service lands within West Potomac Park (Reservation 332) and is situated south of the Tidal Basin and east of the Inlet Bridge. Constructed on reclaimed tidal flats, the boundaries of the 3.68-acre George Mason Memorial are defined by the George Mason Memorial Bridge on the south, by Ohio Drive SW on the west and by East Basin Drive SW on the north. Development of the teardrop shaped cultural landscape is concentrated at its western extent and includes Fountain No. 4, the George Mason sculpture, a columned trellis structure, stone benches, stone inscription walls, and various landscape improvements including planting beds and pedestrian circulation features.

Latitude/Longitude

Geometry	Latitude	Longitude	GeoDatum	Elevation (Meters)	Position Source	Position Accuracy
Point	38.879858	-77.03566	1983 North American Datum		GIS	
Point	38.879839	-77.037213	1983 North American		GIS	
Point	38.879857	-77.038211	1983 North American		GIS	

Point	38.879983	-77.038836	1983 North American		GIS	
Point	38.880053	-77.039235	1983 North American		GIS	
Point	38.879898	-77.039715	1983 North American		GIS	
Point	38.879622	-77.039796	1983 North American		GIS	
Point	38.879344	-77.039737	1983 North American		GIS	
Point	38.878997	-77.039252	1983 North American		GIS	
Point	38.879256	-77.038789	1983 North American		GIS	
Point	38.879475	-77.038307	1983 North American		GIS	
Point	38.879611	-77.037763	1983 North American		GIS	
Point	38.879643	-77.037534	1983 North American		GIS	
Point	38.879657	-77.037227	1983 North American		GIS	
Point	38.879698	-77.03664	1983 North American		GIS	

Regional Landscape Contexts and Narratives

Physiographic (Required)

The large scale physical forms and patterns of the landscape such as hill, plateau, ravine, etc.

Washington, DC, is situated within the Fall Line, which is the boundary that separates the Piedmont Physiographic Province on the northwest from the area known as the Coastal Plain Province on the southwest (USGS 1964, 6). The area is characterized by moderate relief with the highest point, measuring 518 feet at Tysons Crossroad, while the lowest is at sea level at the

Chain Bridge and locations downstream. The area is drained by the Potomac River along with its tributaries including the Anacostia River and Rock Creek in the north (USGS 1964, 6).

The George Mason Memorial is located on reclaimed lands that were formerly part of the Potomac Flats before large-scale reclamation efforts were undertaken in the locale between the 1880s and early 1900s. Situated south of the Tidal Basin and east of the Potomac River, the majority of the cultural landscape sits at approximately eight to ten feet of elevation. The site flooded in March 1936 and the pansy garden was destroyed due to damage incurred by one of the highest floods to ever hit Washington, DC. Today, the George Mason Memorial is vulnerable to flooding as a result of the effects of climate change and deferred maintenance associated with the seawalls along the Tidal Basin and the Potomac River.

Cultural (Required)

The general human overlay on the physical form on the landscape.

Located within West Potomac Park under the jurisdiction of the National Mall and Memorial Parks in the District of Columbia, the George Mason Memorial has a long history of use and development. Improvement of the locale was first undertaken in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries through reclamation efforts. Construction of Potomac Park was initiated shortly after the turn of the twentieth century. By 1905, Fountain No. 4 had been constructed in proximity to a nursery that was established to support efforts under the Office of Public Buildings and Grounds (OPBG). In the late 1920s, the garden associated with Fountain No. 4 was formally established as a series of pansy beds, which served as a popular visitor attraction near the Tidal Basin, especially during peak cherry bloom. In the late 1960s, the site was improved as part of Lady Bird Johnson's Beautification Program. In the decades that followed the site was selected for establishment of the George Mason Memorial, which was dedicated in 2002.

On April 28, 1992, H.J. Res. 402 (assigned Public Law No. 102-277), was signed by President George H. W. Bush. Upon enactment of the joint resolution, authority was granted to construct a memorial to George Mason in Area I without further legislation. Ultimately, the memorial was dedicated on April 9, 2002, in West Potomac Park. Mason was the author of the Virginia

Declaration of Rights, which influenced Thomas Jefferson while drafting the Declaration of Independence. In 1787, Mason served as a delegate to the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia. Notably, Mason withheld his signature from the US Constitution because it did not abolish the slave trade and also did not afford protections for the individual from the federal government (National Park Service, George Mason Memorial - National Mall and Memorial Parks (US National Park Service) (nps.gov). Despite Mason's role in authoring the Virginia Declaration of Rights, Mason enslaved approximately one hundred Black people, many of whom lived on his plantation near the Potomac River on Mason Neck, Virginia. Mason's son, John, also owned a plantation on Theodore Roosevelt Island (formerly known as 'Analostan' and 'Mason's Island') in the early nineteenth century.

While one cannot dispute George Mason's significant contributions to our country, the George Mason Memorial does not adequately contextualize the contradictions. Additional interpretation should be provided onsite to provide visitors with diverse and inclusive perspectives. See the Gunston Hall website: Mason & Slavery - George Mason's Gunston Hall for more information about the enslaved people at Gunston Hall, George Mason's views toward slavery and the George Mason University Student Project: "The Enslaved Children of George Mason".

Political (Required)

The overlay imposed on the landscape through general land use, zoning, legal restrictions, transportation, utilities, population, and political jurisdiction (e.g., state, county, city borough, or villages)

The George Mason Memorial is located on federal lands within West Potomac Park (Reservation 332) in Washington, DC. In 1986, Congress passed the Commemorative Works Act (40 US C., Chapter 89) to govern all monuments and memorials on federal lands in the District of Columbia and its environs under the jurisdiction of either the National Park Service or General Services Administration. Section 8901 outlined the purposes of the chapter, which included the following:

(1) to preserve the integrity of the comprehensive design of the L'Enfant and McMillan plans for the Nation's Capital;

(2) to ensure the continued public use and enjoyment of open space in the District of Columbia and its environs, and to encourage the location of commemorative works within the urban fabric of the District of Columbia;

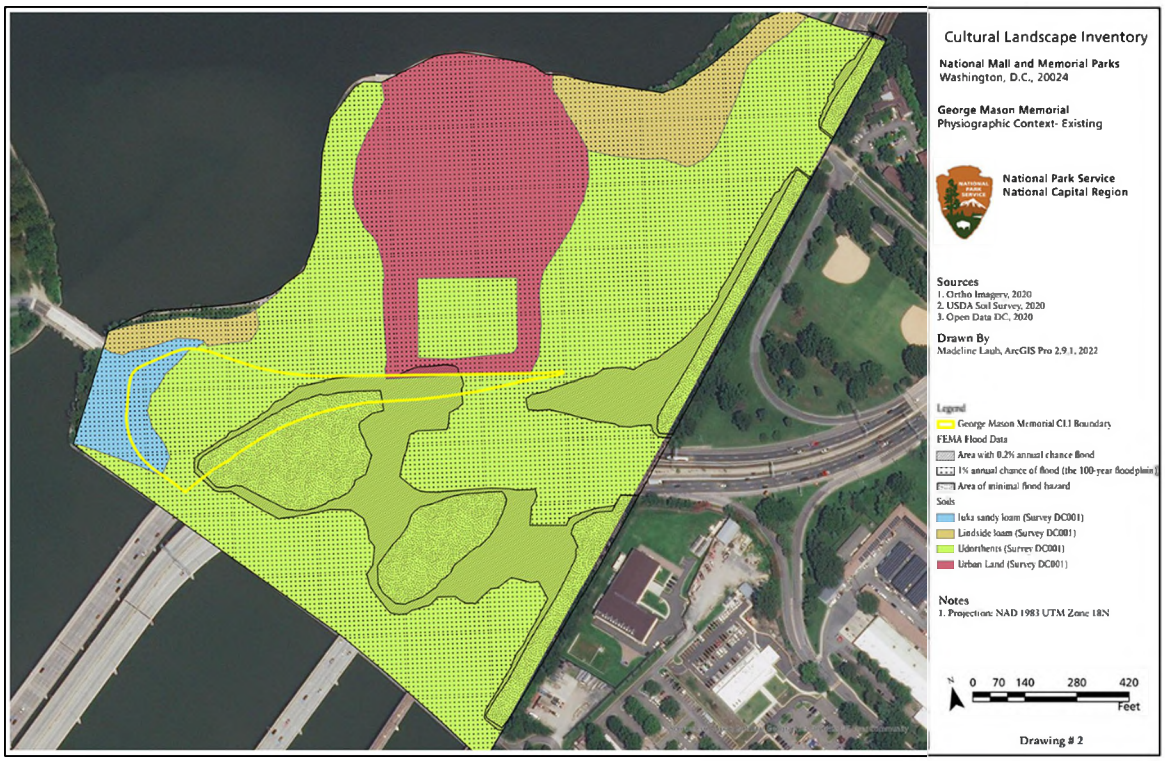
(3) to preserve, protect and maintain the limited amount of open space available to residents of, and visitors to, the Nation's Capital; and

(4) to ensure that future commemorative works in areas administered by the National Park Service and the Administrator of General Services in the District of Columbia and its environs--

(A) are appropriately designed, constructed, and located; and

(B) reflect a consensus of the lasting national significance of the subjects involved.

The Commemorative Works Clarification and Revision Act of 2003 established three areas, rather than two to include the Reserve, Area I, and Area II. The "Reserve" refers to the great cross-axis of the Mall, which generally extends from the United States Capitol to the Lincoln Memorial, and from the White House to the Thomas Jefferson Memorial, as depicted on the map provided below. The George Mason Memorial is located in Area I adjacent to the Reserve. See Figure 1 for additional information.



Drawing: 2. Map showing the physiographic context associated with the George Mason Memorial cultural landscape. See the supplemental information section at the end of the CLI for a larger version of the map (NCR, Cultural Landscapes Program, 2022).



Drawing: 3. Map showing the cultural and political context associated with the George Mason Memorial cultural landscape. See the supplemental information section at the end of the CLI for a larger version of the map (NCR, Cultural Landscapes Program, 2022).

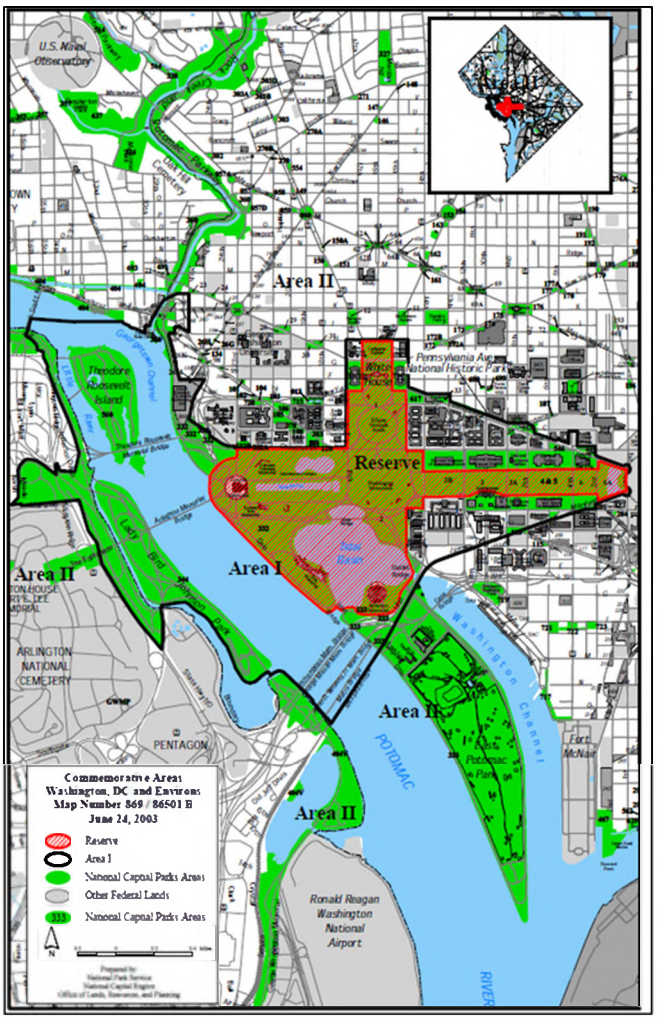
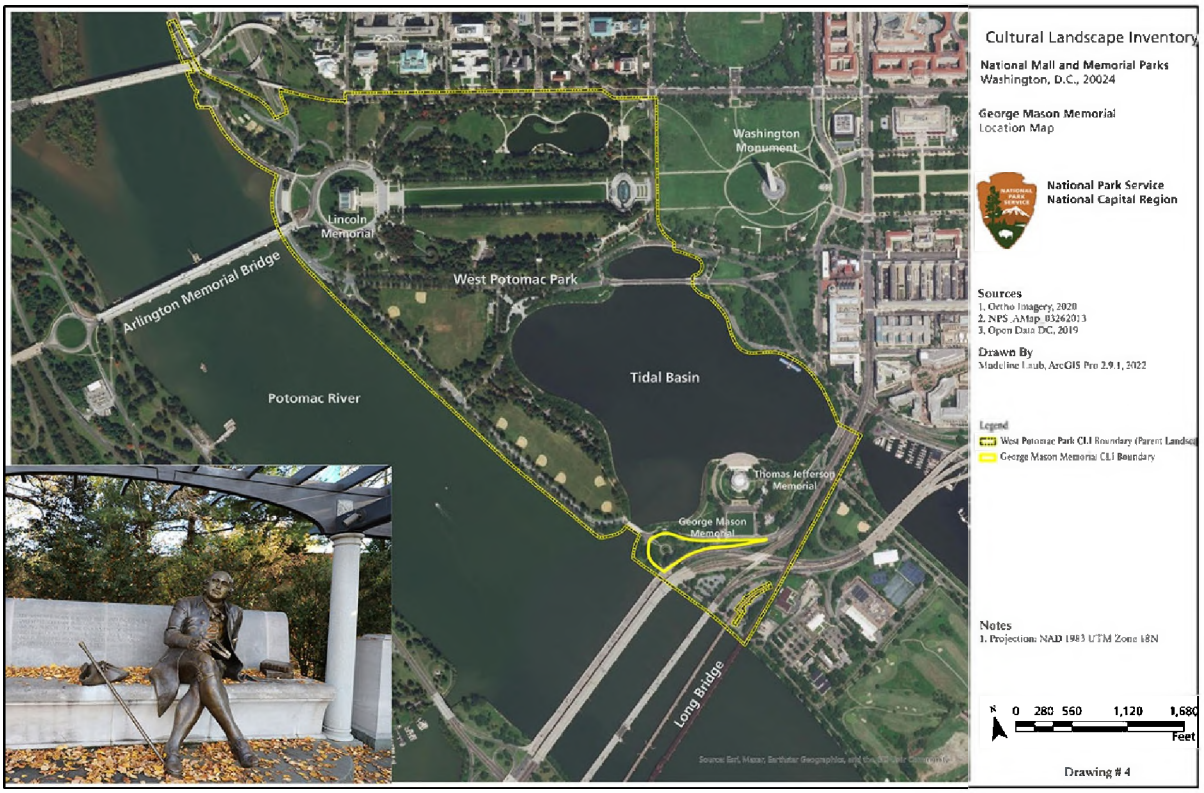


Figure: 1. The George Mason Memorial is located in Area I as identified by the black line in the Commemorative Areas Washington, DC, and Environs Map Number 869/86501 B June 24, 2003. Areas identified by the red hatched lines are located within the Reserve.

Location Map Graphic Information



Drawing: 4. The George Mason Memorial cultural landscape (outlined in yellow) is located south of the Tidal Basin in West Potomac Park in Washington, DC (NCR, Cultural Landscapes Program, 2022).

State and County

State (Required)

District of Columbia

County (Required)

Washington

Management Information

Management Category

Must be Preserved and Maintained

Management Category Date

08/30/2022

Management Category Explanatory Narrative

The George Mason Memorial meets criteria for Management Category A – Must be Preserved and Maintained. Establishment of the inventory unit was specifically legislated through Public Law 101-358, which authorized construction of a memorial to George Mason on Federal land by the Board of Regents of Gunston Hall. Moreover, on April 28, 1992, H.J. Res. 402 (assigned Public Law No. 102-277), was signed by President George H. W. Bush. Upon enactment of the joint resolution, authority was granted to construct a memorial to George Mason in Area I without further legislation. Finally, an Act (Public Law 105-182) was signed by Congress on June 19, 1998, to extend the legislative authority for the Board of Regents of Gunston Hall to establish a memorial to honor George Mason in the District of Columbia.

Management Agreements

Management Agreement	Other Management Agreement	Management Agreement Expiration Date	Management Agreement Explanatory Narrative
None			There are no known management agreements associated with the George Mason Memorial.

Legal Interests

Legal Interest Type	Fee Simple Reservation Expiration Date	Other Organization/Agency	Legal Interest Narrative
Fee Simple		None	The National Park Service owns and administers the George Mason Memorial, which is located in West Potomac Park (Reservation 332) under jurisdiction of National Mall and Memorial Parks (NAMA).

Adjacent Lands Information

Do Adjacent Lands Contribute? (Required)

Yes – Adjacent lands do contribute

Narrative (Required)

Adjacent lands are lands located outside of the boundaries of the park.

The Potomac River contributes to the historic character and setting of the George Mason Memorial cultural landscape.

Located in managed wilderness?

(including designated, recommended, proposed, eligible or potential wilderness.)

No

Uses Information

Functions and Uses

Major Category	Category	Use/Function	Historic Use	Current Use	Primary Use
Recreation/Culture	Outdoor Recreation	Outdoor Recreation--Other	Yes	Yes	Yes
Landscape	Leisure-Passive (Park)		Yes	Yes	Yes
Recreation/Culture	Outdoor Sculpture (Statuary)		No	Yes	No
Landscape	Fountain		Yes	Yes	No

Public Access

Unrestricted

Public Access Narrative (O—4000 characters)

Access to the George Mason Memorial is unrestricted. The public may visit sites associated with the National Mall and Memorial Parks twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week.

Associated Ethnographic Groups

Ethnographic Study Status (Optional)

No survey conducted

Ethnographic Narrative (O—4000 characters)

While no survey has been conducted for the George Mason Memorial or the larger West Potomac Park, see the "Ethnographic Resource Study: Subsistence Fishing on the Potomac and Anacostia Rivers" (2020) prepared by Shirley J. Fiske, PhD and Don Callaway, PhD under a cooperative agreement between the University of Maryland, Department of Anthropology, the National Park Service, National Capital Region, Cultural Anthropology Program in conjunction with the Chesapeake Watershed Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit, #P11AC30805 for an ethnohistorical context of fishing communities on the Potomac and Anacostia Rivers.

National Register Information

Documentation Status

Entered – Inadequately Documented

Documentation Narrative Description

The George Mason Memorial is located within two primary National Register-listed historic districts:

National Mall Historic District – Boundary Increase/Additional Documentation (NRIS# 16000805)
East and West Potomac Parks Historic District (NRIS # 73000217)

The primary certification date associated with the National Mall Historic District – Boundary Increase/Additional Documentation (NRIS# 16000805) is November 29, 2016. As a result of the passage of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), the National Mall was administratively listed to the National Register of Historic Places on October 15, 1966 (NRIS # 66000031). Additional documentation was completed for the National Mall and signed by the Keeper on May 19, 1981. The National Mall Historic District is nationally significant under Criterion A in the areas of entertainment/recreation, ethnic heritage (Black), politics/government, education, and social history. It is also locally significant in the area of entertainment/recreation. The period of significance for Criterion A has been designated as 1791 to the present. Additionally, the historic district is nationally significant under Criterion C in the areas of architecture, art, community planning and development, engineering, and landscape architecture. The period of significance for Criterion C begins in 1791 and ends in 1965. Finally, the National Mall Historic District is locally significant under Criterion D with the period of significance extending from 1791 to 1965.

The primary certification date associated with the East and West Potomac Parks Historic District (NRIS # 73000217) is September 18, 2001. Previous documentation was completed and signed by the Keeper on November 30, 1973. The historic district is nationally significant under Criteria A and C in the areas of architecture, art, engineering, entertainment/recreation, landscape architecture, politics/government, social history, transportation, other (city planning), and other

(commemoration). It is also significant under Criteria Considerations B, F, and G, while the period of significance begins in 1882 and extends to 1997.

Other National Register documentation that may provide additional context includes:
L'Enfant Plan of the City of Washington, District of Columbia (NRIS # 97000332)
Thomas Jefferson Memorial (NRIS# 66000029)

Concurrence Eligibility

Eligible – SHPO Consensus Determination

Date (Required)

08/26/2022

Narrative (Required)

The District of Columbia Historic Preservation Officer concurred with the findings of the George Mason Memorial CLI on August 26, 2022.

National Register Significance Level

National

Local

National Register Significance -- Contributing/Individual

Contributing

National Register Classification

Site

Statement of Significance

The following narrative was adapted from the 2016 National Mall Historic District National Register nomination (2016) to articulate the significance of the George Mason Memorial cultural landscape within the context of the National Mall and West Potomac Park.

The 3.68-acre George Mason Memorial cultural landscape is owned by the National Park Service and located in West Potomac Park (Reservation 332), which is administered by the National Mall and Memorial Parks. Constructed on reclaimed tidal flats, the memorial is characterized by a designed garden and commemorative landscape located within Area I of the monumental core of Washington, DC. In 1986, the Commemorative Works Act designated two areas of federal lands in Washington, DC, considered appropriate for memorials. Construction of the George Mason Memorial within Area I was authorized in 1992 through passage of H.J. Res. 402 (assigned Public Law No. 102-277) that was signed by President George H. W. Bush. Upon enactment of the joint resolution, authority was granted to construct a memorial to George Mason in Area I without further legislation. In 2002, the George Mason Memorial was dedicated in West Potomac Park. The following year, in 2003, the Commemorative Works Clarification and Revision Act of 2003 established three areas, rather than two to include the Reserve, Area I, and Area II.

Landscape improvements were first undertaken at the future location of the George Mason Memorial in the early twentieth century by the Office of Public Buildings and Grounds and included the construction of Fountain No. 4 in 1905. Subsequent improvements were made in the late 1920s when the site was rehabilitated into a pansy garden under the auspices of the Public Buildings and Public Parks of the National Capital. Later, as a result of Lady Bird Johnson's Beautification program, planting plans were prepared for the garden in an effort to enhance and reinvigorate the locale. In 2002, the George Mason Memorial was incorporated into the garden design. Modifications to the site included the addition of a columned garden trellis and sculpture of George Mason as well as many other small-scale landscape improvements that were designed to be compatible with the historic character of the site. Most recently, in 2019, the George Mason Memorial was rehabilitated through a partnership between the NPS and the Trust for the National Mall.

The George Mason Memorial is a contributing site located within the boundaries of the 692.45-acre National Mall Historic District, which was signed by the Keeper on November 29, 2016. Fountain No. 4 was identified as a contributing object in the nomination. The George Mason Memorial site is also located within the National Register boundaries of the East and West Potomac Parks Historic District. The National Mall Historic District is nationally significant under Criterion A in the areas of entertainment/recreation, ethnic heritage (Black), politics/government, education, and social history. It is also locally significant in the area of entertainment/recreation. The period of significance for Criterion A has been designated as 1791 to the present. Additionally, The historic district is nationally significant under Criterion C in the areas of architecture, art, community planning and development, engineering, and landscape architecture. The period of significance for Criterion C begins in 1791 and ends in 1965. Finally, the National Mall Historic District is locally significant under Criterion D with the period of significance extending from 1791 to 1965.

This effort utilizes the existing framework established by the National Mall Historic District, while adapting the narrative to reflect the significance of the George Mason Memorial cultural landscape. The George Mason Memorial is significant under Criterion A for its association with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of history as well as under Criterion C, embodying the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction. Moreover, it is also significant under Criteria Consideration F as a commemorative property and Criteria Consideration G as a property less than fifty years old. Under Criterion A, the period of significance begins in 1791 with completion of the L'Enfant Plan, which provided the symbolic placement of the executive and legislative branches of government along axes that intersected at a proposed memorial to George Washington, and extends to 2002. Under Criterion C, the period of significance begins in 1791 and extends to 1965 to incorporate early landscape improvements to the site that were undertaken as a result of the creation of Potomac Park and subsequent development around Fountain No. 4. The George Mason Memorial is also significant under Criteria Consideration F as a commemorative property constructed within the monumental core and under Criteria Consideration G as a property less than fifty years old. Areas of significance include politics/government, entertainment/recreation (Criterion A) and landscape architecture, engineering, and community planning and development (Criterion C).

It should be noted that based on the overall 2016 National Mall Historic District framework described above, the application of two periods of significance associated with the evaluation of resources resulted in some built features that satisfy Criterion A, due to their significance as the nation's foremost memorial to an individual or event or museum devoted to a people or a subject, and Criterion C, due to their age and scholarly consensus on their artistic merits. The Lincoln Memorial is one such National Mall feature. Other similar types of resources, however, are significant only under Criterion A because they are less than fifty years old and a consensus on their aesthetic importance has not been formed. Examples of this scenario include the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial in West Potomac Park, completed in 1997, and the George Mason Memorial, completed in 2002. Further scholarship is warranted to justify exceptional design significance for resources that post-date 1965.

CRITERION A

The National Mall Historic District including West Potomac Park and the George Mason Memorial site is nationally significant under Criterion A in the areas of politics/government. According to the National Mall Historic District National Register nomination, in 1791, President George Washington selected the site of the nation's capital, as well as Maj. Peter (Pierre) Charles L'Enfant to plan the new city. Washington and Congress approved L'Enfant's plan for the location of the executive and legislative branches of the United States government, as well as the green space and proposed sculpture to Washington that connected the two, by the end of the year. This placement of the seats of the legislative and executive branches of government, connected physically and visually through open space and a memorial to Washington, has formed the symbolic core of American government ever since. The National Mall has thus come to represent the separation of powers that defines American democracy, while also symbolizing the necessary interaction between the branches within the context of the great political leaders and events of the nation's past, which are represented in the memorials and monuments that comprise the National Mall's landscape.

The National Mall Historic District including West Potomac Park and the George Mason Memorial site is significant at both the national and local levels for its association with entertainment/recreation. At the national level, the site is significant as a result of its use for memorial visitation, a trend that began in the middle of the nineteenth century as part of a movement aimed at advancing the physical and mental health of Americans, which continues today as visitors engage with memorials in West

Potomac Park including the George Mason Memorial. Additionally, the site is significant at the local level for its association with the long tradition of recreational use within the area. In 1897, Congress designated 621 acres of reclaimed tidal flats as well as 118 acres of the Tidal Basin as "Potomac Park" (including what is now West Potomac Park) for recreational purposes. The lands were improved to encourage both passive and active recreation, through construction of recreational fields, polo fields, swimming beaches, and gardens. Today, the George Mason Memorial remains as an important recreational space for the citizens of the District of Columbia as well as tourists alike.

CRITERION C

The National Mall Historic District including West Potomac Park and the George Mason Memorial site are nationally significant in the area of community planning and development for its embodiment of two influential American planning philosophies. L'Enfant's 1791 plan for the capital of the United States is the most comprehensive example of a Baroque city plan in the United States, reconciling symbolic and practical considerations in the system of radial avenues and orthogonal streets, the great cross axis of the public space, the reservation of park land such as West Potomac Park, the location of major buildings, and the canal between the Potomac River and its Eastern Branch. Looking at some of the same models that influenced L'Enfant, the members of the Senate Park (McMillan) Commission reimagined L'Enfant's plan to incorporate the order, hierarchy, and formality of the American City Beautiful movement. The subsequent adaptation and implementation of the McMillan Plan by the US Commission of Fine Arts, the National Capital Park and Planning Commission, and the National Park Service has created the best preserved example of City Beautiful planning in the country, which remains influential to the present day.

In addition, the National Mall Historic District including West Potomac Park and the George Mason Memorial site are nationally significant under Criterion C in the area of engineering for its association with the construction of Potomac Park (later known as East and West Potomac Parks) by the US Army Corps of Engineers. Built on lands that were reclaimed from the Potomac River through a dredging operation that started in 1882 and lasted thirty years, the work included construction of extensive seawalls to maintain the new landform. Establishment of the parkland incorporated the construction of the Tidal Basin, designed by Maj. Peter C. Hains, which provides water to flush

sediment from Washington Channel and maintain its navigability. The reclaimed parkland became the blank slate on which the McMillan Commission created its extended National Mall.

The National Mall Historic District including West Potomac Park and the George Mason Memorial site possesses national significance under Criterion C in the area of landscape architecture as one of the nation's most important designed public spaces. Conceived by L'Enfant and reimagined by the McMillan Commission, plans for the National Mall were revised and implemented by some of the country's most important landscape practitioners. Plans for the area exemplified the aesthetic principles of the times in which they were conceived. L'Enfant's foundational plan follows Baroque and eighteenth-century French models of public space design to create axial relationships and spatial hierarchies. The McMillan Commission's redesign of the space was based on City Beautiful and Beaux-Arts principles that echoed L'Enfant's Baroque precedents by emphasizing movement through a hierarchically organized space.

CRITERIA CONSIDERATIONS F & G

The National Mall Historic District including West Potomac Park and the George Mason Memorial site meets Criteria Consideration F as the largest and most significant commemorative landscape in the United States. Several of the commemorative works within the District also satisfy Criteria Consideration F as the primary national monuments to individuals and events significant in the nation's history, including presidents and military conflicts. More specifically, the monuments and memorials to important historical figures such as George Mason qualify because they have come to symbolize the value placed upon those individuals by the cultures that created the monuments. These works are recognized as reminders of the enduring principles or contributions to our history of the commemorated individuals.

The National Mall Historic District including West Potomac Park and the George Mason Memorial site meets Criteria Consideration G and is exceptionally significant as a continuation of the nation's symbolic core and public gathering space, for the planning principles laid down in the L'Enfant and McMillan plans and, as the location of nationally significant works commemorating more recent American history. The memorials located within West Potomac Park to George Mason, Franklin Delano Roosevelt and Martin Luther King, Jr. – sanctioned by federal legislation – were created as the

nation's preeminent memorials to these important Americans. By their Congressional designation as national memorials, these commemorative works are automatically listed in the National Register at their dedication. Today, the memorials possess exceptional significance as the nation's preeminent commemorations of their subjects.

CRITERION A

Areas of Significance:	Politics/Government
Level of Significance:	National
Period of Significance:	1791-2002

Areas of Significance:	Entertainment/Recreation
Level of Significance:	National/Local
Period of Significance:	1791-2002

CRITERION C

Areas of Significance:	Landscape Architecture
	Engineering
	Community Planning and Development
Level of Significance:	National
Period of Significance:	1791-1965

National Register Significance Criteria

Criterion A: Event

Criterion C: Design/Construction

National Register Criteria Considerations

Criteria Consideration F: Commemorative Properties

Criteria Consideration G: Properties That Have Achieved Significance Within the Last Fifty Years

National Register Periods of Significance (with Historic Context Themes)

Start Year/Era and End Year/Era	Historic Context Theme	Subtheme	Facet
1791 CE – 2002 CE	Creating Social Institutions and Movements	Recreation	General Recreation
1791 CE – 1965 CE	Expressing Cultural Values	Landscape Architecture	The City Beautiful Movement

National Register Areas of Significance

Category	Subcategory (only for Archeology and Ethnic Heritage)	Narrative
Entertainment/Recreation		
Politics/Government		
Engineering		
Landscape Architecture		
Community Planning and Development		

National Historic Landmark

No

World Heritage Site

No

National Natural Landmark

No

NRIS Information (with Other Certifications)

1. National Mall Historic District (Boundary Increase)
2. East and West Potomac Parks Historic District (Updated)

NRIS ID (Required)

1. 16000805
2. 73000217

Other Name (Optional)

1. National Mall
2. Potomac Flats

Primary Certification Date (Optional)

1. 11/29/2016
2. 09/18/2001

Other Certification (Required, if applicable)

1. 66000031

Other Certification Date (Optional)

1. 10/15/1966 and 5/19/1981
2. 11/30/1973

Chronology & Physical History

Chronology

Start Year	Start Era	End Year	End Era	Major Event	Major Event Description
11,000	BCE	11,000	BCE	Inhabited	People inhabited the Middle Atlantic Coastal Plain and Piedmont.
2200	BCE	1608	CE	Inhabited	Eastern Algonquin Indian tribes inhabited the area around present-day Washington, DC.

1607	CE	1608	CE	Explored	Captain John Smith explored the Potomac River and its Eastern Branch.
1632	CE	1632	CE	Land Transfer	King Charles I granted the land that would become Washington, DC, to George Calvert, Lord Baltimore.
1791	CE	1791	CE	Established	On March 30, 1791, President George Washington signed the agreement that formally created the District of Columbia with lands ceded from Virginia and Maryland.
1791	CE	1792	CE	Designed	Pierre L'Enfant designed a plan for the District of Columbia in 1791, which Andrew Ellicott and Benjamin Banneker surveyed the following year.
1808	CE	1809	CE	Built	Through an Act of Congress, the Washington Bridge Company was authorized to erect a bridge (later known as the Long Bridge) over the Potomac River within the District of Columbia.
1831	CE	1831	CE	Damaged	A flood damaged several spans of the Long Bridge located over the main channel.
1832	CE	1835	CE	Repaired	Congress purchased the first Long Bridge from the Washington Bridge Company and authorized funds to repair and upgrade the bridge.
1857	CE	1857	CE	Planned	Civil engineer, Alfred Landon Rives proposed replacement of the first Long Bridge and reclamation of 166 acres of the Potomac Flats.
1863	CE	1864	CE	Built	A second Long Bridge was constructed parallel to the first structure, approximately one hundred feet downriver. Throughout the years the bridges were damaged by multiple flood events and subsequently repaired and/or rebuilt.
1867	CE	1868	CE	Planned	Major Nathaniel Michler from the US Army Corps of Engineers issued a report recommending a large dredging project in the Potomac River and Washington Channel.
1870	CE	1881	CE	Established	Between June 11, 1870, and March 3, 1881, Congress appropriated $290,000 for the

					improvement of the Washington and Georgetown harbors.
1872	CE	1872	CE	Planned	The Board of Survey prepared plans for the Washington and Georgetown harbors that included construction of a deep channel from Georgetown to Gravelly Point.
1878	CE	1878	CE	Planned	Funds were appropriated through the Rivers and Harbors Act for improvement of the Washington and Georgetown harbors.
1879	CE	1879	CE	Planned	A plan prepared by Major W. J. Twining was submitted to Congress, which included development of a series of sluicing basins using the tidal patterns of the Potomac River to flush the Washington Channel.
1882	CE	1882	CE	Planned	Major Peter Conover Hains became the officer in charge of the reclamation project. During his tenure, Hains proposed creation of a tidal reservoir with inlet and outlet gates.
1883	CE	1883	CE	Built	Reclamation of the Potomac Flats was undertaken by the US Army Corps of Engineers. The work area was divided into three sections and included dredging and filling. Work began in Section I (between the sewer canal and Easby's Point) first.
1884	CE	1887	CE	Built	Dredging and filling was undertaken in Sections II and III. Also, the Tidal Basin and Inner Basin were created.
1887	CE	1890	CE	Built	The Tidal Basin outlet gates were built.
1890	CE	1896	CE	Built	The Rivers and Harbors Act authorized $280,000 for the construction of a sea wall around the Tidal Basin and associated reclaimed lands.
1897	CE	1897	CE	Established	Congress designated 621 acres of reclaimed flats as well as 118 acres of the Tidal Basin as "Potomac Park".
1900	CE	1900	CE	Planned	Colonel Bingham prepared plans to develop Potomac Park.
1901	CE	1906	CE	Built	The current Long Bridge (Potomac Railroad Bridge) was constructed by the US Army Corps of Engineers. The thirteen-span steel

					truss bridge was sited 150 feet upriver from the previous Long Bridge structure.
1902	CE	1902	CE	Developed	The McMillan Plan identified the Tidal Basin area to be developed into a recreational area.
1903	CE	1903	CE	Land Transfer	A total of fifty acres of Potomac Park (bounded by the Tidal Basin, Potomac River, and the Long Bridge) were transferred from the US Army Corps of Engineers to the Office of Public Buildings and Grounds on November 21.
1903	CE	1905	CE	Established	About 1903 to 1905, brush was cleared, and the lands associated with fifty acres of Potomac Park were surveyed.
1903	CE	1906	CE	Built	The Pennsylvania Bridge Company constructed the Highway Bridge.
1905	CE	1905	CE	Built	Four concrete fountains were built southeast of Tidal Basin near Long Bridge (including Fountain No. 4) by the Brennan Construction Company.
1905	CE	1906	CE	Built	A total of $65,000 was appropriated by Congress for the improvement of approximately fifty acres of Potomac Park located between the "causeway approach of the Pennsylvania Railroad bridge, the Virginia channel of the Potomac River, and the Tidal Basin".
1905	CE	1906	CE	Built	A forty-five-foot macadam road was constructed along the shoreline of the Tidal Basin and Potomac River in proximity to Fountain No 4. Numerous other landscape improvements were also undertaken in Potomac Park during this time including development of a plant nursery.
1908	CE	1909	CE	Planted	The Office of Public Buildings and Grounds planted trees to screen the Highway Bridge and Long Bridge from Potomac Park.
1909	CE	1909	CE	Land Transfer	Reclamation of all lands comprising West Potomac Park (Sections I and II) was completed. The lands were transferred to the Office of Public Buildings and Grounds and added to the system of federal reservations as Reservation No. 332.

1909	CE	1909	CE	Built	Construction of the Inlet Bridge was completed.
1912	CE	1912	CE	Planted	On March 27, First Lady Helen Taft and Viscountess Iwa Chinda (wife of the Japanese ambassador) planted the first two cherry trees around the Tidal Basin.
1917	CE	1917	CE	Built	Maintenance was completed for an improved portion of Potomac Park. Work included "rearranging" the flower beds around the fountain (Fountain No. 4) at the north end of the Highway Bridge, construction of cinder walks, and the planting of "border" shrubbery.
1925	CE	1925	CE	Established	The Office of Public Buildings and Grounds and the Office of the Superintendent of the State, War and Navy Department Buildings was consolidated into an independent office known as the Office of Public Buildings and Public Parks of the National Capital.
1928	CE	1928	CE	Planned	A planting sketch was prepared by the Office of Public Buildings and Public Parks of the National Capital for the garden around Fountain No. 4.
1928	CE	1928	CE	Established	The Cuban Friendship Urn was installed at the south end of the rose garden in December.
1929	CE	1929	CE	Planted	Ten deciduous trees were planted in the garden around Fountain No. 4. Also, fifteen large magnolias were transplanted from the Lincoln Memorial to the area around the fountain.
1931	CE	1931	CE	Planted	A new landscaping strategy was developed by the Office of Public Buildings and Public Parks of the National Capital that concentrated flower displays into one or two locations, rather than throughout Washington, DC. The garden associated with Fountain No. 4 was selected as one of these sites and 35,000 pansies were planted in the spring of 1931.
1931	CE	1931	CE	Rehabilitated	A "Plan to Revise the Pansy Garden" was drawn in October 1931 in anticipation of the George Washington Bicentennial celebration.

1931	CE	1931	CE	Planted	By November 1931, a total of 120,000 plants had been set out in the "great beds" around Fountain No. 4 with nearly 70,000 additional flowers and more bed space. At this time, the pansy garden, as it became known, contained 5,360 square feet of crushed stone walk and 12,000 square feet of flower beds.
1932	CE	1932	CE	Planted	The planting around Fountain No. 4 included five pansy beds containing approximately 75,000 plants.
1932	CE	1932	CE	Planted	The former plant nursery was converted into a rose garden.
1933	CE	1933	CE	Planted	The pansy garden contained 55,000 to 65,000 living plants and more than 1,000,000 blooms.
1933	CE	1933	CE	Established	The Office of Public Buildings and Public Parks of the National Capital was reorganized under the Department of the Interior's Office of National Parks, Buildings and Reservations.
1934	CE	1934	CE	Established	The name Office of National Parks, Buildings and Reservations was changed to the National Park Service.
1936	CE	1936	CE	Damaged	In March, the pansy garden was destroyed due to damage incurred by one of the highest floods to ever hit Washington, DC.
1937	CE	1937	CE	Built	A "flood control army" of 2,000 people was assembled to build sandbag levees along the West Potomac Park waterfront including the area from the Inlet Bridge to the Highway Bridge approach. A similar dike was also constructed from the Highway Bridge to the Long Bridge (Potomac Railroad Bridge) to prevent flood waters from damaging the rose garden.
1938	CE	1938	CE	Built	Construction began on the Thomas Jefferson Memorial.
1939	CE	1939	CE	Planted	By the fall of 1939, 40,000 pansy plants had been installed around Fountain No. 4.
1940	CE	1942	CE	Planted	By June 1940, there were 4,552 rose bushes consisting of 56 different varieties in the rose

					garden. By 1942, there were more than 100 different rose varieties.
1943	CE	1943	CE	Established	The Thomas Jefferson Memorial was dedicated on April 13, 1943, on the bicentennial of his birth.
1944	CE	1944	CE	Planned	On July 21, 1944, the District Commissioners approved a plan for construction of two new bridges that would carry traffic on Fourteenth Street across the Potomac River.
1946	CE	1946	CE	Established	President Truman signed the twin bridge bill into Public Law 615 on July 16, 1946.
1947	CE	1947	CE	Demolished	The rose gardens, along with three of the four fountains were demolished to make way for highway development. The Cuban Friendship Urn was also removed from the locale at this time.
1947	CE	1950	CE	Built	The Rochambeau Memorial Bridge was constructed between 1947 and 1950. It was completed on May 9, 1950.
1948	CE	1948	CE	Planned	Plans were underway to construct a temporary parking lot on the site of the former rose gardens.
1960	CE	1962	CE	Built	The George Mason Memorial Bridge was constructed. The bridge was completed on January 26, 1962.
1964	CE	1968	CE	Established	Lady Bird Johnson directed a Beautification Program in Washington, DC, to enhance public spaces with landscape improvements.
1965	CE	1966	CE	Planned	As part of Lady Bird Johnson's beautification effort, a series of planting plans were developed to rejuvenate the pansy garden.
1965	CE	1966	CE	Planted	Two shrub masses of nine Burford hollies (eighteen total) were planted near the entry to the pansy garden on opposite sides of the entrance path and twenty-six forsythia ('Lynwood gold') were planted along the east edge of the garden.
1967	CE	1967	CE	Demolished	The old Highway Bridge was demolished.

1972	CE	1972	CE	Planted	The National Park Service planted 25,000 pansies in the garden and used boughs from the National Christmas Tree to protect the plants through the cold winter months.
1976	CE	1976	CE	Planted	The National Park Service planted 20,000 pansies in the garden area associated with Fountain No. 4.
1983	CE	1983	CE	Planted	By 1983, there were 18,000 pansies in the garden, which was a fraction of the original number that was planted in the early 1930s.
1985	CE	1985	CE	Established	The Rochambeau Memorial Bridge was renamed the Arland D. Williams, Jr. Memorial Bridge.
1990	CE	1990	CE	Established	Congress passed Public Law 101-358, which authorized construction of a memorial to George Mason on federal land by the Board of Regents of Gunston Hall.
1991	CE	1991	CE	Established	The proposed location for the George Mason Memorial was selected at the site of the former pansy garden and Fountain No. 4.
1991	CE	1992	CE	Established	On October 10, 1991, and again on April 22, 1992, the Secretary of the Interior notified Congress of his determination that the George Mason memorial should be located in Area I.
1992	CE	1992	CE	Established	On April 28, 1992, H.J. Res. 402 (assigned Public Law No. 102-277), was signed by President George H. W. Bush. Upon enactment of the joint resolution, authority was granted to construct a memorial to George Mason in Area I without further legislation.
1992	CE	1992	CE	Planned	Plans were prepared for reconstruction of Ohio Drive from Independence Avenue to the Inlet Bridge including construction of new parking areas at Ohio Drive/I-395 with a connecting walkway.
1993	CE	1995	CE	Established	The proposed location for the George Mason Memorial at the site of the former pansy garden and Fountain No. 4 was approved by the Board of Regents of Gunston Hall in 1993, the National Capital Memorial Advisory Commission (NCMAC) in about 1994, and the Commission of Fine Arts in (CFA) as well as

					the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC) in 1995.
1995	CE	2000	CE	Designed	The landscape architecture firm Rhodeside Harwell (RHI) of Alexandria, Virginia, designed the memorial, while Wendy Ross of Bethesda, Maryland, created the George Mason sculpture.
1998	CE	1998	CE	Established	An Act (Public Law 105-182) was signed by Congress on June 19, 1998, to extend the legislative authority for the Board of Regents of Gunston Hall to establish a memorial to commemorate George Mason in the District of Columbia.
2000	CE	2000	CE	Established	A groundbreaking ceremony was held at the future site of the George Mason Memorial on October 18, 2000.
2000	CE	2002	CE	Built	Construction of the George Mason Memorial was undertaken. New development included a trellis with columns, a bluestone plaza, and a bronze sculpture of a seated George Mason.
2002	CE	2002	CE	Established	The George Mason Memorial was dedicated on April 9, 2002.
2003	CE	2003	CE	Damaged	The stone columns of the trellis began to show signs of deterioration including spalling and cracks. Consequently, the columns were braced with temporary steel bands until repairs could be made.
2017	CE	2019	CE	Rehabilitated	An $800,000 rehabilitation project was undertaken through a public-private partnership with the Trust for the National Mall and the National Park Service to address deficiencies at the George Mason Memorial.
2017	CE	2018	CE	Rehabilitated	The George Mason Memorial sculpture was rehabilitated. Treatment included the cleaning of all bronze elements by hand with a detergent as well as the application or blending of a tinted microcrystalline wax, followed by a gentle buffing on targeted areas of the sculpture that had been heavily impacted by visitor handling.
2018	CE	2019	CE	Rehabilitated	Rehabilitation of the George Mason Memorial site included cleaning and repair of the

					hardscape as well as installation of an irrigation system. Other landscape improvements included replanting the perennial planting beds around the fountain, removal of dead shrubs in the hedge ring, and infilling with new material, planting new trees and shrubs around the outer memorial, pruning existing vegetation and turfgrass improvements.
2021	CE	2022	CE	Removed	Dead or declining shrubs that were planted in the hedge ring during the 2019 landscape rehabilitation were removed.

Physical History

The following section provides information on the physical development and evolution of the site, organized by time periods.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF PRECOLONIAL HISTORY AND EARLY COLONIAL SETTLEMENT & DEVELOPMENT: 11,000 BCE to 1799 CE

The following section is adapted from the *East Potomac Golf Course Cultural Landscapes Inventory* (2017) prepared by Shannon Garrison and Molly Lester, Research Associates, University of Pennsylvania. West Potomac Park is a human-made peninsula located in the Potomac River that was constructed in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Though the landscape itself was nonexistent until the 1890s when the lands were reclaimed, humans had arrived in the Middle Atlantic Coastal Plain and Piedmont by 11,000 BCE (Louis Berger 2016, 6). During this period, the human population in the area fluctuated in response to a variety of environmental factors. Between 11,000 BCE and 1608 AD human settlement patterns changed drastically. Pre-contact peoples transitioned from highly mobile bands during the earliest period of settlement to the more sedentary riverside encampments in the terminal archaic period, which eventually led to the establishment of the villages that John Smith encountered.

In the years immediately preceding European settlement in 1608, Eastern Algonquin tribes inhabited the area around present-day Washington. The different groups lived by combining agriculture with older traditions of hunting, fishing, and gathering. Their agricultural mainstay was

corn, grown along with beans and squash, all plants originally imported from Mexico. Most of the tribes were centered on a single community of villages. By 1607, the tribes were coalescing into larger entities led by powerful chiefs, notably Powhatan, who ruled in southeastern Virginia, and the Piscataway Tayac, or Emperor, who dominated eastern Maryland (Louis Berger 2016, 24).

The English settler Captain John Smith, who explored the entire Chesapeake in 1608, recorded information related to a village near the mouth of the Anacostia River (then known as the Eastern Branch of the Potomac River); he called the village Nacotchtank, or Nacotchtant. Smith referred to the inhabitants as Necosts and estimated the Indians' strength in warriors at eighty men, with a total population of 200 to 300 (Louis Berger 2016: 24). Smith included the Washington, DC, region on his 1612 map, which became the basis for many later navigational charts of the area's waterways. He also mentioned the Potomac region and its Nacotchtank tribes and villages in his "General Historie of Virginia," detailing travels up the Potomac River and its Eastern Branch (Burr 1920, 167). 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—where the Potomac Flats were later dredged—attracted a wide range of species, including herring, shad, salmon, and sturgeon, which sustained local tribes. Subsistence among Algonquin-speaking people also included hunting and foraging and slash-and-burn agriculture. They cultivated corn, beans, gourds, pumpkins, and other crops, practices that continued before and after European contact (Louis Berger 2016: 24).

Colonial settlement of this area continued into the eighteenth century, and with the resolution of the Revolutionary War in 1783, the new government of the United States resolved to move its capital from Philadelphia to the area around the convergence of the Eastern and Potomac Rivers. When Pierre L'Enfant laid out a design for the new capital city in 1790, the area between the two waterways was ceded by Maryland, and included within the boundaries of the newly formed District of Columbia. The peninsula that contains the George Mason cultural landscape would not exist for another hundred years, but the Potomac River was an increasingly important waterway in the new capital city.

For more information, also see summary of use of the landscape in prehistory and the historic period in the National Capital Area Archeological Overview and Survey Plan (1995) by Barbara J. Little as well as the Archeological Overview and Assessment of Anacostia and Kenilworth Park and Aquatic Gardens, District of Columbia (2016) prepared by the Louis Berger Group.

POTOMAC RIVER & RECLAMATION OF THE POTOMAC FLATS: 1800-1901

Congress authorized the Washington Bridge Company to erect a bridge (later known as the Long Bridge) over the Potomac River on February 8, 1808. Just over a year later, the bridge opened to traffic on May 1, 1809. Measuring 4,984 feet long, the Long Bridge was built over the shoals between the Washington and Virginia Channels to carry traffic from the southwest terminus of Maryland Avenue to Virginia (Chappell 1973, 7). A flood destroyed several spans of the Long Bridge in 1831. In 1832, Congress purchased the bridge from the Washington Bridge Company and authorized funds to repair and upgrade the bridge (Cohen 2003). Ultimately, the structure exacerbated ongoing siltation issues in the Potomac River until a series of shoals were formed, known as the "Potomac Flats" located below Georgetown where the river widens and makes a sixty degree turn.

As siltation threatened the navigability of the Potomac River, planning efforts were underway as early as 1833 to dredge the Georgetown channel (NPS 2015, 23). Subsequent dredging was undertaken throughout the nineteenth century to keep several of the channels open. Despite these efforts, navigation continued to deteriorate, which threatened the port economies of Washington and Georgetown (KressCox 1986, 4). In 1857, while employed as a government employee working under the Secretary of the Interior, civil engineer, Alfred Landon Rives proposed replacement of the Long Bridge and reclamation of 166 acres of the Potomac mudflats (NPS 2015, 23). In 1863, the second Long Bridge was constructed approximately one-hundred feet downstream of the first structure for use by the Washington, Georgetown & Alexandria Railroad (WG&A) (Chappell 1973, 9; NPS 2015, 23; Barthold 1993, 3). Throughout the years the bridges were damaged by multiple flood events and subsequently repaired and/or rebuilt.

Between 1867 and 1868, Major Nathaniel Michler from the US Army Corps of Engineers issued a report recommending a large dredging project in the Potomac River and Washington Channel.

Although no conclusive reclamation strategy was developed during Michler's tenure, he did oversee repeated small projects to clear the river. In addition to the issues associated with siltation of the Potomac River, serious health hazards had developed in Washington by the early 1870s as a result of the conversion of the old Washington City Canal into a sewer, which discharged directly into the tidal flats at the foot of 17th Street NW, then called Kidwell's Meadows (Development of East Potomac Park 1916; Shipe 1988, 3). At low tide, "putrid masses" of sewage and debris were exposed emitting a noxious stench that was unbearable.

Ultimately, between June 11, 1870, and March 3, 1881, Congress appropriated the relatively modest sum of $290,000 for the improvement of the harbors of Washington and Georgetown (KressCox 1986, 4-5). The work was undertaken by the US Army Corps of Engineers and included minor improvements such as removal of rocks from Georgetown harbor and dredging of the river channels to a width of 200 feet and a depth of sixteen feet. Additional funds were appropriated by Congress in 1881 after a disastrous flood impacted Washington (Development of East Potomac Park 1916, 10). The large-scale reclamation project was estimated to cost $2,716,365 and included "the improvement of the navigation of the river by widening and deepening its channels, the reclamation of the flats by depositing on them the material dredged from the channels, the freeing of the Washington channel of sewage, and the establishment of harbor lines" (KressCox 1986, 6).

In 1879, a plan prepared by Major William Johnson Twining, the first Engineer Commissioner of the District of Columbia, was submitted to Congress, which included development of a series of sluicing basins using the tidal patterns of the Potomac River to flush the Washington Channel (KressCox 1986, 6-7). Several maps of the Tidal Basin from this period refer to the water feature as "Twining Lake". In August 1882, Congress appropriated $400,000 to initiate reclamation efforts outlined in Twining's plan. Major Peter Conover Hains became the officer in charge of the reclamation project. During his tenure as the head of the Washington Engineer District (1882 and 1891) he was largely responsible for the raising of the Potomac Flats (KressCox 1986, 7). Hains also proposed creation of a tidal reservoir with gates. As a result of his contributions to this effort, today Hains Point bears his name.

The reclamation project was undertaken by the US Army Corps of Engineers between 1883 and 1887. The work area was divided into three sections (I, II, III) and included dredging and filling. Work

began in 1883 in Section I and followed between 1884 and 1887 in Sections II and III. The total reclamation acreage comprised 739 acres. Section I encompassed what is now parts of West Potomac Park (135 acres); Section II, included the present Tidal Basin and its immediate surrounding areas (277 acres); and Section III, included the portion southeast of the railroad embankment, now known as East Potomac Park (327 acres) (Development of East Potomac Park 1916, 11). The Tidal Basin and Inner Basin were also created during this period, while the Tidal Basin outlet gates were constructed between 1887 and 1890. Also, by this time replacement of the second Long Bridge was included within the scope of the overall project (KressCox 1986, 6). Moreover, the Rivers and Harbors Act authorized $280,000 for the construction of a seawall around the Tidal Basin and associated reclaimed lands.

In 1893, Hains's replacement, Major E. L. B. Davis, advocated for the development of the reclaimed lands as a public park in the future, rather than for private development, stating: “The improvement has now reached a stage where some attention needs to be given to the maintenance and preservation of the reservation. The rich soil, of which the greater part of the reclaimed land is composed, induces and fosters a rapid growth of high weeds, willows, and other trees and underbrush, which, in the summer season especially, render access to the various parts of the work quite difficult. This growth should be cleared up each year, until the reservation is ready to be laid out, graded, and sown with grass seed” (Chapell 1973, 60).

By 1896, a seawall had been constructed around a large part of the Tidal Basin with the exception of the area held for the inlet gates and at the “beach” (Barthold 1993, 5). In 1897, Congress designated 621 acres of reclaimed flats as well as 118 acres of the Tidal Basin as “Potomac Park”. Chapter 375 of the Laws of 1897 (approved March 3) declared “That the entire area formerly known as the Potomac Flats and now being reclaimed, together with the Tidal reservoirs, be, and the same are hereby, made and declared a public park, under the name of the Potomac Park, and to be forever held and used as a park for the Recreation and the pleasure of the people” (KressCox 1986, 10). In 1900, Colonel Bingham prepared plans to develop Potomac Park; however, at the time, reclamation work was still ongoing in the area. Ultimately, the US Army Corps of Engineers and the McMillan Commission (as well as others) continued to make improvements to Potomac Park through the early 1900s. In the end,

many were able to appreciate "…the transformation of Potomac Park from wilderness to beauty spot" (Shipe 1988, 3).

See West Potomac Park HABS No. DC-693, Tidal Reservoir HAER No. DC-9, and Gordon Chapell "Historic Resource Study – East and West Potomac Parks: A History," Denver Service Center, National Park Service, 1973 for additional information.

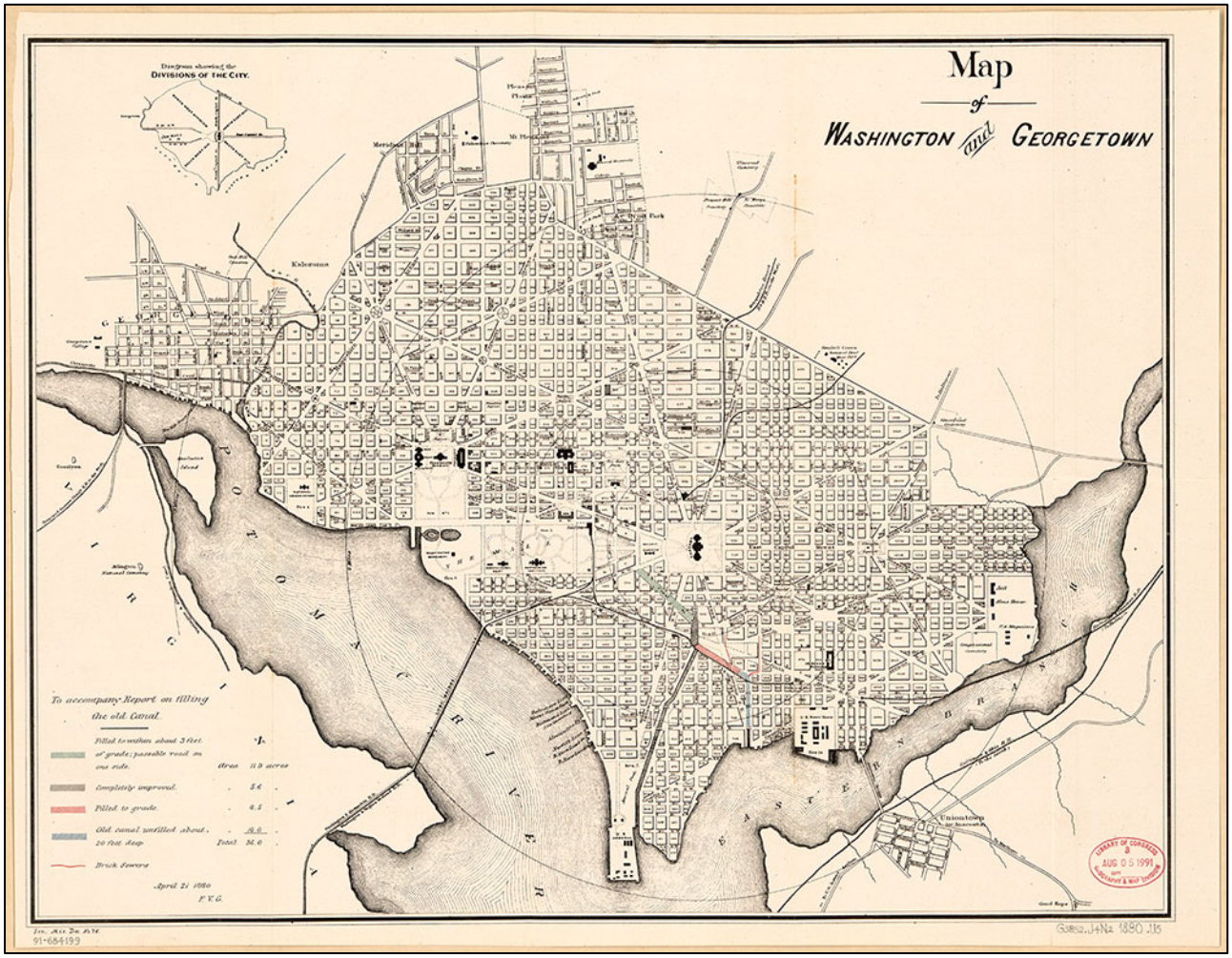


Figure: 2. Map of Washington and Georgetown showing the character of the Potomac River and Eastern Branch, 1880 (Library of Congress, Call Number: G3852.J4N2 1880 .U5).

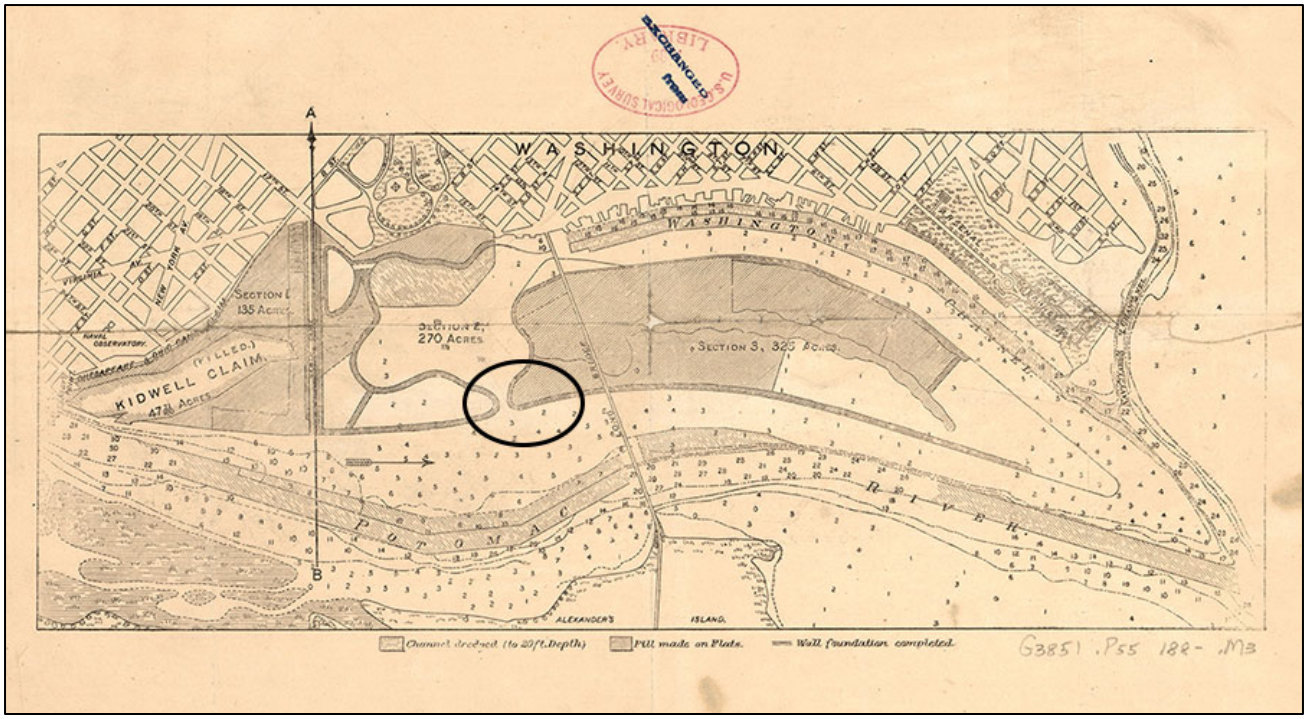


Figure: 3. Map showing reclamation of the Potomac River estuary at Washington, DC, to form the harbor and Potomac Parks, 1880s. The location of the future George Mason Memorial is identified on this map as "Fill made on Flats" and is identified by the black oval (Library of Congress, Call Number: G3851.P55 188- .M3).

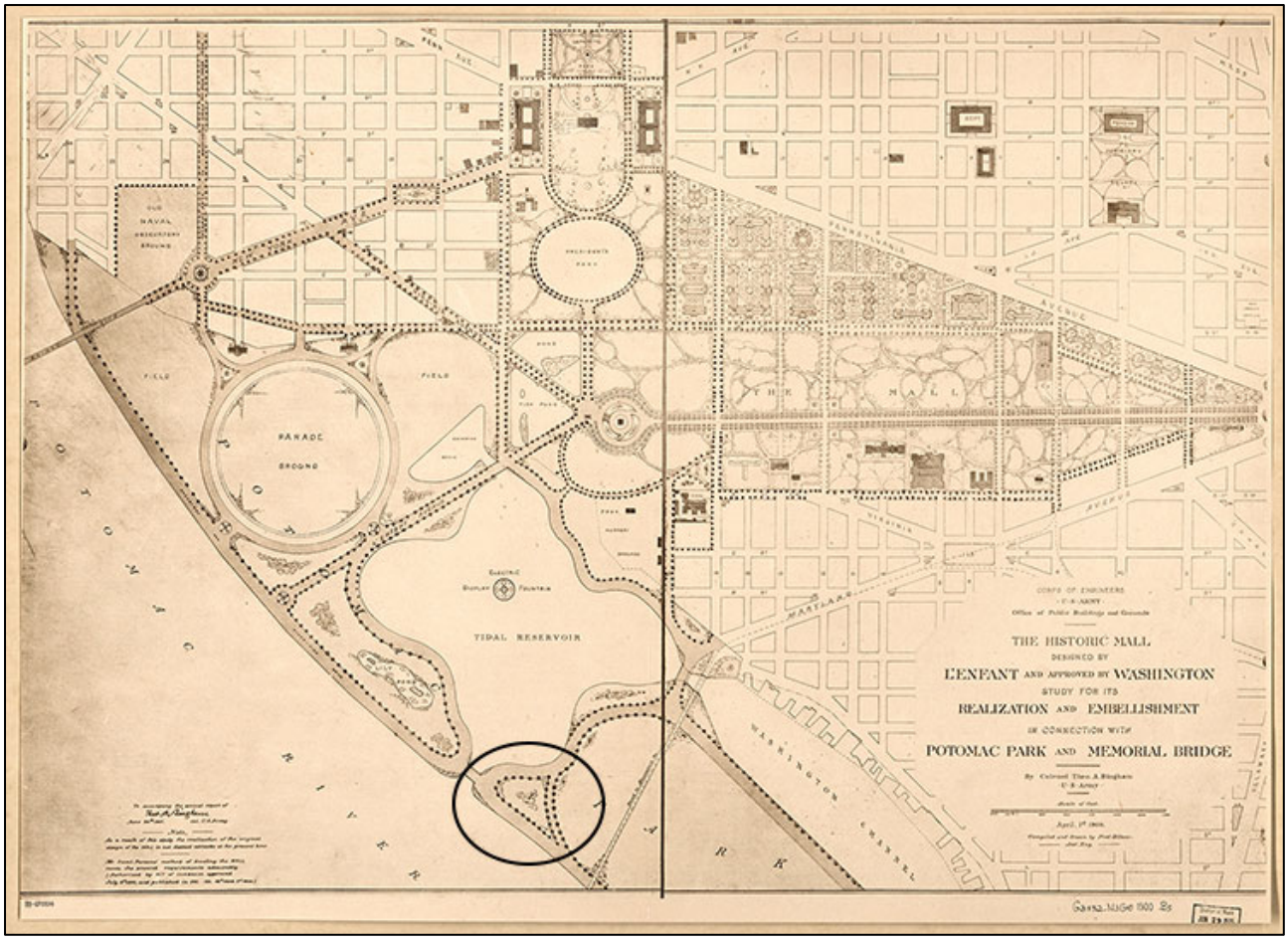


Figure: 4. Map showing the historic Mall designed by L'Enfant and approved by Washington: study for its realization and embellishment in connection with Potomac Park and Memorial Bridge, 1900. The location of the future George Mason Memorial is identified by the black oval (Library of Congress, Call Number: G3852.M3G45 1900 .B5).

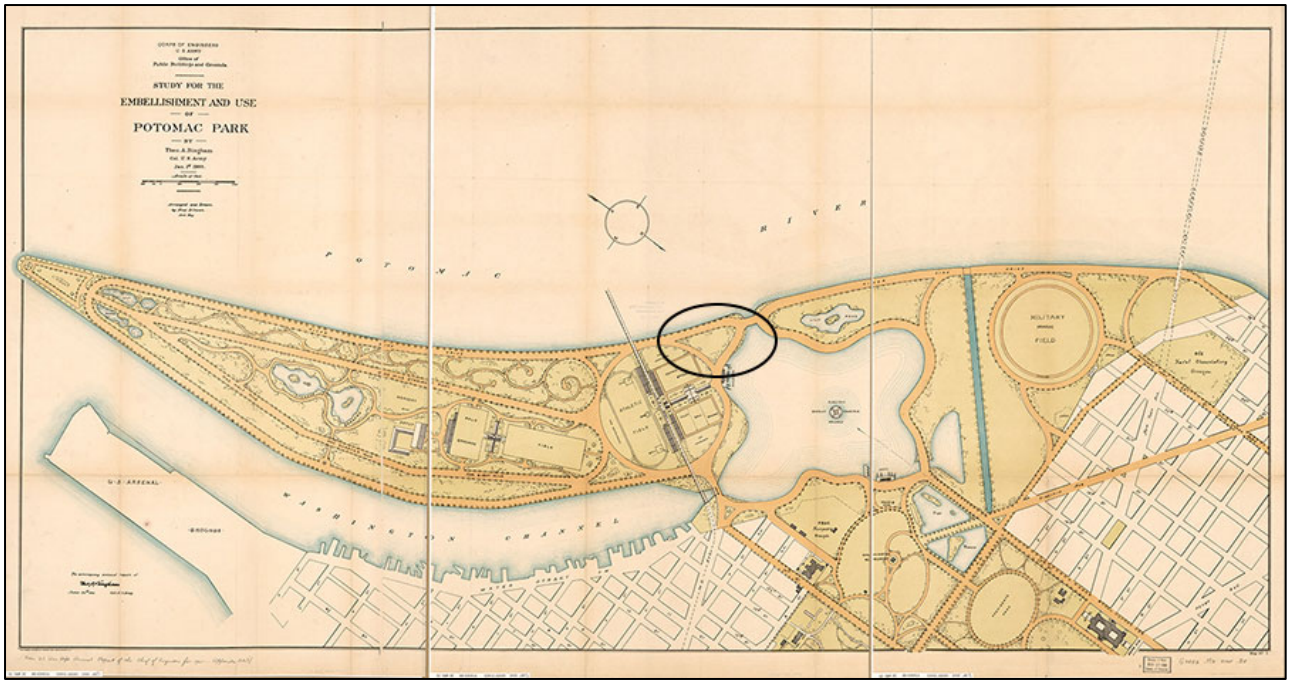


Figure: 5 . Map showing information related to the study for the establishment and use of Potomac Park, 1900. The location of the future George Mason Memorial is identified by the black oval (Library of Congress, Call Number: G3852.E2G45 1900 .B5).

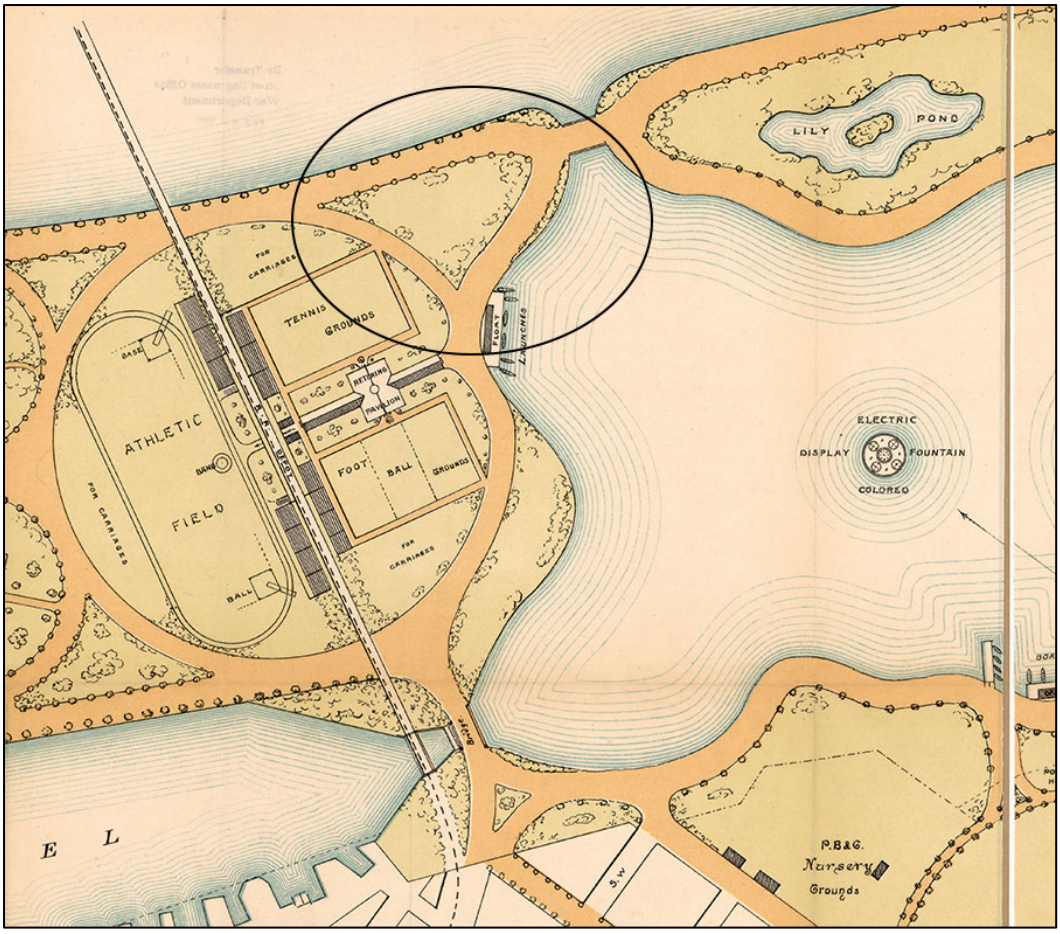


Figure: 6. Detail of the map showing information related to the study for the establishment and use of Potomac Park, 1900. The location of the future George Mason Memorial is identified by the black oval (Library of Congress, Call Number: G3852.E2G45 1900 .B5).

SUMMARY OF EARLY POTOMAC PARK DEVELOPMENT & FOUNTAIN NO. 4: 1902-1928

As land reclamation efforts were underway, a greater aesthetic and social movement was underway in Washington and across the nation. The 1893 World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago solidified the City Beautiful movement and influenced designers who envisioned Washington as the "White City on the Potomac" (Barthold 1993, 6). To develop a new park plan for Washington, DC, Michigan Senator James McMillan introduced a bill, which created the Senate Park Commission. The commission was comprised of a cadre of well-known architects, landscape architects and other artists including Daniel Burnham (director of works at the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition), Charles McKim, Frederick Law Olmsted Jr., sculptor Auguste St. Gaudens with Charles Moore as secretary.

The committee's final report, which was published in 1902 incorporated the newly reclaimed land known as "Potomac Park" in its grand plan for Washington's central core (Barthold 1993, 6). The Senate Commission praised Pierre L'Enfant's original plan and was inspired by its formal aesthetic of grand promenades and impressive vistas. According to the McMillan plan, the "reclaimed land west of the Washington Monument would extend this grand axis and terminate at a Neoclassical monument to Abraham Lincoln on the shores of the Potomac River" (Barthold 1993, 6).

Detailed planning for the improvement of Potomac Park was outlined in *The Improvement of the Park System of the District of Columbia* (1902). At this time the report noted that with the exception of a portion of the shoreline where young willows and poplars were already growing, the remainder of Potomac Park would need to be planted with trees. Several ideas were proposed, including the development of a "living museum" or in short a "National Arboretum" in the area. As a park devoted to recreation, it was ultimately determined that the introduction of a variety of trees would "utterly destroy the restful simplicity of the landscape" (Moore 1902, 119). At this time, Potomac Park encompassed 739 acres located between the Washington Channel and Potomac River (Moore 1902, 117-118). (This included 621 acres of reclaimed flats as well as 118 acres of the Tidal Basin.) While dredging operations were still underway several improvements had been made to the park. These included construction of a low stone wall that surrounded the park, which was built to "retain the mud dredged from the channel" as well as a carriage drive (Moore 1902, 117-118). The report noted that the wall gave the shoreline a relatively formal appearance, which was emphasized by rows of poplar and willow trees that had been planted to stabilize the newly reclaimed lands. Long Bridge crossed the center of the park (Moore 1902, 117-118).

On November 21, 1903, fifty acres of unimproved park land located between the Long Bridge, Tidal Basin, and Potomac River were transferred from the US Army Corps of Engineers to the Office of Public Buildings and Grounds (OPBG) (Chapell 1973, 99). At the time, Major Symons suggested that the area could be utilized for a propagating nursery where trees and shrubs could be grown for use in newly developing park areas within the District. While no money had been appropriated for the new nursery, Col. Charles S. Bromwell, Officer in Charge of Public Buildings and Grounds from mid-1904 to mid-1909, directed that brush be cleared and that the lands be surveyed. Grading and filling were also completed during this time (Chapell 1973, 99). On March 3, 1905, an appropriation for $65,000

was approved by Congress for the improvement of approximately fifty acres of Section II of Potomac Park located between the "causeway approach of the Pennsylvania Railroad bridge, the Virginia channel of the Potomac River, and the Tidal Basin" (Annual Report 1906, 2136). The funding included construction of a forty-five-foot-wide macadam road along the shoreline of the Tidal Basin and Potomac River that provided a connection to the roadway on the approach to the new Highway Bridge as well as development of a propagating garden or nursery. Bromwell initiated work on the project at the beginning of the new fiscal year and it was ultimately completed by the summer of 1906.

Fountain No. 4 was constructed in 1905 in association with the development of the plant nursery. It was one of four fountains that was built southeast of the Tidal Basin, near the Long Bridge, by the OPBG in the newly developed Potomac Park. According to the Tidal Basin Historic American Landscapes Survey (HALS), "The advertisement soliciting bids specified two circular basins measuring 40' in diameter, a circular basin measuring 60' in diameter, and a square basin with 50' sides. The basins were to be built of concrete composed of one part Portland cement, two-and-a-half parts sharp sand, and five parts sharp gravel, and finished with a 1"-thick coat of cement mortar made up of two parts Portland cement and three parts sharp sand" (Christianson and Sanders 2017, 42). The OPBG was responsible for the plumbing. The four fountains were constructed by Brennan Construction Company at a cost of $2,494 and were completed by October 27, 1905 (Christianson and Sanders 2017, 43).

In April 1906, various landscape improvements were still underway with the *Sunday Star* reporting that, "At the southwest corner of the park, near the approach to the new Highway bridge, the big flower garden is being laid out, and a fountain has been installed. This flower garden will be filled with bright hued flowers and will be a riot of color when the plants are in bloom." The flower garden described is likely the area around Fountain No. 4 and is generally consistent with historic maps that show "flowering shrubs" in this location in 1906.

The nursery was established southeast of the Highway Bridge by the OPBG between 1905 and 1906 to propagate shrubs and trees (both deciduous and evergreen), perennials, and rosebushes that would be used to supply plant materials for the parks under its purview (HALS DC-59, 43).

Historic maps show that the nursery was laid out as a cross, with the longer axis oriented east to west. The design of the nursery incorporated the fountains described above. Notably, the square fountain was located at the intersection of the east/west axis and north/south axis, while the two circular fountains were located at the ends of the east-west axis (Figure 17). Paths flanked the planting beds and were also located on the edge of the nursery (Christianson and Sanders 2017, 43). An old wagon road served as the southeast boundary of the nursery near the Long Bridge.

Planting beds associated with the nursery contained specific plant types, including hedges, ground cover, deciduous and evergreen shrubs, and azaleas. The Tidal Basin HALS noted, that one of the largest beds was comprised of hedge plants such as Japanese barberry (*Berberis thunbergia*), privet (*Ligustrum spp.*), English field maple (*Acer campestre*), American hornbeam (*Carpinus caroliniana*), Siberian arborvitae (*Thuja occidentalis*), and English hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) as well as many others. Another planting bed included "specimen plants," such as boxwood (*Buxus spp.*), Canadian yew (*Taxus canadensis*), English holly (*Ilex aquifolium*), American holly (*Ilex opaca*), and saucer magnolia (*Magnolia x soulangiana)*, while the exterior of the garden was composed of ornamental trees. Finally, the northeast and southeast corners of the nursery featured circular beds of rhododendron (Christianson and Sanders 2017, 43).

In addition to work on the fountains and nursery, many other improvements were underway in Potomac Park. In 1901, construction of the third Long Bridge was initiated (KressCox 1986, 11). Also known as the Potomac Railroad Bridge, the structure was built by the US Army Corps of Engineers to carry rail traffic over the Potomac River. During construction, efforts were made to beautify areas of Potomac Park impacted by the railroad. The *Sunday Star* noted that the "Pennsylvania railroad [Baltimore and Potomac Railroad] has a force of men at work leveling the sides of the high embankment running from the bridge over the tidal basin to the new railway bridge, and will shortly cover it with running vines that will, by the time summer comes, hide the earthen embankment, and the trains will run through a bower of green vines. Viewed from the windows of trains passing in and out the city the newly improved portion of the Potomac Park is a place of beauty and is pleasing to the eye" (*Sunday Star*, April 22, 1906, 6). (It should be noted that the Baltimore & Potomac Railway depot was located at 6th Street NW on the National Mall between 1873 and 1907 (NPS 2018, 115).

Today, the Long Bridge remains as the southernmost of all the Fourteenth Street crossings and still functions in its original capacity as a rail bridge.

Other notable activities that were associated with development of Potomac Park during this period included construction of a series of vehicular transportation connections. The Pennsylvania Bridge Company began construction of the Highway Bridge in October 1903; however, it was not completed until February 1906 (KressCox 1986, 11). In addition, construction of a winding drive along the south side of the Tidal Basin was completed in 1905, while construction of the Washington approach road to the Highway Bridge was completed in 1907 (KressCox 1986, 11,13). Notably, during construction of the Highway Bridge, the large oval field situated between the highway approach and the drive along the south side of the Tidal Basin was filled to grade with dredged material and seeded to provide an athletic field. This area became the site of the bathing beach for white swimmers and later the location of the Thomas Jefferson Memorial (KressCox 1986, 11, 13). In the early 1920s legislation was introduced to create a separate beach for Black swimmers, but was met by opposition from Col. Clarence O. Sherrill who led the Office of Public Buildings and Grounds. Ultimately, on March 4, 1925, the act to establish a public bathing beach at the Tidal Basin was repealed by Congress due to their refusal to establish a beach for Black people. As a result of the repeal, the bathing beach was permanently closed (Christianson and Sanders 2017, 40).

By June 1906, much of the construction had been completed in the area near Fountain No. 4. At this time the *Evening Star* reported that fountains and walks in the nursery had been completed and "the plot is one of the prettiest in the entire park" (*Evening Star*, June 21, 1906, 16). Moreover, an article printed in July 1906 by *The Washington Post* entitled "Potomac Park Blossoms Into A Beauty Spot" described the large-scale changes to Potomac Park as a result of the landscape improvements. More specifically, the article provides details about the character of the area associated with Fountain No. 4 and the nursery:

> *At the southern end of the park a beautiful landscape garden has been laid out along formal lines. This is seen to, the best advantage from both the steam railroads and the Mount Vernon electric line, and visitors coming into the city now for the first time get a far better idea of the Capital City than they did in the days when this tract was a mass of unhealthy swamps and marsh lands.*

> *A large square-shaped fountain, built of cement, plays in the center of the formal garden. The footpaths in the garden about eight feet wide, and are made of fine trap stone. The design is a pleasing one, and the aggregate length of the paths is about three-quarters of a mile.*
>
> *The garden and, in fact, the whole park, has been planned as much for usefulness as for ornament. A nursery has been established on one side, and a hundred of young trees have been planted and are now flourishing in the hearty growth of youth. The nursery has been established by the office of public buildings and grounds in the interest of economy. In a few years the young trees will be worth ten times their present value, and when they reached a sufficient growth they will be transplanted in the parks and on the city's streets* (*The Washington Post*, July 22, 1906, F9).

The following month, in August 1906, another article printed in *The Washington Post* took a remarkably different tone when describing the newly established Potomac Park. The author noted that "Potomac Park is a lost park; a park in name only" (*The Washington Post*, August 5, 1906, SM3).

> *Although Mother Nature, ably aided by Uncle Sam, has done her best for this lovely spot, her work is all in vain. Forlorn in all its beauty, shunned by mankind, it presents a sorry spectacle.*
>
> *Its fountains play constantly in the sunshine, but no one hears the soft rippling of their falling waters. No little feet run over the well-kept lawns. No one cares to stroll along its fine macadamized driveways. There is not a single bench in the whole park. It is a deserted and desolate spot.*
>
> *Yet this stretch of land, reclaimed from the river, is one of the most attractive parks in the entire city. When there is a breeze anywhere in the District it blows best through Potomac Park. Few days are so sultry that there is not at least a zephyr stirring there.*
>
> *The row of fine old willows which fringe the water's edge are picturesque and beautiful. From Potomac Park one can obtain a fine view of the river's silvery stretches, its edges in varied shades of green; the historic old mansion at Arlington, and the numerous craft upon the river. In the other directions the view of the city is quite as alluring.*
>
> *Rows of shade trees have been planted along its driveways. All that the skill of engineer and landscape gardener can do to make the park beautiful and attractive is being done. Utmost care is exercised in keeping it in good condition.*
>
> *Its smooth-shaven lawns look like English turf. Four fountains play gayly always. Carefully cultivated flowers and trees are planted with artistic skill. One portion of the park is used as a government nursery. Young shade trees grown here are planted later in the city parks. Firs, elms, and sycamores not yet at maturity are carefully tended for future use in locations more favored. Through the grounds runs the lines of the Southern railways and the Alexandria and Mount Vernon line.*

> *Long Bridge resounds with the tramp of many feet, though few of the passers ever pause for an instant in the beautiful park through which they take their way. The favored few who have automobiles and carriages drive through the park, but for the plain people it is a lost Atlantis (The Washington Post, August 5, 1906, SM3).*

Despite the varied reviews, the improvements to Potomac Park were being noticed by the local community. Ultimately, the 1906 OPBG annual report summarized all landscape improvements for Section II of Potomac Park, which included the rough grading of lawn surfaces as well as soiling and seeding; the installation of sod borders; the construction of cinder walks and bridle paths; the construction of brick gutters and drain traps, installation of water pipe and drainpipe; the construction of four concrete fountain basins; the planting of trees along the roadways, and the development of a new nursery in addition to the existing nursery at the propagating gardens located on the northeast side of the Tidal Basin (Annual Report 1906, 2136). The *Sunday Star* noted that as a result of these efforts "over 1,000,000 plants were propagated, and 6,751 trees and 3,145 shrubs were planted" throughout Potomac Park and in the nursery (*Sunday Star*, July 22, 1906, 8). A map included in the 1906 OPBG annual report identified the road located on the west side of the nursery as "River Side Drive" (now known as Ohio Drive). The map also illustrated "flowering shrubs" around the fountain. See Figure 7 and Figure 8 for a map showing the improvements to Potomac Park.

Potomac Park soon became a favorite destination for those with automobiles as evidenced by a 1907 article, which noted, "This magnificent stretch of ground, bordered on the one side by the Potomac River and one the other two sides by the tidal reservoir, will be when completed one of the finest parks in the world. It forms the chosen boulevard, and its driveways, flanked on either side by rare trees, are the favorite courses of the driving public" (*The Washington Post*, February 24, 1907, 38). With construction of the Inlet Bridge completed in late 1909, visitors were able to travel the entire perimeter of the Tidal Basin the following spring. The stone arch bridge spanned the thirty-foot inlet from the Potomac River to the tidal basin and cost $30,000 to build (*The Washington Post*, September 19, 1909, E1). Notably, construction of the Inlet Bridge required that 497 feet of seawall be relocated and reconstructed. Moreover, it was determined that an additional 515 feet of older seawall be re-laid in mortar and raised to a level that matched new walls adjacent to the Inlet Bridge (KressCox 1986, 20-21).

Between 1908 and 1909, work was completed to screen the Long Bridge railroad embankment and Highway Bridge approach from the White House and State Department. This was achieved by planting forty-four poplars near the Inlet Bridge to screen the portion of the Highway Bridge visible from those buildings, and thirty-one poplars near Long Bridge (KressCox 1986, 45). In 1909, reclamation of lands comprising West Potomac Park (Sections I and II) was completed. In addition to the existing fifty acres, all remaining lands in Sections I and II were transferred from the US Army Corps of Engineers to the Office of Public Buildings and Grounds and added to the system of federal reservations as Reservation No. 332 (Christianson and Sanders 2017, 12).

Additional landscape improvements were made to the area through the planting of ornamental vegetation. In 1910, as part of the construction of the Inlet Bridge and associated improvements to the bridge approach roads and bridle paths, 181 flowering shrubs and trees were planted on the west approach, and 365 flowering shrubs were planted on the east approach. Moreover, an additional fifty-three willow trees were planted along the Potomac River (KressCox 1986, 45-46). Some of the plantings associated with the eastern approach may have been located in proximity to Fountain No. 4. Following these efforts, on March 27, 1912, First Lady Helen Taft and Viscountess Iwa Chinda (wife of the Japanese ambassador) planted the first two Yoshino cherry trees around the Tidal Basin. Additional trees were planted in proximity to the Inlet Bridge and Fountain No. 4 and would serve as an important part of the setting associated with the site.

In 1917, an annual report of the OPBG indicated that maintenance had been completed for an improved portion of West Potomac Park. Work included "rearranging" the flower beds around the fountain (Fountain No. 4) at the north end of the Highway Bridge, construction of cinder walks and the planting of "border" shrubbery (Annual Report 1917, 3713). Some of the flower beds may have contained pansies; however, it is unknown. Moreover, the 1917 report also noted that a heavy planting of forsythia and other shrubbery was transplanted from the shores of the Tidal Basin to other locations around the District of Columbia, which suggests that forsythia was already well-established around the Tidal Basin and presumably in proximity to Fountain No. 4 by that date (Annual Report 1917, 3715). Aerial photographs from 1918 reflect the general character of the garden including two diagonal cinder walks extending at 45-degree and 47-degree angles from the fountain and vegetation associated with Fountain No. 4. At this time, rows of semi-mature trees were located

around the perimeter of the garden, while a system of planting beds surrounded by a continuous hedge formed concentric rings around the fountain. See Figure 12 and Figure 13 showing aerial photos.

After much activity in Potomac Park, in 1925, the Office of Public Buildings and Grounds and the Office of the Superintendent of the State, War and Navy Department Buildings was consolidated into an independent office known as the Office of Public Buildings and Public Parks of the National Capital.

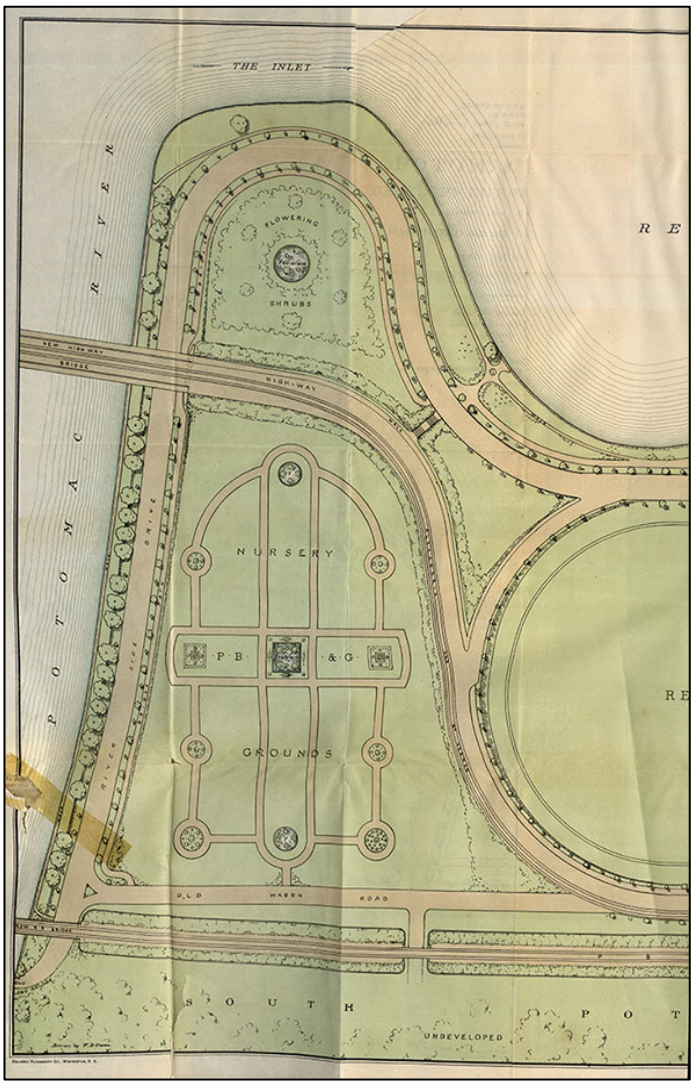


Figure: 7. Map of the nursery grounds and Fountain No. 4, 1905-1906 (Annual Report Upon the Improvement and Care of Public Buildings and Grounds, 1906).

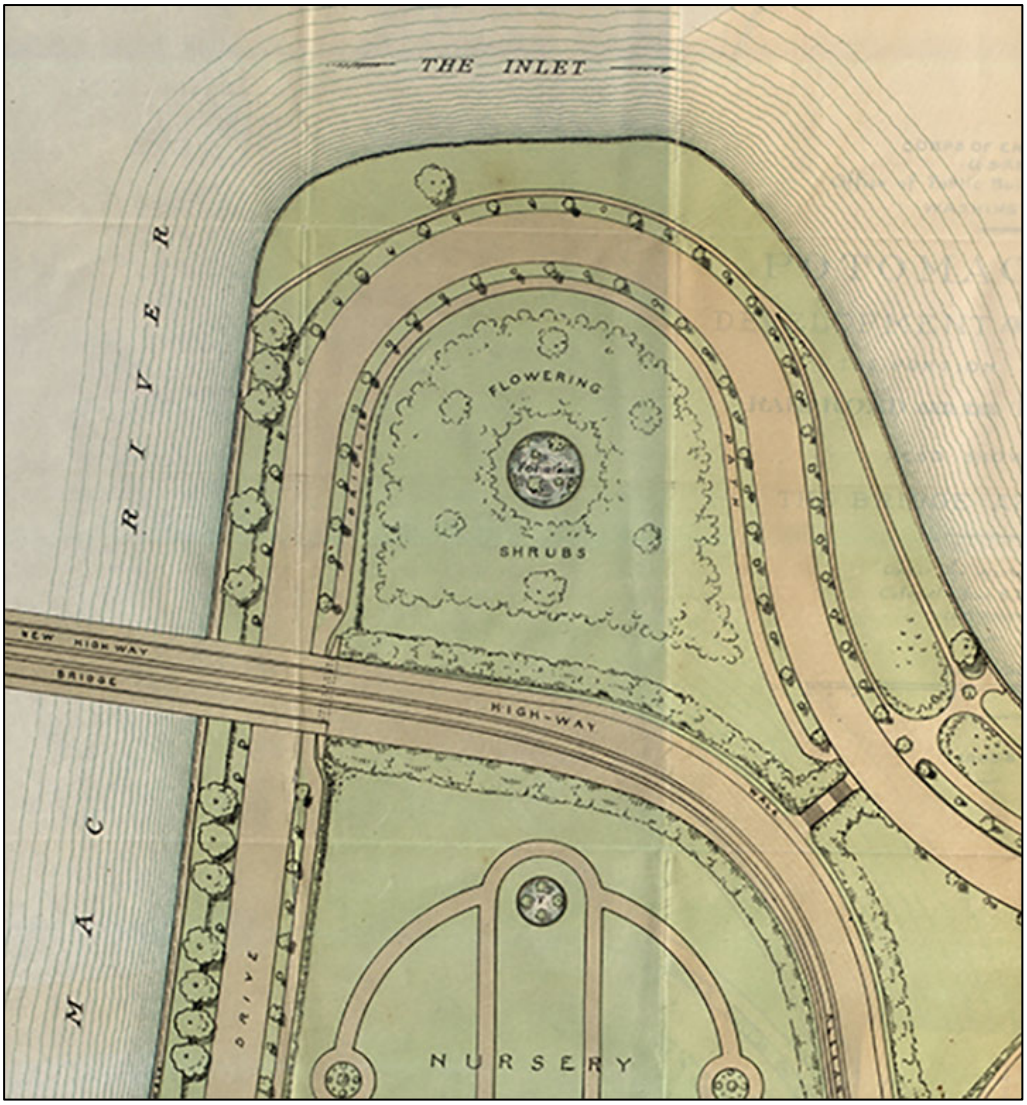


Figure: 8. Detail of Fountain No. 4 showing "flowering shrubs" around fountain, 1905-1906 (Annual Report Upon the Improvement and Care of Public Buildings and Grounds, 1906).

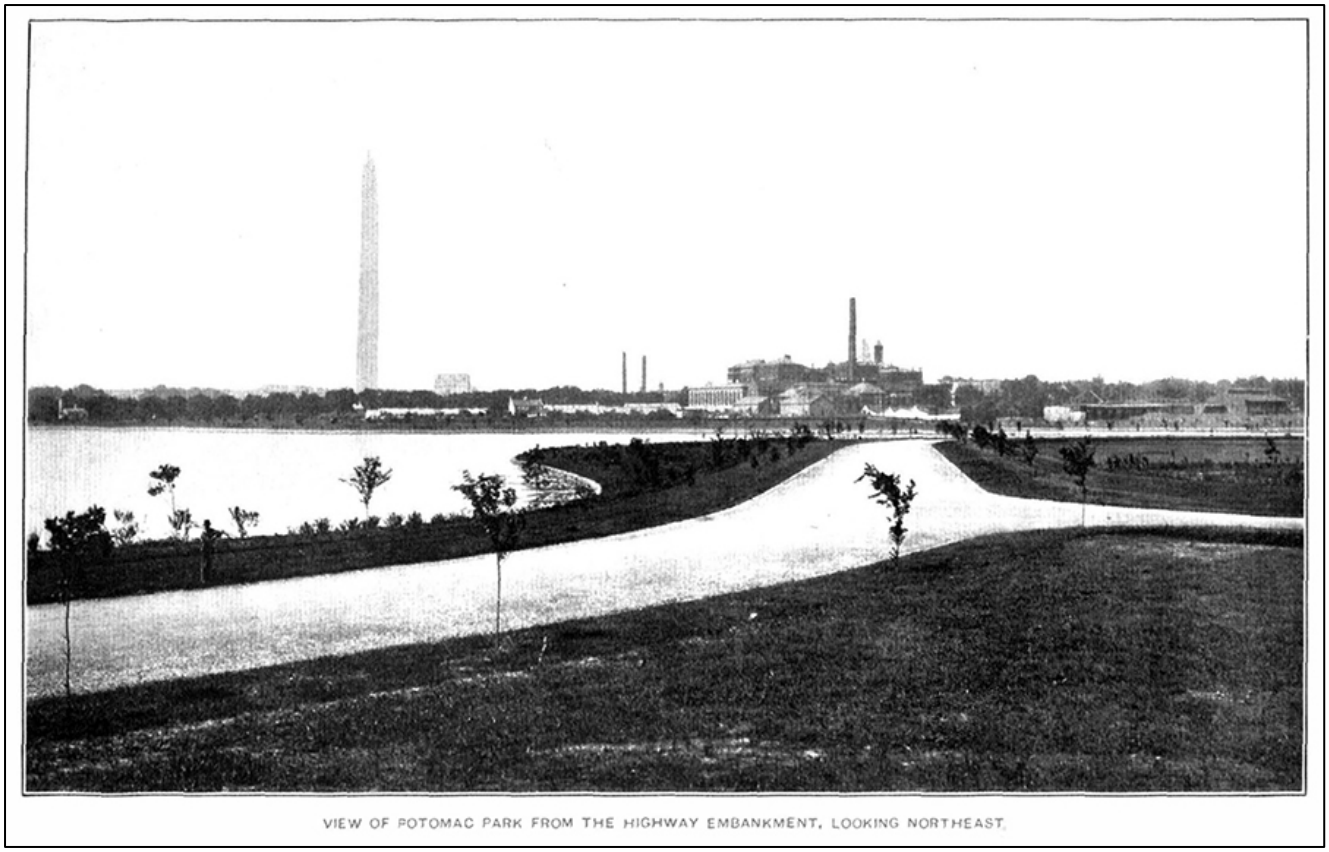


Figure: 9. Historic photograph looking northeast from the highway embankment showing the character of the recently completed landscaping at Potomac Park, 1906. Fountain No. 4 is located behind the photographer (Annual Report Upon the Improvement and Care of Public Buildings and Grounds, 1906).

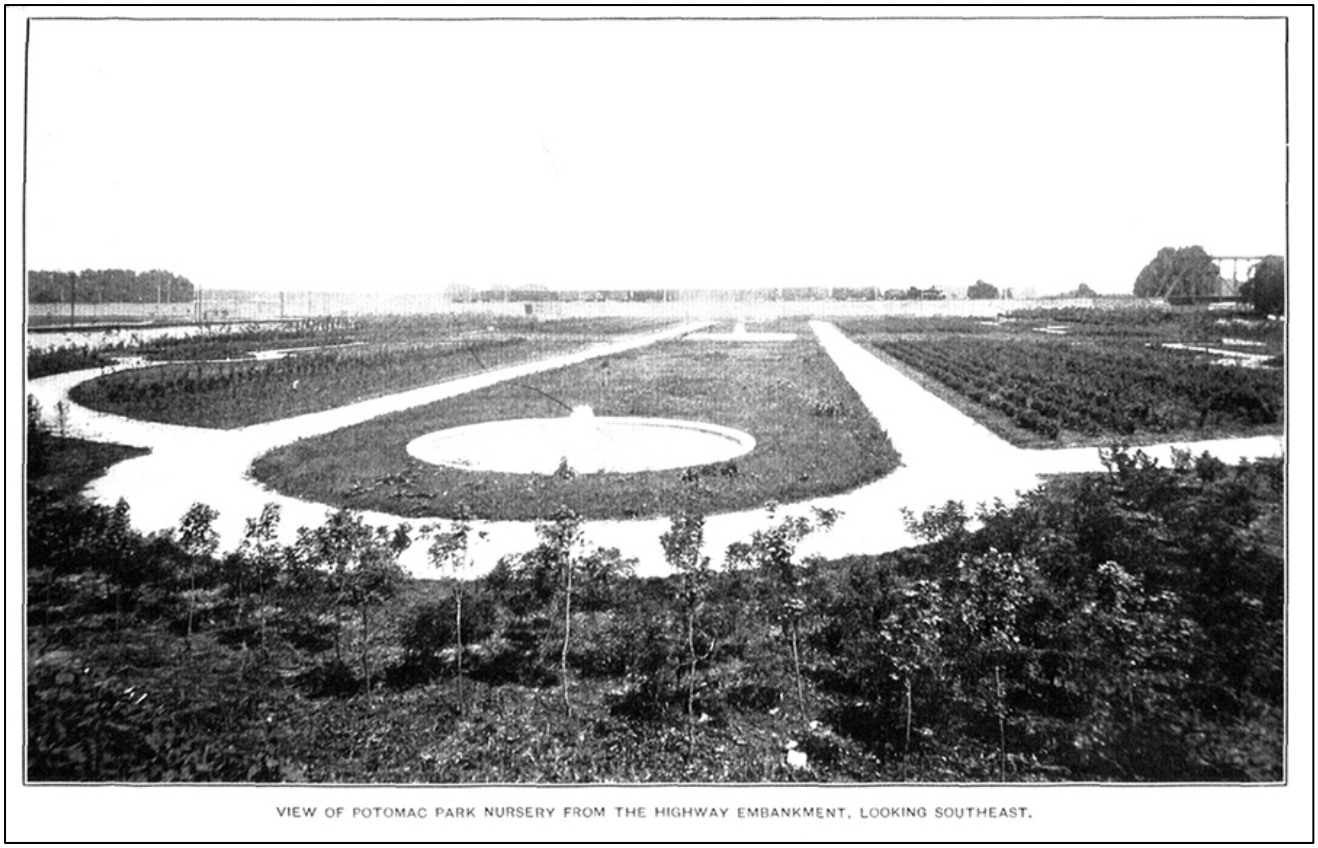


Figure: 10. Historic photograph looking northeast from the highway embankment showing the character of the recently completed landscaping at Potomac Park, 1906. Fountain No. 4 is located behind the photographer. Note the Long Bridge, which is visible on the right side of the photo (Annual Report Upon the Improvement and Care of Public Buildings and Grounds, 1906).

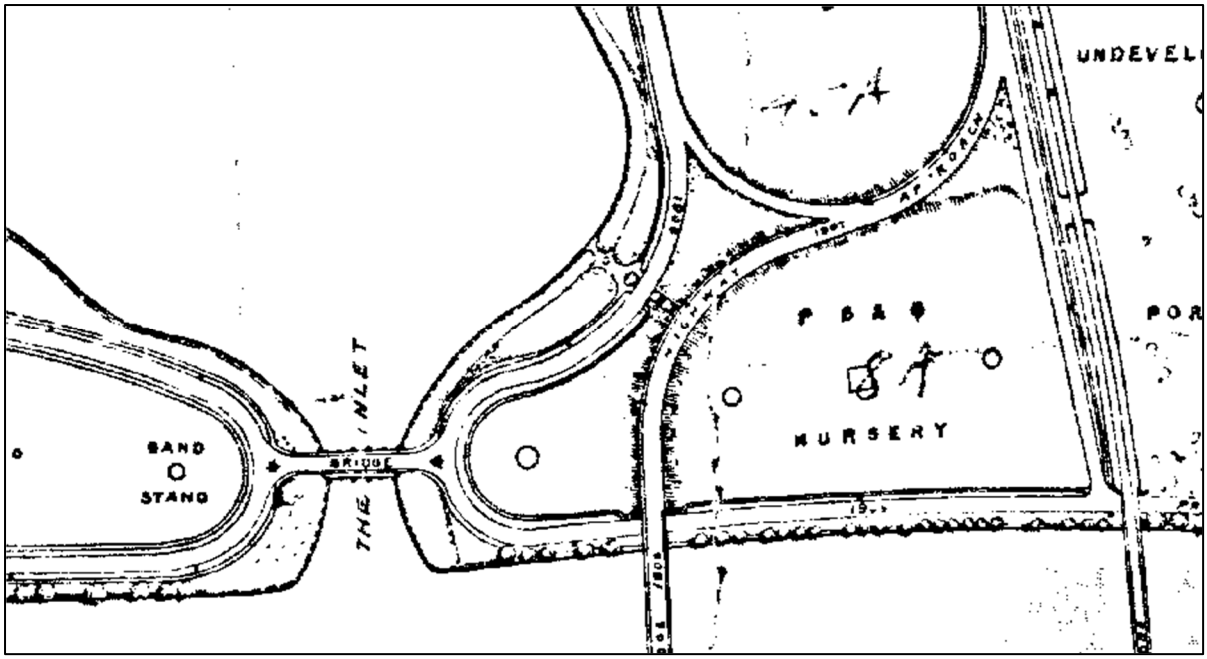


Figure: 11. Detail of the drawing of West Potomac Park showing the location of Fountain No. 4 on the right side of the Inlet Bridge and adjacent lands labeled "PB&G Nursery" with associated fountains at center, 1909 (E-TIC Drawing, WEPO-80164).



Figure: 12. Historic aerial photo showing the location of Fountain No. 4 in between the Inlet Bridge and associated nursery, 1918 (Aerial photograph mosaic, Washington, DC, Library of Congress, Call Number: G3851.A43 1918 .U5).

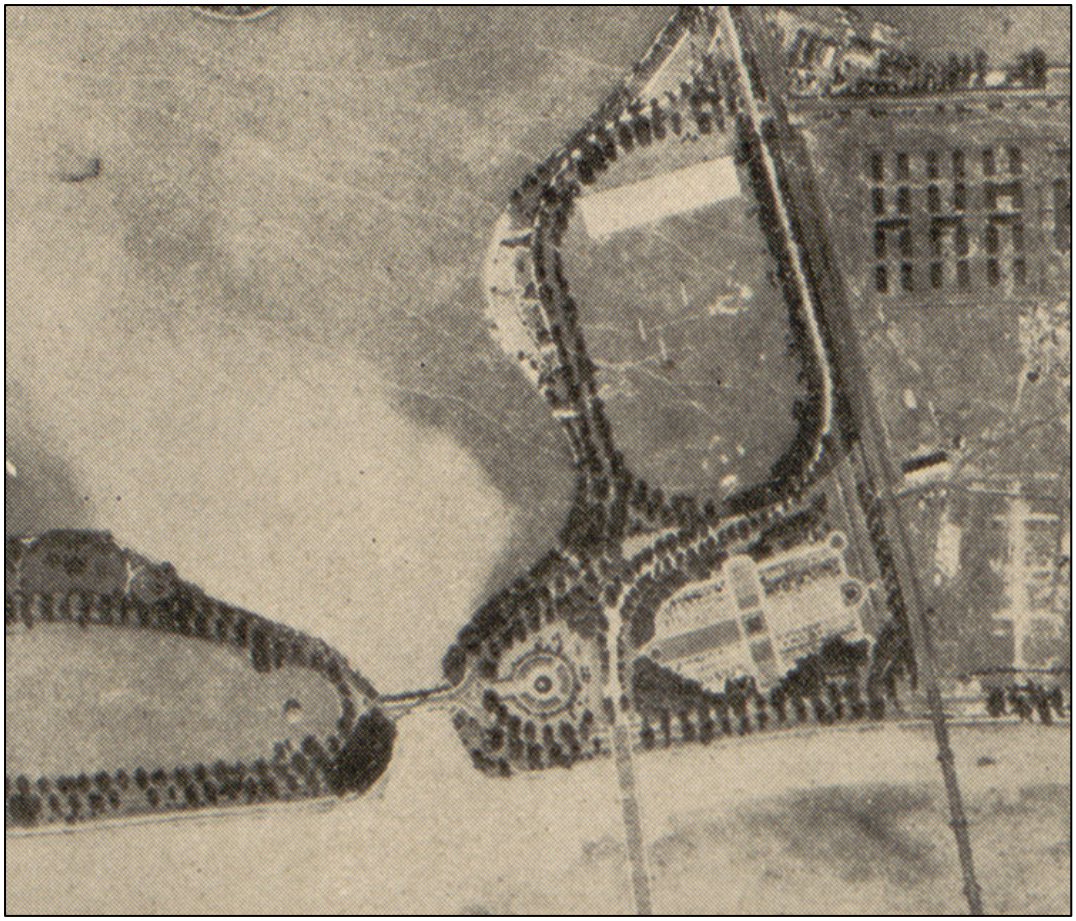


Figure: 13. Historic aerial photo showing the location of Fountain No. 4 in between the Inlet Bridge and associated nursery, 1918 (Mosaic composed of aerial photographs, Washington, DC, Library of Congress, Call Number: G3851.A4 1922 .U5).

IMPROVEMENT & DEVELOPMENT OF THE PANSY GARDEN: 1929-1963

In August 1928 a planting sketch was prepared for the garden around Fountain No. 4 (Annual Report 1929, 30). Plans showed the fountain's pool at the center of the garden, which was encircled by grass, a cinder walkway, a ring of planting beds bordered by grass, and finally a hedge (Christianson and Sanders 2017, 44). The southernmost pathway terminated at a set of stairs that traversed the slope associated with the highway. Additionally, a variety of trees such as elms were in the grassy area outside of the hedge that enclosed the fountain and planting beds. The plan noted that Rock Creek Nursery would furnish and plant several flowering cherry trees, while flowering crabapples would be sourced from the nursery. Large flowering magnolias were to be secured from the area south of

the reflecting pool. The 1929 annual report from the Director of Public Buildings and Parks indicated that ten deciduous trees were planted in the garden and fifteen large magnolias were transplanted from the Lincoln Memorial to the area around Fountain No. 4 (Christianson and Sanders 2017, 44; Annual Report 1929, 30). The report also noted that nineteen large forsythia plants were removed from around the Tidal Basin in West Potomac Park and transplanted in Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway, which established a precedent for well-established forsythia in the area (Annual Report 1929, 30). See Figure 15 for the 1931 map showing the diagonal walks.

Two years later, in 1931, the National Park Service developed a new landscaping strategy that concentrated flower displays into one or two locations, rather than throughout the city (Christianson and Sanders 2017, 44). (The impetus for the revised landscaping strategy was not identified in the 1931 Annual Report of the Director of Public Buildings and Parks of the National Capital.) Consequently, the garden associated with Fountain No. 4 was selected as one of these sites and approximately 35,000 pansies were planted in 1931. In early May, vandals damaged the garden and stole some of the flowers from the center with *The Washington Post* reporting, that "the general appearance of the collection is practically ruined for the season" (*The Washington Post*, May 6, 1931, 1). Despite the damage, at least six light fixtures were installed to illuminate the bloom from dusk until dawn, which was viewed by nearly 72,000 people (*Evening Star*, May 12, 1931, 17; Christianson and Sanders 2017, 44; Annual Report 1931, 39, 70). Historic photos from the period show relatively modern looking light posts with two cone-shaped lamps at the top situated around the perimeter of the formal garden.

A "Plan to Revise the Pansy Garden" was drawn in October 1931 and revised in April 1932. See Figure 15 for 1931 planting plan (revised in 1932). Implementation of the plan began in the fall of 1931 in anticipation of the George Washington Bicentennial celebration. By November 1931, a total of 120,000 plants had been set out in the "great beds" with nearly 70,000 additional flowers and more bed space (*Evening Star*, November 24, 1931, 7). Despite the large number of new plants, the plan did not significantly alter the existing garden design. One of the most notable changes; however, included the addition of a linear planting bed at the entrance to the site, which was to be planted with pansies. The pool associated with Fountain No. 4 at the center of the garden was to contain water lilies, while concentric rings of planting beds with pansies and crushed stone walks encircled the

feature. A grass area enclosed the fountain and beds and eight evenly spaced benches were planned around the edges. Diagonal cinder walks as described above were included in the plan as well as two bridle paths around the outer perimeter that intersected with "Park Drive". Behind the grass area was an unidentified hedge (likely forsythia) and numerous trees. The trees, many of which were extant at the time of the planting plan, included birches, magnolias, cherries, flowering dogwood, white pine, dwarf horse chestnut, and cedars of Lebanon. A sycamore grove also stood east of the site. At this time, the pansy garden, as it became known, contained 5,360 square feet of crushed stone walk and 12,000 square feet of flower beds (Christianson and Sanders 2017, 44).

In 1932, the park division of the Office of Public Buildings and Public Parks illuminated the large pansy beds located between the Inlet Bridge and the Highway Bridge in West Potomac Park for several hours during the season of bloom (*Evening Star*, May 19, 1932, 22; Annual Report 1932, 25). The tradition would continue until at least the late 1950s. The planting included five pansy beds containing approximately 75,000 plants (*Evening Star*, May 12, 1932, 33). At this time, officials from the Office of Public Buildings and Public Parks reported that the gardens were attracting "much favorable attention" (*Evening Star*, May 19, 1932, 22). The following year, in 1933, the pansy garden contained 55,000 to 65,000 living plants and more than 1,000,000 blooms (*Evening Star*, May 9, 1933, 10; *The Washington Post*, May 10, 1933, 9).

Depending on the year, the pansy beds served as a complementary attraction to those visitors who traveled to the Tidal Basin to enjoy the splendor of the cherry trees. During the 1933 bloom season, Park police reported that 13,280 automobiles passed the Inlet Bridge, while 25,000 people walked around the basin to view the blossoms (*The Washington Post*, April 10, 1933, 1). The pansy garden also contained flowering crabapples, cherries, dogwood, magnolia, purple lilac, and a golden forsythia hedge that provided a spectacular spring bloom and by 1935 were attracting more visitors each year (*Sunday Star*, April 21, 1935). As a result of the growing popularity of the bloom, great efforts were made to protect the blossoms from frost damage including the introduction of smudge pots when required (*Evening Star*, April 1, 1937, 11). Historic photos show the character of the garden with paths as well as formal planting beds punctuated by manicured pine trees.

In addition to redevelopment of the pansy garden, by 1932, the nursery had been converted into a rose garden (Christianson and Sanders 2017, 43). In an effort to screen the garden from the Highway Bridge approach, bramble roses and trees were planted along the north and west banks of the berm. Generally, the layout of the garden remained the same; however, the Cuban Friendship Urn was added at the south end of the north-south axis around December 15, 1928. The marble urn was constructed from a fragment of one of the columns of the monument to the USS *Maine* in Havana, Cuba, and was said to weight seven tons (*Sunday Star*, May 31, 1931, 1). See drawing showing the layout and design of the garden in 1931. Other notable features of the rose garden included three extant fountains, formal paths and several trellis/arbor features. Rose varieties included "Red Radiance," "Pink Radiance," "Mrs. Dupont," "Paul's Scarlet Climber," "Sunburst," and "Dainty Bess". At the time, several beds were still designated as evergreen nurseries, while boxwood hedges delineated the edges of the garden (Christianson and Sanders 2017, 43).

In March 1936, the pansy garden was destroyed due to damage incurred by one of the highest floods to ever hit Washington, DC. The *Evening Star* declared that "the gorgeous pansy bed at the eastern end of West Potomac Park was feared ruined, for this year at least, after acting for 15 hours as the bottom of the Potomac" (*Evening Star*, March 20, 1936, 9). While the nearby rose garden was also heavily damaged, it was able to be salvaged. Later reports confirmed that the pansy bed had been "wiped out" and was a "total loss" with no chance of display that season (*Sunday Star*, March 29, 1936, 22; *Evening Star*; March 24, 1936, 1). Ultimately, the flood washed away topsoil and newly set out plant materials, while depositing between two to six inches of clay and silt in East and West Potomac Parks (*Evening Star*, March 24, 1936, 1; *The Washington Post*, March 21, 1936, 1).

The following year, in 1937, when the rising waters of the Potomac once again threatened the rehabilitated pansy garden in West Potomac Park, a "flood control army" of 2,000 people was assembled to build sandbag levees along the park waterfront including the area from the Inlet Bridge to the Highway Bridge approach (*Evening Star*, April 27, 1937, 1; *Evening Star*, April 28, 1937, 2; *Sunday Star*, February 21, 1937, 21). A similar dike was also constructed from the Highway Bridge to the railroad bridge to prevent flood waters from damaging the rose garden (*Evening Star*, April 28, 1937, 2). Despite their efforts, approximately one-third of the rose garden was damaged by seep flow that came through the drain traps. The pansy garden escaped damage and the temporary sandbag

and lumber barriers were removed from both garden locations (*Evening Star*, April 29, 1937, 4). By the end of the 1930s, the *Evening Star* urged visitors not to miss the "famous pansy beds" (*Sunday Star*, April 16, 1939, 21). By the fall of 1939, 40,000 pansy plants had been planted around Fountain No. 4 with similar numbers in the years to follow.

Planning efforts associated with construction of the Thomas Jefferson Memorial were initiated in 1934 as a result of the passage of a Joint Resolution by Congress that established the Thomas Jefferson Memorial Commission. After selecting a location for the memorial on the south bank of the Tidal Basin in 1937, some officials voiced concern about the early plans released by the Commission. Preliminary plans revealed that both the rose garden and the pansy gardens as well as a number of cherry trees would be potentially affected by the construction of the memorial in the selected location (*Evening Star*, May 5, 1937, 17). See Figure 20 showing the historic plot plan for the southeast shoreline of the Tidal Basin prior to the memorial. Construction of the Thomas Jefferson Memorial began in 1938. The memorial was located on the southeast shore of the Tidal Basin at the southern terminus of the Sixteenth Street cross-axis of the Washington Monument. Notably, the memorial was constructed on a site reserved in the McMillan Plan for a major national monument. Designed by Russell Pope and built in the Neoclassical style, design influences for the Thomas Jefferson Memorial included the Pantheon in Rome and the Rotunda at the University of Virginia (Bobeczko and Robinson 2001, Section 8, 80). The new memorial encouraged greater numbers of visitors to this part of West Potomac Park and associated Tidal Basin. See accepted design for the Thomas Jefferson Memorial from 1938.

Throughout the 1940s the pansy garden remained a fixture of West Potomac Park with evening illumination still offered at select times. One reporter noted in March 1942, "old residents are watching anxiously the road work near the end of Long Bridge, for nearby lies the great circular beds of pansies to which many old timers make an annual pilgrimage. The destruction of this spot would be a disappointment to many who yearly enjoy the pansy bed and its accompanying forsythia" (Pozer March 29, 1942, B3). It can be said that early garden development in the park can be attributed to David E. Saunders who was the park horticulturalist for decades. Upon his retirement in November 1946, the *Evening Star* reported, "It was Mr. Saunders who set out Washington's famous Tidal Basin cherry trees and has supervised every important park flower and shrub display. It was he

who planted the trees on the Mall and arranged the West Potomac Park pansy beds…" (*Evening Star* November 28, 1946, 6).

Meanwhile the nearby rose gardens also proved to be a desirable destination with their location close to the river (Pozer August 25, 1940, A9). By June 1940 there were 4,552 rose bushes comprised of fifty-six different varieties in bloom in the rose garden (*Sunday Star* April 21, 1940, 17). Reportedly, there were more than one hundred varieties of roses with accompanying labels by 1942 (Pozer May 31, 1942, SP6). On July 21, 1944, the District Commissioners approved a plan for construction of two new bridges that would carry traffic on Fourteenth Street across the Potomac River (Christianson and Sanders 2017, 43). Nearly two years later, on July 16, 1946, President Truman signed the twin bridge bill into Public Law 615 (Christianson and Sanders 2017, 43).

By the end of the 1940s, the character of the area located southeast of the Tidal Basin began to change as a result of the construction of new approaches associated with the Rochambeau and George Mason Bridges that connected Washington, DC, to Virginia (Christianson and Sanders 2017, 43). In 1947, the nearby rose gardens, along with three fountains were demolished to make way for bridge development ("George Mason Memorial, Fountain Four", July 6, 2000, 2). A photo from approximately 1945 shows the views from the rose garden to both the Thomas Jefferson Memorial as well as the Washington Monument before its demolition. It also shows a portion of a trellis or arbor on the far-left side of the images, which would later influence the design of the George Mason Memorial. Moreover, the photo also shows one of the three fountains associated with the rose garden. The pansy garden and remaining fountain, known as Fountain No. 4, were spared. A historic photograph from 1946 shows the Cuban Urn in its original location before it was moved to accommodate highway construction. The photo also shows the manicured garden, fountain, and associated views toward the Thomas Jefferson Memorial. In addition, aerial photographs also demonstrate the character of the locale before and after the garden removal.

After the rose gardens were demolished, the National Park Service expressed an interest in reestablishing the gardens on the polo field in West Potomac Park. At the time the area was still occupied by two temporary Navy barrack buildings (*The Washington Post*, June 9, 1948, B1). Ultimately, the Commission of Fine Arts and the National Capital Planning Commission approved

the new location for the rose garden; however, the delay in the removal of the barracks building meant the new rose garden was never established (Christianson and Sanders 2017, 43). In addition to these efforts, in the fall of 1948 plans were underway to construct a temporary parking lot on the site of the former rose garden. According to *The Washington Post*, fill was removed from the construction site associated with the Dupont Circle underpass and brought here in an effort to raise the grade to road level (Zagoria September 30, 1948, B1; Correspondence to Glenn DeMarr, March 6, 2000). Plans dictated that the 400-car parking lot would be paved and used in this capacity until the bridge was completed. Despite the expansive development, the National Park Service was able to salvage some trees in this area (as evidenced by aerial photographs), and a set of stairs was built alongside the new bridge to allow pedestrian access to this part of West Potomac Park (Christianson and Sanders 2017, 44). Ultimately, the Rochambeau Bridge opened on May 9, 1950 (Christianson and Sanders 2017, 43). (The Rochambeau Memorial Bridge was renamed the Arland D. Williams, Jr. Memorial Bridge in March 1985 to honor Williams who died after helping others to safety following the January 13, 1982, crash of a commercial aircraft into the Potomac River. Rochambeau's name was applied to the previously unnamed center span of the 14th Street Bridge complex) (*The Washington Post*, March 14, 1985, C4). Construction on the George Mason Memorial bridge would begin in 1960 and continue until 1962.

Throughout the 1950s and into the mid-1960s the pansy garden continued to serve as a showplace during bloom season with pansies, magnolia, forsythia, tulip, camellia, and jonquil displays associated with the area (*Evening Star*, April 2, 1954, 39; *The Washington Post* April 19, 1958, A3). Also, the tradition of illuminating the pansy garden at night during peak bloom continued (*Evening Star* March 20, 1953, 25; *Sunday Star* April 28, 1957, 114). During this period, it became common to find vernacular references in local newspapers to the pansies around the 'No. 4 fountain" or the "Number 4 fountain"; however, the earliest known reference to the fountain number was in 1929 (*Sunday Star* April 28, 1957, 114; *Evening Star* April 7, 1958, 21; Horne April 9, 1960, D1).

Note: Color photos of the pansy garden are located at the DC History Center. See: West Potomac Park--Pansy Garden (pastperfectonline.com) for additional information.

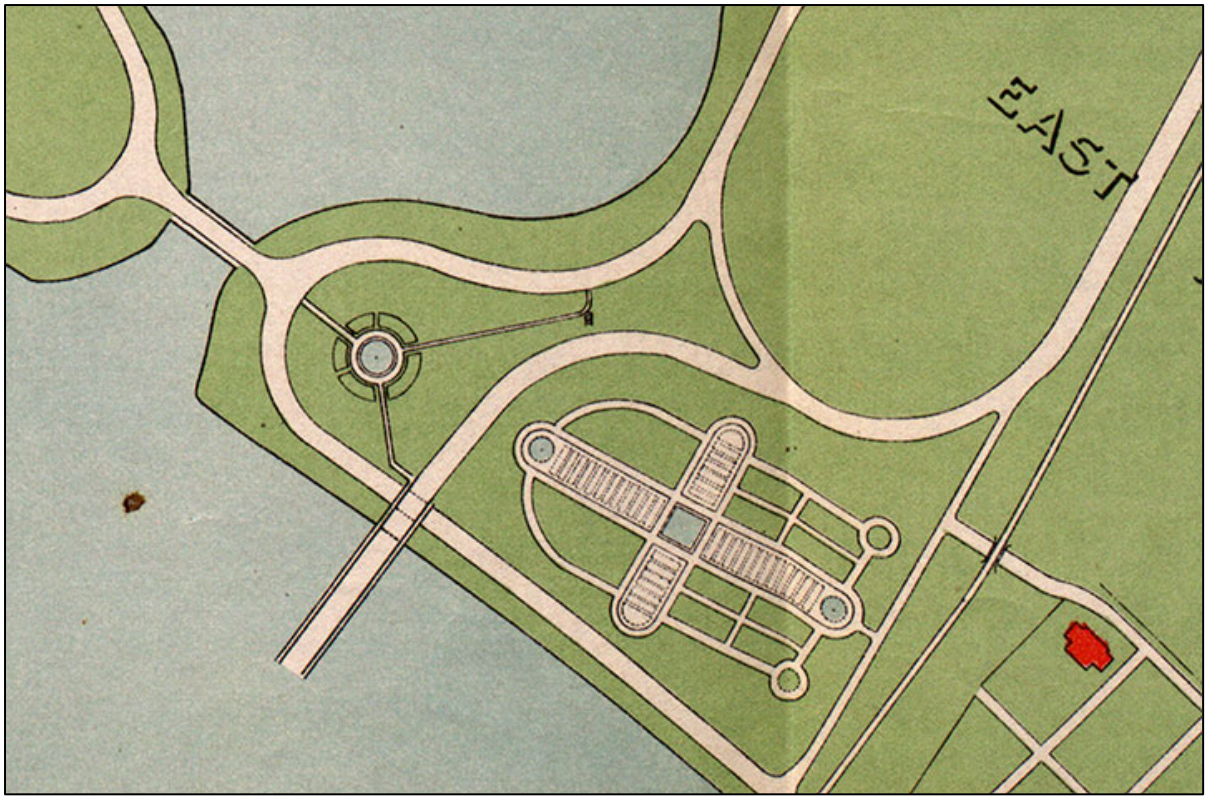


Figure: 14. Detail of a map entitled "Public Buildings Commission The Mall and Vicinity, Washington, Proposed Development" showing diagonal paths extending from Fountain No. 4, 1931 (Annual Report of the Director of Public Buildings and Public Parks of the National Capital, 1931).

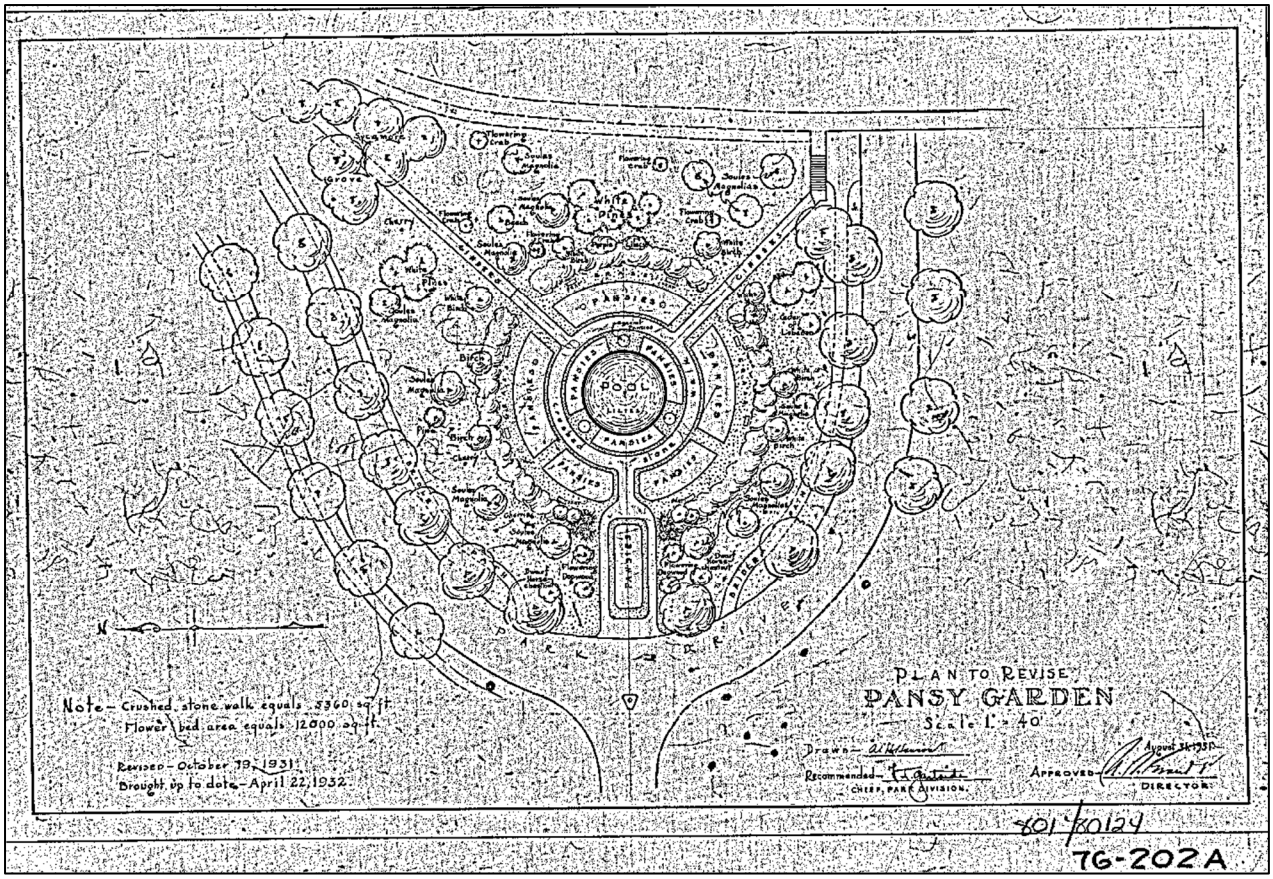


Figure: 15. Plan to revise the pansy garden, 1932 (E-TIC Drawing WEPO-80124).



Figure: 16. View looking northwest of the pansy garden and Fountain No. 4 , ca. 1933-1936 (National Archives 79-LS-7-2-F.) Also see National Archives 79-LS-7-2-E for a similar image.

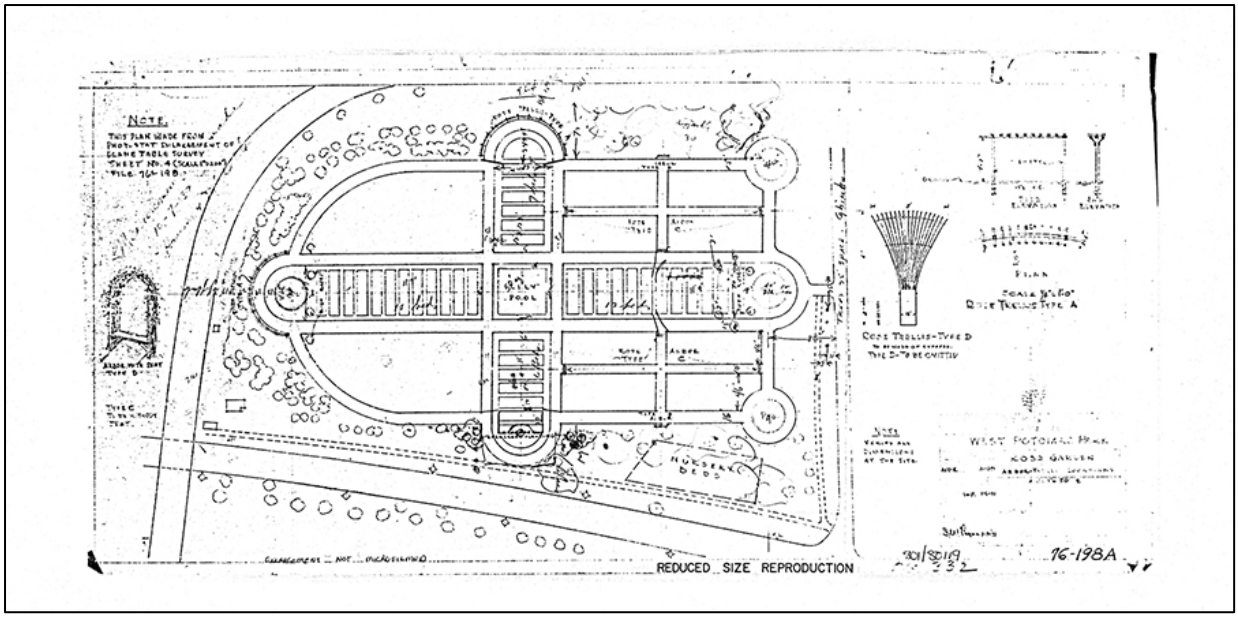


Figure: 17. Drawing of the West Potomac Park rose garden with associated trellis/arbor detail, 1931 (E-TIC Drawing WEPO-80119).

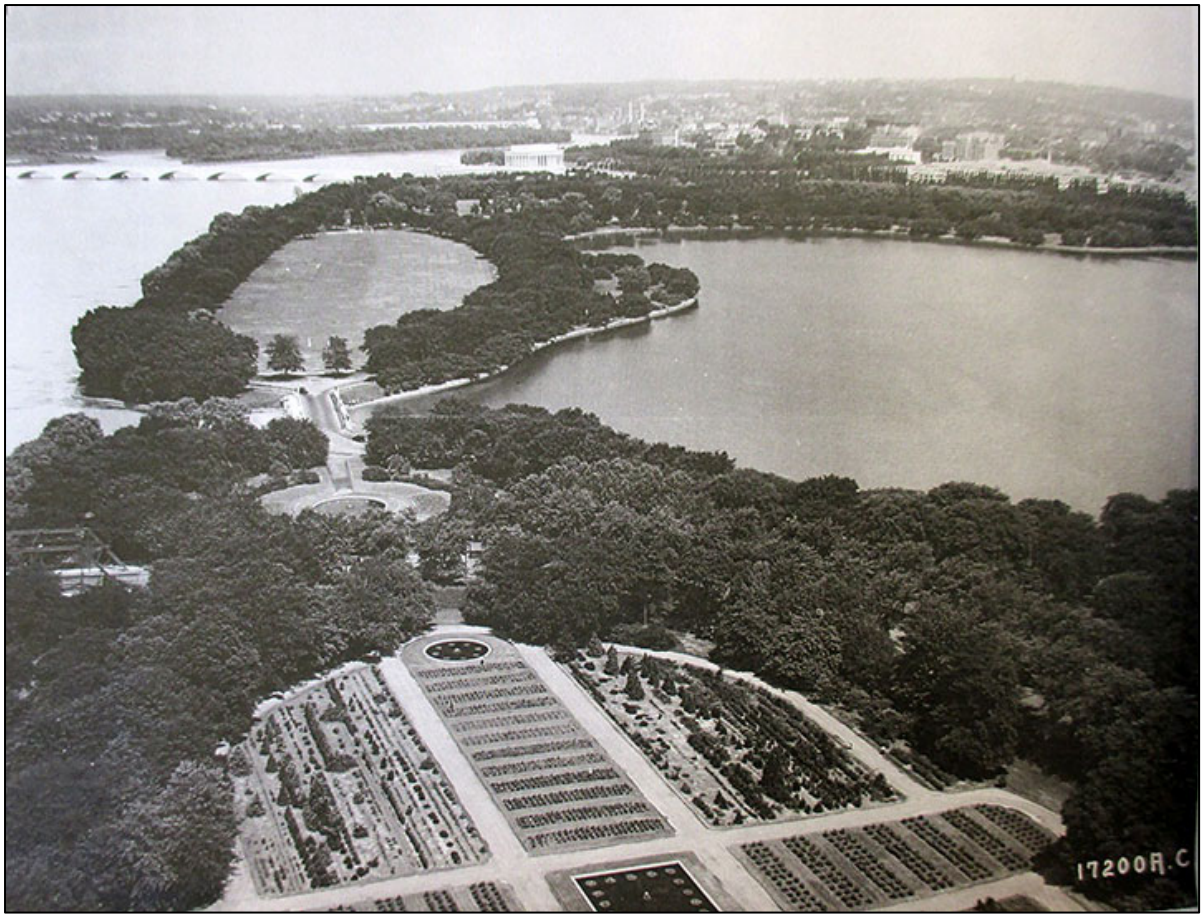


Figure: 18. Historic aerial photograph looking northwest showing the former rose garden and nursery in the foreground as well as the pansy garden and Fountain No. 4, ca. 1922-1947 (National Archives 17200 A.C.).



Figure: 19. Historic aerial photograph looking northeast showing the relationship of the former rose garden, nursery, pansy garden, and Fountain No. 4 to Highway Bridge and Long Bridge, ca. 1917-1947 (National Archives 8296 A.C.).

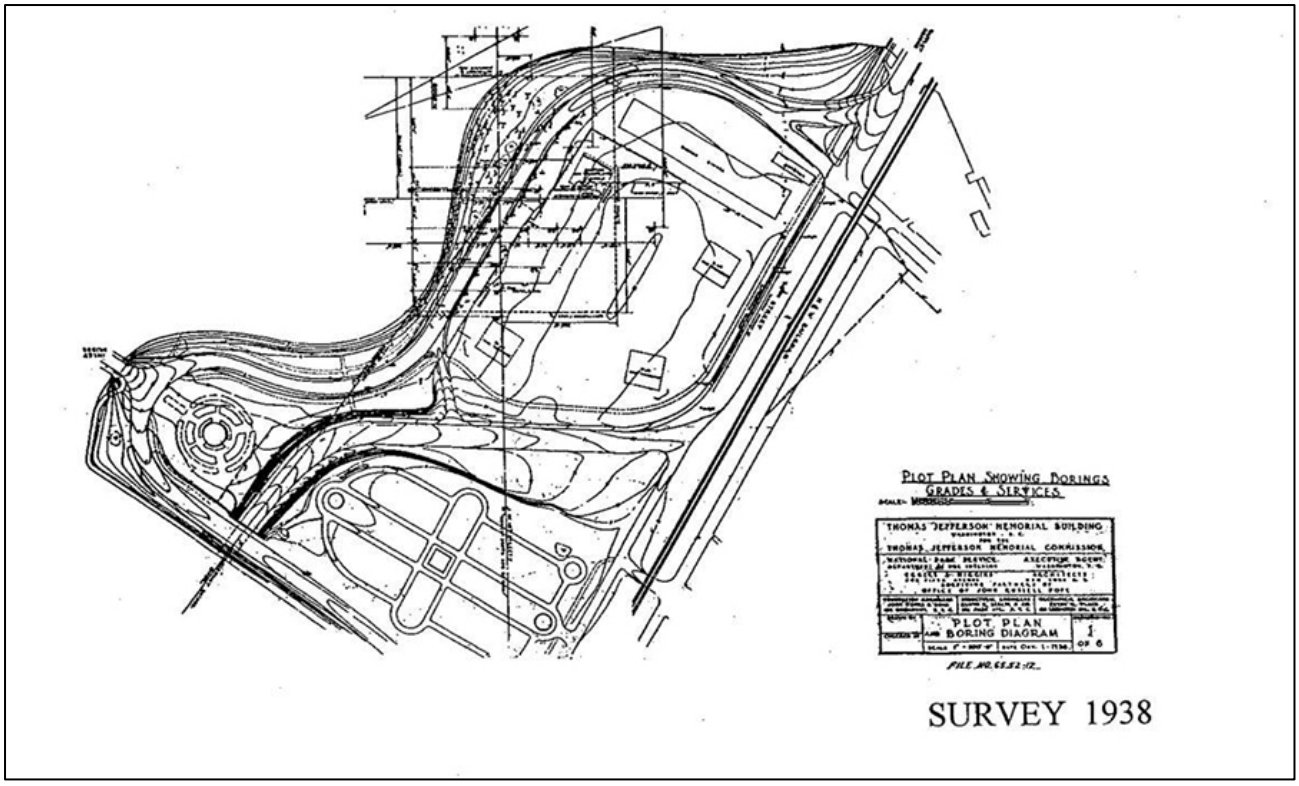


Figure: 20. Historic plot plan of the southeast shoreline of the Tidal Basin prior to construction of the Thomas Jefferson Memorial, 1938. The pansy garden, Fountain No. 4, and the rose garden is visible on the bottom left side of the drawing (Thomas Jefferson Memorial Cultural Landscapes Inventory).

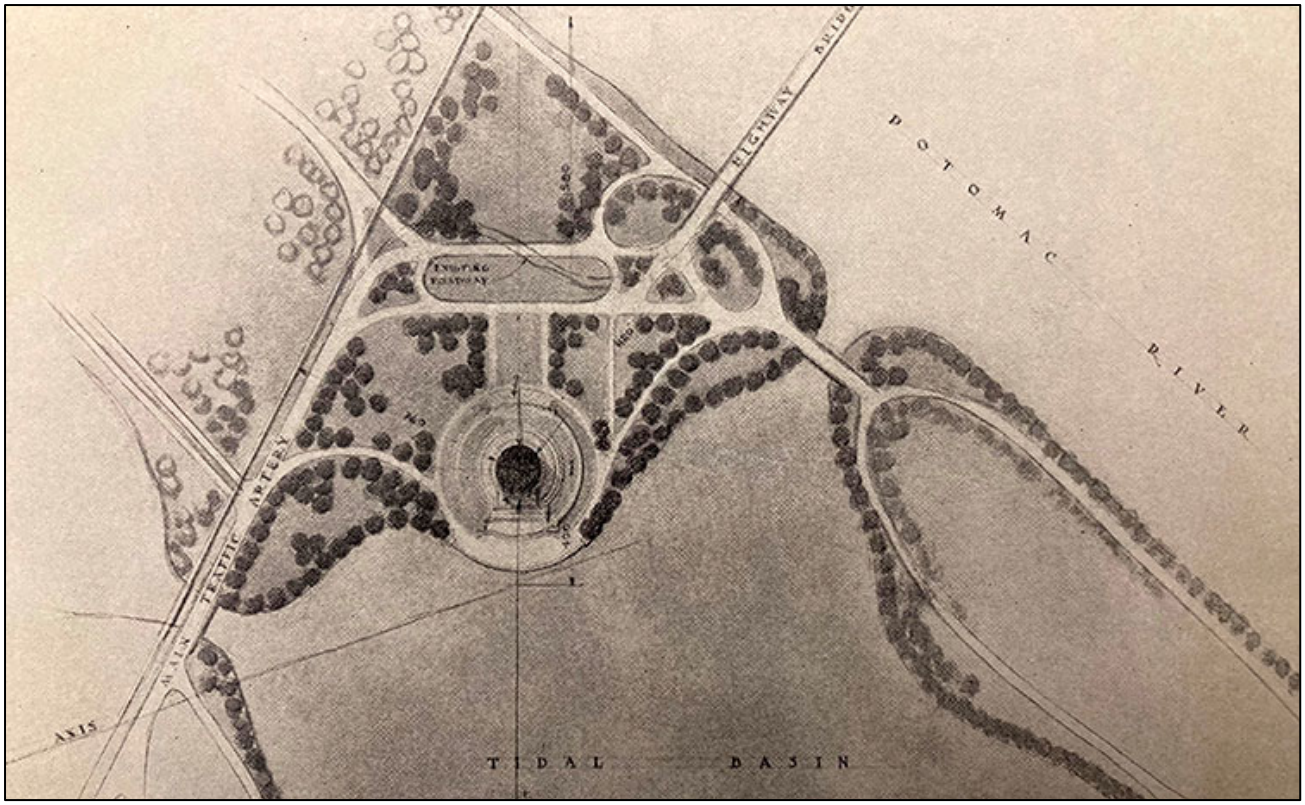


Figure: 21. Design for the Thomas Jefferson Memorial site plan, 1938 (Report of the Thomas Jefferson Memorial Commission, 75th Congress 3rd Session, House of Representatives, Document Number 699, United States Government Printing Office, Washington, 1938).



Figure: 22. Historic photograph of the pansy garden showing Fountain No. 4 at the center, ca. 1940s (Abbie Rowe, National Park Service Museum Resource Center, National Capital Region, Public Affairs Collection, UNPROCESSED).

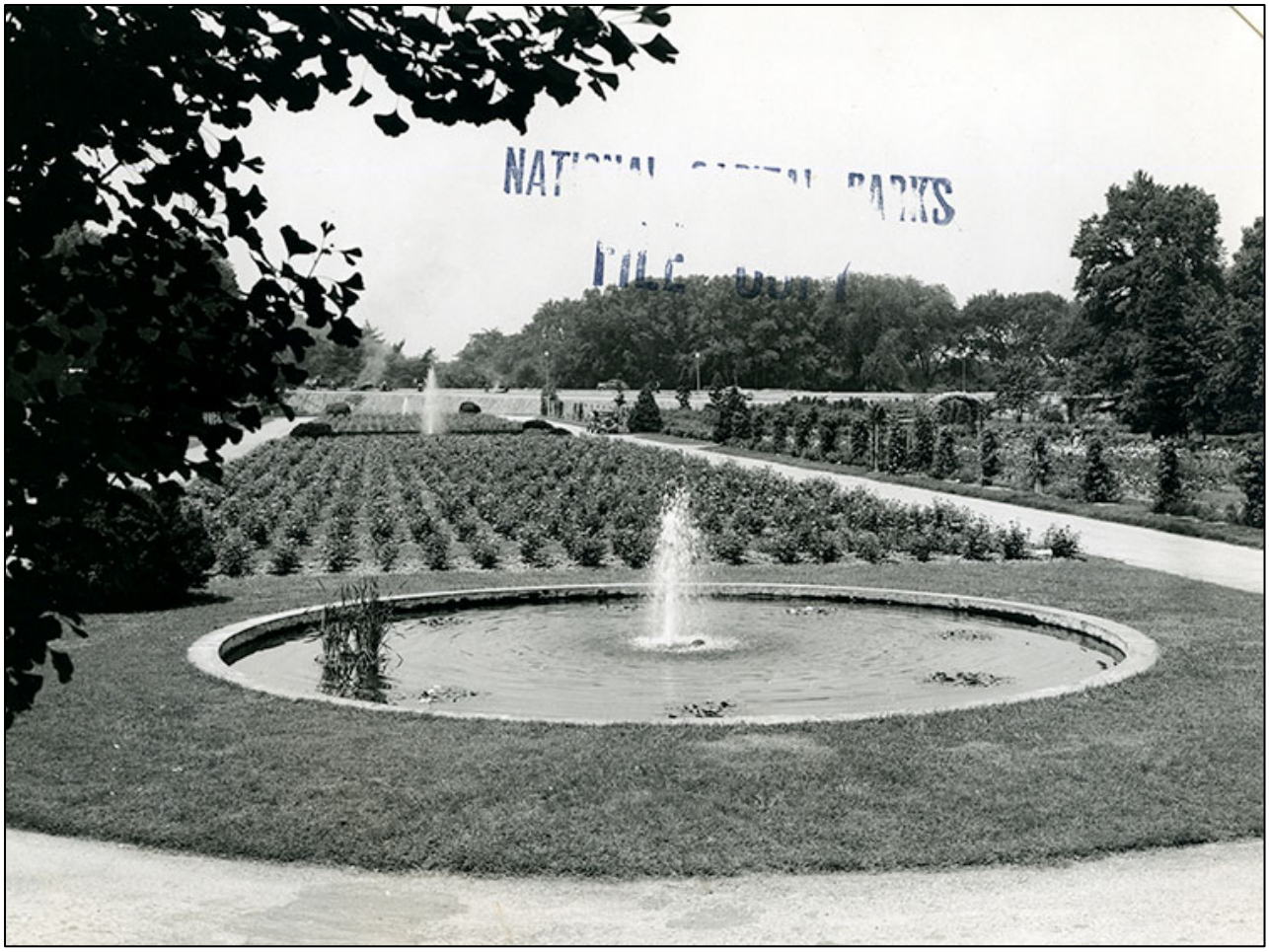


Figure: 23. Historic photograph of the rose garden looking northwest showing the three fountains and associated plantings. The Highway Bridge berm is visible in the background, which served to separate Fountain No. 4 from the rose garden, May 26, 1942 (National Park Service Museum Resource Center, National Capital Region, Public Affairs Collection, 16.4.69, UNPROCESSED).



Figure: 24. View of the rose garden and associated fountain looking north toward the rear of the Thomas Jefferson Memorial, ca. 1940-1947 (Library of Congress, Theodore Horydczak Collection, Call Number: LC-H813- J02-021 [P&P]).

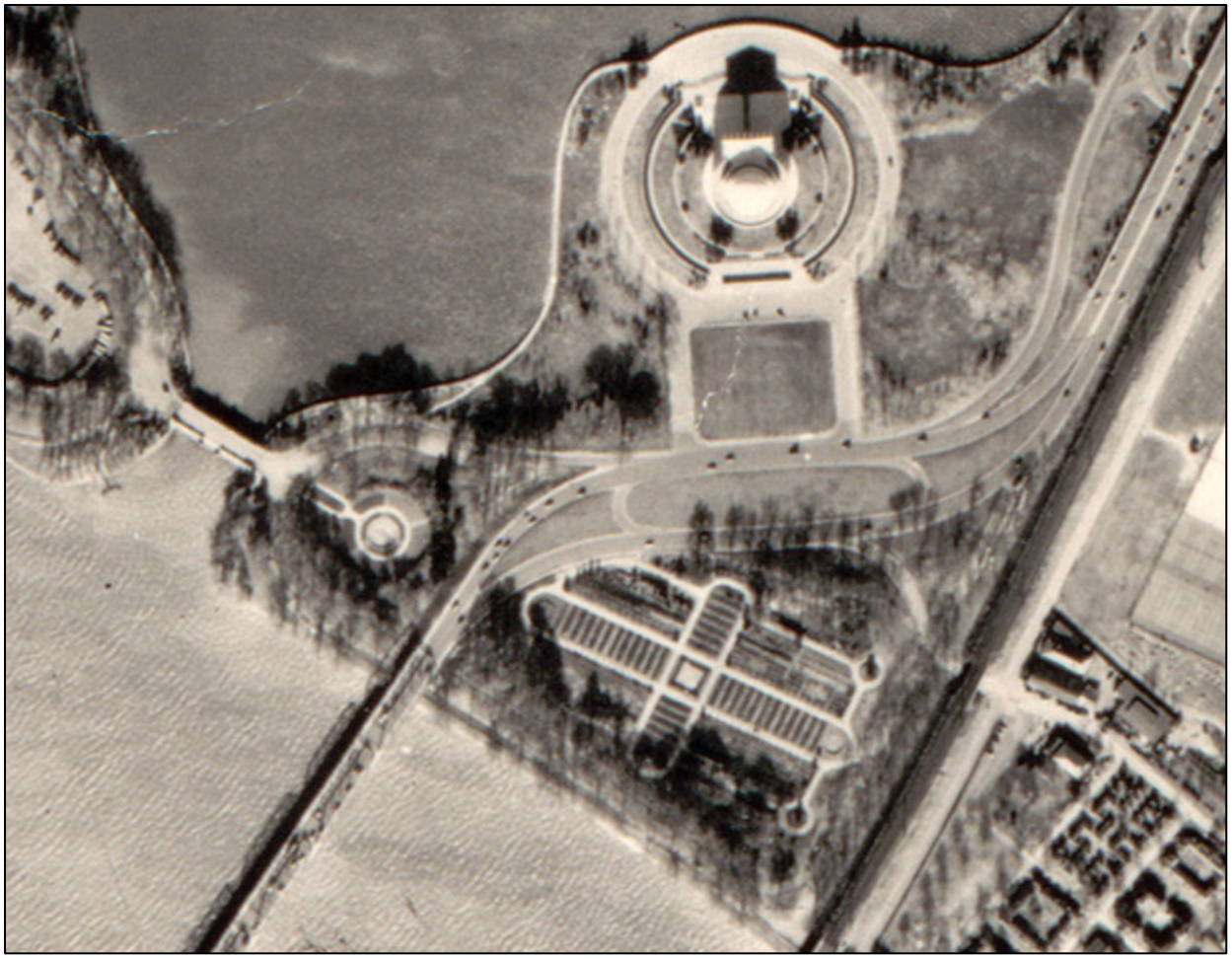


Figure: 25. Historic aerial photo showing the location of Fountain No. 4 in between the Inlet Bridge and cruciform-shaped rose garden, 1946 (Photomap of central Washington DC, and adjacent part of Arlington, Washington, DC, Library of Congress, Call Number: G3851.A4 1946 .U2).



Figure: 26. Historic photograph of the pansy garden looking west showing the fountain and associated tulip and pansy plantings. The Inlet Bridge is visible in the background, April 22, 1949 (National Park Service Museum Resource Center, National Capital Region, Public Affairs Collection, 1074-A, UNPROCESSED).



Figure: 27. Aerial photograph showing the bridge approach ca. 1950. The pansy garden and Fountain No. 4 are obscured by tree canopy near the Inlet Bridge (Thomas Jefferson Memorial Cultural Landscapes Inventory).

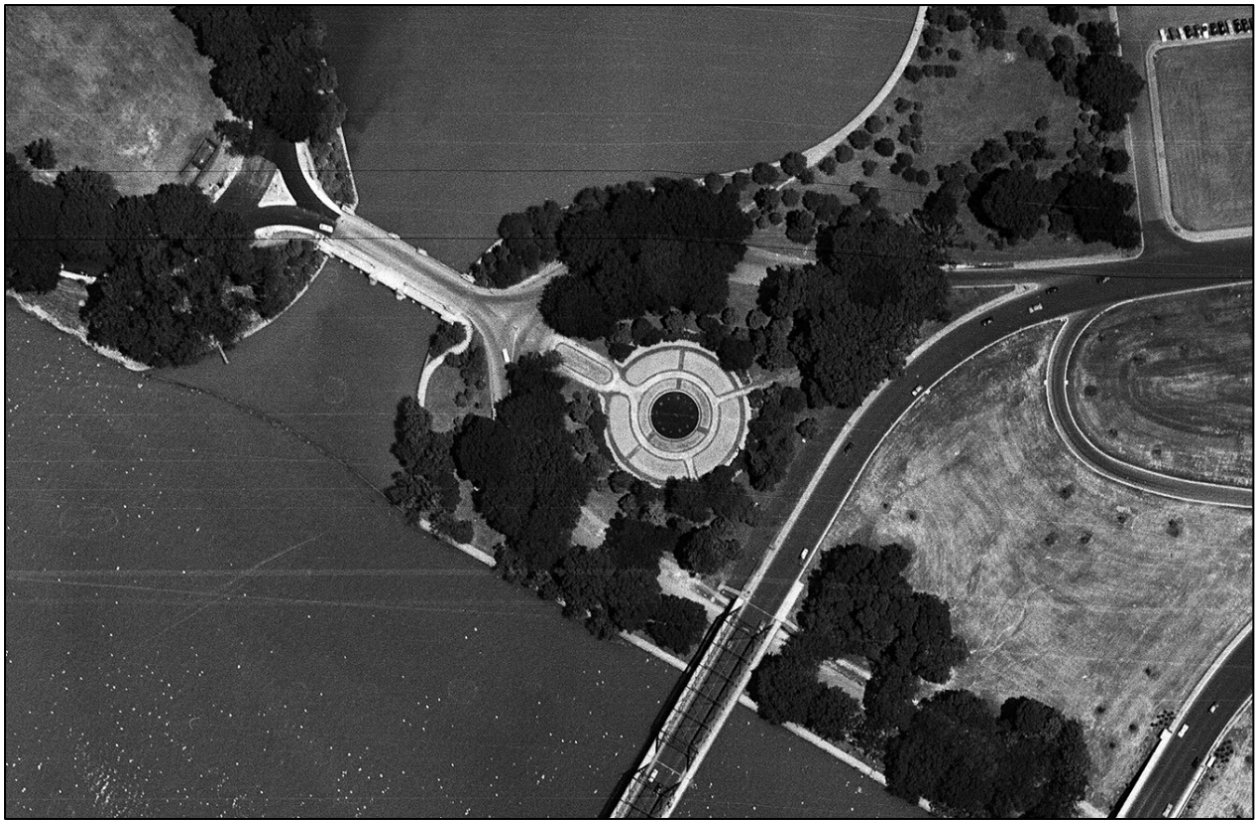


Figure: 28. Aerial photo showing the historic character of the pansy garden and Fountain No. 4, 1951. Note steps behind garden that may have provided access to the other side of the bridge to the former location of the rose garden (USGS Earth Explorer).

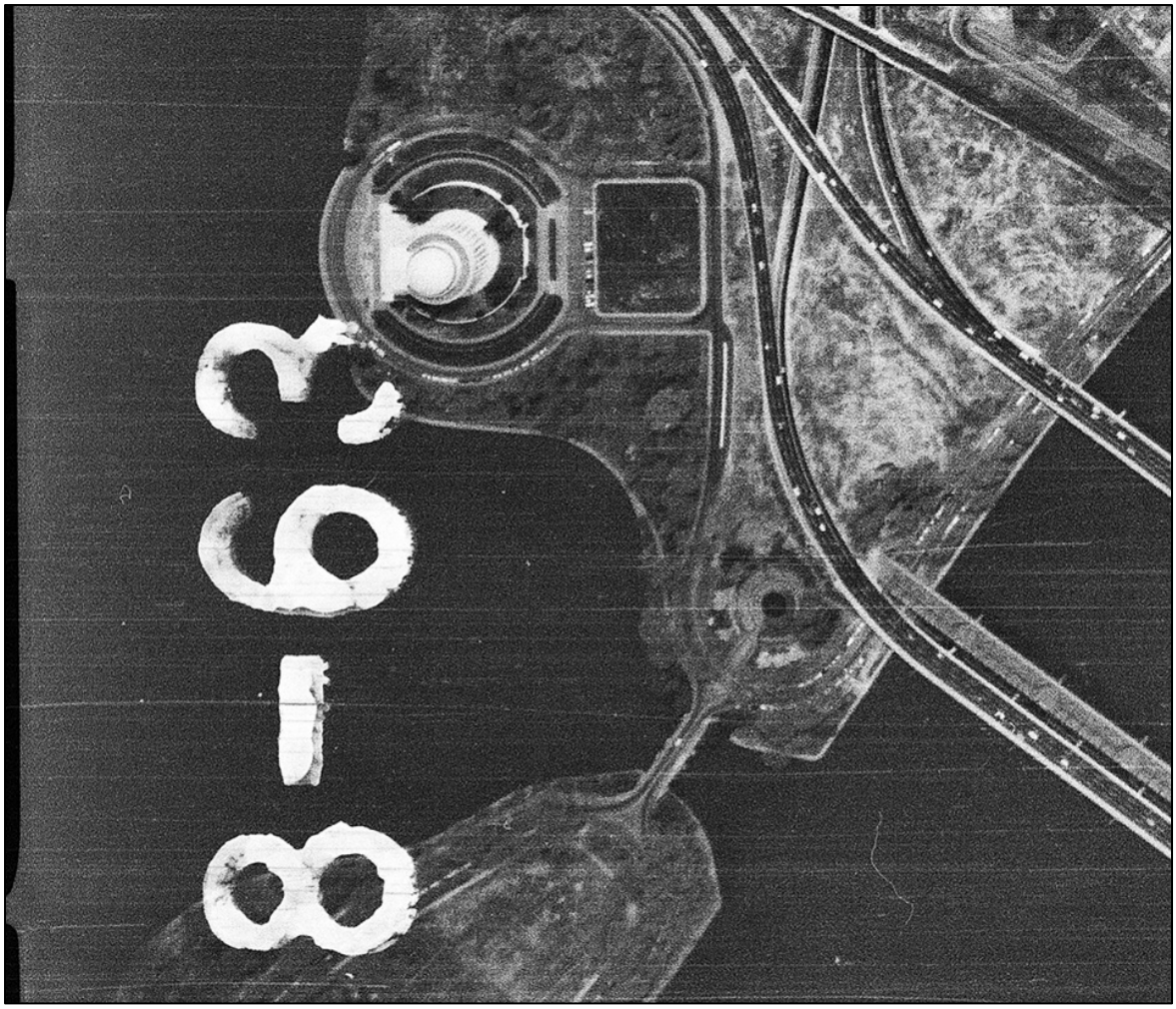


Figure: 29. Aerial photo showing the historic character of the pansy garden and Fountain No. 4, 1963. Note construction of the new George Mason Memorial Bridge with remnants of the old Highway Bridge behind (USGS Earth Explorer).

BEAUTIFICATION AND DECLINE OF THE PANSY GARDEN: 1964-1989

Between 1964 and 1968, the First Lady, Lady Bird Johnson directed a Beautification Program in Washington, DC, to enhance public spaces with landscape improvements (*Evening Star* March 10, 1965, 29). The improvements included the planting of trees, shrubs, and flowers; the creation or rehabilitation of playgrounds; various clean-up projects; and highway beautification. To facilitate the effort, the NPS established a Beautification Task Force in National Capital Parks, where the work was undertaken by staff landscape architects (Kuhn, Groesbeck and Bedell 2021). In Washington, DC, the program consisted of two parts that involved: 1) the installation of massed flowering plants at key

locations such as at monuments, in tourist areas and at entrance roads into the city; and 2) the improvement of inner-city neighborhoods with playgrounds, clean-up projects, and new plantings (Kuhn, Groesbeck and Bedell 2021).

Secretary of the Interior Steward L. Udall actively supported the beautification initiative and suggested that Lady Bird "transform Washington, DC, into 'a garden city' whose floral displays and plantings would make it a handsome model for America" (Gould 1997, 46-47). In November 1966, Udall stated that "beautification was not 'the cherry trees, or daffodils, or more trash cans, or great architecture. But it is the bringing together of all these things into an urban fabric that can be handsome and can be inviting" (Gould 1987, 86).

It was within this context that new planting plans were developed to rejuvenate the pansy garden between 1965 and 1966. Located near the Thomas Jefferson Memorial in a frequently visited area adjacent to the Inlet Bridge, the pansy garden and Fountain No. 4 was a prime candidate for beatification. At this time, plans demonstrate that the overall character of the pansy garden remained virtually unchanged, aside from the proposed addition of new plantings and the modification of two diagonal paths that provided multiple access/exit points to the garden. Based on an aerial photograph from 1963, which shows the new alignment of the George Mason Memorial Bridge and a portion of the former bridge alignment before it was removed, the changes to the circulation of the garden were likely the result of these construction activities on the southern boundary of the garden. Grade changes necessitated the removal of the original stairs that approached the road at a 90-degree angle.

The 1960s planting plans show that forsythia, spiraea, roses, and chaste trees encircled the fountain and beds, while the trees at the entrance to the garden included dogwoods and magnolias (Christianson and Sanders 2017, 45). Walkways and grass strips continued to divide the planting beds, which contained a colorful array of plants. In the summer of 1965, the pool of Fountain No. 4 contained red, yellow, and white water lilies. Two of the beds directly adjacent to the pool contained 'Sparkle Spreading' verbena, while the other held 'Crystal Spreading' verbena. The three beds on the east side of the pool were planted with 'Forest Fire' celosia and additional rows of annuals in the front of the bed, while the two beds near the entrance featured marigolds and red snapdragons. The outer ring of beds contained a variety of annuals, such as begonias, caladium, celosia, marigolds,

verbena, echinacea, snapdragons, and zinnias ("Field Surveys" 1965). Birches, magnolias, pines, and crabapples were scattered around the perimeter of the garden with American elms located near the edge of Ohio Drive and East Basin Drive (Christianson and Sanders 2017, 45). When the Horticultural Display Committee visited the garden in June 1965, they noted that the flowers were in good condition, however, greater care should have been taken to dead-head the flowers. Members of the committee also noted the needed repairs for the leaky pool and edging of the planting beds as well as the removal of grass growing within the walks ("Field Surveys" 1965).

By 1966, two shrub masses of nine Burford hollies (eighteen total) were planted near the entry on opposite sides of the entrance path to replace existing butterfly bushes, and twenty-six forsythia ('Lynwood gold') were planted along the east edge of the garden. Water hyacinths, water lilies, papyrus, and taro were to be planted at the center of the garden in the pool, while the beds directly adjacent contained candytuft and flowering kale (both red and green) grown from seeds collected by NPS staff (Christianson and Sanders 2017, 45). The beds on the other side of the walkway were lined with alternanthera. The two beds near the entry were planted with dark opal basil, to be kept eight inches high, while the other three beds contained another type of alternanthera maintained at ten inches tall (Christianson and Sanders 2017, 45). The remaining beds had alternanthera, celosia, cupflower, sedum, and begonias in bright colors. A type of zoysia grass was planted near the hollies with a note indicating it was "to remain thru winter" (Christianson and Sanders 2017, 45). Historic photographs from this period show a rich array of spring bloom with large planting beds of pansies.

Construction of the George Mason Memorial Bridge was completed on January 26, 1962 (*The Washington Post*, January 26, 1962, B4). An aerial photograph from 1968 shows the bridge fully operational with a construction staging area situated in the former location of the rose garden. The aerial also highlights several other landscape features including vegetation patterns around the garden. Newly planted forsythia is evident on the east side of the garden, which may have been planted to discourage visitors from attempting to access the site from the east rather than from the northwest at the formal entrance. Young trees are visible on the slope between the pansy garden and the highway to provide a vegetative screen. Also, two planting beds are visible along the eastern extent of the study area, which were likely the result of the beautification program. While stairs are

located on the slope behind the garden, they run parallel to the bridge and are likely associated with highway development.

The pansy garden and Fountain No. 4 continued to thrive despite nearby highway encroachment throughout the 1970s and 1980s. An aerial photograph from 1970 shows the character of the garden and its relationship to the George Mason Memorial Bridge. A trail alignment is also evident in the photo. The feature runs parallel to the interstate and follows the same alignment as the current asphalt trail that is extant today. A bird's eye photo of the garden from the 1970s shows the golden ring of forsythia around the edge with magnolias in full bloom at the entrance. The photograph also shows the stairs along the Highway Bridge as well as an informal dirt path accessing the garden from the east in the same location as the previous.

In 1972, the NPS planted 25,000 pansies in the garden and used boughs from the National Christmas Tree to protect the plants through the cold winter months (*Evening Star* November 14, 1972, 42). Again, in 1976, another 20,000 pansies were planted in the garden (Smith October 7, 1976, C1). Newspaper articles from both 1976 and 1978 described the importance of the garden to the National Park Service. Some staff pronounced it as one of their favorite gardens, while others indicated that they took "exceptional pride" in the garden (*The Washington Post* March 26, 1978, A3). By 1983, there were 18,000 pansies in the garden, which was a fraction of the original number that had been planted in the early 1930s (Ringle May 2, 1983, D1).

As the number of pansies planted declined, the garden no longer held the limelight as encroaching development changed the character of the area as well as the visitor experience. An article in *The Washington Post* highlighted the garden noting that, "Despite the traffic on the Washington approaches to the 14th Street Bridge and the jetliners going into National Airport, it is a place to rest the eyes and the mind" (Smith October 7, 1976, C1). Another article from 1983 called attention to Fountain No. 4 proclaiming "The name doesn't exactly conjure up the image of a Trevi Fountain in Rome, but Fountain No. 4 is a charming jet d'eau surrounded in spring by beds of blue, yellow, white and purple pansies. Through the summer there will be begonias, marigolds, cana, vinsa and scarlet sage. The garden is visually secluded, pretty and worth a visit, but because it is in the shadow of Route I-395 and National Airport's flight path, it can be a bit noisy" (Knudsen June 20, 1983, C5).

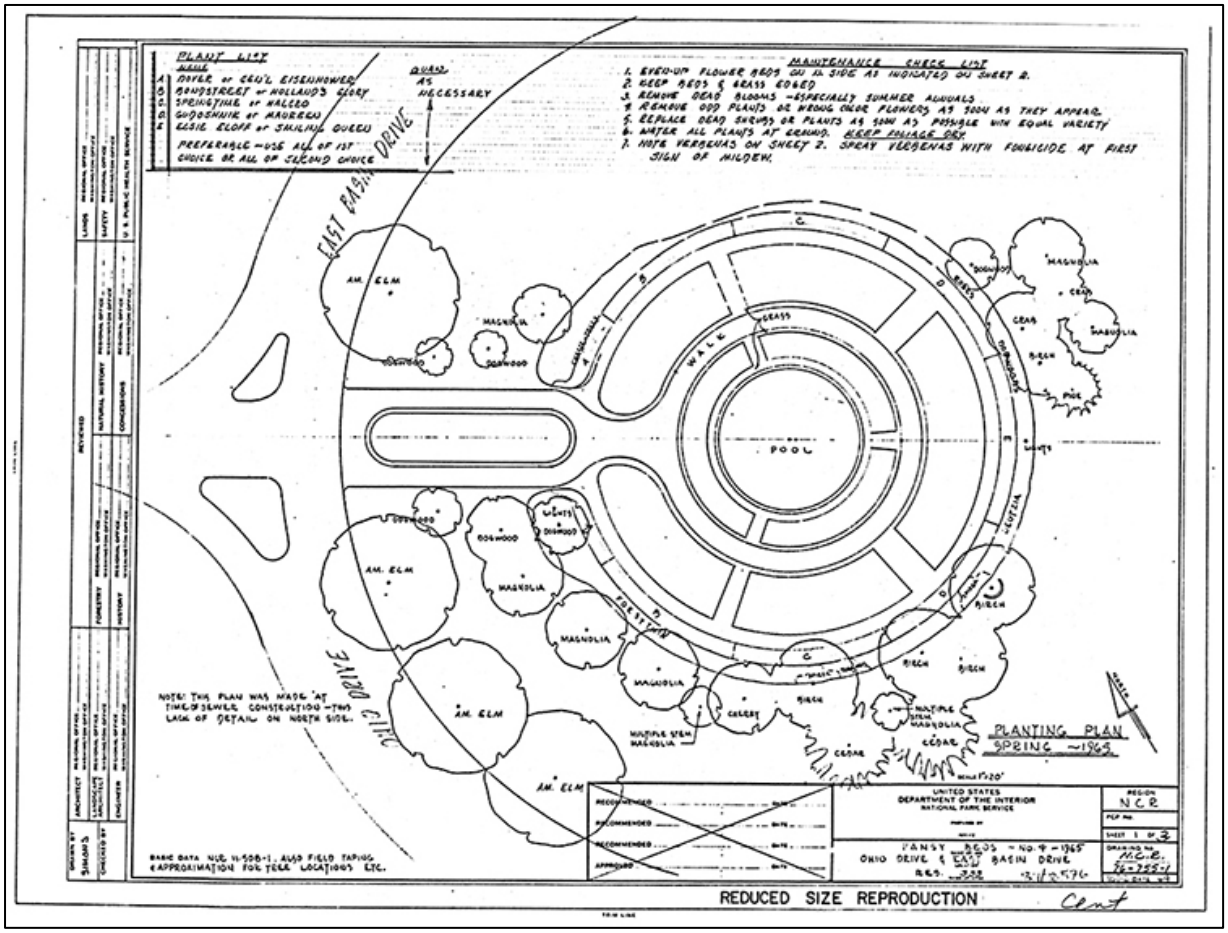


Figure: 30. Pansy bed planting plan for the spring of 1965, 1964 (E-TIC Drawing WEPO-80576).

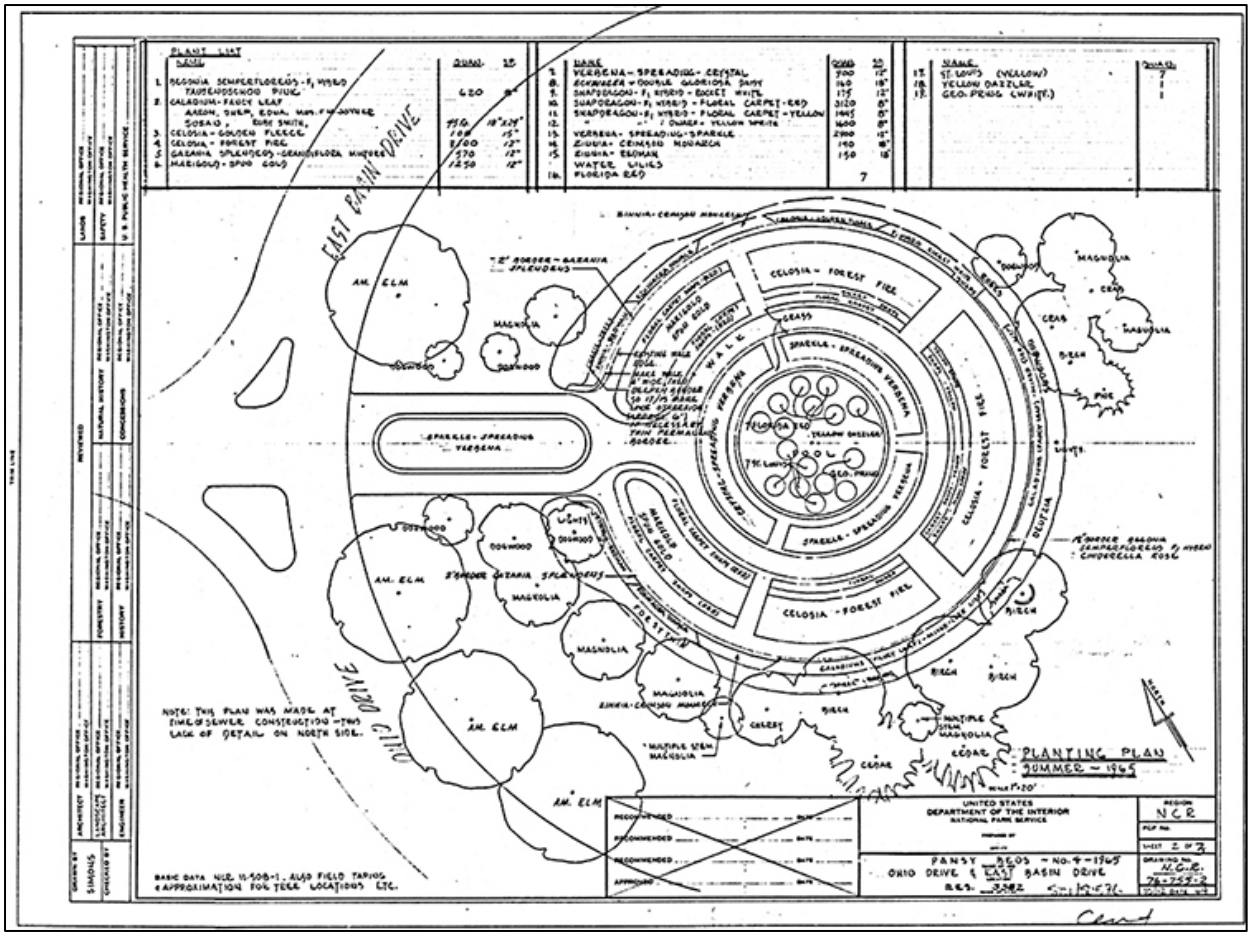


Figure: 31. Pansy bed planting plan for the summer of 1965, 1964 (E-TIC Drawing WEPO-80576).

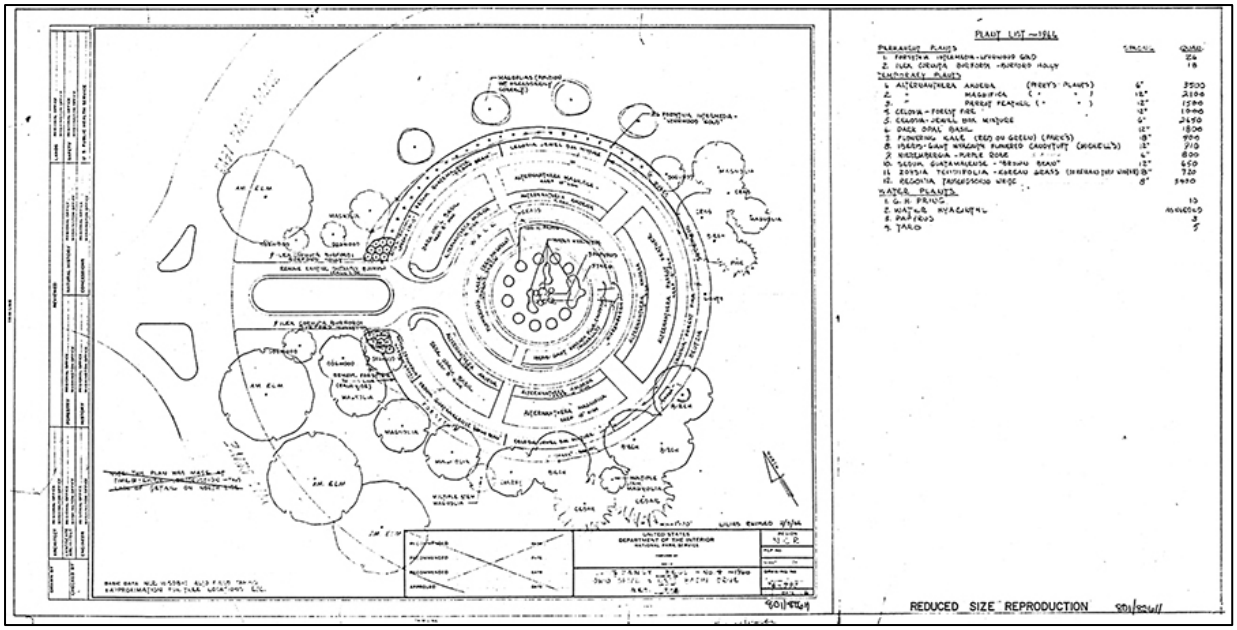


Figure: 32. Pansy bed planting plan, 1966 (E-TIC Drawing WEPO-80611).



Figure: 33. Aerial photograph showing improvements to the pansy garden made as a result of Lady Bird Johnson's Beautification Program, October 27, 1968. Note construction staging area at the top of the photo (USGS Earth Explorer).

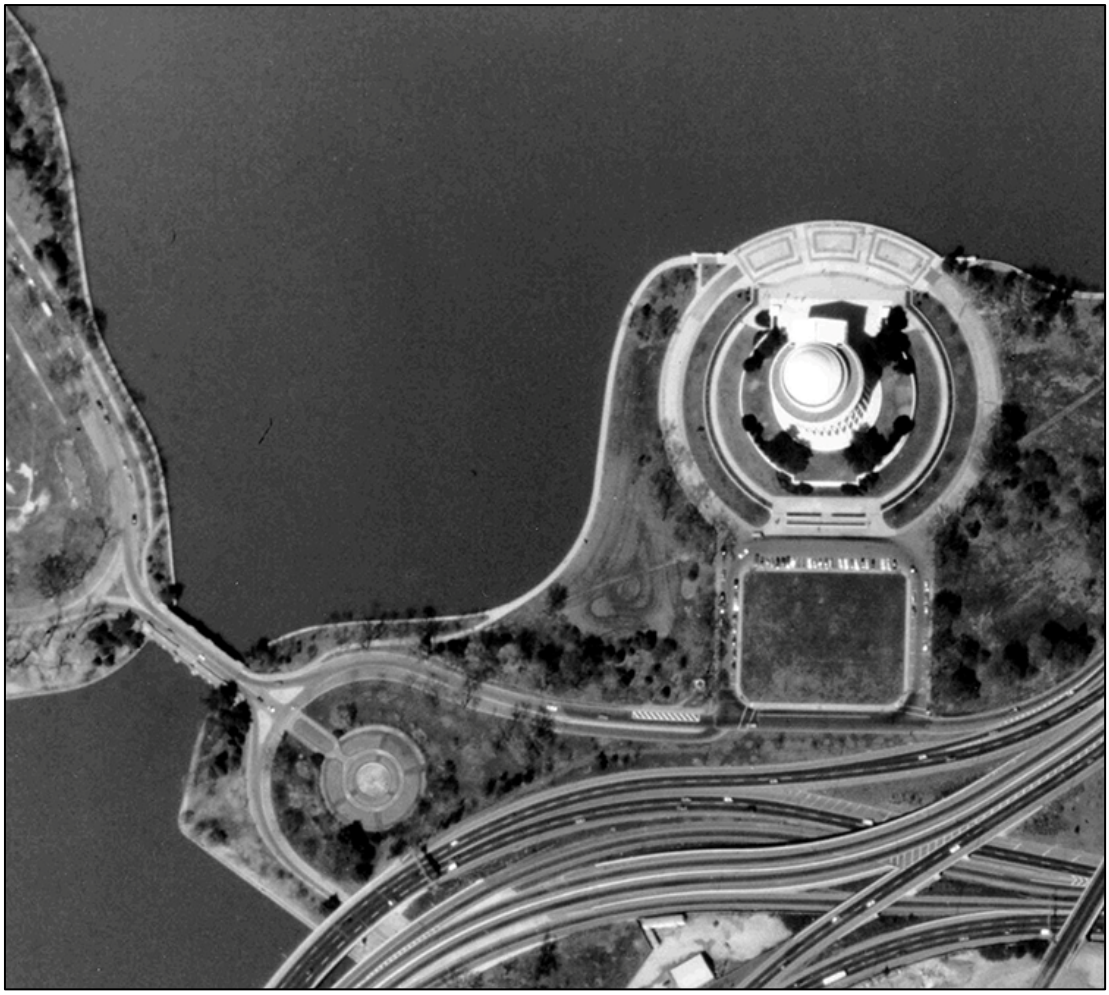


Figure: 34. Aerial photograph showing the pansy garden and Fountain No. 4 at left and the Thomas Jefferson Memorial at top right, 1970. Note alignment of trail along highway, which remains today as an asphalt trail (Thomas Jefferson Memorial Cultural Landscapes Inventory).

APPROVAL, DESIGN, PLANNING & CONSTRUCTION OF THE GEORGE MASON MEMORIAL: 1990-2002

Approval of the George Mason Memorial

In compliance with standards for the Commemorative Works Act (40 USC 1001, et seq.), on August 10, 1990, Congress authorized construction of a memorial to honor George Mason by the Board of Regents of Gunston Hall on Federal land in the District of Columbia or its environs (Public Law 101-358 104 Stat. 419). Section 2 of the Act noted that the "United States shall not pay any expense of the establishment of the memorial" (US Code Public Law 101-358). As supporters of the memorial, the

Commonwealth of Virginia allocated $250,00 for its construction, while the Regents of Gunston Hall agreed to raise the remaining funds through private donations (Christianson and Sanders 2017, 74).

Meeting minutes from the Commission of Fine Arts (CFA) in July 1991 noted that the National Park Service and supporters of the memorial had a site in mind for the installation—the "circular garden at the east end of the George Mason bridge" (US Commission of Fine Arts, Vol. 86). Preliminary ideas suggested that the memorial would probably take the form of a fountain in the park; however, some pointed out that with so few memorial sites left that perhaps other options should be considered such as incorporating the memorial with the bridge (US Commission of Fine Arts, Vol. 86).

The following year, on October 10, 1991, and again on April 22, 1992, the Secretary of the Interior notified Congress of his determination that the memorial should be located in Area I, which encompassed the monumental core of the District of Columbia and included areas such as the National Mall, Ellipse and West Potomac Park and its environs (Public Papers of George Bush). Notably, commemorative works sited in this area must be determined to be of "preeminent historical and lasting significance to the nation." On April 28, 1992, H.J. Res. 402 (assigned Public Law No. 102-277), was signed by President George H. W. Bush. Upon enactment of the joint resolution, authority was granted to construct a memorial to George Mason in Area I without further legislation (Public Papers of George Bush).

In 1992, plans were prepared for reconstruction of Ohio Drive from Independence Avenue to the Inlet Bridge including construction of new parking areas at Ohio Drive/I-395 with a connecting walkway. The sidewalk located east of Ohio Drive SW within the boundary of the George Mason Memorial cultural landscape was modified as a result of this effort; however, the alignment appears compatible with existing circulation features (Project NPS-NACC 11 (1); TIC WEPO_801_89984).

The location of the memorial was to be situated adjacent to the pansy garden and Fountain No. 4 in West Potomac Park. It was approved by the Board of Regents of Gunston Hall in 1993. The National Capital Memorial Advisory Commission (NCMAC) approved the site in approximately 1994, while the location was accepted by the CFA in February 1995 (US Commission of Fine Arts, Vol. 90). The Board of Regents of Gunston Hall had selected the landscape architecture firm Rhodeside Harwell

(RHI) of Alexandria, Virginia, to design the memorial. Reportedly, three locations in Area I were offered as potential sites for the memorial: (1) the western end of Virginia Avenue; (2) Constitution Gardens; and (3) the Thomas Jefferson Memorial area (US Commission of Fine Arts, Vol. 90). With the assistance of RHI, the advantages and disadvantages of the sites were carefully considered. Ultimately, the Board selected the location closest to the Thomas Jefferson Memorial to recognize the friendship and the philosophical and political relationship between Jefferson and Mason (US Commission of Fine Arts, Vol. 90). Faye Harwell indicated in a presentation to the CFA that the location seemed ideal. Meeting minutes noted that the site "offered winter views of the Jefferson Memorial and the possibility of summer views with careful pruning of tree material; it was secluded yet visible from public roads; and it could take advantage of an already existing historic landscape and fountain" (US Commission of Fine Arts, Vol. 90).

At the February 1995 CFA meeting Harwell reported that there was no design yet but had considered the possibility of incorporating quotations from Mason as well as a shade trellis into the design. The Chairman of the CFA, J. Carter Brown, noted the importance of retaining the open character of the site, identifying it as a memorial that would stand in contrast to the mass of the nearby Thomas Jefferson Memorial and the linear construction of the Franklin Delano Roosevelt memorial. The George Mason Memorial, he thought, "should be completely different" (US Commission of Fine Arts, Vol. 90).

On March 2, 1995, the memorial site was approved by National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC). At that meeting the NCPC also approved design guidelines prepared by the NPS with the recommendation that the gardens at the Gunston Hall plantation be used as a guide (Correspondence to Reginald Griffith October 4, 1999). The design guidelines identified the retention of existing specimen trees and hedges, while permitting compatible changes to the paving, lighting and smaller plant materials. Moreover, the guidelines indicated that construction of a building would not be permissible and that any vertical elements introduced to the site would need to fall within the range of nine to twelve feet high (US Commission of Fine Arts, Vol. 90). The CFA supported the design guidelines, noting that "The fact is that the present gardens are so well designed that any intervention of new design elements is to be kept to a minimum, including new walls and paving" (US Commission of Fine Arts, Vol. 90). As part of the design guidelines the NPS also wanted to

ensure that the new memorial would have no unusual maintenance needs (Christianson and Sanders 2017, 74). See Figure 37 for a preliminary drawing of the George Mason Memorial prepared by RHI in 1995. Note the center wall tablet under the trellis, which identified a small representation of the face of George Mason rather than a larger-than-life size sculptural representation.

Planning and Design of the George Mason Memorial

At this time, the historic character of the pansy garden remained largely unchanged apart from modifications to some of the plantings in an effort to reduce maintenance. The planting beds immediately surrounding the fountain contained seasonal displays, while the hedge that served to contain the garden was composed of forsythia and red-osier dogwoods (Christianson and Sanders 2017, 74). Fountain No. 4, located at the center of the garden, operated seasonally and was drained of water from October to March. The fountain jets were dependent on District of Columbia water pressure with the water emptying into the Potomac River. During memorial planning efforts, Harwell noted that it would be efficient and more sustainable to utilize a recirculating mechanical system that would allow for year-round use of the fountain. The NPS indicated that maintenance support was decreasing, and that any mechanical system could be difficult to maintain, therefore potentially having a non-operating fountain (Meeting Minutes 6 June 1995). See Figure 38 for aerial photo of the site from 1999 showing the character of the locale.

After several years of planning, an Act (Public Law 105-182) was signed by Congress on June 19, 1998, to extend the legislative authority for the Board of Regents of Gunston Hall to establish a memorial to honor George Mason in the District of Columbia. The legislative authority for the Board of Regents of Gunston Hall to establish a commemorative work was set to expire on August 10, 2000, notwithstanding the time period limitation specified in section 10(b) of the Commemorative Works Act (40 USC 1010(b)) (US Code Public Law 105-182). Perhaps as a response to the extension of the legislative authority to construct the memorial and the length of time that had passed since the memorial was first authorized, the NPS reviewed the criteria for selection of the site at a CFA meeting in October 1999. Meeting minutes provided the following summary: "first, it was a developed but unnamed site, which was the kind of site they favored for new memorials of modest size; secondly, it was in close proximity to the George Mason Bridge, which few people realized was named for him; and lastly, it was near the memorial to Thomas Jefferson, Mason's close friend and

colleague in the framing of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights" (US Commission of Fine Arts, Vol. 94). Following the summary, preliminary designs were reviewed for the memorial. At this time the NPS reported that they were extremely pleased with the design prepared by RHI for the memorial. During the meeting, Harwell provided a history of the garden area, while noting that the rose garden and associated trellis, with details from the early 1900s, had been the inspiration for her development of the George Mason memorial site and associated trellis (US Commission of Fine Arts, Vol. 94). Per the design guidelines prepared by the NPS, the design of the memorial was sensitive to the historic character of the pansy garden and its associated character-defining features. Despite ongoing discussions regarding the off-axis location of the Mason sculpture and interest in recreating the two diagonal entrance walks shown on the historic 1931 plans of the garden, the CFA unanimously approved the design concept for the George Mason Memorial (US Commission of Fine Arts, Vol. 94).

In April 2000, Faye Harwell and sculptor Wendy Ross of Bethesda, Maryland, who had completed previous work related to George Mason, presented updates to the design development phase of the memorial to the CFA. Harwell reported that after consultation with the NPS, CFA, and National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC), that the two diagonal paths proposed during the previous meeting would not be recreated. Additional information was also provided for plans to plant a low, unclipped evergreen hedge in front of the existing forsythia hedge in an effort to meet the concerns of the CFA who had suggested that the hedge "looked straggly" (US Commission of Fine Arts, Vol. 95). A higher, informal planting of evergreens, mixed with existing trees, would also be planted behind the forsythia. To address concerns associated with proper screening of the bridge embankment to minimize noise and visual intrusion, plans were presented to plant American hollies, pines, and magnolia grandiflora behind the trellis and sculpture (US Commission of Fine Arts, Vol. 95). The planting beds around the fountain were to contain annuals, while the outer planting beds were to be planted with perennials reminiscent of those found in eighteenth century gardens including at Gunston Hall, Mason's Virginia plantation home.

Wendy Ross also provided an update on the George Mason sculpture at the CFA meeting in April 2000 (US Commission of Fine Arts, Vol. 95). Ross reported that it had been difficult to create a sculpture of George Mason because there were no primary visual materials to use as a reference. Her intent was to portray him as "a man of about fifty, a self-educated, well-read, deeply-reflective man

who shunned public life and preferred the quiet of his plantation to the bustle of public life" (US Commission of Fine Arts, Vol. 95). The cane represented Mason's limited mobility due to ongoing issues with gout, while the books indicated the sources of his inspiration. At this time, it was agreed that the sculpture would sit in the center on axis and that the orientation of the sculpture would be changed so that Mason was looking toward the Thomas Jefferson Memorial as well as beyond to the White House, Washington Monument, and the Capitol where his ideas had inspired others. Ultimately, the design development phase of the memorial was unanimously approved. See Figure 39 for a plat map showing the topographic survey of Fountain No. 4 in anticipation of construction of the George Mason Memorial. The plan provided detailed information on existing conditions including a tree table with a list of forty different trees and diameter including crabapple, magnolia, weeping cherry, dogwood, deodar cedar, and Burford holly. It also identified curbing as well as paving materials, which included asphalt walks around the fountain and aggregate concrete sidewalks along the perimeter in the approximate location of the historic bridle paths.

The final design of the George Mason Memorial was presented in June 2000. At this time, information was presented on plans for lighting, planting, and the inscriptions. Harwell reported that the basic lighting scheme already existed (US Commission of Fine Arts, Vol. 95). Plans required; however, the removal of two of the lampposts to accommodate the trellis. Small fixtures would be installed in the trellis to light the sculpture and the two flanking walls. Additional strategies to address the leggy appearance of the forsythia hedge were discussed through the introduction of a dwarf variety in front of the hedge, with an even lower evergreen planting as an edging. Larger evergreens would be planted on the slope behind the trellis to provide screening from the highway, while some of the annuals would be replaced with perennials to develop more sustainable gardens (US Commission of Fine Arts, Vol. 90). In June 2000, the inscriptions for the entrance and the walls behind the trellis were considered with two minor recommendations for revision. CFA meeting minutes described the discussion regarding the selection and placement of Mason quotes that were to be included on the inscription walls, which focused on the Virginia Declaration of Rights and Mason's comments on the evils of slavery. Minutes from the meeting do not suggest that Mason's role as a plantation owner and enslaver was considered during the selection of the inscriptions or overall design and development of the memorial. Ross reported that the production phase of the George Mason bronze sculpture would be completed around August 2001 and that the sculpture would be cast using a

rubber mold and wax casting process at the A.R.T. Research Enterprises foundry in Lancaster, Pennsylvania (US Commission of Fine Arts, Vol. 95). Details of the patination and sealant material were also discussed. The final plans were unanimously approved.

Negotiations between the NPS and RHI on the plantings continued through July 2000. During this period, the NPS had expressed reservations about the use of American boxwood, Harwell pointed out that it was "the ideal plant for the limited area behind the Memorial and trellis, with a medium green color, fine compact foliage, and tolerance of drought and harsh conditions," and, most importantly, had historically been used at the Gunston Hall plantation (Correspondence to Glenn DeMarr May 5, 2000). After reviewing the initial planting list, the NPS requested to decrease the number and variety of plantings to reduce maintenance (Christianson and Sanders 2017, 74). Notable requests included planting a bottlebrush buckeye at the entrance to mirror the one already on the other side. Flowering trees were to be limited to dogwood, while only American holly and white pine were to be planted on the embankment (Christianson and Sanders 2017, 76).

After the designs had been successfully finalized, the Commission of Fine Arts chair J. Carter Brown praised the work of RHI and Ross as well as the efforts of the Board of Regents of Gunston Hall for selection of a site, '"that, quite frankly, needed help. It is the essence of historic preservation, to preserve and enhance an historic site… This is the original garden and the original shape'" (Wheeler October 19, 2000, B3).

Construction of the George Mason Memorial

A groundbreaking ceremony was held at the future site of the George Mason Memorial on October 18, 2000. Speakers included Dr. Alan Merton, President of George Mason University, Mr. J. Carter Brown, Chairman of the Commission of Fine Arts, and Prof. Roger W. Wilkins from George Mason University ("The George Mason Memorial Ground Breaking Ceremony" program October 18, 2000). Construction would follow soon thereafter. Davis Construction Company of Rockville, Maryland, served as the general contractor for the project (Christianson and Sanders 2017, 11). Character-defining features of the memorial design included the arrangement of planting beds in concentric circles around the historic Fountain No. 4. New development was to include a trellis with columns, a bluestone plaza and a bronze sculpture of a seated George Mason. Numerous other improvements

were also made to the memorial site in an effort to preserve the historic character of the garden, while incorporating new design elements. Materials selected included stone for key architectural details and a more robust granite for structural details. Notably RHI designed the site to be accessible, with opportunities for all visitors to enjoy the garden and associated memorial ("Memorializing a Forgotten Founding Father", Davis Construction).

The following section associated with plantings was adapted from the Historic American Landscape Survey (HALS) for the Tidal Basin, pages 74-76. Information from other sources is cited parenthetically within the body of the text.

The garden drew inspiration from four centuries, combining modern plants, elements from the original pansy garden and from Victorian garden design, and historic native plants. George Mason reportedly used his garden as a refuge from his physical ailments, so the designers looked to the garden at the Gunston Hall plantation for inspiration. The Advisory Board of Gunston Hall expressed its concern that by transitioning the former pansy garden to a memorial garden, "more elegant plantings, unlike the bold colored annuals used in the garden" were needed. As a result, more perennials and bulbs with a limited color palette were specified for the plantings.

The plans for the memorial kept the layout of the planting beds and shrubs around the fountain, while the sense of enclosure was maintained through the retention of the hedge around the garden. The extant light standards remained in their original configuration except for two lamps that needed to be removed due to construction of the trellis. A note in RHI meeting minutes suggested that the "mushroom" top lights would be replaced with the Washington Globes (potentially by the NPS) (Meeting Minutes 6 June 1995). Fountain No. 4 also stayed the same, except low bubblers replaced the tall waterspout. The existing walkways were replaced in situ with new paving, while a low wall was built around the existing planter and inscribed with text at the memorial entrance. The central entrance planting bed contained turf, rather than annuals, which had been the historic precedent, to simplify the entrance and provide more focus on the memorial structures at the rear (Memo to Regional Land Use Liaison). Reportedly the entrance walks were widened to ten feet by decreasing the size of the center island and expanding the outer edge of the existing walk (Meeting Minutes 6 June 1995). The memorial element itself measured nine feet tall by seventy-two feet long. The semi-

circular trellis was located on axis with the entrance but was also tucked away at the rear of the site, next to the highway embankment and behind the fountain. The 3,200-pound, ten-foot-tall bronze sculpture of George Mason and panels of text were sheltered under the trellis. Tennessee Valley marble "Tellico Gray" was selected for the project as a result of its high quality and durability. Moreover, the material provided a consistent warm color and was responsive to hand-carved lettering, rather than sandblasting.

The plants selected for the memorial were required to meet the following criteria: commercially available, native, disease resistant, drought tolerant, and similar species to those used in eighteenth-century gardens. Given that many eighteenth-century cultivars are no longer grown, cultivars similar in character and color to the older varieties were selected (Kangas n.d.). Along with the pansies, the NPS planted annuals in a "subdued palette of white, cream, blue, and violet shades" around the fountain. The perennial beds were composed of plants in whites, pinks, and creams, with limited blues and yellows, such as rose creeping phlox, 'Summer Snowflake' candytuft, germander, 'Bath's Pink' dianthus, yellow flag iris, 'Aglaya' Shasta daisy, 'Oestfriesland' sage, 'May Night' sage, and 'Rose Wine' sage. Deciduous shrubs of American holly, white pine, flowering dogwood, American boxwood, and blackhaw viburnum were planted at the site perimeter, while wisteria and sweet autumn clematis would provide color to the trellis (Kangas n.d.).

Photographs from 2002 show that the "mushroom" globes of the lamps had been changed to the Washington Standard 16 style. Low post and chain barriers were also located in select locations around the site including in front of the linear turf entrance planting bed. Ultimately, the George Mason Memorial was dedicated on April 9, 2002. Chief Just Rehnquist provided the keynote speech, while Senator George Allen and Representative Thomas M. Davis III, both from Virginia, also spoke (US Commission of Fine Arts, Vol. 97). See the supplemental information section at the end of the document to read the full speech.

The George Mason Memorial was the first of its kind on the National Mall to commemorate a person who was not a president and was paid for by sponsors, rather than the US government. Through the combined efforts of the Commonwealth of Virginia and the Board of Regents of Gunston Hall, the necessary funds were collected to establish a memorial to honor and remember George Mason's

contributions to our country. Mason's work on the Virginia Declaration of Rights, which later served to influence the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution's Bill of Rights remains as a testament to his legacy. Despite the construction delays and many challenges along the way, the new memorial was favorably received by many as a welcome addition to the memorial landscape. A *Washington Post* article noted that the George Mason Memorial was more approachable than other monuments and memorials on the National Mall, which was part of RHI's design intent for the site; however, it also highlighted some of contradictions of George Mason as a man and his fellow Virginia compatriots—Thomas Jefferson and George Washington—who are memorialized nearby.

> *Certainly, the bronze Mason is more approachable than most heroic sculptures on the Mall—think, for instance, of Abraham Lincoln in his throne-like elevation, or of the standing Jefferson, 19 feet tall on top of an already towering pedestal. Why, a visitor can sit down on the bench right beside the Virginia gentleman, as his friends Jefferson, Madison and Washington must have done on many occasions.*
>
> *The direction of Mason's gaze, however, back toward the towering monument to his old friend Washington, suggests that their argument, more than two centuries old, continues in the air above the Tidal Basin. This is what happens on the Mall, where politics and aesthetics are inextricably linked.*
>
> *Another old question hovering in the air above the triangle formed by the monuments to the three Virginians—Washington, Jefferson and Mason—is how the three, and others like them, could so strongly support universal human rights while prospering on the backs of slave labor.*
>
> *An inscription at the Mason memorial records his abhorrence of slavery, "that slow Poison, which is daily contaminating the Minds & Morals of our People." But Mason, like Jefferson and almost all the other revolutionary slaveholders, did nothing about it in their lifetime* (Forgey April 9, 2002, C1).

See Figure 40 and Figure 41 for photographs showing the character of the completed George Mason Memorial with color planting beds and the new memorial plaza evident.



Figure: 35. Photograph looking toward the Inlet Bridge showing water lilies in Fountain No. 4 as well as nearby planting beds, ca. 1990s (Rhodeside Harwell, Alexandria, Virginia).



Figure: 36. Photograph showing the character of the pansy garden in June 1993 as plans were underway to develop the site into the George Mason Memorial (Rhodeside Harwell, Alexandria, Virginia).

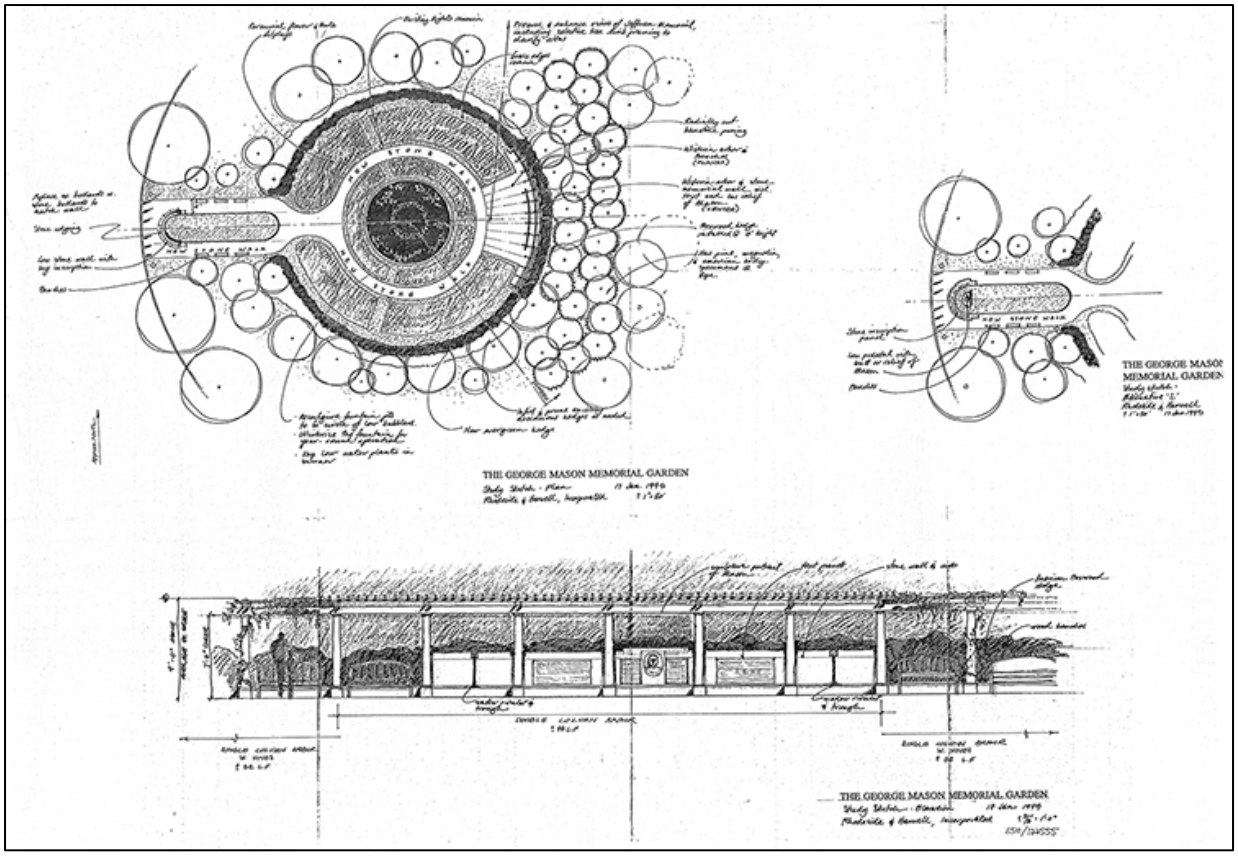


Figure: 37. Preliminary drawing of the George Mason Memorial prepared by Rhodeside & Harwell, 1995 (E-TIC Drawing, NAMA-122555).



Figure: 38. Aerial photo showing the character of Fountain No. 4 and its associated features prior to installation of the George Mason Memorial, 1999 (Google Earth).

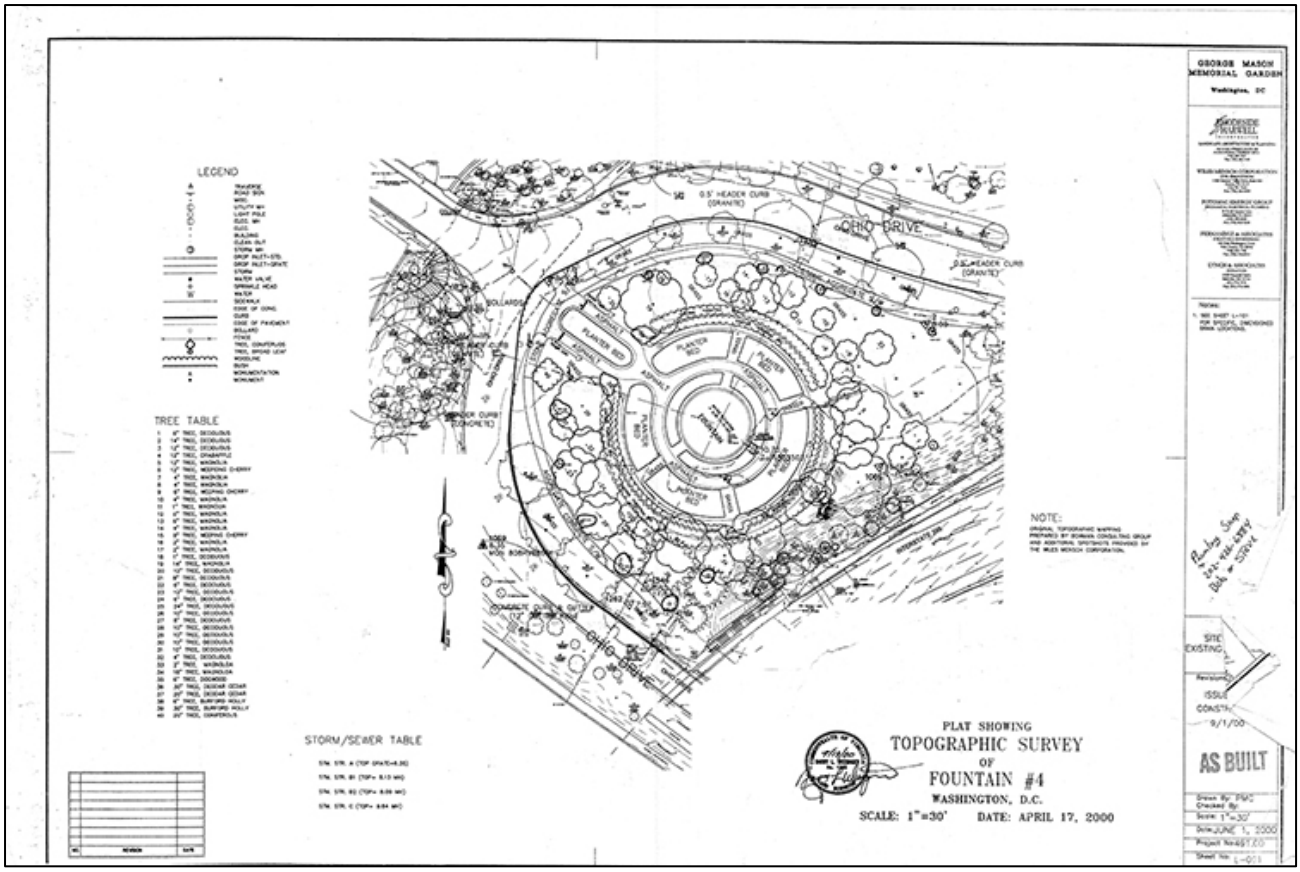


Figure: 39. Plat map showing the topographic survey of Fountain No. 4, 2000 (E-TIC Drawing, WEPO 80969).



Figure: 40. Photograph looking southeast showing the recently completed George Mason Memorial, July 2002 (Rhodeside Harwell, Alexandria, Virginia).



Figure: 41. Photograph showing flowers in full bloom around the George Mason Memorial, August 2003 (Rhodeside Harwell, Alexandria, Virginia).

NPS MAINTENANCE & REHABILITATION OF THE GEORGE MASON MEMORIAL: 2003-2022

In the years that followed completion of the George Mason Memorial, the site was impacted by a series of maintenance issues. Almost immediately after the dedication, the stone columns of the trellis began to show signs of deterioration including spalling and cracks. In 2003, the columns were braced with temporary steel bands until a more permanent solution could be undertaken. The National Park Service also identified concerns that there was a gap between the heel of the George Mason sculpture and the underlying stone surface.

Other maintenance issues that emerged included algae blooms in Fountain No. 4 that resulted from a lack of an adequate recirculating system. The planting beds and hardscape had also suffered from deferred maintenance and required rehabilitation, while the bronze sculpture of George Mason

showed evidence of impacts resulting from visitation and handling (Trust for the National Mall). Consequently, an $800,000 rehabilitation project was undertaken through a public-private partnership with the Trust for the National Mall and the NPS to address these deficiencies. Half of the funding was provided by an appropriation from the National Park Service Centennial Challenge program, and an equal match from the Trust for the National Mall through funds provided by several donors (Trust for the National Mall).

Work began on rehabilitating components of the George Mason Memorial as early as the fall of 2017 when Wellman Conservation LLC was invited by MCA Construction Inc. to submit a bid as their subcontractor to complete conservation work on the bronze decorative elements associated with the George Mason Memorial sculpture (Howard Wellman Conservation LLC). An initial examination was performed by conservators in August 2017, which found that the bronze elements of the sculpture were soiled with wind-born dirt, bird droppings, insect webbing, and accumulated organic debris consistent with its location in an urban setting. Moreover, the examination found that the sculpture had been impacted by heavy visitation with evidence of handling in the abrasion of the protective coatings and patina. The greatest impacts to the George Mason sculpture were to the hands, feet, knees, shoulders, head, and walking stick (Howard Wellman Conservation LLC). Work commenced on the bronzes in October 2017 and was completed in March 2018. Treatment included the cleaning of all bronze elements by hand with a detergent as well as the application or blending of a tinted microcrystalline wax, followed by a gentle buffing on targeted areas of the sculpture that had been heavily impacted by visitor handling (Howard Wellman Conservation LLC).

Rehabilitation of the larger George Mason Memorial site commenced within the year. The work included cleaning and repair of the hardscape as well as installation of an irrigation system. Other much-needed landscape improvements were completed such as replanting the perennial planting beds around the fountain, removal of dead shrubs in the hedge ring and infilling with new material, planting new trees and shrubs around the outer memorial, pruning existing vegetation and turfgrass improvements (National Park Service, PEPC 66431). Changes were also made to the fountain's water jet, which included replacement of twelve spray heads at the center with sixty-three (Personal communication Yue Li to Caridad de la Vega, November 4, 2020). Finally, the effort financed the addition of a water recirculation system to improve water quality to reduce the number of times the

fountain needed to be drained and cleaned each year. Notably, the existing fountain did not re-circulate water and approximately 1.75 million gallons of potable water were draining directly into the Potomac River (National Park Service, PMIS 213791). The rehabilitation effort required that the water re-circulation system associated with the fountain be connected to a sanitary sewer line in order to drain the pool water for overflow, backwash, and annual winterization, and clean up. The original plan to use an on-site connection was not possible, which resulted in project delays (National Park Service, PMIS 213791). Ultimately, the rehabilitation project was completed in 2019 (National Park Service, "Restoration of George Mason Memorial").

According to photographs, several other minor changes have occurred at the site since 2002. Some of these are likely the result of the most recent rehabilitation efforts, which included the removal of a post and chain barrier located in front of the linear turf planting bed as well as the removal of tulip-style trash cans located near the entrance. The trash cans were replaced with a set of metal painted green and blue trash/recycling cans that sit on a small concrete footing. Since the 2019 rehabilitation effort, some of the replacement vegetation within the hedge ring has been removed as a result of dieback.

Today, the George Mason Memorial remains in good condition offering visitors a peaceful and contemplative respite from other locations around the Tidal Basin and National Mall. The historic character of the former pansy garden and Fountain No. 4 remain as character-defining features of the site, while the George Mason Memorial provides a thoughtful and well-designed memorial and commemorative overlay.

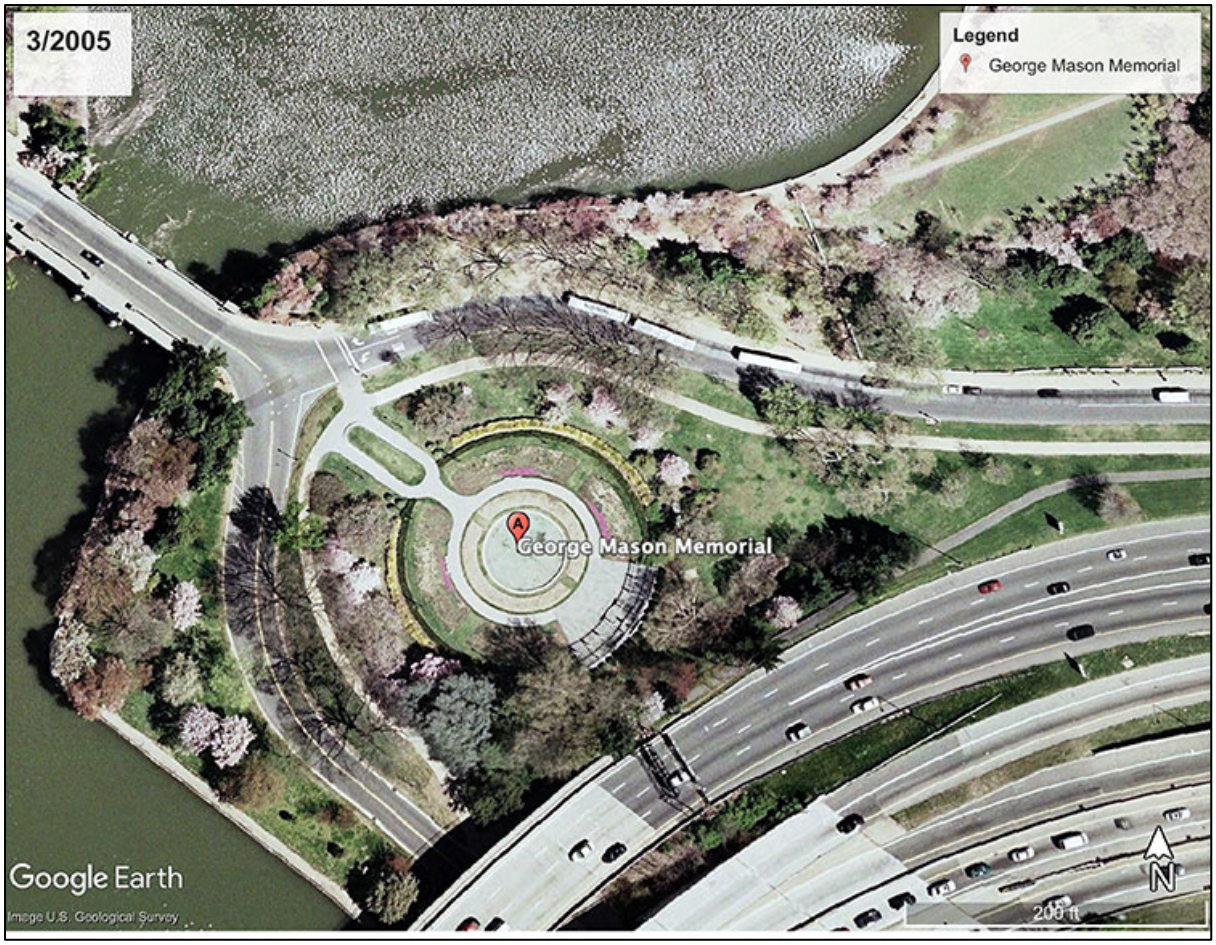


Figure: 42. Aerial photograph showing the George Mason Memorial, March 2005 (Google Earth).

Analysis & Evaluation

Analysis and Evaluation Summary

Natural Systems and Features: While the George Mason Memorial is situated on lands derived from reclaimed tidal flats, natural systems and features play an important role in the cultural landscape. Located adjacent to the Potomac River and Tidal Basin, the majority of the George Mason Memorial sits at between eight and ten feet of elevation. As a result of its relatively flat topography, the area remains vulnerable to flooding and has been impacted by flooding in the past. In addition, the soils, consisting of fill material, and the local climate impact the vegetation associated with the cultural landscape. Collectively, the natural systems and features associated with the George Mason Memorial helped to shape the physical development of the site and established the historic setting. Today, many of these same qualities remain extant.

Spatial Organization: The spatial organization of the George Mason Memorial cultural landscape reflects a combination of design elements related to the original pansy garden and Fountain No. 4 as well as new development associated with the George Mason Memorial. Primary features associated with the earliest development of the garden remain today, including the oblong planting bed at the entrance, the central location of Fountain No. 4 and the circular pathway around the fountain bordered by planting beds. Construction of the George Mason Memorial changed use of the space in 2002; however, it was designed to be compatible with the historic character of the garden. Moreover, the open character of the eastern extent of the cultural landscape (outside of the memorial garden) remains largely unchanged despite ever evolving nearby highway development. As a result, the overall spatial organization of the cultural landscape retains integrity.

Land Use: As was originally established in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, this portion of the former Potomac Park, now part of West Potomac Park, continues to serve as a "park for the Recreation and the pleasure of the people" (KressCox 1986, 10). Despite the addition of commemorative and special event uses at the site, both of which are compatible, land use contributes to the historic feeling and association of the George Mason Memorial cultural landscape.

Vegetation: Despite several rehabilitation efforts throughout the years that resulted in minor modifications to the garden and associated plantings, vegetation contributes to the historic character of the cultural landscape. The continued presence of magnolia, dogwood, cherry, crabapple, eastern white pine, and birch remains a character-defining feature of the cultural landscape. Individual specimens that constitute original vegetation or replacements in-kind that contribute to the site include the forsythia hedge, Burford hollies at the site entrance, and the American elms lining Ohio Drive SW and East Basin Drive SW. A large specimen saucer magnolia and river birch located behind the George Mason Memorial and a southern magnolia located on the west side of the site also individually contribute to the cultural landscape. Today, the former pansy garden continues to delight visitors with a colorful display of flowers and hedges around Fountain No. 4 with a variety of mature trees located around the perimeter.

Circulation: Today, extant circulation features associated with the George Mason Memorial are evocative of early park planning associated with the development of Potomac Park as well as later influences to improve the pansy garden in the late 1920s and early 1930s. The most notable changes to circulation occurred as a result of construction of the George Mason Memorial Bridge, which was completed in 1962. Built west of the old Highway Bridge, it encroached on Fountain No. 4 further hemming in the site between existing park roads and the expanding infrastructure associated with highway development in the District of Columbia. Later construction of the George Mason Memorial in 2002 was sympathetic to the historic character of the garden and fountain. While the introduction of the bluestone plaza necessitated removal of planting beds, a walkway and two lampposts, it did not significantly alter how visitors move through the space.

Buildings and Structures: In 2002, the George Mason Memorial was constructed on the site of the former pansy garden and Fountain No. 4. It was created to commemorate the contributions of George Mason. As a result of its congressional designation as a national memorial, it was automatically listed in the National Register of Historic Places at its dedication on April 9, 2002. Consequently, structures associated with the George Mason Memorial are noted as contributing features in the CLI. Today, twenty years after its construction, the memorial possesses exceptional significance as the nation's preeminent commemoration of George Mason.

Views and Vistas: While many of the views and vistas associated with the cultural landscape remain extant, encroaching road development has impacted the visual character of the site. The most overt changes are largely associated with construction of the George Mason Memorial Bridge. The verticality and monumentality of the bridge has severed the visual connection of the cultural landscape with southern portions of West Potomac Park and East Potomac Park. Despite these changes, the most prominent vista toward the Inlet Bridge remains extant, while filtered views toward the Thomas Jefferson Memorial (during leaf off), Tidal Basin, and Washington Monument are also still visible. Consequently, views and vistas as a landscape characteristic contribute to the historic character of the George Mason Memorial cultural landscape.

Constructed Water Features: Constructed in 1905, Fountain No. 4 remains as one of the oldest features in West Potomac Park and serves as a contributing feature to the George Mason Memorial cultural landscape. While the spray head has been replaced and the setting has been modified as a result of the construction of the George Mason Memorial, the fountain retains integrity.

Small-Scale Features

The George Mason Memorial includes a variety of small-scale features such as lampposts, trash/recycling receptacles, benches, wayfinding and regulatory signs, post and chain barriers, and an interpretive panel that reflect contemporary development. While the Washington Globe lampposts and NPS armless benches are managed as cultural resources, the majority of the small-scale features do not contribute to the historic character of the George Mason Memorial site.

INTEGRITY

The landscape characteristics, summarized above, convey the historic character of the site from the periods of significance 1791 to 2002 (Criterion A) and 1791 to 1965 (Criterion C). The continued relationship between the cultural landscape, the Potomac River, and the Tidal Basin remains an important quality of the site that defines its location and setting. As a location that encourages passive and active recreation as well as commemoration, Fountain No. 4 and the

associated George Mason Memorial continues to perform the functions that it was designed for and remains in its original location. Moreover, the overall siting of Fountain No. 4 and the George Mason Memorial on axis with the Inlet Bridge remain as a character-defining feature of the site and conveys its design. The rich history that has defined and shaped the former pansy garden is displayed through the design, materials, and workmanship associated with a number of structures including Fountain No. 4, the George Mason sculpture and contemporary commemorative features associated with the George Mason Memorial. Existing circulation features also convey integrity of design and are compatible with early garden designs. The alignment of nearby sidewalks are also reminiscent of early bridle trails that traversed Potomac Park in the early to mid-twentieth century. Vegetation, including a designed palette of perennial planting beds and hedges organized around Fountain No. 4 and mature canopy trees around the perimeter of the site play an important role in visitor enjoyment and are evocative of the historic setting, feeling, and association of the locale. Finally, views and vistas from the cultural landscape to the Inlet Bridge, Tidal Basin, the Thomas Jefferson Memorial and the Washington Monument all remain extant.

Today, the George Mason Memorial retains integrity of location, design, materials, and workmanship, and, to a lesser extent, setting, feeling, and association. Throughout the years, the site has been affected by modern development, especially with construction of the nearby George Mason Memorial Bridge, which encroached physically and visually on the southern boundary of the cultural landscape as originally designed. Overhead air traffic and nearby road traffic has compromised the feeling and association. Construction of the George Mason Memorial in 2002 on the site of the former pansy garden changed the character of the garden; however, the changes were compatible with the historic garden design. Despite these changes, overall, the landscape associated with the George Mason Memorial site retains its historic integrity and conveys the property's historical significance.

Landscape Characteristics and Features

This section presents an analysis of landscape characteristics and their associated features and corresponding Cultural Resources Inventory System Historic Structure (CRIS-HS) names and numbers, if applicable. It also includes an evaluation of whether the feature contributes to the

property's National Register eligibility associated with the periods of significance 1791 to 2002 (Criterion A), and 1791 to 1965 (Criterion C), contributes to the property's historic character, or if it is noncontributing, undetermined, or managed as a cultural resource. If a feature is noncontributing, it may be evaluated as "compatible" (visually congruent with the historic character of the landscape) or "incompatible" (visually incongruent with the historic character of the landscape).

Natural Systems and Features

Natural systems and features are the natural aspects that have influenced the development and physical form of the landscape, and can include geology and soils, climate, and native vegetation.

Historic Condition:

Historically, the area associated with the George Mason Memorial cultural landscape was composed of a marshy tidal flat. According to the Thomas Jefferson Memorial CLI, the species that would have grown on the nearby flood plain of the Potomac before reclamation included willow (*Salix*), bulrush (*Scripus*), cattail (*Typha*), lizards's tail (*Saururus*), wild rice (*Zizania*), and other aquatic and bog plants. None of these plants exist in the vicinity of the cultural landscape today due to the hard edge of the nearby Tidal Basin and Potomac River seawalls and depth of the water (NPS 2015, 58).

In the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, the tidal flats were reclaimed. Potomac Park was established as a public park in 1905. The lands were improved to encourage both passive and active recreation through the construction of recreational fields, polo fields, swimming beaches, and gardens. The newly developed and largely flat lands would provide an optimal space for many forms of active and passive recreation. Early visitors were quick to notice the cooling breezes that were afforded from the Potomac River on a hot summer day in Potomac Park. An article in *The Washington Post* proclaimed, "Yet this stretch of land, reclaimed from the river, is one of the most attractive parks in the entire city. When there is a breeze anywhere in the District it blows best through Potomac Park. Few days are so sultry that there is not at least a zephyr stirring there" (*The Washington Post*, August 5, 1906, SM3). Additionally, Fountain No. 4 may have provided similar cooling and restorative qualities, albeit on a much smaller scale.

As a result of its proximity to the Potomac River and Tidal Basin, in March 1936, the pansy garden was destroyed due to damage incurred by one of the highest floods to ever hit Washington, DC. Ultimately, the flood washed away topsoil and newly set out plant materials, while depositing between two to six inches of clay and silt in East and West Potomac Parks (*Evening Star*, March 24, 1936, 1; *The Washington Post*, March 21, 1936, 1). The following year, in 1937, a "flood control army" of 2,000 people was assembled to build sandbag levees along the West Potomac Park waterfront including the area from the Inlet Bridge to the old Highway Bridge approach.

Post-Historic and Existing Conditions:

The underlying geology and soils, climate, and topography influenced the physical development of the George Mason Memorial.

Geology and Soils

The following information associated with geology and soils was adapted from "Geotechnical Engineering Report: Thomas Jefferson Memorial Barrier System, SW, Washington, DC" GeoConcepts Engineering, Inc. February 9, 2010, 2-3. The George Mason Memorial is located in close proximity to the Thomas Jefferson Memorial and as a result, this information is also applicable to this cultural landscape.

The site is located within the Fall Line of the District of Columbia, which is the dividing line between the Coastal Plain and the Piedmont. The Coastal Plain consists of a seaward thickening wedge of unconsolidated to semi-consolidated sedimentary deposits from the Cretaceous Geologic Period to the Holocene Geologic Epoch. These deposits represent marginal-marine to marine sediments consisting of interbedded sands and clays. The Coastal Plain is bordered to the east by the Atlantic Ocean and to the west by the Piedmont Physiographic Province.

The Piedmont is bordered to the east by the Coastal Plain Physiographic Province and to the west by the Blue Ridge Physiographic Province and contains several fault bordered basins. Bedrock in the Piedmont typically consists of highly weathered metamorphic and igneous bedrock. Surface

topography in the Piedmont is the result of millions of years of erosion. Alluvium associated with the nearby Potomac and Anacostia Rivers cap the Piedmont strata.

During original development of the locale, fill (Stratum A) was placed to reclaim what was a tidal marsh area. Beneath the existing fill is approximately one hundred feet thickness of alluvium (Strata B1 and B2) associated with the nearby Potomac River and its tributaries. At the base of the alluvium there is generally gneiss bedrock (Stratum C) from the Lower Cambrian geologic period. The transition from soil into bedrock is generally abrupt and in some instances, there may be a thin disintegrated rock layer present above the bedrock.

Stratum A (existing fill), is generally firm, silty sand and clayey gravel, FILL, moist, brown and gray. Stratum B1 (alluvium), is generally soft, FAT CLAY (CH), sandy LEAN CLAY (CL), and sandy SILT (ML), moist to wet, gray, dark gray, brown, and dark brown. Additionally, Stratum B2 (alluvium) is generally loose, clayey SAND (SC) and silty SAND (SM), moist to wet, tan, brown, gray, and dark gray ("Geotechnical Engineering Report: Thomas Jefferson Memorial Barrier System, SW, Washington, DC" GeoConcepts Engineering, Inc. February 9, 2010, 2-3).

The George Mason Memorial is situated in a landscape that was developed as a result of manipulation of the natural environment through dredging. While the soil along the Potomac River is generally considered "heavy and poor" since it is largely composed of river bottom material, the historic garden has thrived throughout the years ("A Daffodil Planting Evaluation with Guidelines and Recommendations," Darwina Neal scanned "Plant Materials Program Daffodils and Floral Displays" file, NCRO, Washington, DC). Today, the geology and soils underlying the George Mason Memorial plays an important role in determining the selection of flowers for the perennial planting beds and continued maintenance of trees, turf, and plants as well as associated structural improvements at the site.

Topography

Constructed from reclaimed tidal flats largely developed in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, the topography of the George Mason Memorial site is relatively flat. The majority of the cultural landscape sits at approximately eight to ten feet of elevation. Slopes at the

southern extent of the site near the George Mason Memorial Bridge and Interstate 395 range from twenty-eight feet in elevation at the top of the slope to ten feet at the toe of the slope and constitute the steepest sections of the site. This slope was developed to support construction of the George Mason Memorial Bridge in the early 1960s. While there was a historic precedent for road development in this area, the footprint of the old Highway Bridge and its associated approach was smaller and located immediately south of the existing bridge. Despite the introduction of a steeper slope to support the George Mason Memorial Bridge, the general flat character of the site that was created as a result of construction of the land from the tidal flats remains today.

Climate

The following information related to historical climate change and historical impacts is adapted from a 2013 paper authored by Patrick Gonzalez entitled "Climate Change and Impacts for the National Parks of Washington, DC, USA. See the full paper at: https://irma.nps.gov/DataStore/DownloadFile/515532.

From 1901 to 2002, mean annual temperature increased across the mid-Atlantic region of the United States and showed a statistically significant increase in the three 50 x 50 km pixels that include the national parks of the Washington, DC, area. From 1946 to 2012, temperature at the Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport weather station also showed a statistically significant increase. Moreover, from 1901 to 2002, total annual precipitation increased in the mid-Atlantic region, and the District of Columbia, and, from 1946 to 2012, at Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport, although the precipitation trends were not statistically significant.

While climate change has increased the frequency of heat waves, hurricanes, and other extreme events in some parts of the world, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) analyses of weather station data (as of 2013) showed no statistically significant twentieth century trends of extreme events in the northeastern United States attributable to climate change. It is not definitively determined whether or not recent changes in North Atlantic hurricanes, which can reach Washington, DC, are due to climate change.

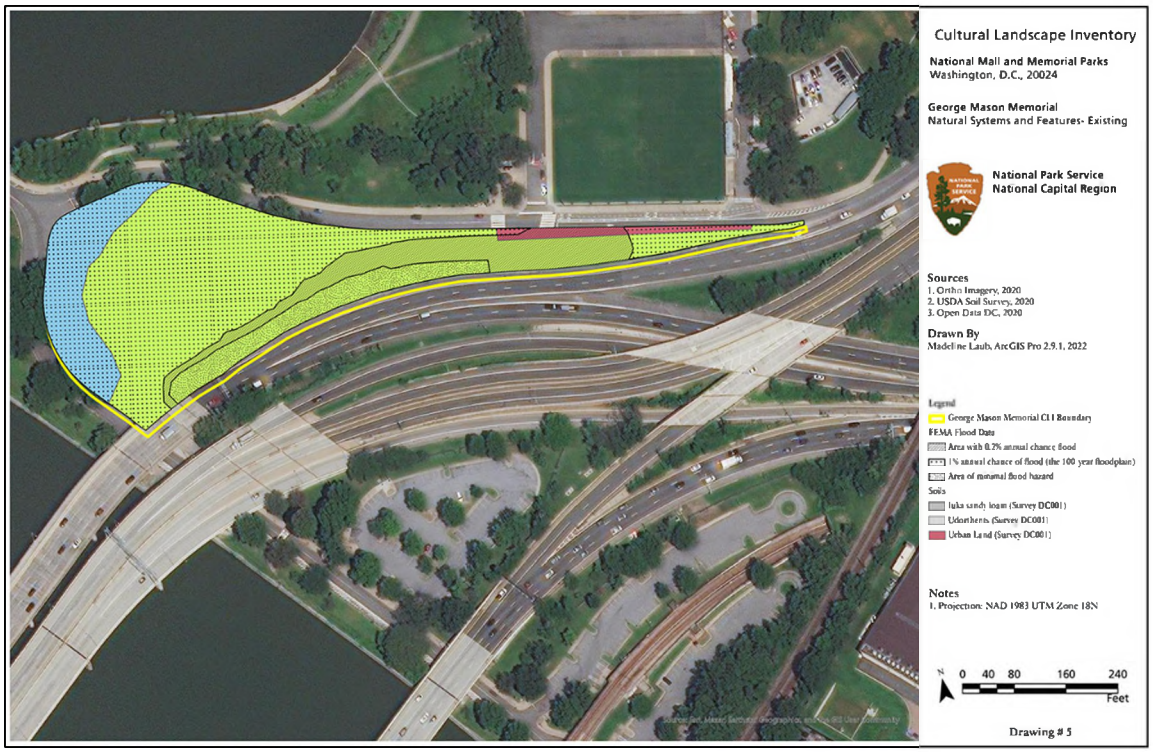
Less than nine years after the Climate Change and Impacts for the National Parks of Washington, DC, USA, was published, recent data from NOAA documenting daily high and low temperatures as well as precipitation in the District of Columbia from 1991 to 2020 show startling trends. Data revealed that the District of Columbia was notably warmer and wetter during this period (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/access/us-climate-normals/; Henson and Samenow 2021). The District's average annual temperature, which is calculated by combining daily high and low temperatures, rose from 58.2 degrees to 59.3 degrees. Additionally, with over four inches of rain each month, June and July replaced May as the wettest months, while there has also been an increased frequency of heavier single-day rainfall events. In contrast, winters in the District of Columbia are getting warmer and drier.

Analyses of tidal gauge measurements around the world have detected a statistically significant rise in global sea level and analyses of potential causal factors attribute the rise to human climate change. The mean sea level at the NOAA tidal gauge on the southwest Washington waterfront shows a statistically significant rise from 1931 to 2013. Supplemental information (Figure 43) illustrates the relative sea level trend for Washington, DC, for an approximately one hundred-year span from 1924 to 2021. This data suggests that the relative sea level trend is 3.44 millimeters per year with a 95% confidence interval of +/- 0.27 mm per year based on monthly mean sea level data for this period, which is equivalent of 1.13 feet in 100 years (NOAA, Tides & Currents, Sea Level Trends - NOAA Tides & Currents).

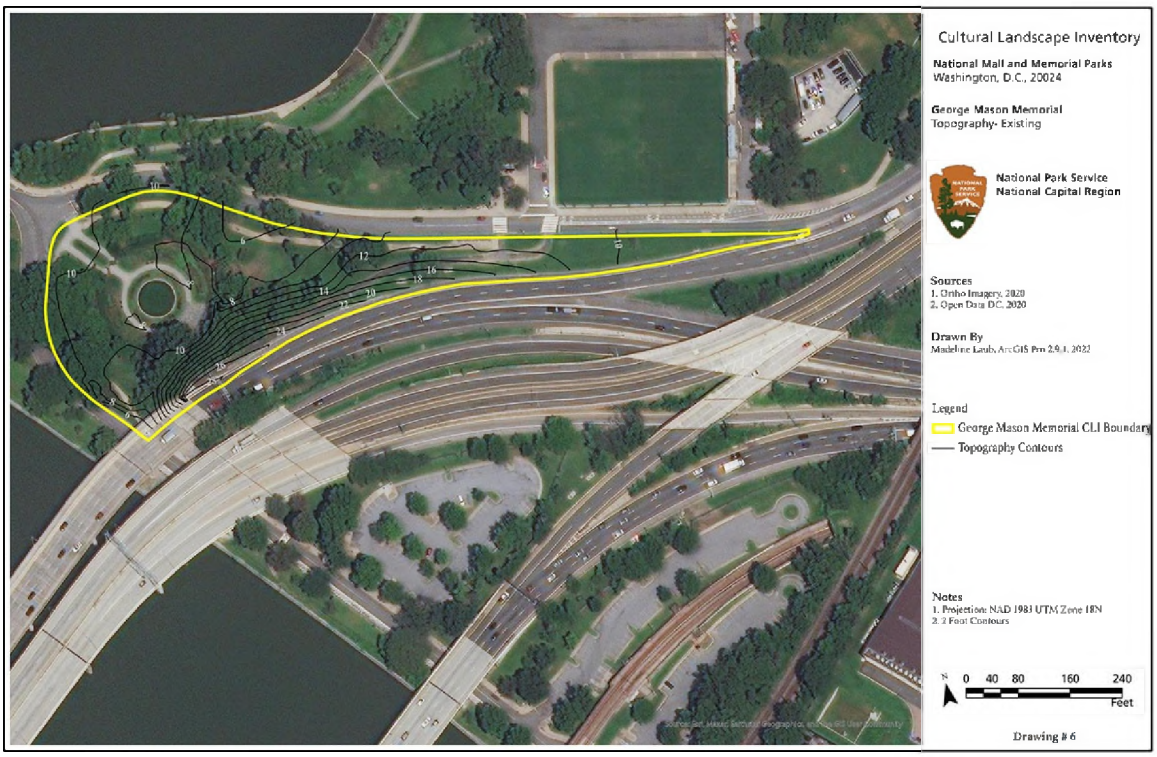
Summary

While the George Mason Memorial is located on lands derived from reclaimed tidal flats, natural systems and features play an important role in the cultural landscape. Located adjacent to the Potomac River and Tidal Basin, the majority of the George Mason Memorial sits at between eight and ten feet of elevation. As a result of the relatively flat topography characteristic of a large part of the site, the area remains vulnerable to flooding and has been impacted by high waters in the past. Collectively, the natural systems and features associated with the George Mason Memorial helped to shape the physical development of the site and established the historic setting. Today,

many of these same qualities remain extant; however, impacts from climate change and nearby failing seawalls threaten the long-term viability of the site.



Drawing: 5. Map showing the natural systems and features associated with the George Mason Memorial cultural landscape. See the supplemental information section at the end of the CLI for a larger version of the map (NCR, Cultural Landscapes Program, 2022).



Drawing: 6. Map showing the topography associated with the George Mason Memorial cultural landscape. See the supplemental information section at the end of the CLI for a larger version of the map (NCR, Cultural Landscapes Program, 2022).

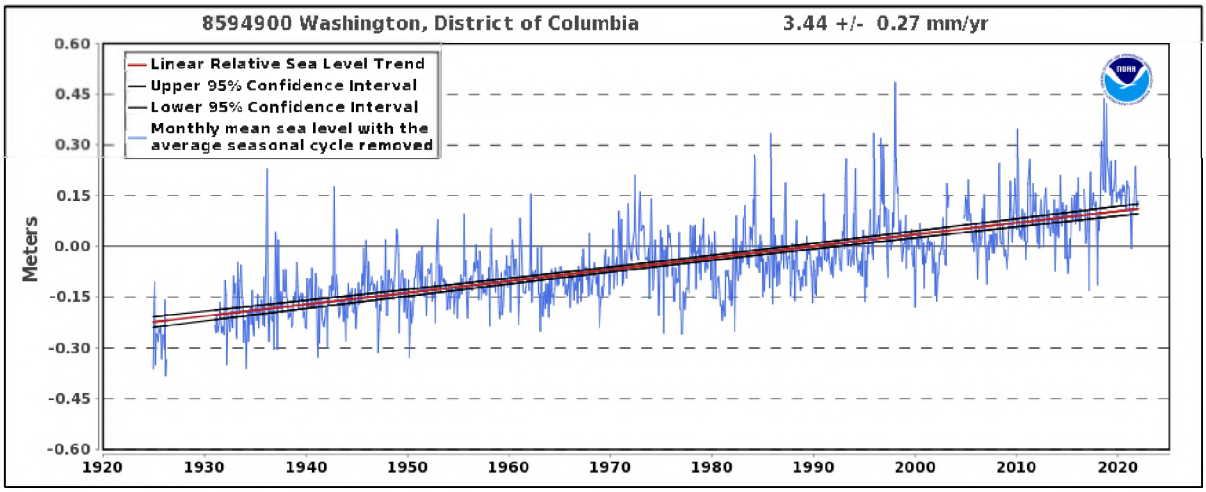


Figure: 43. Graphic showing the relative sea level trend for Washington, DC, 2020 (NOAA, Tides & Currents, Sea Level Trends - NOAA Tides & Currents).



Figure: 44. View looking southeast showing Ohio Drive SW, the Potomac River on the right and the edge of the George Mason Memorial cultural landscape on the left (NCR Cultural Landscapes Program, March 29, 2021).

Spatial Organization

Spatial organization is the three-dimensional organization of physical forms and visual associations in a landscape, including the articulation of ground, vertical, and overhead planes that define and create spaces.

Historic Condition:

The earliest map of Fountain No. 4 from 1906 shows a round basin surrounded by "flowering shrubs" that was constructed as part of the newly developed Potomac Park that was created from reclaimed tidal flats. By 1918, an aerial photograph shows a series of formal paths and gardens around the fountain. Additional improvements were made in the late 1920s and early 1930s that established the formal pansy garden in this location. The character of the garden and associated spatial organization remained unobscured for decades; however, nearby encroaching development associated with highway construction changed adjacent park lands. The first

notable modification occurred as a result of the demolition of the nearby propagating garden and associated rose garden in 1947 to make way for construction of the Rochambeau Memorial Bridge. The rose garden contained Fountain No. 1, Fountain No. 2 and Fountain No. 3. While these features were located outside of the cultural landscape boundary, they were instrumental in the development of Fountain No. 4. See the physical history section of the CLI for additional information about the history and design of the rose garden.

Later, the old Highway Bridge that formed the edge of the gardens around Fountain No. 4 was demolished in 1967 after completion of the George Mason Memorial Bridge in 1962. This modification resulted in the development of a berm that was closer to the fountain that likely changed the size and scale of the site. Ultimately, this change also modified how people moved between the garden, the bridge and West Potomac Park. Additional changes to the spatial organization of the garden occurred in 2002 when the George Mason Memorial was constructed at the eastern extent of the garden on axis with the Inlet Bridge. Designed to be deliberately "non-monumental" as a reflection of Mason who served his country, but without public ambition.

Post-Historic and Existing Conditions:

The 3.68-acre tear drop-shaped George Mason Memorial cultural landscape is characterized by a designed garden and commemorative memorial landscape. Located near the south bank of the Tidal Basin in West Potomac Park across from the east approach to the Inlet Bridge, the boundaries of the George Mason Memorial cultural landscape are defined by the George Mason Memorial Bridge on the south, by Ohio Drive SW on the west and by East Basin Drive SW on the north. Situated southwest of the Thomas Jefferson Memorial, the George Mason Memorial was sited in this location as a symbolic gesture of the close association that the two men had during their productive lives. Constructed in 1905, Fountain No. 4 is located at center of the designed garden and is surrounded by planting beds, while a memorial to George Mason occupies the eastern side of the garden. The far eastern extent of the cultural landscape situated between East Basin Drive SW and the on-ramp to Interstate 395 is defined by open space punctuated by intermittent trees and mown turf.

The site is flat with the exception of an incline at the back of the memorial, which is the result of construction of a road berm to support the George Mason Memorial Bridge. Exposed aggregate concrete sidewalks traverse along East Basin Drive SW and Ohio Drive SW and provide access to the memorial and surrounding landscape. A set of concrete stairs is located in the southwest corner of the cultural landscape adjacent to the George Mason Memorial Bridge, providing pedestrian access from the bridge to Ohio Drive SW and lands in the greater West Potomac Park.

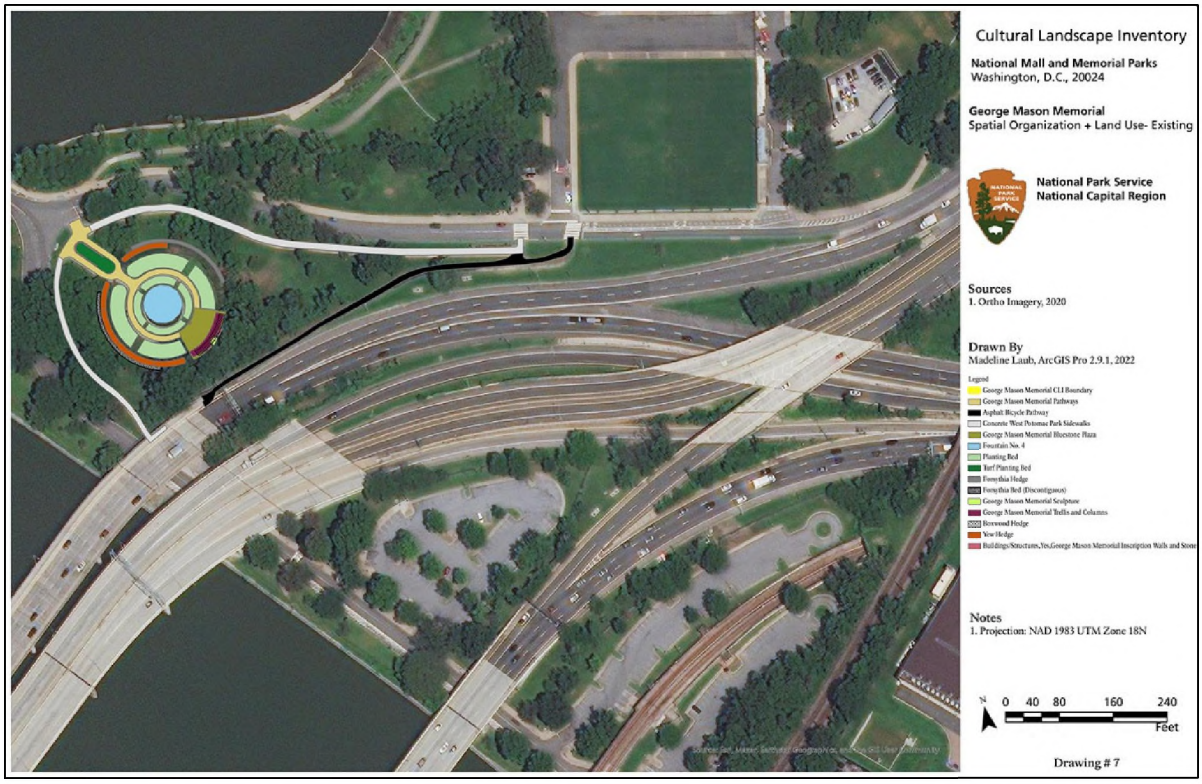
The formal entrance to the George Mason Memorial is flanked by bottlebrush buckeyes and Burford hollies. An inclined oblong planting bed occupies a prominent position at the entrance to the memorial and is inscribed with the following: "George Mason 1725-1792 Author of America's First Bill of Rights". An interpretive wayside is situated on the north side of the entrance providing visitors with information about the "Forgotten Father" and Virginia statesmen, George Mason. Enclosed with a yew and forsythia hedge, the memorial garden includes a circular exposed aggregate concrete pathway around Fountain No. 4. Two sets of NPS armless benches are located around the pathway, while additional seating is available at the memorial. Fountain No. 4 is at the center of the memorial garden and is encircled by well-defined planting beds and turf. The George Mason Memorial occupies the eastern end of the former pansy garden and is sited on axis with the Inlet Bridge, located northwest of the memorial. Constructed in 2002, the memorial includes a bronze sculpture of a seated George Mason, a trellis with sixteen columns, a bluestone plaza, stone inscription walls, and stone benches.

The eastern extent of the cultural landscape is largely open space and includes an asphalt paved bicycle/pedestrian pathway that is part of a trail system that connects with the George Mason Memorial Bridge. A Capital Bikeshare is located near the junction of the asphalt trail at East Basin Drive SW across the street from the Thomas Jefferson Memorial. Minor changes have occurred through time in this area as a result of shifting circulation patterns and completion of the George Mason Memorial Bridge in 1962.

Summary

The spatial organization of the George Mason Memorial cultural landscape reflects a combination of design elements related to the original pansy garden and Fountain No. 4 as well as new

development associated with the George Mason Memorial. Primary features associated with the earliest development of the garden remain today, including the oblong planting bed at the entrance, the central location of Fountain No. 4 and the circular pathway around Fountain No. 4 bordered by hedges and planting beds. Construction of the George Mason Memorial on the eastern side of the garden in 2002 changed the use of the space; however, it was designed to be compatible with the historic character of the garden. Moreover, the open character of the eastern extent of the cultural landscape outside of the memorial garden remains largely unchanged. As a result, the overall spatial organization of the cultural landscape retains integrity.



Drawing: 7. Map showing the spatial organization and land use associated with the George Mason Memorial cultural landscape. See the supplemental information section at the end of the CLI for a larger version of the map (NCR, Cultural Landscapes Program, 2022).



Figure: 45. View looking southeast showing the entrance to the George Mason Memorial (NCR Cultural Landscapes Program, October 9, 2020).



Figure: 46. View looking northwest showing the spatial organization of the George Mason Memorial under the cover of snow (NCR Cultural Landscapes Program, January 31, 2021).



Figure: 47. View looking northwest from the George Mason Bridge embankment behind the George Mason Memorial toward the Tidal Basin (NCR Cultural Landscapes Program, November 10, 2020).

Land Use

Land uses are the principal activities in a landscape that form, shape, and organize the landscape as a result of human interaction.

Historic Condition:

In 1897, Congress designated 621 acres of reclaimed flats as well as 118 acres of the Tidal Basin as "Potomac Park". Chapter 375 of the Laws of 1897, approved March 3, declared, "That the entire area formerly known as the Potomac Flats and now being reclaimed, together with the Tidal reservoirs, be, and the same are hereby, made and declared a public park, under the name of the Potomac Park, and to be forever held and used as a park for the Recreation and the pleasure of the people" (KressCox 1986, 10). Since its establishment, historic photographs and newspaper articles have documented its role as a public park. The popularity of the gardens, especially the large displays of pansies, which were illuminated at night was a highlight for many visitors traveling to the Tidal Basin to see the cherry blossoms. The pansy displays continued for several decades, while the area also supported other forms of mostly passive, but also active recreation.

As a result of the 1986 Commemorative Works Act, two areas (Area I and Area II) of federal lands in Washington, DC, were considered appropriate for the construction of memorials. Construction of the George Mason Memorial was authorized within Area I in 1992 through passage of H.J. Res. 402 (assigned Public Law No. 102-277), which was signed by President George H. W. Bush. The George Mason Memorial was completed in 2002, which introduced a commemorative use to the former pansy garden.

Post-Historic and Existing Conditions:

Passive and Active Recreation (Contributing)

Today, the George Mason Memorial continues to be utilized as a public park for the recreation and pleasure of the people—filling both active and passive recreation needs. Passive users enjoy the aesthetic qualities of the memorial, garden and fountain, while active users run and bicycle along the perimeter of the site along Ohio Drive SW and East Basin Drive SW as well as within the garden.

During the spring, the site is a destination for bloom seekers walking and driving along the Tidal Basin. The cultural landscape includes a number of blooming trees including crabapple, saucer magnolia, southern magnolia, and star magnolia as well as forsythia hedges. Nearby cherry trees line the Tidal Basin and Potomac River. During the summer and fall months, the planting beds exhibit colorful displays, while the winter months bring relatively unobstructed views from the memorial toward the Washington Monument and limited views toward the Thomas Jefferson Memorial as a result of the loss of leaf cover.

Commemoration (Contributing)

The site also serves a commemorative function as home to the George Mason Memorial. Often considered a "forgotten Founding Father", the former pansy garden site encompasses a memorial to Virginia statesman George Mason that includes a sculpture of Mason sitting under a columned trellis structure with stone benches flanking each side. A wayside located at the formal entrance to the site provides contextual information about Mason. While the memorial is not necessarily a destination for many visitors to Washington, DC, it provides an opportunity for those who may not know about George Mason to learn about the man responsible for the first Bill of Rights.

Special Events (Noncontributing, Compatible)

Located in an idyllic setting along the Tidal Basin within West Potomac Park, the George Mason Memorial is one of the three approved wedding locations within the National Mall and Memorial Parks. In addition to the George Mason Memorial, wedding ceremonies are also permitted at the Thomas Jefferson Memorial – West Lawn and the District of Columbia War Memorial. National Park Service restrictions limit the number of people as well as the introduction of temporary amenities to support these special events.

Summary

As was originally established in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, this portion of the former Potomac Park, now part of West Potomac Park, continues to serve as a "park for the Recreation and the pleasure of the people" (KressCox 1986, 10). Despite the addition of commemorative and special event uses, both of which are compatible, land use contributes to the cultural landscape.

Feature Name	Feature Contribution	CRIS-HS Resource Name	CRIS-HS Resource ID	FMSS Record Type	FMSS Record Number	FMSS record an exact match?
Passive and Active Recreation	Contributing					
Commemoration	Contributing					
Special Events	Noncontributing, Compatible					



Figure: 48. View looking south toward Fountain No. 4 showing active recreational use at the George Mason Memorial (NCR Cultural Landscapes Program, November 13, 2021).

Vegetation

Vegetation includes deciduous and evergreen trees, shrubs, vines, groundcovers, and herbaceous plants and plant communities, whether indigenous or introduced in the landscape.

Historic Condition:

In April 1906, various landscape improvements were still underway in Potomac Park. At the time, the *Sunday Star* reported that, "At the southwest corner of the park, near the approach to the new Highway bridge, the big flower garden is being laid out, and a fountain has been installed. This flower garden will be filled with bright hued flowers and will be a riot of color when the plants are in bloom." The flower garden described is likely the area around Fountain No. 4 and is consistent with historic maps that show "flowering shrubs" in this location in 1906.

Aerial photographs from 1918 reflect the general character of the garden including two diagonal cinder walks extending at 45-degree and 47-degree angles from the fountain and vegetation associated with Fountain No. 4. At this time, semi-mature trees were located around the perimeter of the garden. Additionally, a system of planting beds surrounded by a continuous hedge formed concentric rings around the fountain. In August 1928, a planting sketch was prepared for the garden around Fountain No. 4. Two years later, in 1931, the National Park Service developed a new landscaping strategy that concentrated flower displays into one or two locations, rather than throughout the city. Consequently, a "Plan to Revise the Pansy Garden" was drawn in October 1931 and revised in April 1932. See Figure 15 for 1931 planting plan (revised in 1932). Implementation of the plan began in the fall of 1931 in anticipation of the George Washington Bicentennial celebration. (Additional historical research should be completed to understand the role that the pansy garden played in the bicentennial celebration.) By November 1931, a total of 120,000 plants had been set out in the "great beds" with nearly 70,000 additional flowers and more bed space (*Evening Star*, November 24, 1931, 7). Despite the large number of new plants, the plan did not significantly alter the existing garden design.

By the end of the 1940s, the character of the area located southeast of the cultural landscape began to change as a result of the construction of new approaches associated with the Rochambeau Bridge that connected Washington, DC, to Virginia (Christianson and Sanders 2017, 43). In 1947, the nearby rose gardens, along with three fountains were demolished to make way for bridge development.

Throughout the 1950s and into the mid-1960s the pansy garden continued to serve as a showplace during bloom season with pansies, magnolia, forsythia, tulip, camellia, and jonquil displays associated with the area. An aerial photograph from July 1951 clearly shows the garden around Fountain No. 4, which was comprised of planting beds around the fountain enclosed by a hedge. Water lilies were evenly spaced around the pool of the fountain. Mature trees with large canopies dotted the perimeter of the cultural landscape, while smaller trees were located in closer proximity to the fountain and associated garden. Approximately seventeen years later, an aerial photograph from 1968 shows the character of the vegetation associated with the cultural landscape after improvements were made as a result of Lady Bird Johnson's beautification program. Young trees dotted the embankment behind Fountain No. 4 in an effort to provide a screen between the relatively new bridge and the garden. A series of young trees and two planting beds had also been established in the eastern extent of the site between Interstate 395 and East Basin Drive SW. New plantings were also introduced around Fountain No. 4. Aerial photos show a hedge around the perimeter of the formal garden, while mature specimen trees are clustered on the southeast side of the garden in alignment with the Inlet Bridge axis. Water plants such as hyacinth, taro and papyrus dotted the pool of Fountain No. 4. Overall, the density of large mature trees extant in October 1968 had significantly diminished from 1951.

A groundbreaking ceremony was held at the future site of the George Mason Memorial on October 18, 2000. Character-defining features of the memorial design included the arrangement of planting beds in concentric circles around the historic Fountain No. 4. The garden drew inspiration from four centuries, including eighteenth century gardens at Gunston Hall (Mason's Virginia plantation home), that combined modern plants, elements from the original pansy garden and from Victorian garden design, and historic native plants. The plans for the memorial kept the layout of the planting beds and shrubs around the fountain, while the sense of enclosure was maintained through the retention of the hedge around the garden. It should be noted; however, that the configuration of two of the planting beds was modified during construction of the George Mason Memorial to support development of the bluestone plaza.

Rehabilitation of the larger George Mason Memorial site commenced between 2017 and 2019. The work included cleaning the sculpture and as well as cleaning and repair of the hardscape. It also

included installation of an irrigation system as well as much-needed landscape improvements such as replanting the perennial planting beds around the fountain, removal of dead shrubs in the hedge ring and infilling with new material, planting new trees and shrubs around the outer memorial, pruning existing vegetation and turfgrass improvements.

Post-Historic and Existing Conditions:

Planting Beds

The George Mason Memorial cultural landscape encompasses a multitude of planting beds containing a variety of herbaceous perennials. The planting beds form two concentric rings of gardens and turf encircling Fountain No. 4. The inner ring is composed of four small planting beds. The composition and layout of the two planting beds located in the northern half of the garden (which corresponds to the primary axis of the site that extends from the George Mason Memorial to the site entrance and Inlet Bridge), mirrors the southern half of the garden. This includes moonshine yarrow (*Achillea moonshine*), catmint (*Nepeta racemose*), black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*), and shasta daisy (*Leucanthemum x superbum*).

The outer ring of gardens, located outside of the George Mason Memorial pathway and between the border hedge, is also composed of four gardens that mirror one another based on the central axis described above. They include, but are not limited to: moonshine yarrow (*Achillea Moonshine*), purple dome aster (*Aster novae-angliae*), cheddar pink (*Dianthus gratianopolitanus*), purple coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea*), daylily (*Hemerocallis*), Siberian Iris (*Iris sibirica*), shasta daisy (*Leucanthemum x superbum*), catmint (*Nepeta racemose*), moss flox (*Phlox subulate*), black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*), meadow sage (*Salvia pratensis*), wood sage (*Salvia spp.*), Stokes' aster (*Stokesia laevis*). In addition, an inclined oblong planting bed composed of turf is located at the entrance to the site. An irrigation system helps to support the garden and is evidenced by a system of irrigation heads scattered throughout the planting beds.

Between 2017, the planting beds were rehabilitated as part of a larger rehabilitation effort associated with the memorial site. While the planting beds have undergone several changes in terms of composition (perennials) and location, they are evocative of the former pansy gardens

that were historically planted around Fountain No. 4 and should be managed as a cultural resource.

Shrubs and Vines

The George Mason Memorial cultural landscape encompasses several deciduous shrubs that serve as hedges including: blackhaw viburnum (*Viburnum prunifolium*), leatherleaf viburnum (*Viburnum rhytidophyllum*), Van Houtee spirea (*Spiraea × vanhouttei*), boxwood (*Buxus*), oakleaf hydrangea (*Hydrangea quercifolia*) and forsythia as well as needled evergreens like yew. The hedges form the very outer edge of the formal garden around Fountain No. 4 and help to create an intimate or enclosed garden space. The hedge itself is composed of two components herein referred to as the inner and outer hedges. The inner component refers to the hedge located closest to the planting beds described above, while the outer forms the outside edge of the garden hedge. The composition, character and age of the hedges differ between the northern and southern sections of the garden.

The inner component of the northern half of the hedge contains portions of well-established manicured Japanese yew (*Taxus cuspidate*) that appears to be older, while newer infill that was planted in 2017-2019 was composed of Canada yew (*Taxus canadensis*); however, it has since been removed as a result of dieback. The outer component includes Greenstem forsythia (*Forsythia viridissima*) that is older and woodier, while newer infill includes Weeping forsythia (*Forsythia suspensa*).

The inner component of the southern half of the hedge contains portions of well-established manicured Japanese yew (*Taxus cuspidate*) that also appears to be well-established. The composition of the outer hedge includes a variety of shrubs such as Weeping forsythia (*Forsythia suspensa*), and Van Houtee spirea (*Spiraea × vanhouttei*).

It should also be noted that two bottlebrush buckeye (*Aesculus parviflora*) and two Burford holly (*Ilex cornuta 'Burfordii'*) are located at the entrance to the site—one on each side of the pathway. The holly clusters are composed of three trunks or stems and is highly manicured with a rounded form. Both the bottlebrush buckeye and hollies serve to help reinforce the formal, symmetrical

qualities of the site. (It should be noted the 1931 planting plan identified horse chestnuts at the entrance, which have since been replaced with bottlebrush buckeye. Horse chestnut is closely related to Ohio buckeye, being most easily distinguished from the latter by having spiny sharp fruits and sticky buds.) In addition, several vines and a boxwood (*Buxus)* hedge are extant in proximity to the George Mason Memorial including American wisteria (*Wisteria frutescens*) and clematis (*Clematis terniflora*). The relatively unkept boxwood hedge is located behind the memorial and is composed of sixteen shrubs that serve as a backdrop to the memorial and as a vegetative screen. As a result of several rehabilitation efforts, many of the shrubs and vines associated with the George Mason Memorial cultural landscape have changed through time. Individually contributing specimens include the forsythia hedge and Burford hollies (2).

Trees

The George Mason Memorial cultural landscape also encompasses numerous trees that contribute to its historic character. The trees are situated around the perimeter of the site and include red maple (*Acer rubrum*), American elm (*Ulmus americana*), northern red oak (*Quercus rubra*), London plane (*Platanus x acerfolia*), willow oak (*Quercus phellos*), river birch (*Betula nigra*), tamarack (*Larix laricina*) flowering trees such as star magnolia (*Magnolia stellate*), saucer magnolia (*Magnolia × soulangeana*), crabapple (*Malus spp*.), dogwood (*Cornus spp*.) as well as broadleaf evergreens such as American holly (*Ilex opaca*) and needled evergreens like eastern white pine (*Pinus strobus*), atlas cedar (*Cedrus atlantica*) and deodar cedar (*Cedrus deodara*).

Similar to other parts of West Potomac Park, American elm (*Ulmus americana*) serve as the predominant street tree with the elms lining both sides of Ohio Drive SW and East Basin Drive SW. Flowering trees including saucer magnolia, star magnolia, and dogwoods are clustered around the perimeter of the hedge that surrounds the planting beds. Eastern white pine trees, atlas cedar, and deodar cedars, are clustered on the embankment between Interstate 395 and the site. The trees serve as a buffer between the busy roadway and the more contemplative nature of the cultural landscape. When planted in a staggered row, the eastern white pine trees create privacy, establish a windbreak, and act as a sound buffer. American holly (*Ilex opaca*) are also located on the slope behind the George Mason Memorial in an effort to provide a screen or buffer. As a result of several rehabilitation efforts, many of the trees associated with the George

Mason Memorial cultural landscape have changed through time. Individually contributing specimens include American elm (13), Deodar cedar (1), Atlas cedar (1), saucer magnolia (1), southern magnolia (1) and a river birch (1).

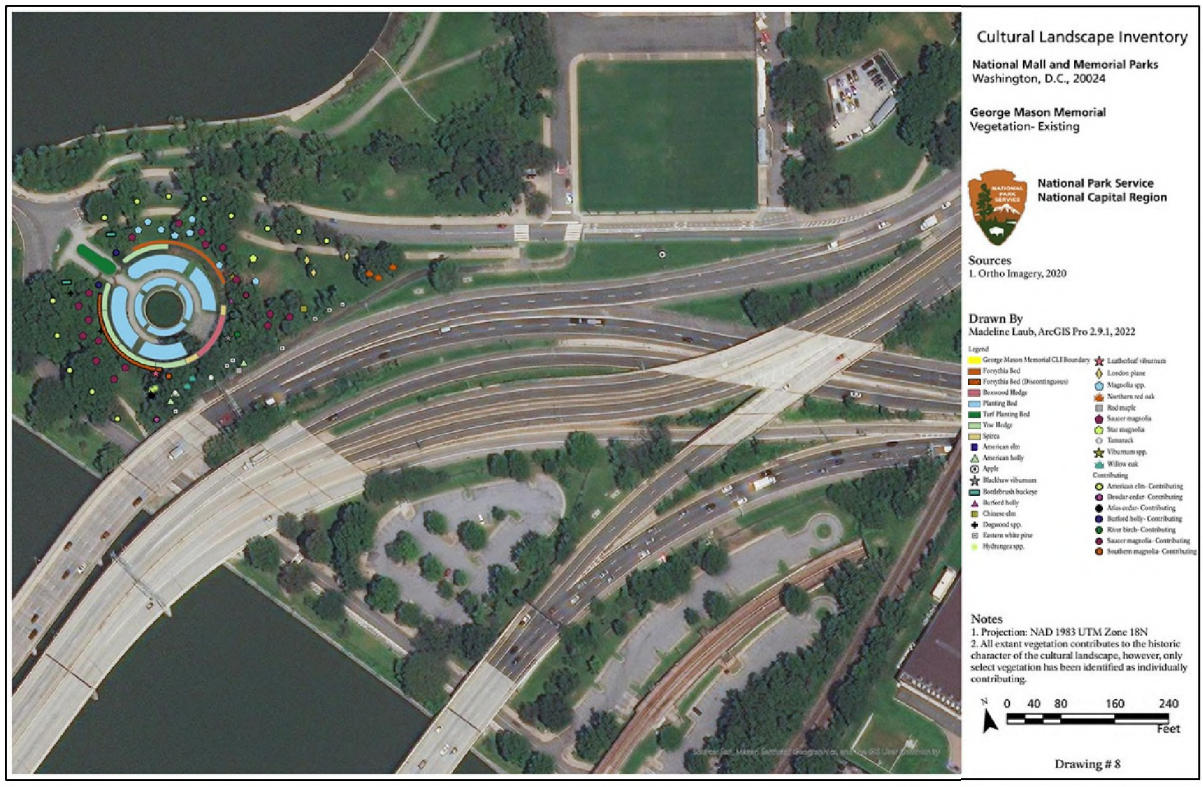
As a result of several rehabilitation efforts, the vegetation associated with the George Mason Memorial cultural landscape has changed through time. Despite the changes, the overall character of the site and associated composition of vegetation has remained relatively consistent.

Summary

The continued presence of magnolia, dogwood, cherry, crabapple, eastern white pine and birch remain as a character-defining feature of the cultural landscape. Individual specimens that constitute original vegetation or replacements in-kind that individually contribute to the cultural landscape include the forsythia hedge, Burford hollies at the site entrance, a Deodar cedar, Atlas cedar, and thirteen American elms lining Ohio Drive SW and East Basin Drive SW. A large specimen saucer magnolia and river birch located behind the George Mason Memorial and a southern magnolia located on the west side of the site also individually contribute to the cultural landscape. Burford hollies had originally been established in 1966 near the entry on opposite sides of the entrance path to replace existing butterfly bushes. Additionally, twenty-six forsythia ('Lynwood gold') had been planted along the east edge of the garden by 1966. This continued a historic precedent for the presence of forsythia hedges around Fountain No. 4 that may have begun in the early twentieth century. As a result of multiple rehabilitation efforts, the extant Burford hollies and forsythia are replacements in-kind. Moreover, historic photos and plans illustrate the presence of American elm serving as specimen street trees throughout West Potomac Park, several of which are located within the boundaries of the George Mason Memorial cultural landscape. Additional historical research needs to be completed to confirm if the extant atlas cedar is in the same location as what was described in the historic 1931 (revised 1932) planting plan as the "Cedar of Lebanon". Since both trees are very similar in appearance, this could potentially be the same tree. Regardless, two cedars appear on planting plans from the late 1960s in the same location and may represent original specimens or replacements in-kind. Today, the above-mentioned vegetation contributes to the George Mason Memorial cultural landscape.

Feature Name	Feature Contribution	CRIS-HS Resource Name	CRIS-HS Resource ID	FMSS Record Type	FMSS Record Number	FMSS record an exact match?
Forsythia Hedge	Contributing			Asset	1589665 Plants, Turfgrass, Trees	Yes
Burford Hollies (2)	Contributing			Asset	1589665 Plants, Turfgrass, Trees	Yes
American Elm (13)	Contributing			Asset	1589665 Plants, Turfgrass, Trees	Yes
Deodar Cedar (1)	Contributing			Asset	1589665 Plants, Turfgrass, Trees	Yes
Atlas Cedar (1)	Contributing			Asset	1589665 Plants, Turfgrass, Trees	Yes
River Birch (1)	Contributing			Asset	1589665 Plants, Turfgrass, Trees	
Southern Magnolia (1)	Contributing			Asset	1589665 Plants, Turfgrass, Trees	
Saucer Magnolia (1)	Contributing			Asset	1589665 Plants, Turfgrass, Trees	

Planting Beds	Managed as Cultural Resource			Asset	1589665 Plants, Turfgrass, Trees	Yes



Drawing: 8. Map showing vegetation associated with the George Mason Memorial cultural landscape. See the supplemental information section at the end of the CLI for a larger version of the map (NCR, Cultural Landscapes Program, 2022).

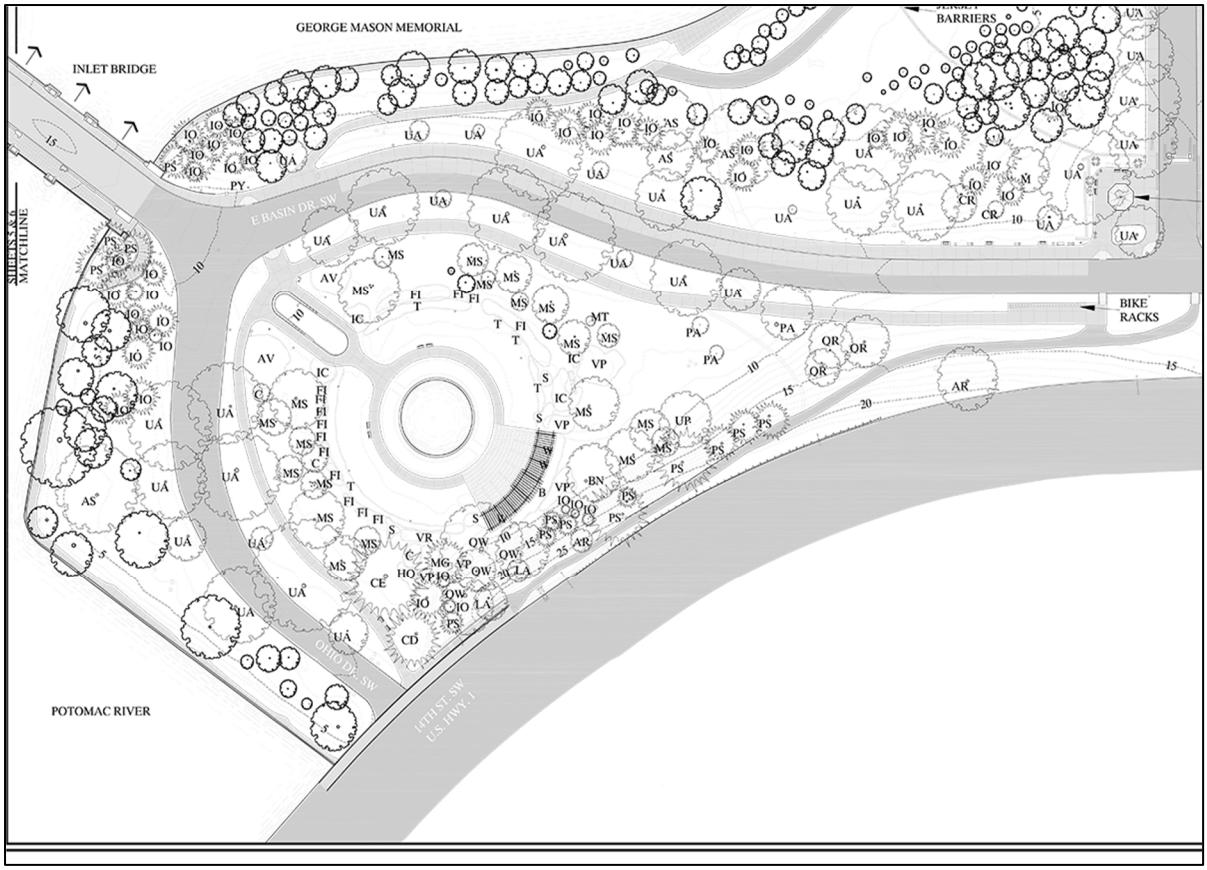


Figure: 49. Excerpt of a plan showing extant vegetation located within the George Mason Memorial cultural landscape (delineated by Charles Canfield, Historic American Landscapes Survey, Tidal Basin Recording Project, 2018).



Figure: 50. View looking west showing mature trees in bloom associated with the George Mason Memorial including magnolia. Note: yellow forsythia hedge around garden in bloom (NCR Cultural Landscapes Program, March 29, 2021).



Figure: 51. View looking east showing a yellow forsythia hedge around garden in bloom (NCR Cultural Landscapes Program, March 29, 2021).



Figure: 52. View looking west showing the open character of the eastern extent of the George Mason Memorial cultural landscape and declining crabapple in the foreground (NCR Cultural Landscapes Program, November 10, 2020).



Figure: 53. View looking southeast showing street trees along Ohio Drive SW (NCR Cultural Landscapes Program, November 10, 2020).

Circulation

Circulation refers to the spaces, features, and applied material finishes that constitute systems of movement in a landscape.

Historic Condition:

Maps from 1906 indicate that the road known today as Ohio Drive SW was identified as "River Side Drive". (Later plans also identify the road in this vicinity as "Park Drive"). The drive ran northwest parallel to the Potomac River before turning north northeast at the Tidal Basin inlet. A bridle path traversed the inside of the road around Fountain No. 4. Circulation in this location changed in 1909 with completion of the Inlet Bridge. Aerial photographs from 1918 show that pathways and planting beds had been formalized around Fountain No. 4 including two diagonal cinder walks extending at 45-degree and 47-degree angles from the fountain. In the late 1920s and early 1930s, modifications were made to the circulation as a result of efforts to rehabilitate the

garden. Plans included the introduction of the oblong planting bed at the entrance as well as the addition of crushed stone and cinder to the garden paths. Notably plans showed that the southern-most diagonal path mentioned above terminated at a set of stairs that traversed the slope associated with the old Highway Bridge and associated embankment. Additional changes followed with construction of the new George Mason Memorial Bridge west of the old Highway Bridge. Construction of the George Mason Memorial Bridge was completed on January 26, 1962, and the old Highway Bridge was demolished five years later in 1967. Construction of the new bridge encroached on Fountain No. 4 and resulted in changing pedestrian circulation patterns associated with access from the bridge to West Potomac Park. Beautification efforts associated with Lady Bird Johnson's efforts to plant vegetation at the site may have also influenced how people moved through the garden space. Construction of the George Mason Memorial in 2002 rehabilitated extant circulation features to ensure that the historic character of the former pansy garden would not be impacted by the addition of new development associated with the commemoration of George Mason and installation of the memorial.

Post-Historic and Existing Conditions:

George Mason Memorial Bluestone Plaza (Contributing, CRIS-HS ID 873076)

The George Mason Memorial contains a wedge-shaped bluestone plaza located on the southeastern side of the memorial extending roughly from the pathway around Fountain No. 4 to the sculpture of George Mason and the associated columned trellis. It measures approximately fifty-one feet by forty-five feet and contains a dedication stone located on axis with the garden entrance and the Inlet Bridge. As an important design element of the George Mason Memorial, the bluestone plaza is a contributing feature to the cultural landscape.

George Mason Memorial Pathways (Contributing)

Visitors may access the George Mason Memorial by an exposed aggregate concrete pathway originating at the intersection of Ohio Drive SW and East Basin Dr SW. At this location, two parallel pathways separated by an inclined oblong planting bed funnels visitors into a single pathway that encircles a patchwork of turf and planting beds around Fountain No. 4. The pathway measures ninety-six inches wide. Two sets of NPS armless benches are located around the pathway and sit on concrete pads measuring twenty-three inches wide by approximately

thirteen feet long. Historically, two diagonal cinder walks extended at 45-degree and 47-degree angles from the fountain. This allowed visitors to enter and exit the garden from multiple locations. By the late 1960s, the formal diagonal paths had been removed and hedges had been planted as a result of Lady Bird Johnson's Beautification program. The remnants of one of the former diagonal paths is evidenced by the configuration of the planting beds. While the diagonal pathways have been lost, the parallel paths at the entrance and circular pathway around Fountain No. 4 remain as character-defining features of early park development associated with the cultural landscape.

West Potomac Park Sidewalks (Contributing)

Several concrete sidewalks are located around the perimeter of the George Mason Memorial within the boundaries of the cultural landscape. The primary function of these features is to provide visitors with access to various locations within West Potomac Park. The sidewalk located on the east side of Ohio Drive measures ninety-five inches wide and was modified in 1992 as part of a larger Ohio Drive SW reconstruction effort. This section of sidewalk is also part of the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail (PHT) network, which was authorized in a 1983 amendment to the *National Trails System Act.* Two NPS armless benches are located along the sidewalk fronting Ohio Drive SW. The benches sit on a concrete pad that measures thirty-six inches wide and approximately sixteen feet long.

Other circulation features located within the cultural landscape in West Potomac Park include a short section of concrete sidewalk measuring 100 inches wide that extends from the sidewalk along Ohio Drive SW to the concrete stairs near the George Mason Memorial Bridge. Also, a concrete sidewalk, which measures 120 inches wide is located south of East Basin Drive SW along the northern extent of the cultural landscape. The sidewalk terminates at a crosswalk near the Thomas Jefferson Memorial food kiosk where visitors must cross East Basin Drive to continue east along the sidewalk.

While the alignment of the sidewalks has likely been modified through time as a result of improvements to the circulation system, their approximate location is based on the historic precedent for bridle paths around the park, which were first identified in this locale in 1906. In

other parts of West Potomac Park it has been documented that use of the bridle trails was discontinued in 1950 as a result of conflicting park uses. See figure 8 for early map showing circulation features in this area.

Concrete Stairs (Noncontributing)

Concrete stairs are located at the southern extent of the cultural landscape parallel to Interstate 395. The stairs provide access to/from the George Mason Memorial Bridge to the George Mason Memorial as well as West Potomac Park and the Inlet Bridge. The stairs have concrete sidewalls and a six-inch rise. Aluminum four-inch wide bike tracks are located on both sides of the stairs between the sidewalls. The earliest stairs that provided access to the site from the old Highway Bridge and embankment were located east of Fountain No. 4; however, plans from the early 1930s indicate that the stairs were located on the west side of the site and orientated perpendicular to Interstate 395. An aerial photograph from 1968 suggests that the stairs were still situated in this location. At an unknown date, the stairs were rebuilt in their current configuration parallel to Interstate 395. While the stairs provide an important pedestrian and bicycle connection between the George Mason Memorial Bridge and West Potomac Park they do not contribute to the historic character of the cultural landscape.

Social Trails (Noncontributing)

Two social trails are located within the boundary of the George Mason Memorial cultural landscape. A social trail extends from the foot of the concrete stairs near the George Mason Memorial Bridge through the site and behind the memorial. The social trail serves as a shortcut between the stairs and access to other portions of West Potomac Park. Another social trail is located near the entrance to the memorial and is likely the result of bicycle traffic to/from the Inlet Bridge to the West Potomac Park sidewalk. These social trails do not contribute to the historic character of the George Mason Memorial.

Asphalt Pathway (Undetermined)

An asphalt pathway is located at the southeast extent of the cultural landscape near Interstate 395. The pathway measures 106 inches wide and sits on the top of the interstate berm before descending down a gentle slope eastward to West Potomac Park. A wood retaining wall supports

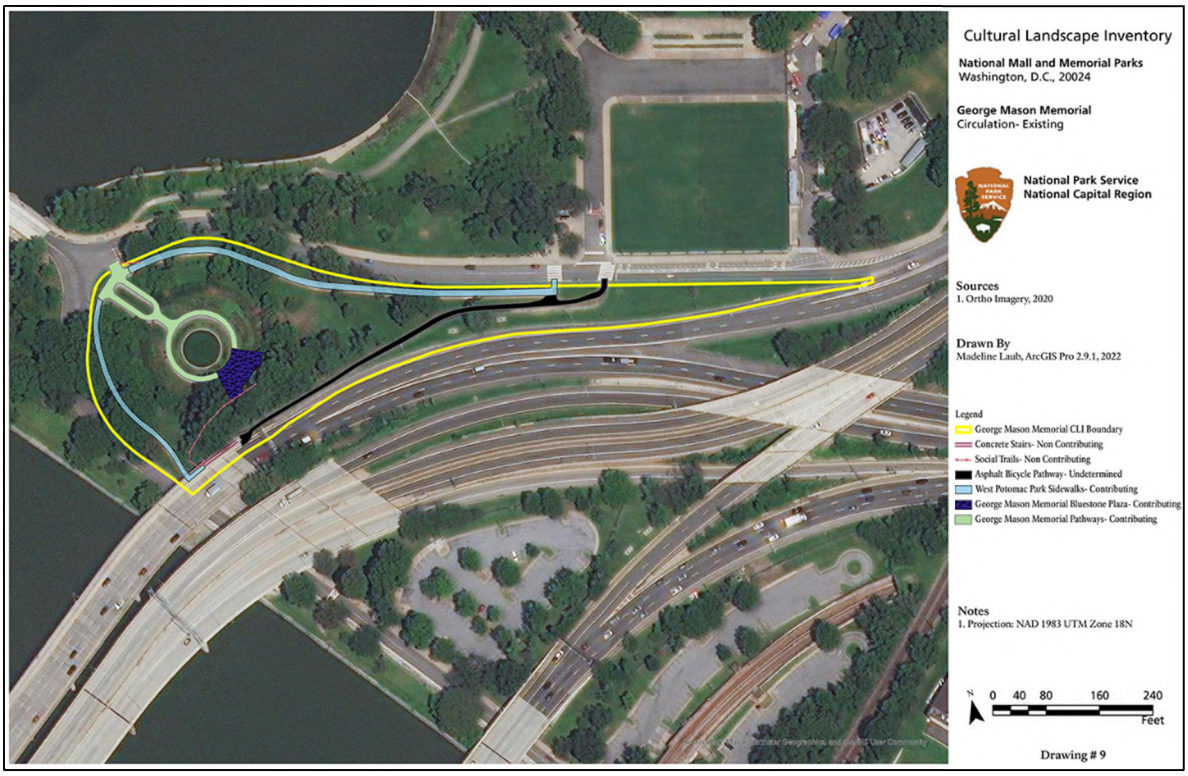
the downslope side of the trail that directly parallels Interstate 395. Accessible by both pedestrians and bicyclists, the trail provides an important connection between the end of the George Mason Memorial Bridge and West Potomac Park. The construction date of the pathway is unknown; however, it appears that there has been a precedent for a pathway in this location since at least the late 1960s after completion of the George Mason Memorial Bridge. An aerial photograph from 1970 shows the pathway in roughly the same alignment; however, the historic character of the pathway remains unknown. Additional historical research should be completed to document the physical development of the circulation feature.

Summary

Today, extant circulation features associated with the George Mason Memorial are evocative of early park planning associated with the development of Potomac Park as well as later efforts to improve the pansy garden in the late 1920s and early 1930s. The most notable changes to circulation occurred as a result of construction of the George Mason Memorial Bridge, which was completed in 1962. Built west of the old Highway Bridge, it encroached on Fountain No. 4 further hemming in the site between existing park roads and the expanding infrastructure associated with highway development in the District of Columbia. Later construction of the George Mason Memorial in 2002 was sympathetic to the historic character of the garden and fountain. While the introduction of the bluestone plaza necessitated removal of planting beds and a portion of the pathway around the fountain, it did not significantly alter how visitors move through the space.

Feature Name	Feature Contribution	CRIS-HS Resource Name	CRIS-HS Resource ID	FMSS Record Type	FMSS Record Number	FMSS record an exact match?
George Mason Memorial Bluestone Plaza	Contributing	George Mason Memorial - Plaza	873076	Asset Plazas and Pathways	17664	Yes
George Mason Memorial Pathways	Contributing			Asset Plazas and Pathways	17664	Yes

West Potomac Park Sidewalks	Contributing			Asset Plazas and Pathways	1294709	Yes
Concrete Stairs	Noncontributing					
Social Trails	Noncontributing					
Asphalt Pathway	Undetermined			Asset Plazas and Pathways	1294709	Yes



Drawing: 9. Map showing circulation systems associated with the George Mason Memorial cultural landscape. See the supplemental information section at the end of the CLI for a larger version of the map (NCR, Cultural Landscapes Program, 2022).



Figure: 54. View looking east showing the character of the pathway with the George Mason Memorial site (NCR Cultural Landscapes Program, March 28, 2021).



Figure: 55. View looking west showing circulation features associated with the eastern extent of the George Mason Memorial cultural landscape (NCR Cultural Landscapes Program, November 10, 2020).



Figure: 56. View looking northwest showing a sidewalk in West Potomac Park within the boundaries of the George Mason cultural landscape along Ohio Drive SW (NCR Cultural Landscapes Program, November 10, 2020).



Figure: 57. View looking northeast showing concrete stairs adjacent to the George Mason Memorial Bridge (NCR Cultural Landscapes Program, November 10, 2020).



Figure: 58. View looking east showing an asphalt pathway adjacent to Interstate 395 within the George Mason Memorial cultural landscape. Note wood retaining wall bordering the edge of the left side of the pathway (NCR Cultural Landscapes Program, November 10, 2020).

Buildings and Structures

Buildings are elements constructed primarily for sheltering any form of human activity in a landscape, while structures are elements constructed for functional purposes other than sheltering human activity.

Historic Condition:

Prior to the establishment of Potomac Park in the early twentieth century, the area within the boundaries of the cultural landscape was characterized by marshy tidal flats. The first structure, Fountain No. 4, was constructed in 1905. A detailed description and analysis is provided in the "Constructed Water Features" section of the CLI. Numerous other landscape improvements were made in association with the garden including the installation of flower beds, specimen trees, paths, lighting and benches in the decades that followed.

Post-Historic and Existing Conditions:

George Mason Memorial Sculpture (Contributing, CRIS-HS ID 625904)

The following description was adapted from the HALS Tidal Basin report:

The larger-than-life bronze sculpture of George Mason is situated at the center of the trellis. Sculpted by Wendy M. Ross, Mason is depicted sitting on a curved marble bench in a relaxed manner with his legs crossed, leaning back on his left hand while his right hand marks his place in Cicero's *De Officiis*. He is gazing toward the Thomas Jefferson Memorial. Two other books are stacked beside him: Jean Jacques Rosseau's *Du Contract Social* and Locke's *An Essay Concerning Human Understanding*. A tri-corner hat rests on the bench beside Mason with his walking stick leaning against the bench. Designed and installed as part of the George Mason Memorial, the sculpture contributes to the cultural landscape.

George Mason Memorial Inscription Walls and Stone Dedication Plaque (Contributing, CRIS-HS 625937)

Oblong Planting Bed Wall

Situated at the entrance to the site, visitors first encounter an inclined oblong bed planted with turf and edged with granite and a rounded concrete coping. The structure is inscribed with the following text:

GEORGE MASON
1725-1792
AUTHOR OF AMERICA'S FIRST BILL OF RIGHTS

Inscription Walls

Two inscribed marble tablets are located under the columned trellis flanking both sides of the George Mason sculpture. The walls sit on rough cut stone bases topped with stone molding and measure 133 inches wide and fifty-two and one-half inches tall and eighteen inches deep. The inscriptions associated with each wall (noted as north inscription wall and south inscription wall) are in a sans serif font in all capital letters and feature quotes from George Mason, his colleagues such as Thomas Jefferson, and the Virginia Bill of Rights. Kevin Roustazad carved the inscriptions. See transcription of inscriptions provided below.

North Inscription Wall

THIS WAS GEORGE MASON, A MAN OF THE FIRST ORDER OF WISDOM AMONG THOSE WHO ACTED ON THE THEATER OF THE REVOLUTION, OF EXPANSIVE MIND, PROFOUND JUDGEMENT, COGENT IN ARGUMENT…. THOMAS JEFFERSON 1821

REGARDING SLAVERY:…THAT SLOW POISON, WHICH IS DAILY CONTAMINATING THE MINDS & MORALS OF OUR PEOPLE EVERY GENTLEMEN HERE IS BORN A PETTY TYRANT, PRACTICED IN ACTS OF DESPOTISM & CRUELTY, WE BECOME OUR OWN SPECIES IN THE MOST ABJECT & CONTEMPTIBLE DEGREE BELOW US, WE LOSE THAT IDEA OF THE DIGNITY OF MAN, WHICH THE HAND OF NATURE HAD IMPLANTED IN US, FOR GREAT & USEFUL PURPOSES…. GEORGE MASON JULY 1773

I RECOMMEND IT TO MY SONS…NEVER TO LET THE MOTIVES OF PRIVATE INTEREST OR AMBITION TO INDUCE THEM TO BETRAY NOR THE TERRORS OF POVERY AND DISGRACE OR THE FEAR OF DANGER OR OF DEATH DETER THEM FROM ASSERTING THE LIBERTY OF THEIR COUNTRY AND ENDEAVORING TO TRANSMIT TO THEIR POSTERITY THOSE SACRED RIGHTS TO WHICH THEMSELVES WERE BORN.
GEORGE MASON MARCH 1773

South Inscription Wall

THE FIRST DECLARATION OF RIGHTS WHICH TRULY DESERVES THE NAME IS THAT OF VIRGINIA…AND ITS AUTHOR IS ENTITLED TO THE ENTERNAL GRATITUDE OF MANKIND
MARQUIS DE CONDORCET PARIS 1789

ALL POWER IS VESTED IN, AND CONSEQUENTLY DERIVED FROM, THE PEOPLE…. GOVERNMENT IS, OR OUGHT TO BE, INSTITUTED FOR THE COMMON BENEFIT, PROTECTION, AND SECURITY OF THE PEOPLE….

THE FREEDOM OF THE PRESS IS ONE OF THE GREATEST BULWARKS OF LIBERTY, AND CAN NEVER BE RESTRAINED BY ALL MEN ARE EQUALLY ENTITLED TO THE FREE EXERCISE OF RELIGION…. VIRGINIA DECLARATION OF RIGHTS JUNE 1776

Dedication Stone

A dedication stone is embedded in the bluestone plaza of the memorial. It is located on axis with the Inlet Bridge between the George Mason Memorial trellis and Fountain No. 4. It is inscribed with the following text:

GEORGE MASON MEMORIAL

A GIFT OF THE
BOARD OF REGENTS OF GUNSTON HALL PLANTATION, MASON NECK, VIRGINIA
AND
THE NATIONAL SOCIETY OF THE COLONIAL DAMES OF AMERICA

DEDICATED BY:
WILLIAM H. REHNQUIST
CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE UNITED STATES
APRIL 9, 2002

MEMORIAL DESIGN RHODESIDE & HARWELL, INCORPORATED
SCULPTOR WENDY M. ROSS

Collectively these features were designed and installed as part of the George Mason Memorial and as a result they contribute to the cultural landscape.

George Mason Memorial Trellis and Columns (Contributing, CRIS-HS ID 625930)

The following description was adapted from the HALS Tidal Basin report:

The memorial itself is composed of an approximately nine-foot tall by seventy-two-foot long semi-circular trellis located on axis with the entrance and Inlet Bridge at the rear of the site, next to the Interstate 395 embankment and behind Fountain No. 4. The trellis, which follows the curve of the fountain, consists of sixteen marble columns (eight in front and eight in back) that sit on

rough-cut granite blocks. The columns support the overhead wood beams with metal rafters. The rafters are notched at the intersections with the beams and bolted at those points. Decorative rafter tails are visible on the primary elevation, while the center beams of the trellis feature decorative medallions. Lights are mounted to the rafters and point towards the sculpture of George Mason at the center. Designed and installed as part of the George Mason Memorial, the columned trellis contributes to the cultural landscape.

George Mason Memorial Stone Benches (Contributing)

A prominent bench is located at the center of the memorial. The curved marble bench measures 148 inches long and is made up of five sections of marble sitting on a base of rough-cut stone. A sculpture of George Mason sits on the south side of the bench, while the following inscription is located at the northern extent of the bench on the back:

ALL MEN ARE BORN EQUALLY FREE AND INDEPENDENT,
AND HAVE CERTAIN INHERENT NATURAL RIGHTS…
AMONG WHICH ARE THE ENJOYMENT OF LIFE
AND LIBERTY, WITH THE MEANS OF ACQUIRING
AND POSSESSING PROPERTY, AND PURSUING AND
OBTAINING HAPPINESS AND SAFETY
GEORGE MASON MAY 1776

The central bench is flanked by two stone benches located under the columned trellis on each side. Each bench has a granite top with three marble pedestals that rest on rough-cut granite blocks. All four benches are identical and measure 108 ¾ inches long, twenty inches high and twenty-three inches wide. Designed and installed as part of the George Mason Memorial, the stone benches contribute to the cultural landscape.

Wood Retaining Walls (2) (Noncontributing)

Two wood retaining walls are located along the asphalt bicycle/pedestrian trail situated near Interstate 395. The walls are constructed of dimensional lumber with metal braces bridging the joints between the lumber. Holes are drilled low in the wall just above grade for drainage. Both

walls are generally consistent in terms of character and range from between fourteen inches tall and thirty-eight inches tall at their highest. A photograph taken during preliminary site planning for the George Mason Memorial by Rhodeside Harwell from June 1993 shows a wood retaining wall in this location; however, the character and materials of the current wall suggests that it is of more recent construction. As a result, the walls do not contribute to the historic character of the George Mason Memorial cultural landscape.

Asphalt Spillway (Noncontributing)

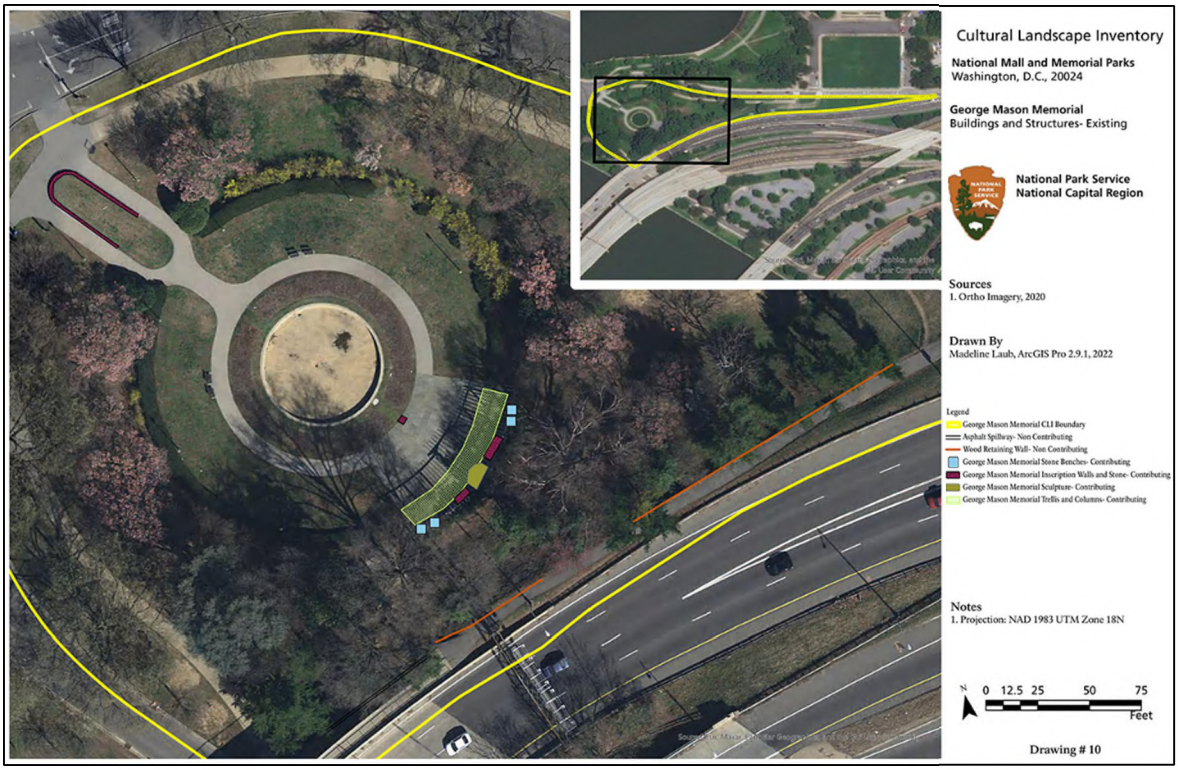
An asphalt spillway is located parallel to the north side of concrete stairs near the George Mason Memorial Bridge to direct runoff. The informal spillway measures approximately twenty-three inches wide and sections of the feature are eroding. While the precise construction date is unknown, it is likely associated with construction of the wood retaining wall and does not contribute to the historic character of the cultural landscape.

Summary

In 2002, the George Mason Memorial was constructed on the site of the former pansy garden and adjacent to Fountain No. 4. It was created to commemorate the contributions of George Mason. As a result of its congressional designation as a national memorial, it was automatically listed in the National Register of Historic Places at its dedication on April 9, 2002. Consequently, structures associated with the George Mason Memorial are noted as contributing features in the CLI. Today, twenty years after its construction, the memorial possesses exceptional significance as the nation's preeminent commemoration of George Mason.

Feature Name	Feature Contribution	CRIS-HS Resource Name	CRIS-HS Resource ID	FMSS Record Type	FMSS Record Number	FMSS record an exact match?
George Mason Memorial Sculpture	Contributing	George Mason Memorial - Sculpture	625904	Asset	1588006 Sculpture	Yes
George Mason Memorial	Contributing	George Mason Memorial –	625937	Asset	1447205	Yes

Inscription Walls and Stone		Inscription Walls			Memorial Wall and Inscriptions	
George Mason Memorial Trellis and Columns	Contributing	George Mason Memorial - Trellis	625930	Asset	1568252 Pergola and Trellis 40799 Columns	Yes
George Mason Memorial Stone Benches	Contributing			Asset	1589676 Memorial Bench	Yes
Wood Retaining Walls (2)	Noncontributing					
Asphalt Spillway	Noncontributing					



Drawing: 10. Map showing buildings and structures associated with the George Mason Memorial cultural landscape. See the supplemental information section at the end of the CLI for a larger version of the map (NCR, Cultural Landscapes Program, 2022).



Figure: 59. View looking southeast showing the entrance turf planting bed with concrete walls located at the entrance to the George Mason Memorial (NCR Cultural Landscapes Program, November 10, 2020).



Figure: 60. View looking southeast showing the George Mason Memorial trellis and columns (NCR Cultural Landscapes Program, November 10, 2020).



Figure: 61. View looking northeast showing the George Mason Memorial trellis and columns (NCR Cultural Landscapes Program, November 9, 2020).



Figure: 62. View looking northeast showing the George Mason Memorial inscription wall (NCR Cultural Landscapes Program, November 10, 200).



Figure: 63. View looking southeast showing the George Mason Memorial bench with a sculpture of George Mason (NCR Cultural Landscapes Program, November 10, 2020).



Figure: 64. View looking northwest showing the George Mason Memorial inscribed stone near Fountain No. 4 (NCR Cultural Landscapes Program, November 17, 2020).



Figure: 65. View looking east showing a wood retaining wall adjacent the asphalt trail along Interstate 395 (NCR Cultural Landscapes Program, November 10, 2020).



Figure: 66. View looking southwest showing the asphalt spillway on the right side of the concrete stairs along Interstate 395 (NCR Cultural Landscapes Program, November 10, 2020).

Views and Vistas

A view is the expansive and/or panoramic prospect of a broad range of vision that may be naturally occurring or deliberately contrived. A vista is a controlled prospect of a discrete, linear range of vision, which is deliberately contrived.

Historic Condition:

Construction of Fountain No. 4 in the newly established Potomac Park took advantage of its location near the Potomac River and the Tidal Basin and their associated scenic qualities. In August of 1906, *The Washington Post* reported, "From Potomac Park one can obtain a fine view of the river's silvery stretches, its edges in varied shades of green; the historic old mansion at Arlington, and the numerous craft upon the river. In the other directions the view of the city is

quite as alluring" (*The Washington Post*, August 5, 1906, SM3). Views of the Potomac River and the associated shoreline from Fountain No. 4 served as important qualities of the newly developed park. The Washington Monument also served as a significant landmark visible from Potomac Park. Completed in 1884 and towering just over 555 feet tall, the obelisk was built to commemorate George Washington and was likely associated with the "view of the city" identified in the above article.

As planning efforts were initiated for construction of the Inlet Bridge, the Washington Engineer Office and the OPBG identified the importance of connecting or linking of East and West Potomac Parks at the Tidal Basin Inlet as essential to the unity and success of the general improvement program for the area. Moreover, a bridge connection across the inlet was an integral element of the McMillan Commission Plan of 1901 (KressCox Associates 1986, 34). After construction of the Inlet Bridge was completed in 1909, the axis between Fountain No. 4 and the bridge served as a significant vista. Early planners also considered the aesthetic qualities of Potomac Park and the importance of views from the railroad for visitors arriving and/or departing to/from Washington. The *Sunday Star* reported that when, "Viewed from the windows of trains passing in and out the city the newly improved portion of the Potomac Park is a place of beauty and is pleasing to the eye" (*Sunday Sta*r, April 22, 1906, 6).

In the nearby propagating and rose garden (outside of the cultural landscape boundary), the Thomas Jefferson Memorial, dedicated in 1943, also served as an iconic landmark. Historic photographs illustrate the classical beauty of the memorial as the perfect backdrop to the designed rose garden (Figure 24).

Post-Historic and Existing Conditions:

Views toward the Potomac River and Virginia (Contributing)

Today, portions of the cultural landscape continue to provide visitors with the opportunity to enjoy views toward the Potomac River. During spring bloom, views of the river are punctuated by cherry trees in vibrant shades of pink. Views across the river toward Virginia and the George Washington Memorial Parkway to the southwest are hemmed in by the George Mason Memorial Bridge (also known as a component of the 14th Street Bridge Complex and Interstate 395), while

views of the river are unrestricted by development until reaching the Arlington Memorial Bridge. Despite the changes, the site still offers views toward the Potomac and Virginia, George Mason's former home.

View toward the Washington Monument, Thomas Jefferson Memorial and Tidal Basin from the George Mason Memorial (Contributing)

Views northeast from the cultural landscape across the Tidal Basin toward the Washington Memorial and Thomas Jefferson Memorial (during leaf off) remain extant. During construction of the George Mason Memorial, the importance of these views was acknowledged and efforts were made to preserve and enhance the viewshed through selective pruning of adjacent trees located within the cultural landscape as well as nearby portions of West Potomac Park. During spring bloom, views of the Washington Monument from Fountain No. 4 are framed by bountiful pink bloom from magnolia and cherry trees, while a golden hedge of forsythia draws the eye to the foreground. Today, these views remain as character-defining features of the cultural landscape.

Vista from the George Mason Memorial Sculpture to the Inlet Bridge (Contributing)

The vista from the George Mason Memorial and Fountain No. 4 to the Inlet Bridge remains a notable quality of the site. The strong axis provides an important visual connection between the former pansy garden and the bridge. It also serves as a significant transportation corridor connecting the George Mason Memorial to other sections of West Potomac Park. See Figure 71 and Figure 72 that illustrate vistas from the George Mason Memorial columned trellis northwest toward the Inlet Bridge as well as views from the Inlet Bridge southeast toward the George Mason Memorial.

Inward views of the George Mason Memorial (Contributing)

While the views and vistas described above are character-defining qualities of the cultural landscape, it is also important to acknowledge the importance of the human-scale of the George Mason Memorial site within the context of nearby development associated with the National Mall. This character, which was described in the *National Mall Plan* noted, "The visual character of the George Mason Memorial is informal, intimate, and gardenesque, with flowering trees and

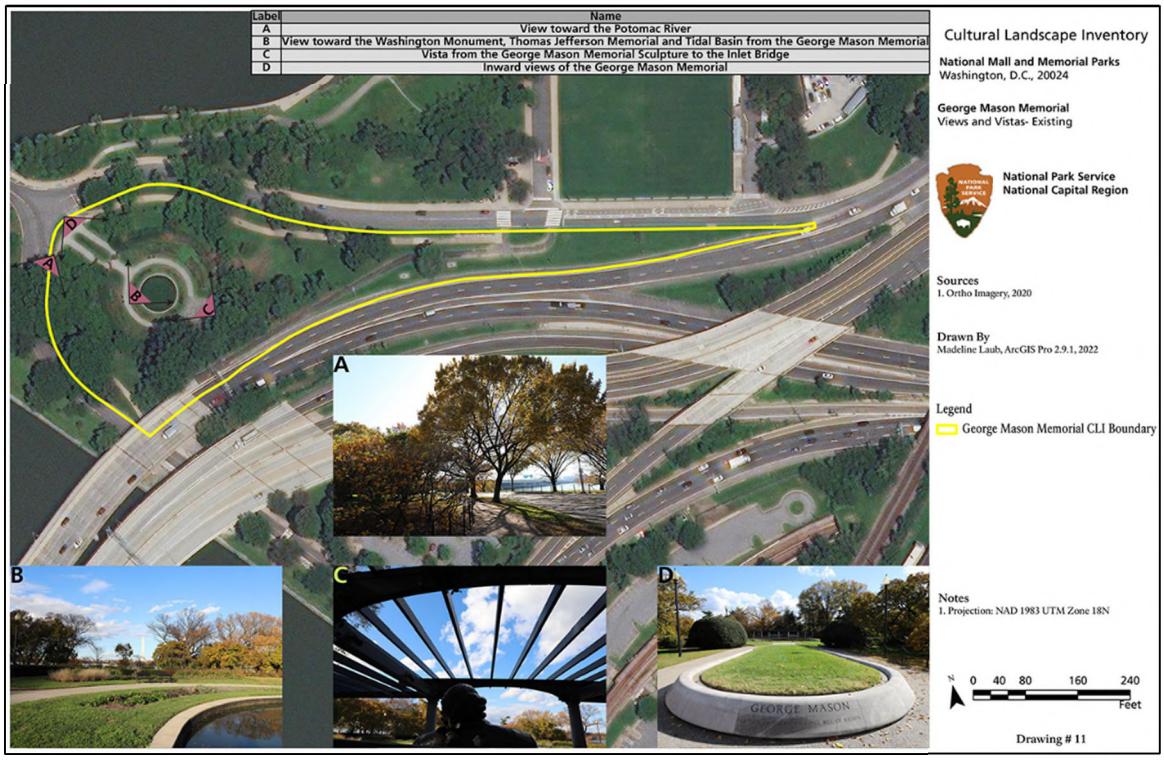
plants surrounding a round pool. The sculpture of George Mason, in an informal pose located under an arbor, reinforces the relaxed visual character" (NPS 2010, 343).

Summary

While many of the views and vistas associated with the cultural landscape remain extant, encroaching highway development has impacted the visual character of the site. The most overt changes are largely associated with construction of the George Mason Memorial Bridge in 1962. The verticality and monumentality of the structure has severed the visual connection of the cultural landscape with southern portions of West Potomac Park and East Potomac Park. Despite these changes, the most prominent vista toward the Inlet Bridge remains intact, while views toward the Washington Monument are also still visible. Filtered views of the Thomas Jefferson Memorial are also visible during leaf off. Consequently, views and vistas as a landscape characteristic contribute to the historic character of the George Mason Memorial cultural landscape.

Feature Name	Feature Contribution	CRIS-HS Resource Name	CRIS-HS Resource ID	FMSS Record Type	FMSS Record Number	FMSS record an exact match?
Views toward the Potomac River and Virginia	Contributing					
View toward the Washington Monument, Thomas Jefferson Memorial and Tidal Basin from the George Mason Memorial	Contributing					
Vista from the George Mason Memorial Sculpture to the Inlet Bridge	Contributing					

Inward views of the George Mason Memorial	Contributing					



Drawing: 11. Map showing views and vistas associated with the George Mason Memorial cultural landscape. See the supplemental information section at the end of the CLI for a larger version of the map (NCR, Cultural Landscapes Program, 2022).



Figure: 67. View looking southwest from the perimeter of the George Mason Memorial toward the Potomac River (NCR Cultural Landscapes Program, January 31, 2021).



Figure: 68. View looking northeast from the George Mason Memorial to the Washington Monument (NCR Cultural Landscapes Program, October 9, 2020).



Figure: 69. View looking northeast toward the Washington Monument from the George Mason Memorial. Note cherry blossoms, magnolia tree in bloom and yellow forsythia in the foreground (NCR Cultural Landscapes Program, March 29, 2021).



Figure: 70. View looking north from behind the George Mason Memorial to the Tidal Basin (NCR Cultural Landscapes Program, March 28, 2021).



Figure: 71. View looking northwest from under the trellis of the George Mason Memorial past Fountain No. 4 to the Inlet Bridge (NCR Cultural Landscapes Program, November 10, 2020).



Figure: 72. View looking southeast from the Inlet Bridge to the George Mason Memorial (NCR Cultural Landscapes Program, November 10, 2020).

Constructed Water Features

Constructed water features are built features and elements that utilize water for aesthetic or utilitarian functions in the landscape.

Historic Condition:

Four fountains were built southeast of the Tidal Basin, near the Long Bridge, by the OPBG in Potomac Park in 1905. The constructed water features were situated within a newly developed propagating garden and included two circular fountain basins measuring forty feet in diameter, one circular fountain basin (Fountain No. 4) measuring sixty feet in diameter and one square fountain basin with fifty-foot sides. The concrete basins were to be built of concrete composed of "one part Portland cement, two-and-a-half parts sharp sand, and five parts sharp gravel, and finished with a 1"-thick coat of cement mortar made up of two parts Portland cement and three parts sharp sand" (Christianson and Sanders 2017, 42). Ultimately, the four fountains were constructed by Brennan Construction Company at a cost of $2,494 and were completed by

October 27, 1905 (Christianson and Sanders 2017, 43). Historic photos show a single jet at the center of the fountain. In 1947, the square fountain as well as the two forty-foot diameter basins associated with the propagating garden and rose garden were demolished to make way for construction of a new bridge.

Post-Historic and Existing Conditions:

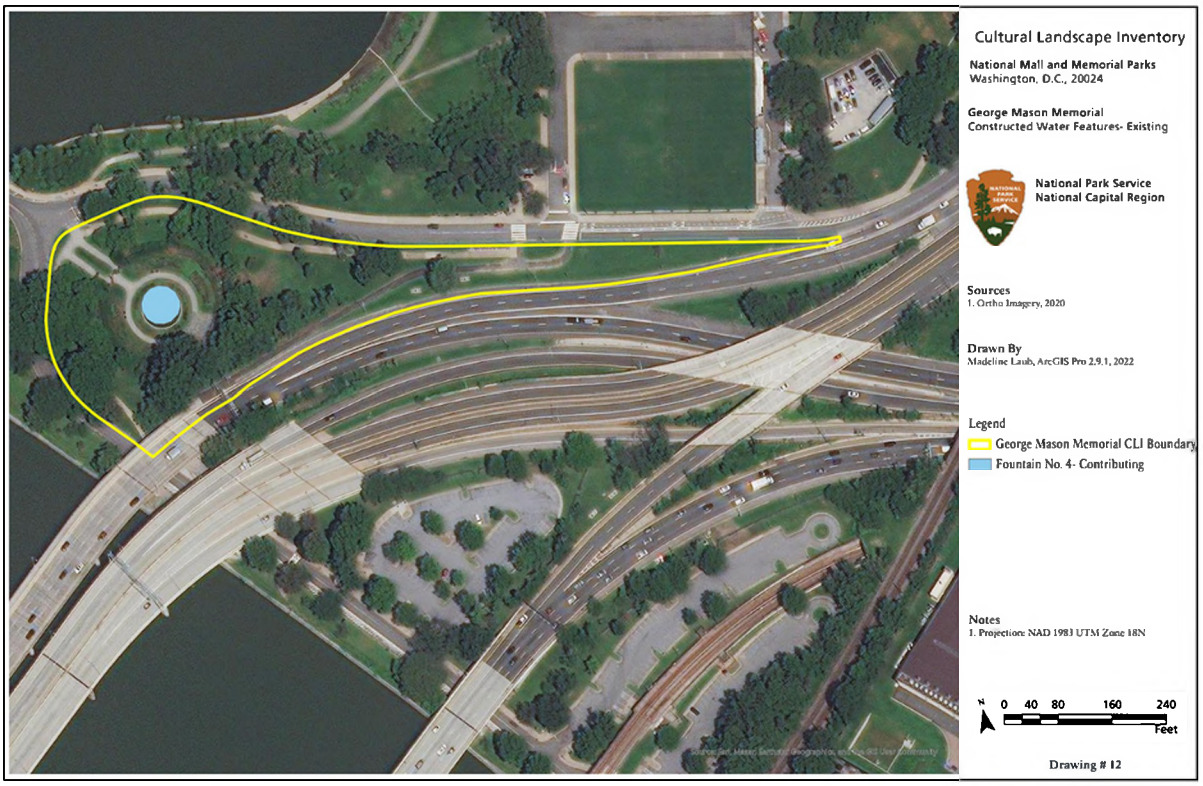
Fountain No. 4 (Contributing, CRIS-HS 624190)

Fountain No. 4 remains as a circular concrete basin measuring fifty-eight feet in diameter, which is similar in size to the fountain "60' in diameter" basin identified in the original advertisement. It contains a series of spray heads at the center and is surrounded by planting beds that were historically composed of an expansive pansy garden. Throughout the years, numerous maintenance issues associated with lack of an adequate circulation system plagued the fountain rendering it unable to function. Recent rehabilitation efforts by the NPS in partnership with the Trust for the National Mall has resulted in many improvements to the fountain including replacement of twelve spray heads at the center with a one-foot six inch spray drop ring containing over sixty jets.

Summary

Constructed in 1905, Fountain No. 4 remains as one of the oldest features in West Potomac Park and serves as a contributing feature to the George Mason Memorial cultural landscape. While the spray head has been replaced and the setting has been modified as a result of the construction of the George Mason Memorial, the fountain retains integrity.

Feature Name	Feature Contribution	CRIS-HS Resource Name	CRIS-HS Resource ID	FMSS Record Type	FMSS Record Number	FMSS record an exact match?
Fountain No. 4	Contributing	George Mason Memorial – Fountain No. 4	624190	Asset	58820 Fountain/ Pool Structures	Yes



Drawing: 12. Map showing constructed water features associated with the George Mason Memorial cultural landscape. See the supplemental information section at the end of the CLI for a larger version of the map (NCR, Cultural Landscapes Program, 2022).



Figure: 73. View looking northwest showing Fountain No. 4 (NCR Cultural Landscapes Program, November 13, 2020).

Small-Scale Features

Small-scale features are elements that provide detail and diversity for both functional needs and aesthetic concerns in the landscape.

Historic Condition:

Historically, small-scale features within the current boundaries of the George Mason Memorial cultural landscape were largely limited to lighting features that were installed to illuminate the garden during the evening hours. The first lighting fixtures were installed in 1931. Historic photos from the period show relatively modern looking light posts with two cone-shaped lamps at the top that were situated around the perimeter of the formal garden. Later, the lights were adorned with "mushroom top" lamps that would remain extant until construction of the George Mason Memorial in the early 2000s.

Historic photographs suggest that benches were not installed around Fountain No. 4 until at least the early 1930s and were not located at the edge of the walkway as they are today, but rather set back toward the forsythia hedge on the turf. The 1931 "Plan to Revise the Pansy Garden" shows the location of eight "seats" spaced evenly around the garden. Additional temporary small-scale features may have also been present throughout the cultural landscape including small signs or plaques identifying flowers within the planting beds as well as fences and tulip-style trash cans.

Post-Historic and Existing Conditions:

Washington Globe Lampposts (Managed as a Cultural Resource)

The extant Washington Globe #16 lampposts around Fountain No. 4 are associated with general improvements to the site associated with construction of the George Mason Memorial. Prior to development of the memorial, historic photographs illustrate that the site was lit by a series of " mushroom" light standards. While the general location of many of the existing lights around Fountain No. 4 was retained during construction of the memorial; the fixtures were replaced with Washington Globe lampposts by the NPS. In addition, Washington Globe lampposts are also located along Ohio Drive SW and East Basin Drive SW.

Today, there are fourteen Washington Globe lampposts within the boundaries of the George Mason Memorial cultural landscape. While the character of several of the light standards changed with installation of the Washington Globe lampposts as part of the George Mason Memorial, they remain as a tangible reminder of the tradition of lighting the garden at night. Similar to other sections of West Potomac Park, there is a historic precedent for Washington Globe lampposts within the cultural landscape, but the precise number and location of lampposts likely changed through time to accommodate contemporary development associated with utilities and transportation infrastructure. As a result, the lampposts are managed as a cultural resource.

Benches (6) (Managed as a Cultural Resource)

The site includes four NPS armless benches located around Fountain No. 4 as well as two NPS benches situated on the perimeter of the George Mason Memorial cultural landscape near Ohio Drive SW overlooking the Potomac River. The benches measure fifty-two inches wide and thirty-

three inches tall. The metal frame is painted black and is bolted to a concrete pad. It includes six wood slats on the bench and four wood slats on the back. The four extant benches located around Fountain No. 4 were likely installed as part of the 2019 rehabilitation effort of the site. Photographs and plans indicate that a different style of wood garden bench (characterized by a curved seat with no back) was originally installed in 2002 in association with the George Mason Memorial design (Figure 74). The benches convey the historic character of the cultural landscape and are managed as cultural resources.

Modern Highway Lampposts (3) (Noncontributing)

Three modern highway lampposts are located in the southern extent of the cultural landscape along the on-ramp to Interstate 395. The lamps, which are a variation of the cobra head style of light fixtures, feature a downward facing light that was installed to comply with traffic safety standards. These lampposts do not contribute to the historic character of the cultural landscape.

Post and Chain Barrier (Noncontributing)

A post and chain barrier was constructed at the George Mason Memorial in an effort to direct pedestrians and cyclists to use established circulation routes. The most recent modifications to the fence were installed by the NPS during the 2019 rehabilitation of the George Mason Memorial. The fence is located along the sidewalk on the western extent of the site near Ohio Drive SW to the entrance to the memorial. The black-painted posts measure thirty-five inches tall at grade and are connected by a black chain. This type of barrier is used throughout National Mall and Memorial Parks sites across the District to direct pedestrian traffic. Previously a low post and chain barrier was also located along the road at the entrance of the site; however, it was removed at an unknown date. The extant fence does not contribute to the historic character of the George Mason Memorial.

Fire Hydrant (Noncontributing)

One green painted fire hydrant is located on the eastern extent of the site near East Basin Drive SW. Date stamped 2018, the fire hydrant does not contribute to the historic character of the cultural landscape.

Trash/Recycling Receptacles (4) (Noncontributing)

Two sets of metal black painted trash receptacles and blue painted recycling receptacles are located within the George Mason Memorial. The bins were installed by the NPS and are located along the West Potomac Park sidewalk northeast and southwest of the primary entrance to the site. The receptacles sit on small square concrete footings with an extant metal rod that had previously supported tulip-style trash cans (introduced at an unknown date). The trash/recycling receptacles were likely installed as part of the 2019 rehabilitation and do not contribute to the historic character of the cultural landscape.

Capital Bikeshare (Noncontributing)

A Capital Bikeshare rack is located at the eastern extent of the George Mason Memorial near East Basin Drive SW and the Thomas Jefferson Memorial. Constructed 2011-2012, it is a noncontributing feature.

Interpretive Wayside (Noncontributing)

A low-profile interpretive wayside "Forgotten Founder" is located on the north side of the entrance to the site. Installed after construction of the George Mason Memorial, the interpretive wayside panel is noncontributing.

Wayfinding and Regulatory Signs (2) (Noncontributing)

A brown metal pedestrian wayfinding sign is located inside the post and chain barrier along Ohio Drive SW. It measures sixty-six inches tall and sits on a small square concrete base. A similar pedestrian regulatory sign "Please Respect Your National Monuments" with icons for no food/drink, no smoking, and no pets is located near the entrance to the George Mason Memorial. The signs were installed by the NPS after 2009 in coordination with a revised National Mall and Memorial Parks wayfinding strategy and as a result are noncontributing features.

Granite Curbing (Undetermined)

Both granite curbing and concrete curbing have been identified in association with Ohio Drive SW and East Basin Drive SW within the George Mason Memorial cultural landscape. Curbing associated with Ohio Drive SW was likely altered as a result of a planned road reconstruction

effort in the early 1990s. Additional research needs to be completed to confirm the installation date of the curbing along East Basin Drive SW and as a result the status of this feature is undetermined.

Call Box (Undetermined)

An out of use emergency call box is located at the eastern extent of the cultural landscape between East Basin Drive SW and the on-ramp to Interstate 395. The metal box measures approximately fifty-six inches tall and is painted green. Call boxes are located throughout the District of Columbia; however, the installation date of this box is unknown. As a result, the status of the call box is undetermined.

Cinder Block Retaining Wall (Undetermined)

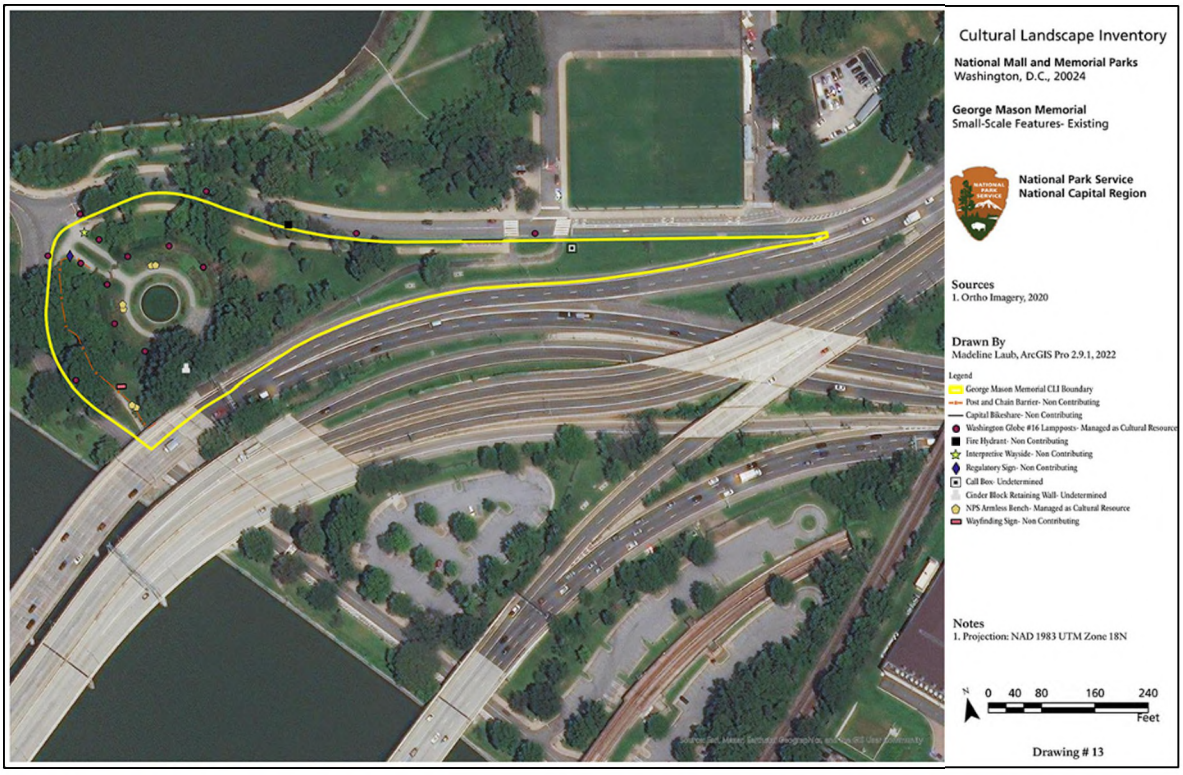
A two-course arc shaped retaining wall is situated upslope from a willow oak (*Quercus phellos*) on the George Mason Memorial Bridge berm. The blocks are filled with concrete and the wall is approximately seventeen inches tall. The significance of the tree is unknown and the installation date of the wall is unknown. Consequently, the status of the cinder block retaining wall is undetermined.

Summary

The George Mason Memorial includes a variety of small-scale features such as lampposts, trash/recycling receptacles, benches, wayfinding and regulatory signs, post and chain barriers, and an interpretive panel that reflect contemporary development. While the Washington Globe lampposts and benches are managed as cultural resources, the majority of the small-scale features do not contribute to the historic character of the George Mason Memorial site.

Feature Name	Feature Contribution	CRIS-HS Resource Name	CRIS-HS Resource ID	FMSS Record Type	FMSS Record Number	FMSS record an exact match?
Washington Globe #16 Lampposts (14)	Managed as Cultural Resource			Asset	1515745	Yes

					Washington Globe Lights	
NPS Armless Benches (6)	Managed as Cultural Resource			Asset	1568251 Benches	Yes
Post and Chain Barrier	Noncontributing			Asset	1625761 Post and Chain	Yes
Interpretive Wayside	Noncontributing			Asset	1630230 Forgotten Founder Wayside	Yes
Fire Hydrant	Noncontributing			Asset	1271957 Fire Hydrants	Yes
Trash/Recycling Receptacles (4)	Noncontributing			Asset	1482906 Generic Grounds Features	No
Capital Bikeshare	Noncontributing					
Wayfinding and Regulatory Signs (2)	Noncontributing			Asset	1597392 Signs	Yes
Granite Curbing	Undetermined			Asset	1566367 Curb Structures	Yes
Call Box	Undetermined					
Cinder Block Retaining Wall	Undetermined					



Drawing: 13. Map showing small-scale features associated with the George Mason Memorial cultural landscape. See the supplemental information section at the end of the CLI for a larger version of the map (NCR, Cultural Landscapes Program, 2022).

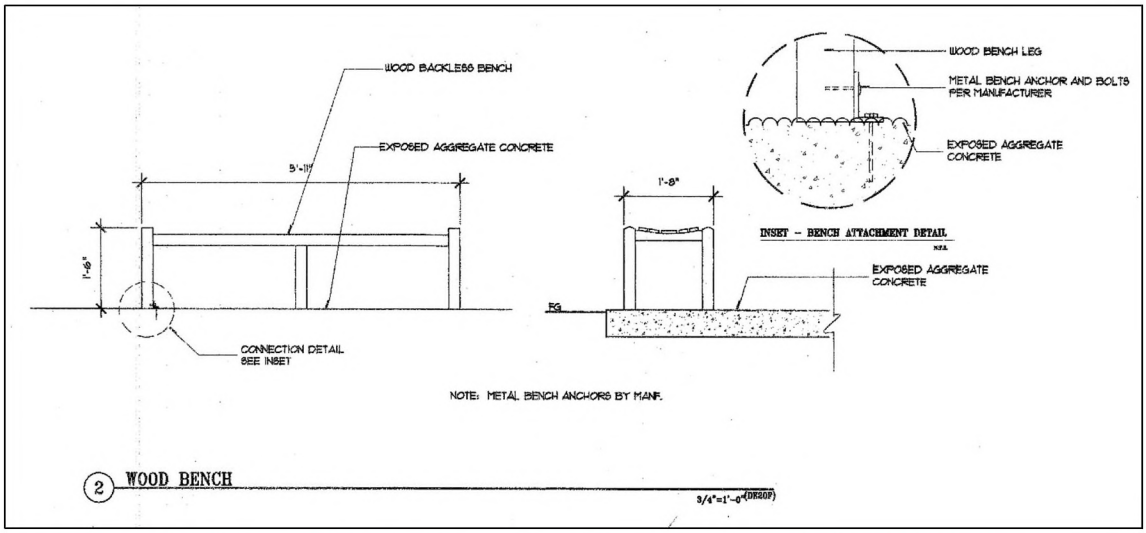


Figure: 74. Drawing of the original George Mason Memorial wooden garden bench (Rhodeside Harwell, Incorporated, George Mason Memorial Garden, As-Built Drawing, Project No: 14551, Sheet No. L-304, June 2, 2000).



Figure: 75. View looking southeast showing two NPS armless benches located within the George Mason Memorial cultural landscape (NCR Cultural Landscapes Program, July 8, 2021).



Figure: 76. View looking northwest showing an out of use call box located within the boundaries of the George Mason Memorial cultural landscape (NCR Cultural Landscapes Program, November 10, 2020).



Figure: 77. View looking south showing a cinder block retaining wall around a tree behind the George Mason Memorial (NCR Cultural Landscapes Program, November 9, 2020).

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Figure: 78. View looking east showing a pair of trash and recycling receptacles near the entrance to the George Mason Memorial (NCR Cultural Landscapes Program, November 10, 2020).



Figure: 79. View looking east showing National Mall and Memorial Parks regulatory signage, a post and chain barrier and a Washington Standard lamppost located at the entrance to the George Mason Memorial (NCR Cultural Landscapes Program, November 10, 2020).



Figure: 80. View looking east showing granite curbing along the edge of East Basin Drive SW (NCR Cultural Landscapes Program, November 10, 2020).

Condition Assessment

Condition (Required)

Good

Condition Date (Required)

8/30/2022

Narrative (Required—4000 characters)

As a result of a recent rehabilitation effort, the George Mason Memorial is in 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 well preserved as can be expected under the given environmental conditions. No immediate corrective action is required to maintain its current condition.

Impacts

Type	Impact Type – Other	Internal Source	External Source	Narrative	Date Identified
Adjacent Lands		Yes	Yes	Noise pollution from air traffic to Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport and nearby Metro trains as well as vehicular traffic associated with the George Mason Memorial Bridge has resulted in noisy conditions at the site.	
Visitation		Yes	No	Visitors sit on and touch the George Mason sculpture, which leads to abrasion of the protective	

				coatings and patina. Social trails are also extant in various locations throughout the site as a result of bicycle and pedestrian use.	
Inundation/Flooding		No	Yes	Due to its location near the Potomac River and Tidal Basin, the threat of inundation/ flooding remains a threat to the long-term preservation of the cultural landscape.	
Operations on Site		Yes	No	The recirculating system associated with Fountain No. 4 has not been in operating order, which has led to the growth of algae blooms in the stagnant water.	
Exposure to Elements		Yes	No	The benches situated along the sidewalk fronting Ohio Drive SW are showing signs of deterioration including wood	

				rot and peeling paint.	
Erosion		Yes	No	The asphalt spillway located adjacent to the concrete stairs near Interstate 395 is suffering from erosion and as a result may not function as intended.	
Inappropriate Maintenance		Yes		Gray paint was identified on the top of the stone columns where they meet with the trellis.	

Treatment

Stabilization Measures

Narrative (Required)

The George Mason Memorial was rehabilitated in 2019 and as a result requires limited stabilization activities. The following measures have been identified for the site:

1. Repair benches situated along the sidewalk fronting Ohio Drive SW.
2. Ensure the recirculating system associated with Fountain No. 4 is in operating order to limit algae blooms and other biotic growth.
3. Repair asphalt spillway located adjacent to the concrete stairs near Interstate 395.

Approved Treatments

Undetermined

Bibliography and Supplemental Information

Bibliography

Citation Author	Citation Title	Year	Publisher
	Development of East Potomac Park: Letter from the Secretary of War Ad Interim Transmitting A Report of the Officer in Charge of Public Buildings and Grounds, Presenting a Comprehensive Plan for the Development of East Potomac Park As a Public Recreation Ground	1916	Washington, DC, Government Printing Office
	Annual Report Upon the Improvement and Care of Public Buildings and Grounds, and Care and Maintenance of the Washington Monument, in the District of Columbia, Appendix EEE of the Annual Report of the Chief of Engineers For 1906	1906	Washington, DC, Government Printing Office
	Annual Report of the Chief of Engineers, Extract	1917	Washington, DC, Government Printing Office
	Annual Report of the Director of Public Buildings and Public Parks of the National Capital	1929	Washington, DC, Government Printing Office
	Annual Report of the Director of Public Buildings and Public Parks of the National Capital	1931	Washington, DC, Government Printing Office
	Annual Report of the Director of Public Buildings and Public Parks of the National Capital	1932	Washington, DC, Government Printing Office
	"George Mason Memorial, Fountain Four" Report to the National Park Service National Capital Planning Commission, NCPC File No. 5422, Staff Draft, July 6, 2000, 2	2000	Darwina Neal scanned "Mason Memorial" files, NCRO, Washington, DC
	Correspondence to Glenn DeMarr from Maureen Joseph	March 6, 2000	Darwina Neal scanned "Mason Memorial" files, NCRO, Washington, DC

	Correspondence to Reginald Griffith, Executive Director, National Capital Planning Commission from Regional Direction, National Capital Region, October 4, 1999	1999	Darwina Neal scanned "Mason Memorial" files, NCRO, Washington, DC
	Meeting Minutes RE: George Mason Memorial Garden RHI #7391, Subject: Conceptual Design 6 June 1995	1995	Darwina Neal scanned "Mason Memorial" files, NCRO, Washington, DC
	Correspondence to Glenn DeMarr from Faye B Harwell, Subject "George Mason Memorial Garden" RHI: 14551, May 5, 2000	2000	Darwina Neal scanned "Mason Memorial" files, NCRO, Washington, DC
	Memo to Regional Land Use Liaison from Chief of Cultural Resource Preservation Services, Subject Review of Concept Drawings for the George Mason Memorial	n.d.	Darwina Neal scanned "Mason Memorial" files, NCRO, Washington, DC
	"Field Surveys," Horticultural Display Committee, June 15, 22 and 29, 1965	1965	Darwina Neal scanned "Beaut_Files_and Minutes_1964-66" files, NCRO, Washington, D.C.
	The Long Bridge: Reminiscences of Eighty Years	October 21, 1871	*Evening Star*
	Playground for Children: Work About Completed in Potomac Park, Near Tidal Basin	April 22, 1906	*Sunday Star*
	Nearing Completion: Work on Playgrounds Portion of Potomac Park	June 21, 1906	*Evening Star*
	Potomac Park Blossoms Into A Beauty Spot	July 22, 1906	ProQuest Historical Newspapers: *The Washington Pos*t, F9
	Park Improvements: The Care of Public Buildings and Grounds	July 22, 1906	*Sunday Star*
	Potomac Park is Now Deserted	August 5, 1906	ProQuest Historical Newspapers: *The*

			Washington Post, SM3
	Parks and Boulevards Beautify City	February 24, 1907	ProQuest Historical Newspapers: *The Washington Post*, 38
	Won't It For Public: Potomac Park Owes Existence to Charles C. Glover	September 19, 1909	ProQuest Historical Newspapers: *The Washington Post*, E1
	City's Dandelions Gathered for Wine, Park Aids Say: Officials Welcome Taking of Yellow Flowers, But Deplore Pilfering That Spoils Pansy Beds and Other Property; Offenders to Be Punished	May 6, 1931	ProQuest Historical Newspapers: *The Washington Pos*t, 1
	Pansy Bed Lighted	May 12, 1931	*Evening Star*
	New Memorials Adorn Potomac Banks	May 31, 1931	*Sunday Star*
	Flowers Are Planted For 1932 Bicentennial	November 24, 1931	*Evening Star*
	Plan Pansy Bed Lights	May 12, 1932	*Evening Star*
	Big Pansy Bed Lighted	May 19, 1932	*Evening Star*
	Pansy Bed Beauties Called to Attention	May 9, 1933	*Evening Star*
	Pansies to Take Over Cherry Blossoms' Role	May 10, 1933	ProQuest Historical Newspapers: *The Washington Post*, 9
	100,000 Crowd Tidal Basin to See Blossoms	April 10, 1933	ProQuest Historical Newspapers: *The Washington Post*, 1
	Pansies in Full Bloom	April 21, 1935	*Sunday Star*
	Cherry Blossoms' Fate in Flood Is Undetermined Yet	March 20, 1936	*Evening Star*
	Flood Damage to City's Parks Set at $100,000: city Removes Flood Debris	March 21, 1936	ProQuest Historical Newspapers: *The Washington Pos*t, 1

	Cherry Trees Likely to Bloom, But Damage Obscures Date	March 24, 1936	*Evening Star*
	Added Parking Area Afforded Near Dike	March 29, 1936	*Sunday Star*
	Few Magnolia Trees Suffer From Frost	April 1, 1937	*Evening Star*
	Memorial Blocks Cherry Tree Plan for Tidal Basin	February 21, 1937	*Sunday Star*
	1,300 Men Called to Bolster Capital Flood Defense as Nearby Areas Are Hard Hit	April 27, 1937	*Evening Star*
	"River" continued from first page	April 28, 1937	*Evening Star*
	"Flood" continued from first page	April 29, 1937	*Evening Star*
	Attention Is Called To Pansy Bed	April 16, 1939	*Sunday Star*
	Keller Prepares Memorial Data For House Body: Report to Consider Revised Estimates on Cost of Landscaping	May 5, 1937	*Evening Star*
	Cold Will Not Harm Flowers and Greenery, Expert Says	April 21, 1940	*Sunday Star*
	Saunders, Supervisor of DC Horticultural Beauty, to Retire	November 28, 1946	*Evening Star*
	Navy's Plea for Barracks Is Rejected: Interior Demands Proof of Defense Program Need or Possession October 1	June 9, 1948	ProQuest Historical Newspapers: *The Washington Post*, B1
	Flowers Have Been Waiting To Greet Spring a Long Time	March 20, 1953	*Evening Star*
	Cherry Blossoms Aren't Alone In Offering Extravagant Color	April 2, 1954	*Evening Star*
	Spring Dons Her Colors In Capital Parks Display	April 28, 1957	*Sunday Star*
	Pansy Beds in Bloom, Display Is Lighted	April 7, 1958	*Evening Star*

	Sun, Cherry Trees Lure Throngs to DC	April 19, 1958	ProQuest Historical Newspapers: *The Washington Post*, A3
	Mason Bridge to Open Today	January 26, 1962	ProQuest Historical Newspapers: *The Washington Post*, B4
	District a Little More Beautiful: Planting Tour Spurs Efforts to Pretty Up	March 10, 1965	*Evening Star*
	Pansy Planting	November 14, 1972	*Evening Star*
	Capital Growth—That's a Rob for Roger Sulcer, Et Al	March 26, 1978	ProQuest Historical Newspapers: *The Washington Post*, A3
	Bridge Renamed for Air Crash Hero	March 14, 1985	*The Washington Post*, C4
Barthold, Elizabeth	West Potomac Park (Reservation No. 332) HABS No. DC-693	1993	Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS), National Park Service
Bobeczko, Laura L. and Judith H. Robinson	East and West Potomac Parks Historic District National Register of Historic Places Registration Form	2001	National Park Service
Chapell, Gordon	East and West Potomac Parks: A History	1973	Denver Service Center, National Park Service
Christianson, Justine and Mattea Sanders	Tidal Basin HALS DC-59	2017	Historic American Landscapes Survey (HALS), National Park Service
Cohen, Robert	History of the Long Railroad Bridge Crossings Across the Potomac River	2003	History of the Long Railroad Bridge Crossing Across the Potomac River – Washington, D.C. Chapter National Railway Historical Society (dcnrhs.org)

Davis Construction	Memorializing a Forgotten Founding Father	n.d.	https://www.davisconstruction.com/work/case-study/george-mason-memorial
Forgey, Benjamin	Bronze Tribute to an Iron Will: Virginia Statesman George Mason Takes His Seat on the Mall	April 9, 2002	Washington Post, C9
Garrison, Shannon and Molly Lester	East Potomac Golf Course Cultural Landscape Inventory	2017	National Park Service
	The George Mason Memorial Ground Breaking Ceremony" program	October 18, 2000	On file at Rhodeside Harwell, Alexandria, VA
Gould, Lewis L.	The Johnson Years, vol. 2	1987	Lawrence: University Press of Kansas
Gould, Lewis L.	Lady Bird Johnson: Our Environmental First Lady	1999	Lawrence, Kansas: University Press of Kansas
Henson, Bob and Jason Samenow	"NOAA unveils new US climate 'normals' that are warmer than ever"	May 4, 2021	*The Washington Post*
Horne, Al	Spring Flowers Bloom, But Not at Tidal Basin	April 9, 1960	ProQuest Historical Newspapers: *The Washington Post*, D1
Howard Wellman Conservation LLC	Conservation Treatment Report: George Mason	March 22, 2018	National Mall and Memorial (NAMA) park files
Kangas, Emily Coleman	The George Mason Memorial: A Historic Garden on the National Mall	n.d.	Magnolia, Southern Garden History bulletin
Knudsen, Monica Longen	ESCAPES: Out to Lunch	June 20, 1983	*The Washington Post*, C5
KressCox Associates, P.C.	Historic Structures Report Tidal Basin Inlet Bridge Washington, DC	1986	KressCox Associates, P.C., Washington, DC
Kuhn, Patti, Sarah Groesbeck and John Bedell	Draft George Washington Memorial Parkway Historic District (Additional Documentation and Boundary Increase)	March 2021	National Park Service

Little, Barbara J.	National Capital Area Archeological Overview and Survey Plan	1995	National Park Service
Louis Berger Group	Archeological Overview and Assessment of Anacostia and Kenilworth Park and Aquatic Gardens, District of Columbia	2016	Louis Berger Group, Baltimore, MD
Moore, Charles, ed.	The Improvement of the Park System of the District of Columbia	1902	Washington, DC Government Printing Office
National Park Service (NPS)	The National Mall Cultural Landscapes Inventory	2018	National Park Service
National Park Service (NPS)	Thomas Jefferson Memorial Cultural Landscapes Inventory	2015	National Park Service
National Park Service (NPS)	Personal communication from Yue Li to Caridad de la Vega	November 4, 2020	National Park Service
National Park Service (NPS)	National Mall Plan, Volume 1	2010	National Park Service
National Park Service (NPS)	Restoration of George Mason Memorial	n.d.	https://www.nps.gov/articles/restoration-of-george-mason-memorial.htm
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration	US Climate Normals Quick Access	2020	https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/access/us-climate-normals/
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration	Tides & Currents	2022	Sea Level Trends - NOAA Tides & Currents
Planning, Environment & Public Comment (PEPC)	Summary of rehabilitation of the George Mason Memorial (PEPC 66431)	2016	National Park Service
Project Management Information System (PMIS)	Install Display Fountain Circulation System and Rehabilitate Landscape at George Mason Memorial (PMIS 213791)	n.d.	National Park Service
Pozer, Katherine Barrett	Bursting Blossoms Herald the Arrival of Capital's Best Season	March 29, 1942	ProQuest Historical Newspapers: *The Washington Post*, B3

Pozer, Katherine Barrett	Few Cities Can Match District's Horticulture: Diversity of Interests Offer Unending Contrasts, Regardless of Season, Variety of Trees and Shrubs to Be Found Here	August 25, 1940	ProQuest Historical Newspapers: *The Washington Post*, A9
Pozer, Katherine Barrett	Many Washington Gardens Beckon Lovers of Roses in Month of June	May 31, 1942	ProQuest Historical Newspapers: *The Washington Post*, SP6
Public Papers of George Bush	Statement on Signing the Act Approving the Location of the George Mason Memorial	April 28, 1992	Public Papers - George Bush Library and Museum (tamu.edu)
Robinson & Associates, Inc.	National Park Service National Capital Region Administrative History, 1952-2005	2008	National Park Service
Robinson, Judith H., Daria Gasparini and Tim Kerr	National Mall Historic District – Boundary Increase/Additional Documentation National Register of Historic Places Registration Form	2016	National Park Service
Ringle, Ken	Spring Planting Drive Starts: Park Service Crews Keep Capital's Flowers Blooming	May 2, 1983	ProQuest Historical Newspapers: *The Washington Post*, D1
Shipe, Mary Kendall	Tidal Reservoir HAER No. DC-9	1988	Historic American Engineering Record (HAER), National Park Service
Smith, J.Y.	Gardeners Race Weather to Beautify the District: Gardeners Race Weather to Beautify City's Parks	October 7, 1976	ProQuest Historical Newspapers: *The Washington Post*, C1
Trust for the National Mall	George Mason Memorial: Rehabilitation of a Memorial to a Founding Father	n.d.	https://nationalmall.org/content/george-mason-memorial
Paul M. Johnston	"Geology and Ground-Water Resources of Washington, DC, and Vicinity" in the Geological Survey Water-Supply Paper 1776	1964	United States Geological Survey (USGS)
US Code	Public Law 101-358	August 10, 1990	https://uscode.house.gov/statutes/pl/101/358.pdf
US Code	Public Law 105-182	June 19, 1998	https://uscode.house.gov/statutes/pl/105/182.pdf

US Commission of Fine Arts	Minutes of the Meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts, 1991-07-25, Vol. 86	January 19 1995 to December 14 1995	https://ia801603.us.archive.org/8/items/cfaminutes16feb1995/cfaminutes16feb1995.pdf
US Commission of Fine Arts	Minutes of the Meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts, 1995-02-06, Vol. 90	January 19 1995 to December 14 1995	https://ia801603.us.archive.org/8/items/cfaminutes16feb1995/cfaminutes16feb1995.pdf
US Commission of Fine Arts	Minutes of the Meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts, 1999-11-21, Vol. 94	1999	January to December 1999 (archive.org)
US Commission of Fine Arts	Minutes of the Meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts," 2000-06-15, Vol. 95	January to December 2000	https://ia800604.us.archive.org/12/items/cfaminutes15june2000/cfaminutes15june2000.pdf
US Commission of Fine Arts	Minutes of the Meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts," 2002-04-18, Vol. 97	January to December 2002	https://ia600607.us.archive.org/24/items/cfaminutes18april2002/cfaminutes18april2002.pdf
Wheeler, Linda	George Mason's Memorial Niche: Site Selected Near Tidal Basin for Sculpture to Founding Father	October 19, 2000	*The Washington Post*, B3
Zagoria, Sam	Present Capacity Would Be Raised to 1150 Autos, Howat Declares	September 30, 1948	ProQuest Historical Newspapers: *The Washington Post*, B1

Supplemental Information

Supplemental Information Title	Supplemental Information Narrative
Appendix A: Transcription of the Remarks of The Chief Justice Dedication of George Mason Memorial	This is a fitting spot for a national memorial to George Mason—overlooking the tidal basin within view of the Washington Monument, honoring our first President, George Washington, and the Jefferson Memorial, honoring Thomas Jefferson. Washington was, of course "first in war, first in peace and first in the hearts of his countrymen." Jefferson is noted as the author of the Declaration of Independence, Washington's

April 9, 2002, 11:00 a.m.	Secretary of State, and our third President. George Mason's contributions to our new republic were less visible, but nonetheless of great importance. This memorial will, I hope, help to educate visitors to Washington about him. George Mason was born in 1725 in what is now Fairfax County, Virginia. His father died when he was a boy and John Mercer, a noted legal scholar and Mason's paternal uncle, helped to raise and educate him. Although Mason was politically active, especially during the American Revolution, he was plagued by poor health his entire life and preferred the privacy of his home in Virginia, Gunston Hall, to public life. In May of 1776, as support for declaring independence from Great Britain was growing, George Mason served as the primary drafter of the Virginia Constitution and Declaration of Rights. The rights enumerated in this declaration include many of those that were ultimately incorporated in the first ten Amendments to our Constitution -- known as the Bill of Rights. The Virginia Declaration began with a statement that all men are born free and have certain inherent rights, including the enjoyment of life and liberty, the means of acquiring and possessing property, and pursuing happiness and safety. Thomas Jefferson modeled the opening of the second paragraph of the Declaration of Independence on this statement. Mason's declaration of rights also described a separation of powers between the legislative, executive and judicial branches of government. He called for those accused of crimes to be able to confront witnesses against them, to have a right to a speedy trial and to a jury, as well as the right not to give evidence against themselves. Mason also called for freedom in the exercise of religion, freedom of the press and jury trials in civil cases. Many states followed Virginia's lead and adopted similar declarations of rights. But when it came time for the drafting of the Constitution of the United States, no declaration of rights was included. Mason was a member of the Virginia delegation to the constitutional convention in Philadelphia in May 1787. The Virginians, led by James Madison, met each day to sketch out what came to be known as the Virginia Plan, the foundation of our Constitution. Mason's trip to Philadelphia was the farthest he ever ventured from Fairfax County, underscoring the importance he attached to drafting a Constitution. Yet, by the end of August, Mason said "he would sooner chop off his right hand than put it to the Constitution as it now stands." On September 12, Mason argued that a Bill of Rights should be added, but a motion to do so was unanimously defeated. Five days later the convention adopted the Constitution; Mason was one of only three delegates present who refused to sign it. Back home in Virginia, Mason campaigned against ratification of the Constitution, in part because it lacked a declaration of rights. Mason also had other objections to the Constitution as drafted -- including the compromise allowing the slave trade to continue for twenty years -- but his focus on the declaration of rights helped to speed passage of the Bill of Rights to the Constitution (Supreme Court,

	https://www.supremecourt.gov/publicinfo/speeches/sp_04-09-02.html).
Appendix B: George Mason Memorial CLI Drawings	Pdfs containing 11x17 drawings from the George Mason Memorial CLI.
Appendix C: Tidal Basin HALS DC-59 Drawings	Select drawings from the Tidal Basin Historic American Landscapes Survey DC-59.

Landscape Documents

See the Cultural Resources Inventory System-Cultural Landscapes for detailed drawings associated with Appendix B and Appendix C.

Cultural Landscape Inventory

National Mall and Memorial Parks
Washington, D.C., 20024

George Mason Memorial
Site Plan- Existing

National Park Service
National Capital Region

Sources
1. Ortho Imagery, 2020

Drawn By
Madeline Laub, ArcGIS Pro 2.9.1, 2022

Legend
- George Mason Memorial CLI Boundary
- Concrete Stairs- Non Contributing
- Social Trails- Non Contributing
- Asphalt Bicycle Pathway- Undetermined
- West Potomac Park Sidewalks- Contributing
- George Mason Memorial Bluestone Plaza- Contributing
- George Mason Memorial Pathways- Contributing
- George Mason Memorial Inscription Walls and Stone- Contributing
- George Mason Memorial Sculpture- Contributing
- George Mason Memorial Trellis and Columns- Contributing
- Fountain No. 4- Contributing

Notes
1. Projection: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 18N

N
0 35 70 140 210
Feet

Source: Esri, Maxar, Earthstar Geographics, and the GIS User Community

Drawing # 1

Cultural Landscape Inventory

National Mall and Memorial Parks
Washington, D.C., 20024

George Mason Memorial
Physiographic Context- Existing

National Park Service
National Capital Region

Sources
1. Ortho Imagery, 2020
2. USDA Soil Survey, 2020
3. Open Data DC, 2020

Drawn By
Madeline Laub, ArcGIS Pro 2.9.1, 2022

Legend
- George Mason Memorial CLI Boundary

FEMA Flood Data
- Area with 0.2% annual chance flood
- 1% annual chance of flood (the 100-year floodplain)
- Area of minimal flood hazard

Soils
- Iuka sandy loam (Survey DC001)
- Lindside loam (Survey DC001)
- Udorthents (Survey DC001)
- Urban Land (Survey DC001)

Notes
1. Projection: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 18N

N

0 70 140 280 420

Feet

Source: Esri, Maxar, Earthstar Geographics, and the GIS User Community

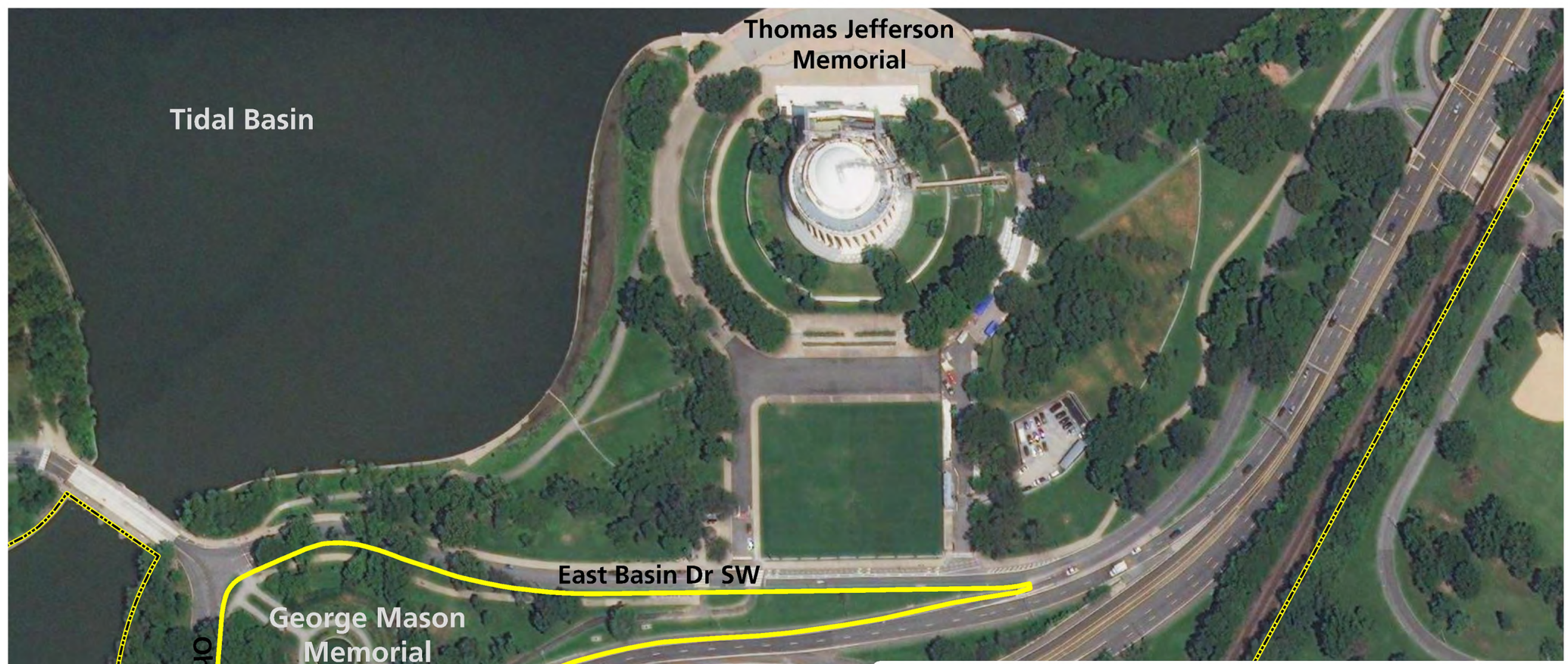
Drawing # 2

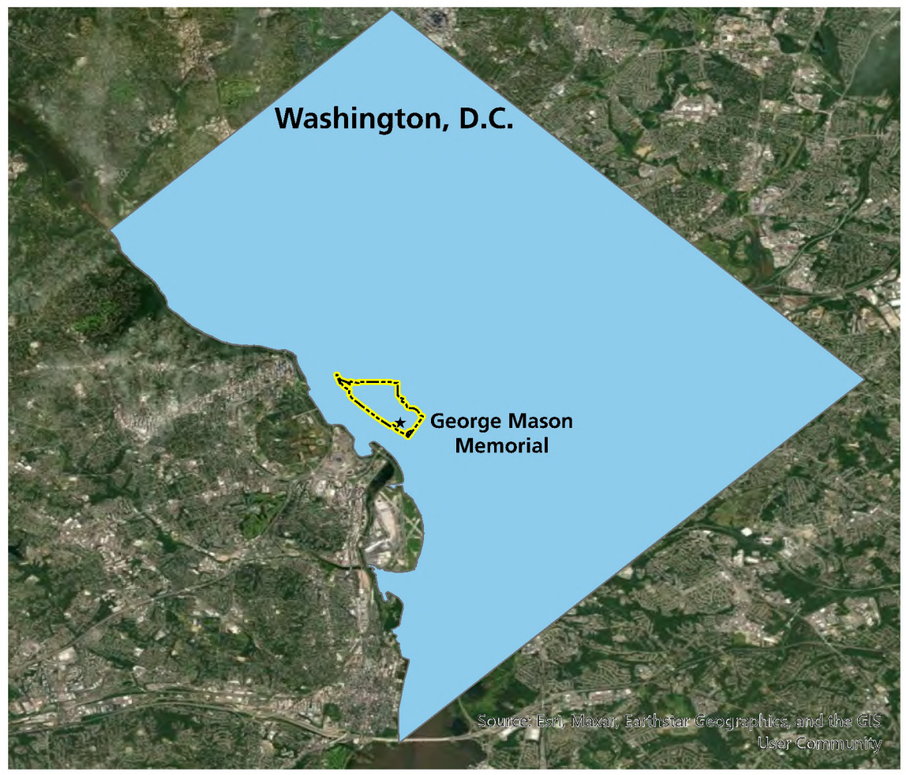
Cultural Landscape Inventory

National Mall and Memorial Parks
Washington, D.C., 20024

George Mason Memorial
Cultural + Political Context Existing

National Park Service
National Capital Region





Sources
1. Ortho Imagery, 2020
2. NPS_AMap_03262013
3. Open Data DC, 2019

Drawn By
Madeline Laub, ArcGIS Pro 2.9.1, 2022

Legend
- West Potomac Park CLI Boundary (Parent Landscape)
- George Mason Memorial CLI Boundary

Notes
1. Projection: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 18N

N
0 65 130 260 390
Feet

Drawing # 3

Cultural Landscape Inventory

National Mall and Memorial Parks
Washington, D.C., 20024

George Mason Memorial
Location Map

National Park Service
National Capital Region

Washington Monument
Lincoln Memorial
Arlington Memorial Bridge
West Potomac Park
Tidal Basin
Potomac River
Thomas Jefferson Memorial
George Mason Memorial
Long Bridge



Source: Esri, Maxar, Earthstar Geographics, and the GIS User Community

Sources
1. Ortho Imagery, 2020
2. NPS_AMap_03262013
3. Open Data DC, 2019

Drawn By
Madeline Laub, ArcGIS Pro 2.9.1, 2022

Legend
- West Potomac Park CLI Boundary (Parent Landsca
- George Mason Memorial CLI Boundary

Notes
1. Projection: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 18N

N 0 280 560 1,120 1,680 Feet

Drawing # 4

Cultural Landscape Inventory

National Mall and Memorial Parks
Washington, D.C., 20024

George Mason Memorial
Natural Systems and Features- Existing

National Park Service
National Capital Region

Sources
1. Ortho Imagery, 2020
2. USDA Soil Survey, 2020
3. Open Data DC, 2020

Drawn By
Madeline Laub, ArcGIS Pro 2.9.1, 2022

Legend
- George Mason Memorial CLI Boundary

FEMA Flood Data
- Area with 0.2% annual chance flood
- 1% annual chance of flood (the 100-year floodplain)
- Area of minimal flood hazard

Soils
- Iuka sandy loam (Survey DC001)
- Udorthents (Survey DC001)
- Urban Land (Survey DC001)

Notes
1. Projection: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 18N

N 0 40 80 160 240 Feet

Drawing # 5

Source: Esri, Maxar, Earthstar Geographics, and the GIS User Community

Cultural Landscape Inventory

National Mall and Memorial Parks
Washington, D.C., 20024

George Mason Memorial
Topography- Existing

National Park Service
National Capital Region

Sources
1. Ortho Imagery, 2020
2. Open Data DC, 2020

Drawn By
Madeline Laub, ArcGIS Pro 2.9.1, 2022

Legend
- George Mason Memorial CLI Boundary
- Topography Contours

Notes
1. Projection: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 18N
2. 2 Foot Contours

N 0 40 80 160 240 Feet

Drawing # 6

Source: Esri, Maxar, Earthstar Geographics, and the GIS User Community

Cultural Landscape Inventory

National Mall and Memorial Parks
Washington, D.C., 20024

George Mason Memorial
Spatial Organization + Land Use- Existing

National Park Service
National Capital Region

Sources
1. Ortho Imagery, 2020

Drawn By
Madeline Laub, ArcGIS Pro 2.9.1, 2022

Legend
- George Mason Memorial CLI Boundary
- George Mason Memorial Pathways
- Asphalt Bicycle Pathway
- Concrete West Potomac Park Sidewalks
- George Mason Memorial Bluestone Plaza
- Fountain No. 4
- Planting Bed
- Turf Planting Bed
- Forsythia Hedge
- Forsythia Bed (Discontiguous)
- George Mason Memorial Sculpture
- George Mason Memorial Trellis and Columns
- Boxwood Hedge
- Yew Hedge
- Buildings/Structures,Yes,George Mason Memorial Inscription Walls and Stone

Notes
1. Projection: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 18N

N 0 40 80 160 240 Feet

Drawing # 7

Source: Esri, Maxar, Earthstar Geographics, and the GIS User Community

Cultural Landscape Inventory

National Mall and Memorial Parks
Washington, D.C., 20024

George Mason Memorial
Vegetation- Existing

National Park Service
National Capital Region

Sources
1. Ortho Imagery, 2020

Drawn By
Madeline Laub, ArcGIS Pro 2.9.1, 2022

Legend

- George Mason Memorial CLI Boundary
- Forsythia Bed
- Forsythia Bed (Discontinguous)
- Boxwood Hedge
- Planting Bed
- Turf Planting Bed
- Yew Hedge
- Spirea
- American elm
- American holly
- Apple
- Blackhaw viburnum
- Bottlebrush buckeye
- Burford holly
- Chinese elm
- Dogwood spp.
- Eastern white pine
- Hydrangea spp.
- Leatherleaf viburnum
- London plane
- Magnolia spp.
- Northern red oak
- Red maple
- Saucer magnolia
- Star magnolia
- Tamarack
- Viburnum spp.
- Willow oak

Contributing

- American elm- Contributing
- Deodar cedar- Contributing
- Atlas cedar- Contributing
- Burford holly- Contributing
- River birch- Contributing
- Saucer magnolia- Contributing
- Southern magnolia- Contributing

Notes
1. Projection: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 18N
2. All extant vegetation contributes to the historic character of the cultural landscape, however, only select vegetation has been identified as individually contributing.

N 0 40 80 160 240 Feet

Drawing # 8

Source: Esri, Maxar, Earthstar Geographics, and the GIS User Community

Cultural Landscape Inventory

National Mall and Memorial Parks
Washington, D.C., 20024

George Mason Memorial
Circulation- Existing

National Park Service
National Capital Region

Sources
1. Ortho Imagery, 2020

Drawn By
Madeline Laub, ArcGIS Pro 2.9.1, 2022

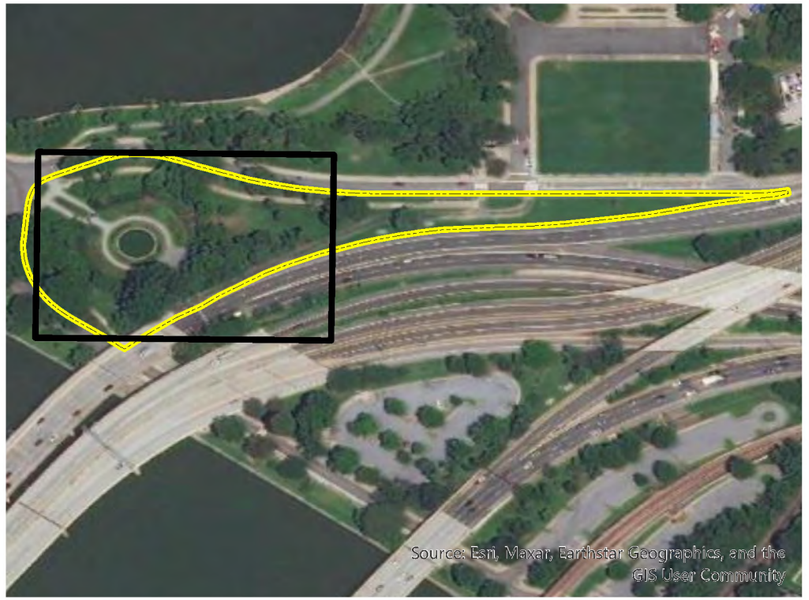
Legend
- George Mason Memorial CLI Boundary
- Concrete Stairs- Non Contributing
- Social Trails- Non Contributing
- Asphalt Bicycle Pathway- Undetermined
- West Potomac Park Sidewalks- Contributing
- George Mason Memorial Bluestone Plaza- Contributing
- George Mason Memorial Pathways- Contributing

Notes
1. Projection: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 18N

N
0 40 80 160 240
Feet

Drawing # 9

Source: Esri, Maxar, Earthstar Geographics, and the GIS User Community



Cultural Landscape Inventory

National Mall and Memorial Parks
Washington, D.C., 20024

George Mason Memorial
Buildings and Structures- Existing

National Park Service
National Capital Region

Sources
1. Ortho Imagery, 2020

Drawn By
Madeline Laub, ArcGIS Pro 2.9.1, 2022

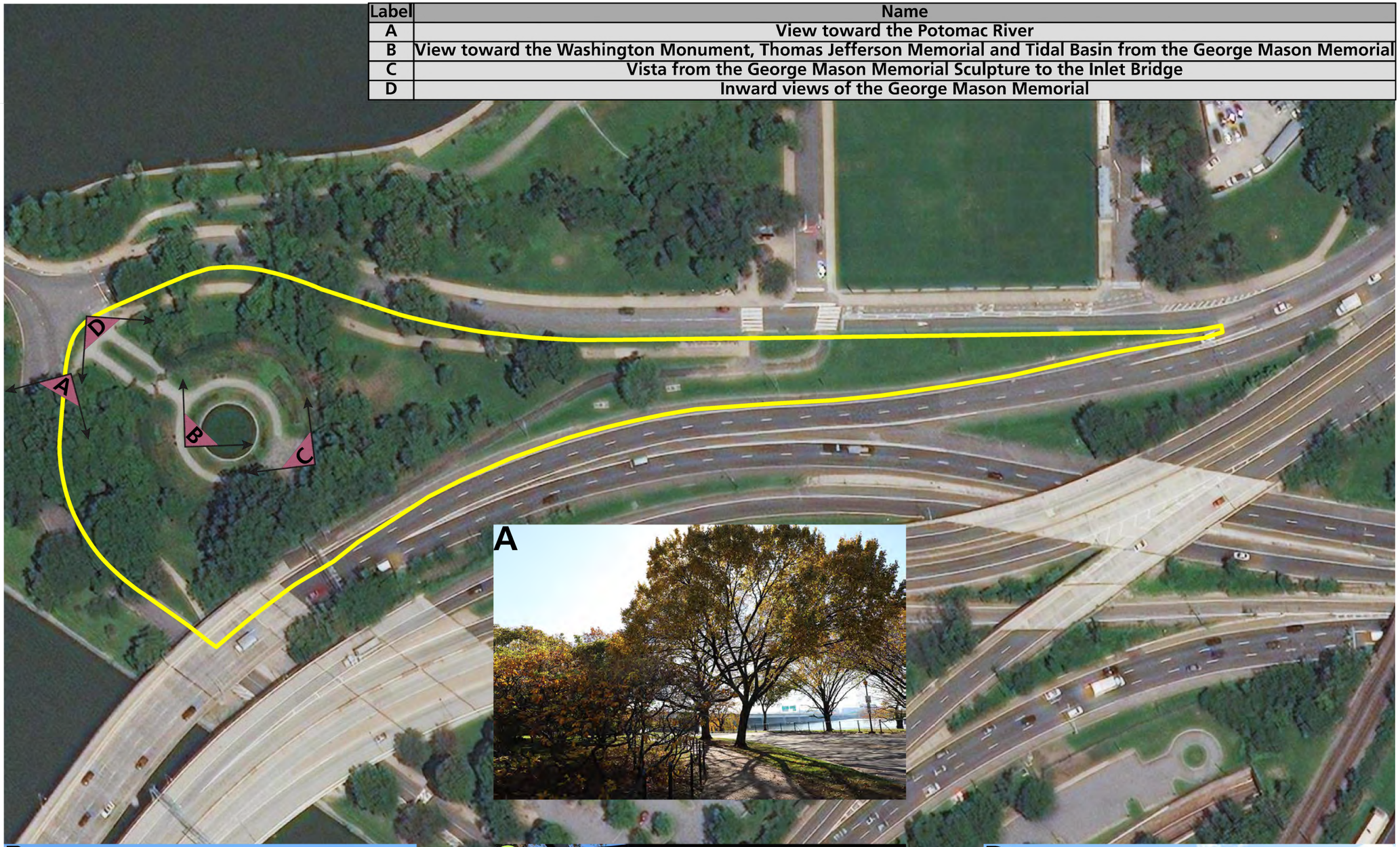
Legend
- George Mason Memorial CLI Boundary
- Asphalt Spillway- Non Contributing
- Wood Retaining Wall- Non Contributing
- George Mason Memorial Stone Benches- Contributing
- George Mason Memorial Inscription Walls and Stone- Contributing
- George Mason Memorial Sculpture- Contributing
- George Mason Memorial Trellis and Columns- Contributing

Notes
1. Projection: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 18N

N
0 12.5 25 50 75
Feet

Drawing # 10

Label	Name
A	View toward the Potomac River
B	View toward the Washington Monument, Thomas Jefferson Memorial and Tidal Basin from the George Mason Memorial
C	Vista from the George Mason Memorial Sculpture to the Inlet Bridge
D	Inward views of the George Mason Memorial









Cultural Landscape Inventory

National Mall and Memorial Parks
Washington, D.C., 20024

George Mason Memorial
Views and Vistas- Existing

National Park Service
National Capital Region

Sources
1. Ortho Imagery, 2020

Drawn By
Madeline Laub, ArcGIS Pro 2.9.1, 2022

Legend
George Mason Memorial CLI Boundary

Notes
1. Projection: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 18N

N
0 40 80 160 240
Feet

Drawing # 11

Cultural Landscape Inventory

National Mall and Memorial Parks
Washington, D.C., 20024

George Mason Memorial
Constructed Water Features- Existing

National Park Service
National Capital Region

Sources
1. Ortho Imagery, 2020

Drawn By
Madeline Laub, ArcGIS Pro 2.9.1, 2022

Legend
- George Mason Memorial CLI Boundary
- Fountain No. 4- Contributing

Notes
1. Projection: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 18N

N
0 40 80 160 240
Feet

Drawing # 12

Source: Esri, Maxar, Earthstar Geographics, and the GIS User Community

Cultural Landscape Inventory

National Mall and Memorial Parks
Washington, D.C., 20024

George Mason Memorial
Small-Scale Features- Existing

National Park Service
National Capital Region

Sources
1. Ortho Imagery, 2020

Drawn By
Madeline Laub, ArcGIS Pro 2.9.1, 2022

Legend
- George Mason Memorial CLI Boundary
- Post and Chain Barrier- Non Contributing
- Capital Bikeshare- Non Contributing
- Washington Globe #16 Lampposts- Managed as Cultural Resource
- Fire Hydrant- Non Contributing
- Interpretive Wayside- Non Contributing
- Regulatory Sign- Non Contributing
- Call Box- Undetermined
- Cinder Block Retaining Wall- Undetermined
- NPS Armless Bench- Managed as Cultural Resource
- Wayfinding Sign- Non Contributing

Notes
1. Projection: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 18N

N 0 40 80 160 240 Feet

Drawing # 13

Source: Esri, Maxar, Earthstar Geographics, and the GIS User Community