
National Park Service
Cultural Landscapes Inventory

2005
Revised 2011



Franklin Park
National Mall & Memorial Parks - L'Enfant Plan
Reservations

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Inventory Summary

The Cultural Landscapes Inventory Overview:

CLI General Information:

Purpose and Goals of the CLI

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

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

Scope of the CLI

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

treatment guidelines for the cultural landscape.

Inventory Unit Description:

Franklin Park is a rectangular park of almost five acres occupying an entire block. It is oriented east-west and bounded by K Street on the north, 13th Street on the east, I Street on the south, and 14th Street on the west. The park lies in the heart of Washington's central business district and is surrounded primarily by modern twelve-story office buildings. Two historic structures remain facing the park: the red-brick Romanesque Revival Franklin School (1869, architect Adolf Cluss), and the relocated façade of the small, Moorish Revival Almas Temple (1929, Allen H. Potts, moved down block 1987-1990).

The site appears on the 1791 L'Enfant plan as a standard city block. This land was set aside by Congress in 1832 to protect the fresh spring or springs on the site that were used to supply water to the White House, several blocks to the southwest, and other federal buildings. Franklin Park supplied the water for all American presidents in the White House from Andrew Jackson through William McKinley.

Rows of trees surrounding Franklin Park on all sides create a distinct boundary. The three ellipses that define the park's circulation system create three large open areas, the flagstone plaza in the middle being flanked by two large elliptical walks enclosing lawns on the east and west sides. The gently undulating ground rises gradually from the southwest corner to the northeast. The circulation system was built in 1936, replacing an asymmetrical, picturesquely curving walk plan of c. 1868-1872. These original walks were first graveled, then paved with asphalt. The current looping walk system includes subsidiary walks leading to each of the park's four corners and to the midpoints of the longer north and south sides.

When they were built in 1936, the main walks were paved with a concrete base that was overlaid with a bituminous asphalt to reduce glare. Double bands of concrete were installed at the ends of pavement sections, with expansion joints between them. When the park was rehabilitated in the 1970s as part of the Bicentennial Program, the walks were overlaid with a beige-colored synthetic bitumen containing a mineral aggregate, known as "Pavebrite." As part of this project, joints were to have been scored above the original expansion joints; however, this was not done, with the result that cracks have since developed over the concrete bands and expansion joints. In the last year or two some damaged sections have been further overlaid with concrete.

The focal point of Franklin Park is the elliptical, flagstone-paved plaza in the center. In turn, the central feature of this plaza is a large, elliptical fountain surrounded with a broad, simply molded sandstone coping. The fountain has two "French" jets, installed in the 1930s, and a central jet that was a later addition. (It is not known what is meant by "French jet," a term used in historic documents on the park.) Two of the three jets are operating under city water pressure. A motor replacement, sponsored by the Golden Triangle Business Improvement District (BID), is underway to make the fountain fully operational. Four curvilinear planting areas are evenly spaced within the plaza around the fountain. These beds originally had three willow oak trees; now only one bed has three. (The park intends for there ultimately to be two willow oak trees in each bed.) These willow oaks create a visual boundary defining the plaza as a distinct space (dense hornbeam hedges were originally installed in 1936 along the

Franklin Park

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plaza's edges to reinforce this boundary, but have been removed because of difficulties with maintenance). A low stone retaining wall runs along the northeast quadrant of the plaza because of the slope in this area. The center of the wall curves out into a tree well. Flights of three low, broad stairs lead to the plaza on the north, east, and south sides. On the west, the plaza is entered at grade.

A statue commemorating the Revolutionary War hero, Naval Commodore John Barry, occupies a site at the mid-point of the park's west side, along 13th Street. The bronze sculpture stands on a tall marble pedestal ornamented with a female allegorical winged victory figure. The statue is placed in the center of a rectangular marble plaza, raised a few steps above the level of the sidewalk. One of the Y-shaped walks led east from this plaza to connect with the main walk system. Another, at the park's east end, led to the former site of the lodge, or comfort station; this structure has been removed, along with sections of the 1936 cast-iron fence related to it.

Franklin Park is planted with large trees, mostly deciduous. The primary canopy species is willow oak. Other major species include zelkovas, sophoras, lindens, other oaks, and cedars, and there are many large specimens. The tree plantings consist of informal massings of trees placed within a formal framework of street trees lining the park's boundaries. Pairs of trees frame entrances to walks, and trees mark some walk intersections. Others are informally located within the lawn areas. Willow oaks are planted along the outer edge of the plaza, as well as in the planting areas within it, essentially defining this central focal space.

Small clusters of evergreens are located near each of the four corners of the park. With their different form and color, these provide a distinctive accent to the overall plant palette. Numerous deciduous magnolias and crabapples provide spring color. Crabapples planted along the west boundary during the 1970s rehabilitation are non-contributing.

The earlier, Victorian design of Franklin Park included a similar tree layout, as well as numerous shrubs and flower beds within the lawn areas, and a low, ornamental planting framing the Barry statue. Decorative urns were planted with flowers and specimen plants (the location of the urns is not known). The park had a richer, lusher appearance than it does today. Though simpler, the planting plan implemented in 1936 included some features that have since been eliminated, such as hedges surrounding the plaza and along some walks leading to it. Dense beds of azaleas were once planted against the outer sides of the hedges around the plaza.

The current planting plan retains most features of the 1936 plan. Certain specimen trees, as well as the general tree layout, were retained from the Victorian park. The 1936 rehabilitation eliminated the more ornamental features, such as the eighteen flower beds, concentrating on the large trees growing in small clusters, lines, or as individual specimens, and open expanses of lawn.

The park has a limited number of standard small-scale features developed for use in the National Capital Parks during the early twentieth century. The concrete quarter-round curbing surrounding the outside edges of the grass panels was originally installed in 1904/1905; current curbs are replacements installed in the early 1990s by the District of Columbia in conjunction with perimeter sidewalks, and

Franklin Park

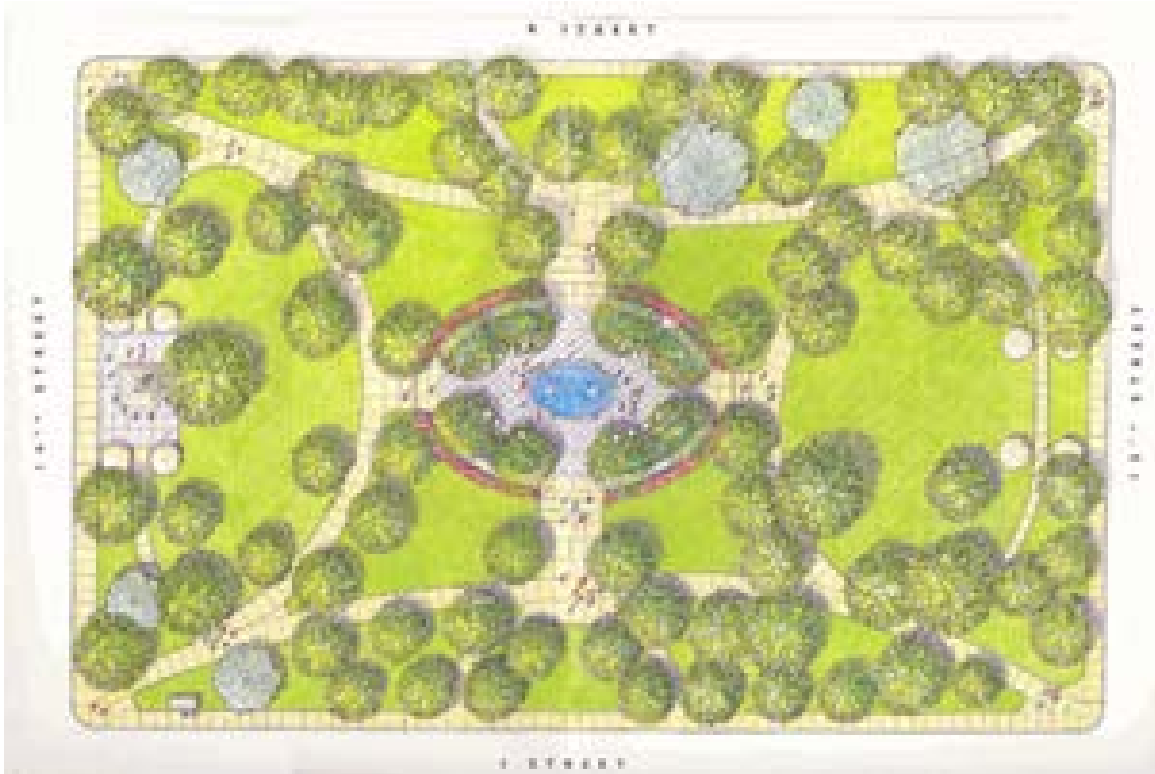
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should be considered contributing. The dozens of benches are all a type developed for the city's federal reservations in the 1920s or 1930s. The armless benches have curving, molded, cast-iron supports that terminate in scrolls and wood-slat seats and backs. Tulip-style trash receptacles from the 1960s are placed between some of the benches; most are in poor condition. Though recently installed in the 1980s by the Franklin Square Association, the current lights are of the "Saratoga" style used in the park in the 1930s. Other recently installed features that non-contributing include simple post-and-chain barriers, used along walks near the plaza; handicapped accessible drinking fountains; various signs; and bus-stop shelters.

Unlike many of the other downtown and Capitol Hill reservations, views have not played a major role in the design and development of Franklin Park. The major views in the park include views from the park walkways and the sidewalks to the fountain, views from the fountain along the walks, particularly along the shorter north-south axis, and views from the perimeter sidewalks into the park.

Franklin Park's Period of Significance extends from 1867 to 1936. This period includes at least two distinct design phases, a Victorian park and the more spare, clean design of the 1930s; elements of the Victorian design were retained and influenced the 1936 work. The park is significant under Criterion C for its current design. It is significant as part of the L'Enfant Plan, and is listed as a contributing feature in the "L'Enfant Plan of the City of Washington" National Register Nomination (listed 1997). The statue of Commodore John Barry, founder of the U.S. Navy, is a contributing structure of the nomination for "American Revolutionary Statuary in the District of Columbia" (listed 1978).

Site Plan



This plan, prepared by the Downtown Business Improvement District in 2003, depicts the conditions existing in Franklin Park in 2005, except for the flower beds around the plaza, which have not been installed. ("Downtown BID franklin park plan 200")

Property Level and CLI Numbers

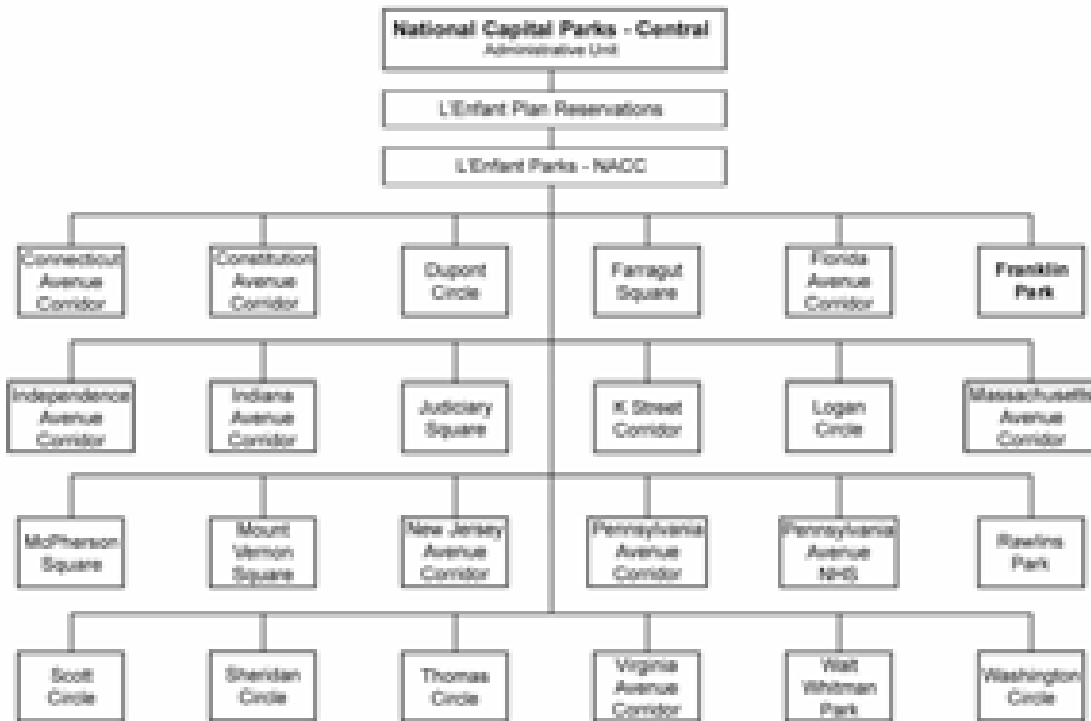
Inventory Unit Name:	Franklin Park
Property Level:	Component Landscape
CLI Identification Number:	600228
Parent Landscape:	600215

Park Information

Park Name and Alpha Code:	National Mall & Memorial Parks - L'Enfant Plan Reservations -NAMA
Park Organization Code:	340A
Subunit/District Name Alpha Code:	National Mall & Memorial Parks - L'Enfant Plan Reservations - NAMA
Park Administrative Unit:	National Capital Parks-Central

CLI Hierarchy Description

Franklin Park is one of 24 L'Enfant Parks administered by National Capital Parks-Central, a unit of the National Capital Region, National Park Service.



This graphic shows, in alphabetical order, the 24 L'Enfant parks and street corridors administered by National Capital Parks - Central. (CLP digital photofile "Franklin Park/CLI/other/final hierarchy Oct. 2004")

Concurrence Status

Inventory Status: Complete

Completion Status Explanatory Narrative:

The Franklin Park CLI was completed in 2004 by Kay Fanning, Ph.D., Landscape Historian for the Cultural Landscapes Program of the National Capital Region. (Franklin Park, rather than Franklin Square, is the name of the park.) Work began in September 2003 following a meeting in June with park staff. Research was carried out primarily in NCR files. The 1970 report on the park by National Capital Parks historian George Olszewski provided a great deal of basic historical information. Numerous historic photos were found at the Museum Resource Center (MRCE). Glenn DeMarr, Memorials specialist with NCR, shared his recent work analyzing the development of the downtown parks, and copies of research materials from the National Archives and NCR Land Records and the NCR Map collection. There is information on Franklin Park in the park's cultural resource files. Cultural Landscapes Program staff was not aware that these files existed and did not use them in preparing this document.

In April 2005, the name of National Capital Parks - Central was changed to National Mall & Memorial Parks. This change has not yet been made to the database.

Concurrence Status:

Park Superintendent Concurrence:	Yes
Park Superintendent Date of Concurrence:	09/19/2005
National Register Concurrence:	Eligible -- SHPO Consensus Determination
Date of Concurrence Determination:	09/09/2005

National Register Concurrence Narrative:

The State Historic Preservation Officer for the District of Columbia concurred with the findings of the Franklin Square CLI on 9/9/05, in accordance with Section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act. It should be noted that the Date of Eligibility Determination refers to this Section 110 Concurrence and not the date of National Register Eligibility, since that is not the purview of the Cultural Landscapes Inventory.

Concurrence Graphic Information:



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
National Capital Region
Office of Lands, Resources and Planning
1100 Ohio Drive, SW
Washington, DC 20242

August 17, 2005


Memorandum

To: Cultural Landscapes Inventory Coordinator, National Capital Region

From: State Historic Preservation Officer, District of Columbia

Subject: Statement of Concurrence, Franklin Square Cultural Landscape Inventory

I, Lisa Burcham, District of Columbia State Historic Preservation Officer, concur with the Franklin Square Cultural Landscape Inventory as submitted on August 17, 2005.



Lisa Burcham
District of Columbia
State Historic Preservation Officer



Date

Concurrence memo for FY2005 signed by the DC SHPO on 9/9/2005.



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
National Capital Region
1100 Ohio Drive, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20541

August 22, 2011

Memorandum

To: Cultural Landscape Inventory Coordinators, National Capital Region
From: Superintendent, National Mall and Memorial Parks
Subject: Statement of Concurrence, Franklin Square Cultural Landscape Condition Reassessment

I, Robert Vogel, Superintendent of National Mall and Memorial Parks, concur with the condition reassessment for the Franklin Square cultural landscape:

CONDITION REASSESSMENT: Fair

Good: Indicates the inventory unit shows no clear evidence of major negative disturbance and deterioration by natural and/or human forces. The inventory unit's cultural and natural values are as well preserved as can be expected under the given environmental conditions. No immediate corrective action is required to maintain its current condition.

Fair: Indicates the inventory unit shows clear evidence of minor disturbance and deterioration by natural and/or human forces, and some degree of corrective action is needed within 1-5 years to prevent further harm to its cultural and/or natural values. If left to continue without the appropriate corrective action, the cumulative effect of the deterioration of many of the character-defining elements, will cause the inventory unit to degrade to a poor condition.

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

The cultural landscape condition reassessment for Franklin Square is hereby approved and accepted.


Superintendent, National Mall and Memorial Parks

9/19/11
[Line]

Condition reassessment concurrence memo signed by the NAMA Superintendent on 9/19/2011

Revisions Impacting Change in Concurrence:

Change in Condition

Revision Date: 09/19/2011

Revision Narrative:

Condition reassessment was done in FY2011. Condition was changed from Good to Fair. See details in the Condition chapter.

Revision Date: 06/21/2005

Revision Narrative:

Final comments from park staff were incorporated into the document.

Geographic Information & Location Map

Inventory Unit Boundary Description:

Franklin Park, Reservation #9, occupies an entire city block of 4.79 acres in Washington's Northwest quadrant. It is bordered by K Street on the north, 13th Street on the east, I Street on the south, and 14th Street on the west.

State and County:

State: DC

County: District of Columbia

Size (Acres): 4.79

Boundary UTMS:

Source:	GPS-Differentially Corrected
Type of Point:	Point
Datum:	NAD 83
UTM Zone:	18
UTM Easting:	323,816
UTM Northing:	4,307,803
Source:	GPS-Differentially Corrected
Type of Point:	Point
Datum:	NAD 83
UTM Zone:	18
UTM Easting:	323,980
UTM Northing:	4,307,799
Source:	GPS-Differentially Corrected
Type of Point:	Point
Datum:	NAD 83
UTM Zone:	18
UTM Easting:	323,983
UTM Northing:	4,307,904
Source:	GPS-Differentially Corrected
Type of Point:	Point
Datum:	NAD 83
UTM Zone:	18
UTM Easting:	323,818
UTM Northing:	4,307,905

Location Map:



Map depicting Franklin Park in relation to Farragut Square, McPherson Square, and the White House. (CLP digital photofile "Franklin Park/CLI/other/basic location map Franklin," from DOI/NPS, "Washington: The Nation's Capital," Washington: GPO, 2000.

Management Unit: National Mall & Memorial Parks
Tract Numbers: Reservation 9

Management Information

General Management Information

Management Category: Must be Preserved and Maintained

Management Category Date: 09/19/2005

Management Category Explanatory Narrative:

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

As one of the L'Enfant Parks, Franklin Park is listed as a contributing feature in the L'Enfant Plan National Register Historic District. This distinction makes preservation of its historic landscape essential.

NPS Legal Interest:

Type of Interest: Fee Simple

Public Access:

Type of Access: Unrestricted

Explanatory Narrative:

Franklin Park is open to the public at all hours.

Adjacent Lands Information

Do Adjacent Lands Contribute? Yes

Adjacent Lands Description:

Franklin Park is surrounded primarily by twelve-story office buildings. There are also many hotels in the neighborhood, including the Crowne Plaza northwest of the park. Most of the adjacent structures were built in the last couple of decades and are aesthetically undistinguished. One notable exception is the 1869 Franklin School, located on 13th Street across from the park's northeast side (highest grade). This richly ornamental red-brick structure was designed in the Rundbogenstil, or round-arch, style by the German-American architect Adolf Cluss. Another historic structure is the facade of the Almas Temple, a four-story, three-bay Masonic temple. A large pointed arch with a recessed entrance dominates the elevation, which is entirely covered with glazed polychrome tile. This façade was moved and rebuilt in its current location when One Franklin Square, the most prominent recent building, was constructed opposite Franklin Park along K Street, to the north. The five-part façade of One Franklin Square stretches for over half the block. Two stepped towers and granite sheathing make this building a dominant presence.

National Register Information

Existing National Register Status

National Register Landscape Documentation:

Entered Inadequately Documented

National Register Explanatory Narrative:

Franklin Park is listed as a contributing feature to the "L'Enfant Plan of the City of Washington" National Register nomination. However, only a short descriptive paragraph on the park is included.

Existing NRIS Information:

NRIS Number:	97000332
Primary Certification:	Listed In The National Register
Primary Certification Date:	04/24/1997
Other Certifications and Date:	Date Received/Pending Nomination - 3/19/1997

National Register Eligibility

National Register Concurrence:	Eligible -- SHPO Consensus Determination
Contributing/Individual:	Contributing
National Register Classification:	Multiple Property
Significance Level:	National
Significance Criteria:	C - Embodies distinctive construction, work of master, or high artistic values

Period of Significance:

Time Period:	AD 1832 - 1946
Historic Context Theme:	Expressing Cultural Values
Subtheme:	Landscape Architecture
Facet:	The 1930's: Era Of Public Works
Other Facet:	None
Time Period:	AD 1832 - 1946
Historic Context Theme:	Expressing Cultural Values
Subtheme:	Landscape Architecture
Facet:	The Late Victorian Eclectic Landscape
Other Facet:	None

Area of Significance:

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

Statement of Significance:

Franklin Park has two Periods of Significance: 1791, the year of the L'Enfant Plan, and 1867 to 1936, a period which includes at least two distinct different designs; elements of the first, Victorian, design were retained and influenced the new work of 1936. The park is significant as part of the L'Enfant Plan, and is listed as a contributing feature in the "L'Enfant Plan of the City of Washington" National Register Nomination (listed 1997). The statue to Commodore John Barry, founder of the U.S. Navy, is a contributing feature of the "American Revolution statuary of the District of Columbia" nomination (1978).

Franklin Park is eligible under National Register Criteria A, B, and C. As stated in the "L'Enfant Plan" nomination:

"The historic plan of Washington, District of Columbia – the nation's capital – designed by Pierre L'Enfant in 1791 as the site of the Federal City, represents the sole American example of a comprehensive Baroque city plan with a coordinated system of radiating avenues, parks and vistas laid over an orthogonal system. . . . The plan meets National Register Criterion A for its relationship with the creation of the new United States of America and the creation of a capital city; it meets Criterion B because of its design by Pierre L'Enfant, and subsequent development and enhancement by numerous significant persons and groups responsible for the city's landscape architecture and regional planning; and it meets Criterion C as a well-preserved, comprehensive, Baroque plan with Beaux-Arts modifications." ("L'Enfant Plan" nomination 1997:Section 8, pp. 1, 2)

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These factors applying to the plan as a whole are also relevant to its constituent parts, including Franklin Park. Franklin Park is also eligible under Criterion C for its intact design of 1936 and for the Commodore John Barry monument of 1914.

The design of Washington's downtown parks is based on their circulation systems. The first designed path system of Franklin Park may have been implemented as early as 1868. However, the period is defined as beginning a year earlier, in 1867, because this was the year the Office of Public Buildings and Grounds was established after responsibility for the city's parks was moved to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The first Engineer Officer, Nathaniel Michler, and his successor, Orville Babcock, were instrumental in devising and implementing the initial grading, layout, and planting of the downtown parks and reservations, many of which – like Franklin – had been used for the billeting of troops during the Civil War. While much of the work was carried out in the 1870s, the creation of these parks from empty lots can be said to have begun in 1867.

While not identical, design changes to these parks were made consistently. Similar ideas regarding walk systems and planting layouts were implemented, and governed their initial Victorian designs, their subsequent alterations, and their redesign in the 1930s.

The winding, irregular path layout of Franklin Park, built as early as 1868 or 1872, resembled the somewhat more regularized system developed for Lafayette Park in the 1850s. The Lafayette Park design almost certainly followed a scheme devised by pioneering horticulturist Andrew Jackson Downing, before his death in 1852. Franklin Park's original circulation, therefore, was likely based on the work of Downing, and the planting layout probably owed a debt to Downing's work as well.

With only minor changes, Franklin Park maintained essentially the same design from 1872 through 1935. Trees and shrubs were added, transplanted, or removed. Gravel walks were repaved with asphalt, and new walks of asphalt and flagstone were added. Benches were regularly replaced with newer styles. The original frame lodge structure was moved from the park's west side to the east. For a time, urns for ornamental plants and cages holding eagles stood on the lawns. Over the decades, many features deteriorated, particularly the walks, and by the 1930s Franklin Park was recognized by the public and National Capital Parks staff as being in poor condition.

Franklin Park was one of several downtown and L'Enfant parks to be rehabilitated – essentially, redesigned – in the mid-1930s by National Capital Parks landscape architects working under grants provided by the Public Works Administration. The layout, or design framework, of these parks was determined by their circulation systems. Though many included some major feature as a focal point, such as a fountain or statue, all had curving walks arranged with varying degrees of asymmetry, providing a picturesque experience for the visitor and encouraging an irregular arrangement of vegetation.

These picturesque walks were replaced with formal, symmetrical layouts, based on axes and cross-axes oriented to the orthogonals of the city's street grid and leading to some central feature.

Subsidiary diagonal walks led in from corners. The alteration of the circulation systems caused changes to the vegetation patterns, which, together with the walks, defined the parks' spatial organizations. Trees were moved or removed to accommodate new routes. While some of the irregular, picturesque groupings of trees were retained, other trees were planted to emphasize walk intersections. The heavy shrub growth of the Victorian parks was thinned or eliminated to create more open spaces and cleaner sightlines. Some of these changes may have been inspired by practical considerations, such as providing more direct routes for commuters walking through the parks on their way to work, and making parks appear safer. The designs themselves, however, may derive from the City Beautiful precepts established for the city's core by the Senate Park Commission (McMillan Commission) Report of 1902. All these changes are evident in the evolution and current condition of Franklin Park.

Chronology & Physical History

Cultural Landscape Type and Use

Cultural Landscape Type:

Designed

Other Use/Function

Outdoor Sculpture (Statuary)

Leisure-Passive (Park)

Urban Park

Fountain

Other Type of Use or Function

Both Current And Historic

Both Current And Historic

Both Current And Historic

Both Current And Historic

Current and Historic Names:

Name

Reservation 9

Fountain Square

Franklin Square

Franklin Park

Type of Name

Both Current And Historic

Historic

Both Current And Historic

Both Current And Historic

Ethnographic Study Conducted:

No Survey Conducted

Chronology:

Year

Event

Annotation

AD 1800

Inhabited

A small wooden house may have stood on the future site, or in the vicinity, of Franklin Park.

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AD 1819	Established	On March 3, 1819, Congress authorized that water from the springs on the site be supplied to reservoirs near the White House, and thus to the White House. The site subsequently became known as "Franklin Square."
AD 1851	Graded	The park was first graded and enclosed with a wood paling fence.
AD 1862 - 1865	Inhabited	Union troops camped in Franklin Square during the Civil War.
AD 1864	Built	Another wooden fence was built around the square.
AD 1866	Planted	Landscaping of the park was begun by the public gardener.
AD 1867	Built	By 1867, a small lodge had been built in the square.
AD 1872	Built	A high iron fence with four gates was built around Franklin Square. Graveled walks were laid out. A new brick sidewalk was built along 13th Street, and an existing brick sidewalk along 14th Street was extended.
AD 1873	Built	Two combination lamps and drinking fountains were installed and connected with gas and water mains. A fountain bowl was placed near the center of the park; to its west was built a new lodge.
	Graded	Further grading was carried out.
	Planted	Sod was installed. Some cottonwoods along K Street were removed and replaced by other trees.
AD 1875	Built	A polished red granite coping, imported from Aberdeen, Scotland, was placed on the fountain bowl.
AD 1869	Built	The Franklin School, a landmark municipal building, was opened across 13th St. from the park. Architect Adolph Cluss designed the imposing brick structure in the German Rundbogenstil, a Romanesque Revival style exploiting the use of round-arched openings.

Adolph Cluss

AD 1878	Built	A five-feet-wide asphalt walk was constructed through the park, from southeast to northwest, passing around the fountain.
	Planted	Eighteen flower beds were laid out on the lawns.
AD 1880	Built	An asphalt walk was laid from the 13th and K streets entrance to 14th and I streets.
AD 1888	Removed	Some tree species were removed from the park, including Chinese arbor vitae, balsam fir, and Norway fir. A dead hemlock hedge, screening the entrance to the lodge, was replaced by an arbor vitae hedge. 90 trees were transplanted.
AD 1893	Removed	Unightly trees and shrubs were removed, including evergreens and some of the large cottonwoods growing along the I Street sidewalk.
AD 1894	Planted	Privet hedges were planted on the east and west sides of the lodge to screen restroom entrances.
	Removed	Eight unsightly trees were removed from the park.
AD 1895	Removed	Dead and dying trees and shrubs were removed.
AD 1897	Built	Nine electric arc lights were installed in Franklin Park on February 20, 1897.
	Abandoned	Twelve gas lamps were disconnected.
	Removed	Eight of the disconnected gas lamps were removed.
	Abandoned	The springs were closed because of fears concerning their vulnerability - and that of the White House drinking water - to poisoning by Spanish sympathizers in the days leading up to the Spanish-American War.

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AD 1898	Removed	The iron fence was removed - according to HABS report.
AD 1903	Removed	Two decayed trees were removed.
	Rehabilitated	Repairs were made to asphalt walks. Other work was done to improve drainage in the park, such as the addition of new drainpipes and two new catchbasins.
AD 1904 - 1905	Built	In 1904 or 1905, concrete quarter-round curbing was placed around the perimeter of Franklin Park, 1851 linear feet in all, with a pair of corner posts at each of the eight entrances. The ground level behind was raised with soil.
	Planted	Sod borders were laid along the new curbs and grass seed was sown.
	Removed	In 1904 or 1905, 288 linear feet of brick gutters were removed from the entrances to the paths. Their trenches were filled and incorporated into widened gravel paths.
AD 1907	Built	New iron grating frames and brick drain traps were built. One of the drinking fountains was given a new brick foundation.
AD 1908	Built	A large concrete sandbox was built on the park's northeast side.
AD 1907	Built	Two small concrete basins were built to provide water for squirrels.
AD 1912	Built	Beginning in April, a new system of gas lighting was installed throughout the downtown parks. The new lamps were lit on September 10. After the installation, Franklin Park had one old gas lamp, 9 electric arc lamps, and 22 gas lamps.
AD 1913	Built	The foundation, plaza, and base of the Commodore John Barry statue were completed at the west end of the park in December 1913.

John J. Boyle

Edward P. Casey

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	Removed	The old lodge, located just to the east of the Barry statue site, was removed and relocated in East Potomac Park.
AD 1913 - 1914	Built	In 1913 or 1914, a new lodge with restrooms was built on the east side of the park, midway along the block near the sidewalk. Landscape architect George Burnap was the designer. The location corresponded to that of the Barry statue on the west. George Burnap
	Planted	A major new planting plan for the east and west ends of the park was implemented in 1913 and the years following. Trees and shrubs were planted to frame the Barry statue, and 197 new trees and shrubs were planted around the new lodge building. George Burnap
AD 1914	Built	The Commodore John Barry statue was installed and dedicated in May 1914.
AD 1914 - 1936	Planted	Crabapples were planted around the Barry statue between these years.
AD 1916	Planted	Three evergreen trees were planted in Franklin Park.
AD 1917	Planted	Nine evergreen and 38 deciduous shrubs were planted.
AD 1918	Planted	Four large evergreen trees were moved from the terrace of the White House and planted in Franklin Park. A single new evergreen shrub was also planted.
AD 1919	Planted	Three evergreen and 75 deciduous shrubs were planted.
AD 1920	Removed	One-hundred seventeen dead evergreen shrubs and 60 or more dead deciduous shrubs were removed and replaced.
AD 1922	Built	Electric lamps replaced gas lamps.

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AD 1933	Land Transfer	Franklin Park, along with the other D.C. reservations, was transferred to the jurisdiction of the National Park Service. Before the transfer, an inventory was made of the trees and shrubs.
AD 1935	Planned	A "spot plan" was done to determine necessary tree work. At this time, Franklin Park was considered greatly deteriorated.
AD 1936	Rehabilitated	The complete rehabilitation of Franklin Park was begun in winter 1936 under a WPA grant. Trees were removed and new trees and shrubs planted; land was graded and top soil was added; new walks were paved; a new fountain replaced the old.
	Built	The Potomac Electric Power Company (Pepco) installed 14 new street lights on the streets surrounding Franklin Park.
AD 1946	Built	In 1945, two new Y-shaped walks were built at the park's east and west sides. The west walk, behind the Barry statue, replaced the Y-walk that had been there from 1914 to 1936. The east walk connected the sidewalk, lodge, and internal circulation system.
AD 1974	Removed	The lodge at the park's east side was removed.
AD 1990 - 1992	Rehabilitated	Rehabilitation work was carried out by the NPS in cooperation with the Franklin Square Association. Work included rehabilitation of fountain to add central jets, new plantings, etc.
AD 1991	Restored	Saratoga lamps - the style of electric lamp chosen for the park in the 1930s PWA restoration - were installed, replacing modern "mushroom" lamps. Lamps were funded by the Franklin Square Association.
AD 2004	Removed	To create open, sunny lawns at east and west ends, several trees dating from after period of significance were removed. Y-shaped walk and iron railings on east were removed. Repairs were made to walks and the stones of the plaza were replaced in-kind.

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AD 1974	Rehabilitated	The NPS rehabilitated the park as part of the Bicentennial Downtown Parks program. Work included resurfacing of all walks, replacement and repair of benches and trash receptacles, new and replacement plantings, new irrigation system, etc.
AD 1991	Reconstructed	The District of Columbia rebuilt all perimeter sidewalks and quarter-round curbs in exposed aggregate concrete using information and plans supplied by the National Capital Region, NPS.
AD 1790 - 1802	Land Transfer	The three city commissioners appointed by President George Washington had jurisdiction over the reservations.
AD 1802 - 1816	Land Transfer	Responsibility for the reservations was transferred from the three commissioners to a Superintendent of Public Buildings, also appointed by the president.
AD 1816 - 1849	Land Transfer	The Superintendent of Public Buildings was replaced by a Commissioner of Public Buildings, also under the authority of the president.
AD 1849 - 1867	Land Transfer	The office of the Commissioner of Public Buildings, which had jurisdiction over the reservations, was transferred from the authority of the president to the new Department of the Interior.
AD 1867	Land Transfer	The reservations were transferred from the Department of the Interior to the jurisdiction of the Office of Public Buildings and Grounds (OPBG), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, War Department.
AD 1925	Land Transfer	The Office of Public Buildings and Grounds was changed to the Office of Public Buildings and Public Parks and was moved from the Army Corps of Engineers to the office of the president.

Physical History:

1791-1866: From Fountain Square to Franklin Square: Early Development

The site now occupied by Franklin Park originally formed part of a tract known as “Port Royal,” which extended north to Massachusetts Avenue. It was owned either by Samuel Davidson, one of the District of Columbia’s original proprietors, or John Davidson. (George Olszewski’s history of Franklin Park states Samuel Davidson was the owner; however, the facsimile map, “Washington in Embryo,” depicting the landholdings of all original proprietors and reproduced in John Reps, “Washington on View” [page 13], shows that Port Royal was owned by John Davidson.)

The Franklin Park site was managed under several different jurisdictions from the establishment of Washington, D.C. in 1790 and up through the 1930s and its transfer to the National Park Service. Under the Congressional Act of July 16, 1790, President George Washington appointed three commissioners to lay out a district for the permanent seat of government of the United States. Twelve years later, these positions were eliminated and their duties transferred to a Superintendent of Public Buildings, also appointed by the president. In 1816, the Superintendent of Public Buildings was replaced by a Commissioner of Public Buildings, at first acting under the authority of the president and then, after its creation in 1849, the Department of the Interior.

The 1791 L’Enfant Plan did not single out the square now occupied by Franklin Park for any special use. It was not among the fifteen squares Pierre Charles L’Enfant set aside for development by each of the states, nor was it located at a significant intersection within the street grid. It appears on the plan, and on early city plans produced over the next three decades, as merely a typical city square, numbered 249 (Reps 1991:37).

In 1800, a single wooden house is said to have stood on this square, occupied by an “unidentified Frenchman” who cultivated a vegetable garden there. (Olszewski 1970:5, citing Rider 1924:232) A lone structure in the vicinity appears on the first map to show the “extent of development” in the new capital city, the “Washington City” map of 1802. (Reps 1991:60-61) President Thomas Jefferson, on March 30th, 1806, gave Davidson permission to enclose Port Royal “on condition that when the convenience of the city should require it, the streets would be opened.” (Olszewski 1970:5, citing Padover 1944:365) A description of how the city appeared in 1806 suggests the state of Franklin Park’s surroundings:

“In some parts, purchasers have cleared the wood from their grounds, and erected temporary wooden buildings: others have fenced in their lots, and attempted to cultivate them; but the sterility of the land laid out for the city is such, that this plan has also failed. The country adjoining consists of woods in a state of nature, and in some places of more swamps, which give the scene a curious patchwork appearance.” (Charles Janson, quoted in Reps 1991:64)

First called Fountain Square, the park had its origin in a Congressional authorization of March 3, 1819, to channel water from springs on the site to supply the White House and other federal buildings. Robert King’s elaborately detailed map of 1818 shows at least two streams

originating in the square. (“A Map of the City of Washington . . .” in Reps 1991:66-67) The water was stored in reservoirs near the executive mansion until 1822, when new iron pipes were laid tying into the White House pipelines.

The District Commissioners offered building sites south of Fountain Square for sale. In 1828, Congress appropriated \$8000 for the “purchase and enclosure” of the square, which had been privately owned and divided into building lots (AR 1959); purchase was apparently effected in 1832 (secondary sources are not clear about this). In that year, also, Congress allocated a further \$5700 for new pipes to feed the White House lines, and to construct new reservoirs and water hydrants. (Olszewski 1970:6) A map of 1836 shows the block along I Street south of Franklin Park lined by structures; probably most were wooden rowhouses. The other blocks facing the square were still undeveloped. (“A New Universal Atlas,” in Reps 1991:79) It is not known precisely what type of structure, or structures, protected the spring over the years. In a column from 1936, John Claggett Proctor records a reference from 1881 to the spring having two iron and stone covers and an arched enclosure (Proctor, Sunday Star, April 26, 1936).

Around the reservation, the city grew slowly: “The city of the mid-1830s . . . existed as a kind of archipelago of neighborhoods separated from one another almost as if divided by water instead of expanses of land. . . . Here and there, smaller groups of buildings floated in a sea of vacant blocks and empty streets. Not until after the Civil War would these intervening spaces be filled . . .” (Janson, quoted in Reps 1991:64)

Fountain Square became known as Franklin Square in 1830. (For convenience, in this inventory it will typically be referred to by its current name of “Franklin Park.”) There is no definitive proof that the park was named for Benjamin Franklin, as is often assumed. Franklin Terrace, a series of lavish Second-Empire style rowhouses on K Street that formerly stretched along the north side of K Street between Franklin Park and McPherson Square, was not begun until the 1870s, and the Franklin School, still facing the park across 13th Street, was not built until 1869. (Olszewski 1970:ii) Scholars believe that the Franklin School was named for the statesman, and indeed, a large bust of Franklin historically was placed on the façade above the entrance. But the origin of the park’s name is not known.

Franklin Park was identified as a “Public Square” on the 1851 James Keily map, which also shows a single stream extending south from the square. (“Map of the City of Washington, D.C.,” Reps 1991:125) Albert Boschke’s ambitious “Topographic Map,” surveyed in the late 1850s and published in 1861, identifies Franklin Square by name, and shows that the surrounding blocks were slowly filling with structures. Nearly the entire block of I Street south of the square had been built up. (Boschke 1861 in Reps 1991:138-139)

Though few improvements were made until the 1870s, already by the middle of the century Franklin Park seems to have been considered second only to Lafayette Park in importance among city parks, judging by the attention it was given in the annual reports on D.C. parks, and it received more funds than most other reservations. The land was first graded in 1851 and enclosed with a wooden paling fence (fencing of the city’s parks and reservations was

considered necessary to keep out roaming livestock). By February of 1853, \$407 had been spent on filling and grading of the square, and it was estimated that \$12,000 would be required for an iron fence – an estimate soon increased to \$16,550 to include four gates. (Annual Report 1854; this information differs from that given in the HABS Report for Franklin Park, DC-673, which – this author believes erroneously – records this as happening in 1864.)

The Engineer Commissioners issued repeated pleas to Congress for funds to improve Franklin Park, but work was slow to commence. In October 1856, Commissioner J.B. Blake wrote that he was

“renew[ing] recommendations made in . . . [the] last report for . . . the improvements of Franklin Square Those [reservations] which are situated in the northern portion of the city are deserving of especial favor, as the government has never, to my knowledge, expended any money in that flourishing and growing section, with the exception of setting out a few trees around the public reservations. Handsome edifices there meet the eye in every direction, and the spirit of improvement is manifested all around, with the exception of the government property, which alone remains uncared for, and presents a sorry spectacle amidst such evidence of tasteful progress.” (Annual Report 1856:852)

The annual report of 1859 noted that Franklin Square had originally been divided into privately owned building lots which were then purchased by the federal government for making a public “pleasure ground” fronted by “handsome and costly houses,” and that owners of the facing lots were now complaining about the site’s condition: “It is certainly one of the finest squares in the city and if properly laid off and ornamented, would become a place of great resort, and add much to the comfort and pleasure of all who reside in its neighborhood.” (Annual Report 1859:844-845)

Up to the time of the Civil War, neighbors considered the park’s landscaping inadequate. Many residents had purchased lots and built large houses in expectation that the park would be treated comparably to Lafayette Square, and felt they had been “swindled” by the federal government. Some complained that the government had purchased lots from private individuals at below market rates. (Olszewski 1970:i, 7)

By late 1860, on the eve of the war, Franklin Square had yet to be improved. During the war, the square served as a campground for Union troops, including the 27th New York volunteers, after their rout at First Manassas in July 1861, and the 12th New York volunteers, under Col. Daniel Butterfield, who camped there on their way to the front. Dozens of wooden barracks were built to house the troops; soldiers were said to have damaged the “fine trees” along K Street by using them as hitching posts. (Olszewski 1970:8; these were probably cottonwoods.) The reservation achieved brief notoriety as the site chosen for the public execution of Union private Michael Lanahan, found guilty of killing his superior officer. Though the location was changed, Lanahan was forced to march from Franklin Park several blocks north to Iowa (now Logan) Circle, where a large crowd witnessed his hanging. (Olszewski 1970:8, citing Proctor 1949:339)

The Civil War transformed Washington: “Before the war the city was as drowsy and as grass-grown as any old New England town. . . . the general aspect of things was truly rural. The war changed all that in a very few weeks.” (Noah Brooks, quoted in Reys 1991:156). Thousands of Union soldiers, free blacks, escaped slaves (“contraband”), and others rushing to aid the war effort descended on the city. In addition to barracks such as were built at Franklin Park, dozens of hospitals were erected on reservations and other open land. Poet Walt Whitman moved to Washington during the war to work as a volunteer in the Union hospitals. Whitman lived in the Franklin Park neighborhood during 1862, when he rented a room a block to the north, on L Street.

Landscaping of Franklin Park began soon after the war ended. By 1866, a lush Victorian garden landscape had been “laid out by the public gardener” following a plan drawn up by Col. Benjamin B. French, Engineer Officer of the OPBG. The plan may have been based in part on the picturesque design of 1853 prepared for Lafayette Park by famed American horticulturist Andrew Jackson Downing.

1867-1899: The Victorian Park

In 1867, authority over public buildings and grounds in the District of Columbia was transferred once again, from the Commissioner of Public Buildings, Department of the Interior, to the Chief of Engineers of the U.S. Army, War Department. An Engineer Officer was placed in charge of this Office of Public Buildings and Grounds.

The first two engineer officers were particularly influential: Nathaniel Michler (served 1867-1871), and Orville Babcock (1871-1877), who was a protégé of President Ulysses S. Grant. Their work began under the auspices of the Territorial Government. In existence only from 1871 through 1874, the Territorial Government, under the leadership of Alexander “Boss” Shepherd, was responsible for a host of radical changes to the city’s infrastructure, particularly the paving of streets, the laying of gas and power lines, and the planting of street trees.

As Engineer Officer, Orville Babcock in particular oversaw the implementation of considerable physical improvements to the reservations during a critical period in the city’s history. Historian Frederick Gutheim writes: “under Babcock’s direction, the city’s public parks were drained, gas pipes were laid for lamps, water pipes were laid for irrigation, drainage, and drinking purposes, the walks traversing the parks were graveled, and grounds were planted and augmented with rustic furniture.” (Gutheim 1977:86) While his characterization of the furniture as “rustic” is inaccurate, Gutheim succinctly captures Babcock’s notable achievement in improving the city’s public spaces during the 1870s.

A small lodge had been built in Franklin Park by 1867, and the next year the park was assigned a watchman, as were many of the other parks in these years. At first these were unpaid posts, but eventually funds were appropriated for salaries, and the watchmen were given the authority to make arrests.

The 1868 Annual Report provided a description of Franklin Park at that time:

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“The undulating character of the surface will always add a great charm to its appearance. . . . A large number of trees of different species have been set out, and in the course of time various kinds of shrubbery will be planted. The grounds have already been underdrained, and the paths substantially constructed. . . . [there is a] dilapidated paling fence. An old revolutionary pensioner, and one of the oldest inhabitants in the city, has been temporarily detailed to stand guardian over this beautiful property.” (Annual Report 1868, p. 11)

The landmark Franklin School opened across 13th Street from the park in 1869. Built as a model public school, Franklin School housed administrative offices and classrooms in a structure that employed the most progressive features of school architecture – large windows for ample natural light, good acoustics and sightlines within classrooms, equal though separate facilities for white boys and girls, etc. The site had been chosen in part because of the residential neighborhood’s elite status. Another deciding factor was the presence of the park across 13th Street, the beauty of which, seen through the windows, was felt to be beneficial to learning. The park was heavily used by students from Franklin and other nearby schools, enough so that, in 1875, two-inch-high green-painted wood stakes were driven into the ground of Franklin Park “to hit the feet of those who are willing to destroy the sod and the symmetry of the walks”. (Annual Report 1875:12) The Franklin School sometimes even held classes in the park in the summer. (Franklin School is now a National Historic Landmark; information on the structure is taken from the Landmark nomination.)

The children of Presidents Johnson, Garfield, and Arthur attended Franklin School, and Garfield and Arthur presided at ceremonies there. In April 1880, it was the site of a major scientific experiment when Alexander Graham Bell successfully tested his “photophone,” which transmitted sound over light waves between the school and his laboratory nearby on L Street.

The presence of the Franklin School indicates the prestige of this neighborhood in the postwar years. Immediately northeast of the park, on K Street, stood the home of Senator John Sherman of Ohio, younger brother of General William Tecumseh Sherman and author of the Sherman Antitrust Act. (This structure had been built before the war by merchant S.L. Lindsay, and during the war it had housed the Mexican Legation.) Next door was the home of Lincoln’s Secretary of War, Edwin M. Stanton. (Both houses have long since been razed.) In the 1880s, author Frances Hodgson Burnett lived one block to the east. It was in this house that she wrote “Little Lord Fauntleroy,” perhaps the most famous children’s book of Victorian America, and received Oscar Wilde on his celebrated tour of the U.S. in 1882. (Evelyn and Dickson 1999:various entries)

Comprehensive improvements were finally made to Franklin Park in 1872 and 1873. As noted above, the park already contained a collection of trees and shrubs, most likely gathered by George H. Brown, landscape gardener under the Corps of Engineers (Gutheim writes that Brown gathered plants for the public parks from “throughout the nation”; Gutheim 1977:87). Funds were now appropriated for utilities, including \$2000 for lighting and \$5000 for water, gas, and public restrooms. (Annual Report 1867:11) By 1872, the park had been enclosed with a substantial iron fence (an iron fence had been erected around Lafayette Park as early as 1853-1853). Curving walks, similar to those of Lafayette Park, had been laid out and graveled.

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The fence and walks of Franklin Park are depicted on a c. 1884 map of the city, which also shows the square completely surrounded by rowhouses, with the exception of Franklin School to the east. (Sachse, "The National Capital," in Repts 1991:213-214)

By this time, through the efforts of the Territorial Government, Thirteenth and I Streets had been paved in concrete, and wooden walks had been laid on 14th and K Streets. Adjoining Franklin Park, a new brick sidewalk was built along 13th Street, and an existing brick sidewalk on 14th Street was extended to the iron fence, with the result that the park was entirely surrounded by brick sidewalks. Gas lights were installed, drains relaid, and a portion of the square was regraded and sodded. The pipes feeding water from the Franklin Park springs to the White House were repaired, and the pipes were laid connecting with the Potomac River to provide water for an anticipated fountain. (Olszewski 1970:17; HABS, 3)

In 1873, a circular fountain bowl, thirty feet in diameter, was installed slightly west of Franklin Park's center, and a "quantity of ornamental plants" was planted around it. (Annual Report 1873) Two years later, a coping of polished red granite imported from Aberdeen, Scotland, was placed on the bowl. Unfortunately, eels and small fish swimming through the pipes from the river clogged its jets, and the OPBG had to install an eel trap in the pipe several yards south of the fountain. (HABS, 3)

Additional land was obtained for the park by the narrowing of K and I Streets, and the fence was extended to enclose this new ground. Pipes were laid for water and gas, and two combination lamp posts and drinking fountains were erected. A lodge containing two public restrooms (referred to as "urinals") – one for men, the other for "nurses and children" – was built a short distance west of the fountain. Curved walks screened by hemlock hedges led from the main walks to the restrooms. Further grading was carried out and more grass seed sown. Old and partially "decayed aspens" – i.e., cottonwoods – were removed along K Street, and other trees planted in their place. (Annual Report 1873:5-6)

In 1875, a writer for "Harper's Weekly" published his impression of the changes that had occurred in Washington:

"Not only were the streets of the capital covered with the most noiseless and perfect pavements in the world, and embowered in the greenest borders of grass-plots, inclosed with panels of post and chain or graceful paling, and planted with trees, but at all points of juncture new squares and circles appeared, their verdure relieved with flashing fountains, or bits of statuary . . . while old gulfs and commons . . . were embanked, leveled, and brought into the common civilization of the city." (George Alfred Townsend, quoted in Repts 1991:188)

Further refinements were made to Franklin Park's design in the 1870s and 1880s. In 1878, a five-foot-wide asphalt walk was installed, running southeast to northwest and around the fountain, at which time the "regraveled" walks were "thoroughly overhauled." (Annual Report 1879:1880) Eighteen flower beds were laid out on the lawns, supplemented by decorative palms and other subtropical plants. In 1880, another asphalt walk was laid, from the 13th and K street entrance to the entrance at 14th and I streets. (Annual Report 1880:2340)

The flow of the springs lessened in the 1880s, perhaps because of the deep foundations being dug for the tall hotels rising south of the park. (HABS, 2) In these years, Franklin Park was open daily from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. The hours were extended in the early 1880s, when the closing time was changed to 11 p.m., before being eliminated altogether in 1886.

For decades, many maintenance tasks in Franklin and other downtown parks were carried out on a regular basis, yearly or every few years: the repair of asphalt and gravel walks, the resodding of lawns, and the repainting of fences, benches (called “settees”), and other structures. New benches were purchased almost yearly for all downtown parks; often one hundred or even several hundred benches were bought at a time. Presumably all benches bought at the same time were of the same style. When twenty-five new “settees” replaced existing benches in Franklin Park in 1876, the Annual Report stated: “To insure uniformity of pattern, the seats were removed from Lafayette and Franklin Squares, and new ones put in their places.” (Annual Report 1876:15) Many dozens of older benches were repaired or rebuilt annually.

Other changes to the downtown parks were temporary. City parks were used to house animals that had been donated to the United States government by foreign diplomats. In the 1870s, several eagles, including a bald eagle, lived in a cage in Franklin Park. These had been a gift to the Office of Public Buildings and Grounds from John R. French, Sergeant-at-Arms of the Senate. Perhaps because of such donations, Orville Babcock frequently asked Congress to appropriate money for a National Zoological Park. (GO citing Annual Report 1876:12)

Changes continued to be made to Franklin Park’s plantings and furnishings throughout the late nineteenth century. Specimen trees were removed, transplanted, or replaced within the park and along the streets. The iron fence was removed in 1888 or 1889, and given to the Army’s Quartermaster Department for possible use at a national cemetery. (AR 1889:2839) Large urns were added to hold specimen plants. For a period in the 1890s, goldfish and water lilies were placed in the fountain basins of Franklin Park and Farragut Square.

Requests for funds to install granite curbing around Franklin Park were first submitted in the late 1880s and again in the mid-1890s. In 1894, a walk of bluestone flagging was built, 153 feet long and four feet wide, leading from the main walk to the lodge. (Annual Report 1894:3279-3280)

The first detailed list of downtown parks and their trees and shrubs was included with the 1894 Annual Report. By this time, Franklin Square was considered “highly improved.” (Annual Report 1894:3295) It was lighted by gas throughout and had two drinking fountains and the watchman’s lodge with restrooms. The fountain was equipped with “French jets,” and the “lawn surfaces” were:

“planted with choice ornamental evergreen and deciduous trees and shrubs, interspersed with beds and borders for summer planting of decorative flowering and foliated plants; asphalt and gravel walks on lines of travel through [the] park.” (Annual Report 1894)

The hemlock hedges screening the entrances to the restrooms in the lodge had been removed a year or two previously; privet replaced them in 1894. Five of the eighteen flowerbeds were replaced with sod in 1897 because their locations had proved to be too shady. A “fence” (perhaps simply iron hoops) was erected around the flower border that surrounded the fountain, and the lodge was floored with concrete.

Nine electric arc lights were installed in the park in 1897. The 1897 Annual Report even noted the precise date they were set in place – February 20, 1897. Perhaps at the same time, twelve gas lamps were disconnected; eight of these were removed the next year. (Annual Report 1894:3285; AR 1897:4054ff; AR 1898:3723) Plans and estimates for lighting “Lafayette, Franklin and the Monument parks” had by this time already been annually submitted to Congress for a number of years.

An 1890s guide to the city might well have been describing Franklin Park:

“One of the most interesting places for evening amusements during the summer is the parks. The city fathers have thoughtfully provided benches not only along the thoroughfares, but in secluded nooks where lovers may all hours of the night indulge their whims. . . . Some very interesting things may be witnessed by the quiet prowler.”
(quoted in Junior League 1993:258)

The springs of Franklin Park continued to supply water to the White House until late in the century. At some point, the springs were closed for public use, since by 1885 area residents were urging the Chief of Engineers to reopen them. (Annual Report 1885:2405) The water storage reservoir located in the park was cleaned and reopened in 1890. In 1897, on the eve of the Spanish-American War – amid widespread fears that Spanish sympathizers could easily contaminate the open springs and thus poison President McKinley – the Franklin Park springs were finally closed forever, and the District Department of Health pronounced the water “unfit for human consumption” (Washington Herald, July 23, 1911).



The Franklin School, facing the park's east side, has been a neighborhood landmark since its completion in 1868. The exterior was rehabilitated in the early 1990s. (May 2004; CLP digital photofile "Franklin Park/CLI/history/Franklin School")

1900-1936: Repairs, Transfer, and Rehabilitation

Towards the end of the nineteenth century, Washington's park plantings began to be simplified, perhaps largely out of concerns over safety: "The lush plantings of the Victorian era gave way to sparser plantings . . . as an abundance of plants was seen as a 'concealment' for 'wrongdoers and an obstruction of the breezes Washingtonians sought in the sweltering summers.'" (Theodore A. Bingham, Annual Report 1899, quoted in Leach and Barthold, L'Enfant Plan nomination, 1997:Sec. 8, p. 28) Specific changes made to Franklin Park have not yet been identified.

A watershed event in the planning history of the District of Columbia occurred in 1902, with the publication of the Senate Park Report, commonly known as the "McMillan Report." This landmark comprehensive planning document may have provided some impetus for across-the-board improvements made to the downtown parks in these years, though, again, whether the McMillan Plan had any direct effect on Franklin Park is not known. (See Buildings and Structures for the report's possible influence on the placement of the Barry Monument in 1914.)

In 1903, further repairs were made to Franklin Park's asphalt walks. Other work was done in an effort to improve drainage, such as the laying of new drainpipes and the installation of two new catchbasins. Old drainpipes, and the brick gutters and the iron gates, were repaired or replaced. (Annual Report 1903:2540) Franklin Park's yearly basic maintenance fund was increased from \$1000 to \$1500 about this time.

In 1903-1904, a major effort was undertaken to replace the fences of the downtown parks with curbing: "It being the wish of Congress that the public parks should be as open as possible, all

the former high iron fences have been removed, except where absolutely needed.” (Annual Report 1904) As said above, the fence surrounding Franklin Park had probably been removed earlier, in 1889. With the removal of the fences, the edges of parks were left with an “unfinished,” even “unsightly” appearance. The use of “simple stone curbing” was proposed to provide “a pleasing finish,” creating a “neat border line between park and sidewalk,” as was already the case at Lafayette Park. The 1904 Annual Report continued: “Franklin Park, one of the prettiest and most frequented in Washington, suffers for lack of [curbing]”, and the installation of simple curbs costing about \$2000 was “urged.” (Annual Report 1904:2534) An elevation, plan, and section of a standard quarter-round curbing design for the parks was included in the 1904 Annual Report.

The “stone” – actually concrete – curbing was installed in Franklin Park in 1904 or 1905 – 1851 feet of curbing in all, with eight pairs of corner posts at the entrances to the park walks. (Annual Report 1905:2634. Ten years previously, the OPBG had reported its intentions to surround all the downtown reservations with granite curbs.) Behind the curbing the ground level was raised with soil. Sod borders were laid and the ground sown with grass seed. Two-hundred eighty-eight linear feet of brick gutters at the entrances to the walks were removed, and the resulting trenches filled and incorporated into the existing gravel walks. Repairs were made to the more than twenty-five hundred feet of remaining brick gutters.

Fine hotels, theaters, and restaurants were built in the Franklin Park neighborhood in the early decades of the twentieth century. The park itself began to host regular entertainments: beginning in 1904, concerts by military bands were held weekly in Franklin and Lincoln Parks during the summer months. The bands used portable band stands and camp stools, and lamps were provided for nighttime concerts. At this time, Franklin Park was furnished with about one hundred and twenty-five benches. (Annual Report 1906)

The 1905 report listed the trees growing in all the city’s public reservations, and included maps for some. Repairs were made to various features of Franklin Park in 1907, including the fountain. New iron grating frames and brick drain traps were built, and one of the drinking fountains was given a new brick foundation. Two small concrete basins were added to provide water for the park’s squirrels. (Annual Report 1907:2319) A sandbox was constructed on the east side in 1908.

Even though electric lighting had been introduced into the parks more than ten years previously, a new system of gas lighting was installed throughout the downtown parks in 1912. Installation began in April and the new lamps were lit on September 10. After this, Franklin Park had one old gas lamp, nine electric arc lamps, and twenty-two of the new gas lamps. (Annual Report 1913:3218)

Construction of the foundation for the Commodore John Barry Monument began in 1913 on a site at the mid-point of Franklin Park’s west side. Dedication of the bronze statue, on May 16, 1914, drew large crowds to witness the parade, which marched from 18th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue up to the park, and the ceremony that followed. President Woodrow Wilson spoke and the Bishop of Washington read the invocation. Other addresses were

delivered by Secretary of Navy Josephus Daniels, Admiral George Dewey, the Secretary General of the Society of the Cincinnati, the President of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, and the President of the Irish League of America. The festivities ended with an evening banquet at the Willard Hotel, at which President Wilson delivered a speech supporting the cause of Irish freedom. (Olszewski 1970:27-28)

George Burnap, a landscape architect for the Office of Public Buildings and Grounds from 1910 to about 1917, advised on the placement of the Barry statue, and designed its original richly textured planting framework. Burnap had a great antipathy towards the placement of monumental portrait statuary as focal points within parks. In his 1916 book, "Parks: Their Design, Equipment, and Use," Burnap wrote: "The new Barry Statue in Washington is an example of a statue facing the street, the landscape background of which serves simultaneously as the outskirt planting of the park. It would be a simple problem in design to compose similar exedras facing into the park, becoming thereby a part of the screen or framing of the park and not in themselves the dominating motive." (Burnap 180)

Erection of the Barry Statue on the Fourteenth Street site necessitated the removal of the old lodge, standing just west of the park's center. The building was relocated to East Potomac Park (it is not known what it was used for, and it probably no longer exists). A new lodge containing public restrooms was built on the east side of the park, along Thirteenth Street, in a location corresponding to that of the statue. The new structure, designed by Burnap, was a simple, flat-roofed, stuccoed building (this was one of several identical lodges Burnap designed; others were placed in Lincoln and Lafayette Parks). Burnap probably selected its location on the park's east side.

In 1915, major new landscaping projects were carried out in Franklin Park in conjunction with this building activity. Trees and shrubs were planted to frame the new statue and the lodge. (For details, see Vegetation.)

After 1920, the annual reports no longer included many details on individual reservations. In February 1925, Congress created the Public Buildings and Public Parks of the National Capital, and moved responsibility for D.C. parks and reservations from the Army's Chief of Engineers to this office. The Director reported directly to the President. (A full inventory of Franklin Park was made in 1924, the year before the transfer.) Less than ten years later, on June 10, 1933, these duties were transferred back to the Department of the Interior, to the Office of National Parks, Buildings, and Reservations, renamed the National Park Service in 1934. Since then, the National Park Service has overseen the National Capital Parks, a name first officially used in the D.C. Appropriations Act of June 4, 1934. (Olszewski 1970:1-3)

By then, Franklin Park was considered one of the city's most rundown reservations. Its walks were greatly deteriorated, its lawns overgrown, and its trees "rotting and unpruned". (Olszewski 1970:29) The park's condition prompted complaints by residents and visitors alike. Superintendent Frank Gartside described the state of Franklin Park in an internal memo dated April 13, 1931:

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“The improvement of the walks in Franklin Park is not news to us as we are well aware of the deplorable condition of these walks. In fact have requested funds each year for the past five years at least for the replacement of these old worn-out asphalt walks. This necessary item of maintenance has only been recognized within the last two years, when we received an item of \$10,000 for this purpose.

“Work of this character is required in all of our older parks and reservations. The money appropriated is wholly inadequate to replace these walks in one, two or five year periods. The procedure followed is to replace the walks which are in the worst condition.

“The work last year consisted of the replacing of walks in Stanton, Farragut and McPherson Parks, and while the cost of this work exceeded the authorized funds the balance was made up out of our maintenance funds.

“There are probably half a dozen locations in worse condition than Franklin Park, and for this reason the work in this park cannot be promised for the immediate future.” (Olszewski 1970:29-30; NCR file 1460/Franklin Square)

A “spot plan for tree surgery work” was prepared in 1934. (Olszewski 1970:31) Superintendent Kirkpatrick sent a memo to Gartside on May 13, 1935, analyzing Franklin Park’s condition and justifying the allocation of \$68,000 for its rehabilitation.

In spring 1935, planning for the complete rehabilitation of Franklin Park began with the award of a \$75,000 grant from the Public Works Administration. National Capital Parks consulted with the Commission of Fine Arts and the National Capital Planning Commission on the work, and the final plan was selected from among four alternatives prepared by the staff of National Capital Parks. Designated “Public Works Federal Project No. 641,” the plan allotted funding in two contracts: \$26,450 was granted for planting – the removal of trees, the purchase and planting of new trees and shrubs, the addition of top soil, etc.; and \$46,850 was given for construction – grading, construction of a new circulation system, the laying of a flagstone court around a new fountain, and alleviation of the drainage problem. The Potomac Electric Power Company (Pepco) was authorized to install fourteen new streetlights around the park.

Work began in the winter of 1936 and was completed by summer of that year. Large numbers of trees, particularly willow oaks and European hornbeams, were planted around the new paved flagstone plaza in the park’s center. A new, essentially symmetrical circulation system was built, consisting of three large elliptical walks encircling the east, west, and center sections of the park. A new oval fountain, fifty feet wide east to west and thirty-five feet north to south, occupied the center of the plaza. It had a broad coping of sandstone, rather than the polished Scottish granite used on the previous round pool. Two fountainheads with six jets each were capable of producing columns of water about eight feet high. (Olszewski 1970:34) Top soil and sod were added to the lawns where necessary. The final project was the installation, in the summer, of ten birdbaths. (Olszewski 1970:33-35)

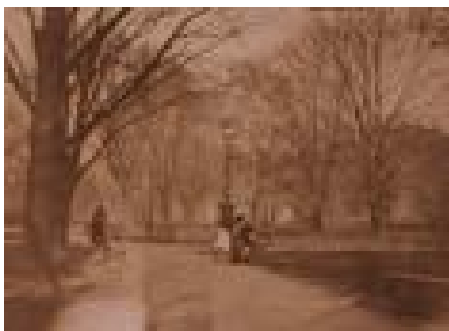


Photo from 1907, showing benches, walks, Bishop's Crook electric light, and combination gas light/drinking fountain. (CLP digital photofile "MS/CLI/history/1907 Fawcett"; print in Wash. Div. MLK #7833)



This 1907 view looks west towards the original fountain. Note again the two types of lights as well as the variety of benches and shrubs. (CLP digital photofile "MS/CLI/history/Jan. 1907," from MLK Wash. Div. #8053)

1937-2004: Franklin Park and Its Changing Community

After the rehabilitation of the 1930s, few changes are known to have been made to Franklin Park. In 1952, a serious threat to the park's integrity arose with a proposal for a four-level underground parking garage, capable of holding 3000 cars. This was submitted by one C.C. Carter of C & C Fixture Co., Inc., in Mount Rainier, Maryland, to the D.C. Motor Vehicle Parking Agency. The cost was estimated at \$6 million. Entrances would have been provided at the mid-block points of 13th, 14th, and I Streets, and all curb parking around the square would have been eliminated. Carter pointed out that the garage could also serve as a bomb shelter. (Olszewski 1970:36-37)

Carter had been inspired by a provision of the preamble to the Motor Vehicle Parking Facility Act of 1942, which stated that assistance should be given to private investors who wanted to

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help alleviate the District's parking congestion. Carter – who assumed he would possess the long-term (c. fifty-year) lease for the garage at a nominal rent – asked the Motor Vehicle Parking Agency to request approval from National Capital Parks. (Olszewski 1970:37)

Edward J. Kelly, Superintendent of National Capital Parks – Central, did not support the idea. The D.C. Board of Commissioners, however, did approve, and requested the concurrence of the National Park Service. Instead, NPS Director Conrad Wirth sent a letter expressing his opposition, which set a policy precedent on this issue for National Capital Parks and ten years later was successfully used to defeat a similar proposal for Farragut Square. (Olszewski 1970: 37-40. The letter is included in this CLI under Supplemental Information.)

In the early 20th century, the character of the Franklin Park neighborhood gradually changed from residential to primarily commercial. Stores and office buildings replaced the fine Victorian rowhouses. Through World War I and the Great Depression into the 1930s, Franklin Park served as the location for a variety of religious meetings, and became, according to historian George Olszewski, the “center of contemporary agitation over civil rights,” though no other information has been found regarding this subject. (Olszewski 1970: 43) The neighborhood also became an area with an active nightlife, with nightclubs nearby, as well as strip clubs. Prostitution and drug dealing became a problem in the park. (Olszewski on p. 43 cites files NCP/ 1460/Franklin Square [9], #1 & 2, NCR, D-24, Franklin Park, NCR, Mail and Records branch)

Until 1949, on Navy Day, October 27, the Navy Department held wreathlaying ceremonies at all statues in the city honoring naval heroes, including the Commodore Barry Monument. At times in the past, the local Irish War Veterans post has also laid wreaths at the Barry Statue on St. Patrick's Day.

Art fairs were held in Franklin Park in the 1940s. In 1948, the north-south axis of the park from I Street to the fountain plaza was designated an official “open area,” a term used for areas in park reservations where peaceful gatherings were allowed without first securing an NPS permit or notification. Subsequent activities here included a protest against a Capitol Transit fare increase staged by the Washington Committee for Consumer Protection in August 1948. In January 1951, the George Washington University Medical School – then located a block south of the park, at 15th and H Streets – had its class photograph taken in the park. (Olszewski 1970:44) In such ways did the park function as a gathering place for its community.

For many years, the park's fountain was a magnet for local children, both black and white, who waded and bathed there in the summers. Neighbors had begun to lodge complaints by 1934, if not earlier. National Capital Parks tried to discourage the wading, which was characterized as unsanitary and potentially damaging to the fountain, and also led to the problem of nude children dashing through the park to escape police. Juvenile courts tended to dismiss these cases. (Olszewski 1970:45-46)

Franklin Park was long popular for religious meetings. In the years before World War I, the local YMCA met in the park. The Men's Missionary Society of the Sligo Seventh Day

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Adventist Church (Maryland) held weekly two-hour meetings in Franklin Park on Saturday evenings beginning in September 1945. These began attracting crowds of 300 to 400 people, and the organizers started using a public address system, against NPS regulations. Proselytizing in the late 1940s by the Jehovah's Witnesses and the Catholic Evidence Guild also presented a problem. Because of the noise, permits for such meetings eventually stopped being issued. (Olszewski 1970:47-48)

After World War II, white residents began abandoning the city for the suburbs, and downtown Washington entered a period of economic decline, exacerbated by the riots following the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., in April 1968. Like many areas in downtown, the Franklin Park neighborhood became plagued by drug use and prostitution, cheap businesses and few visitors. In the 1980s, changes in national policy regarding the treatment and housing of the mentally ill helped lead to increasing numbers of indigent and homeless men, women, and families in the District, and many began to frequent the downtown parks, including Franklin Park.

Relatively few details are known at this time about specific changes made to Franklin Park in the later twentieth century. Under the Bicentennial Downtown Parks program of the mid-1970s, the park was "completely rehabilitated": the walks were resurfaced; the furnishings were repaired or replaced; the drainage systems were cleaned, and an irrigation system was installed; and "trees and hedges were replaced in close accord with the original planting plan" to maintain "the historic character of the park and the existing design." (Landscape Architect, Design Services, to Superintendent NCP-C, Memo, Feb. 16, 1984, in Beautification Files "Franklin Park.") Plantings were reassessed and augmented; numerous trees were replaced or added. Flower beds may have been planted until the early 1990s; the beds on the west elliptical walk (inside the eastern section of the walk, nearest the fountain) were still planted until 2002. The stuccoed lodge from 1914 was removed in 1974. (The cast-iron fences were removed from the former lodge site in 2004, and it has been identified by the National Capital Planning Commission as a potential memorial site.)

In the 1980s, local developers and adjacent building tenants formed the Franklin Square Association. By 1991, this group had raised \$145,000 to restore the fountain, and to replace the mushroom lights with historically accurate Saratoga lights. It does not appear that this group still exists, but the Downtown Business District (BID) has assumed a similar role.

Over the last ten or so years, downtown Washington has undergone revitalization. Hundreds of new businesses, hotels, and institutions, including the District and federal governments, have moved there, and dozens of new office and high-rise residential buildings have been constructed. Consequently, there has been a great increase in the number of people passing through and visiting Franklin Park, including office workers, residents, and tourists, both during the work week and on weekends. The park is once more becoming the center of a thriving community.

Along with Farragut Square and McPherson Square, over the last two years Franklin Park has been focus of a rehabilitation effort jointly undertaken by National Capital Parks – Central, the

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National Capital Region, and the Downtown BID. A Downtown Parks Task Force composed of representatives from these groups as well as the D.C. Historic Preservation Office, the Commission of Fine Arts, the National Capital Planning Commission, and Green Spaces for D.C. met from March 2003 through April 2004. Among the task force's accomplishments was a thorough assessment of Franklin Park's trees, and the development of a new planting plan based on an analysis of the historic landscape and determination of a Period of Significance for the park.

Other work undertaken in 2004 by National Capital Parks – Central has included changes to walks and plantings. Magnolia and crabapple trees were removed. Deciduous trees of various species were planted to complete the street tree plantings and to create two sunny lawns, one on the east end and one on the west. The Y-shaped walks were removed as part of this effort. Repairs were made to correct tripping hazards in the elliptical walks. The plaza was rehabilitated; flagstones were replaced, cut to the same length and width as the originals, but two inches thick for greater strength. New drinking fountains were installed. Historic hedges were not replaced because of safety concerns, and benches were not replaced on the plaza after its repavement, with the expectation that the BID would be experimenting with the use of moveable chairs and tables here in 2004. Work was completed in the fall.



A Sunday afternoon in Franklin Park in the summer of 1943. Note the hornbeam hedges. (Library of Congress, Prints & Photo Coll., LC-USW29-041633-M1, 8d00657u.tif)



This scene from the 1950s shows only a couple of elements that are missing today, notably the hedges and the concrete drinking fountain. (MRCE, A. Rowe, 16.19, 1988-A, June 10, 1953)



The hornbeam hedges created a dense wall around the plaza, defining it as a distinct space. (MRCE, A. Rowe, 1988-C, June 10, 1953)



Large trees dominate the corners and line the walks of Franklin Park. The park remains the focal point of its neighborhood. (July 2004; CLP digital photofile "Franklin Park/CLI/History/view of park from SW 2 CLR crop 200")

Analysis & Evaluation of Integrity

Analysis and Evaluation of Integrity Narrative Summary:

Congress created Franklin Park to protect the natural springs for which the site was celebrated. Beginning in 1832, the spring supplied water to the White House and other federal buildings. The spring appears to have been located in the north-central area of the park, beneath the present-day north stairs leading off the plaza. It was closed in 1897 and is no longer visible. Otherwise, the site has been regraded and planted over the years, and no other natural features are in evidence.

Located in the Coastal Plain, Franklin Park slopes gradually down from north to south and from northeast to southwest. Level areas have been created in the center at the fountain plaza (actually located slightly southeast of the park's true center), at the west side where the Commodore Barry Monument is located, and at the east where the park lodge formerly stood.

Rows of trees surround the park on all sides, regularly spaced on the west and north, somewhat less so on the east and south. These create a distinct boundary around the park. Within this framework is a spatial organization composed of alternating areas of open, sunny lawns and tree-shaded lawns and walks. The three ellipses that define the park's circulation system create three large open areas, the open plaza in the middle being flanked by two large lawns on the east and west sides surrounded by elliptical walks.

In the mid-nineteenth century, Franklin Park was the center of an elite residential community that was home to many local and national leaders. The prestigious Franklin School was built across from the park in 1869, in part because of the park's presence. Students and other local children and families enjoyed strolling through the park. As the character of the downtown neighborhood began to change in the twentieth century, businesses supplanted homes, and the park was used more frequently as a community gathering place. Ceremonies at the Barry Memorial and religious meetings were often held in Franklin Park. Today, the park is heavily used by office workers walking to and from work or on their lunch break, homeless individuals, and families, since residential structures are once more being built in the neighborhood.

The first paths in Franklin Park were probably made of gravel and had been laid by 1868. These may have been changed or relaid by 1872, at which time the park's circulation system resembled the curving layout that had been installed 20 years earlier in Lafayette Park after a design by Andrew Jackson Downing. At Franklin Park, asymmetrically curving walks led from the four corners of the square to a circular plaza around the fountain, located slightly off-center to the southwest. No regular geometrical figure underlay the Franklin Park plan.

Asphalt walks connecting the park's corners on diagonal alignments were laid in 1878 and 1880, and in 1894 a flagstone walk was built from the main walk to the original lodge, then located in the west end of the park. The gravel walks were first widened, and then repaved with asphalt in 1900. (Brick sidewalks surrounded the park from the late nineteenth century. Beginning in 1900, these were repaved with concrete. The perimeter sidewalks are under District of Columbia jurisdiction.)

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Few changes were made to the park's circulation for the next forty years, and the walks steadily deteriorated until the 1930s, when funding for rehabilitating many of the downtown parks became available through President Franklin D. Roosevelt's Works Progress Administration (WPA). Franklin Park received a WPA grant of \$75,000 for walk reconstruction and new planting.

The circulation was entirely redesigned as an essentially symmetrical arrangement of three elliptical loops. The central ellipse, oriented east-west, contains a flagstone-paved plaza that has a large sandstone fountain as its centerpiece and is flanked by curvilinear planting areas containing willow oaks. Entrances to the plaza are via walks at the four cardinal points. A single rock-faced ashlar stone retaining wall runs along the northeast border of the plaza, at the point where the grade rises the most abruptly. The wall is topped by a broad, rough-faced coping, and incorporates a curved section in the center, that probably accommodated an existing tree at the time it was built in 1936 (the small European beech standing in this area now is more recent).

The materials used to construct walks and other features have changed. When they were built in 1936, the main walks were paved with a concrete base that was overlaid with a bituminous asphalt. Double bands of concrete were installed at the ends of sections of pavement, with expansion joints between them. In the 1970s, the walks were overlaid with a synthetic bitumen dating. Some damaged sections of pavement have been further overlaid with concrete in the last year or two. The surrounding quarter-round curbing was replaced with exposed aggregate concrete at the same time that sidewalks of that material were installed around the park by the District of Columbia.

There is one memorial structure in Franklin Park. The bronze portrait statue of Commodore John Barry (1914, sculptor John J. Boyle) stands on a tall marble pedestal in the center of a rectangular marble plaza, placed at the mid-point of Franklin Park along 13th Street. Barry is shown surveying the horizon and faces toward the street rather than the park. Carved on the front of the pedestal is a life-size female allegorical figure of Victory. Clad in classical draperies and standing on the prow of a ship, she holds attributes symbolizing liberty and America. From the sidewalk, low marble steps lead up to the plaza, which is surrounded by a low wall that incorporates benches.

A limited variety of contributing small-scale features are located in the park. The concrete quarter-round curbing defining the outer edges of the grass panels was originally installed in 1904 or 1905. All sections of the curbing were replaced in 1991 with exposed aggregate curbing that attempted to replicate the same shape and location in 1991 (1992); not all sections have succeeded in maintaining the original quarter-round curve. In spite of its low integrity, the curbing should be considered contributing. Two little concrete basins dating from 1907 that held water for squirrels are placed in lawns in the northeast part of the park; these are contributing.

Sections of modern post-and-chain fencing line both sides of the north and south plaza stairs and run along the adjoining walks. The fencing is composed of simple steel posts with "acorn" caps, with chains attached to steel loops below the caps. Sections of decorative cast-iron fence dating from 1936 remain on the west side, behind the Barry Statue, bordering the marble plaza. Vertical elements –

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“balusters” – support a fascia containing a simple scrollwork design. Some balusters are topped by finials.

The benches staggered along the park’s walks are all of a standard NPS style, and were originally installed here in 1936. The benches have cast-iron frames and wood slat backs and seats. Curved struts that terminate in scrolls join front and back legs. Tulip-style trash receptacles, probably from the 1960s, have cylindrical wood-slat containers holding steel cans, and are supported on single posts. Most trash receptacles are in poor condition. Receptacles are slated to be replaced soon.

All lights in the park are a type known as the “Saratoga.” They were set in place in 1990 or 1991, replacing modern “mushroom” lights, installed in 1968 to replace the Saratoga lights from the 1936 rehabilitation. Streetlights located around the park include Washington Globe lights and cobra-head lights.

The current drinking fountains are handicapped accessible. All are composed of an enameled steel cylinder, from which projects a steel arm supporting a round basin. The drinking fountains are located at the intersections of walks.

The elliptical ornamental fountain that forms the central feature of Franklin Park was installed in 1936, replacing a smaller, circular fountain that dated from the 1870s and occupied roughly the same location. This fountain had a coping of red granite and a mass of artificial rocks in the center, from which sprayed jets of water. The current fountain is oval with a broad, molded sandstone coping and returned ends.

Views have changed only insofar as the surrounding buildings have changed. Franklin Park was designed with no major views, but instead provided pleasant, picturesque views along walks and across lawns to trees and other plantings, and to the central feature of the fountain. Views along 14th Street are directed to the Barry Memorial. Unlike parks identified in the L’Enfant Plan, there were never views along avenues either to the park or from the park to some prominent landmark. This is because of the unique circumstances determining Franklin Park’s establishment – it was not located at the intersection of major avenues, as an integral element of the L’Enfant Plan, but instead was created to protect an important water source.

Franklin Park retains medium integrity to 1936, following its complete rehabilitation by the National Park Service. Of the seven characteristics used by the National Register of Historic Places to determine integrity of structures and sites – location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association – the first six are relevant to Franklin Park.

The park’s location has not changed. The design remains the same as in 1936, except for replacements and elimination of some of the small-scale features, additions to the plant materials, and removal of the second lodge, of 1914, from the east side. The feeling conveyed by the park, in the Victorian era and also following the 1930s rehabilitation, is of a sylvan oasis in a dense urban neighborhood. Though the neighborhood has changed greatly since the 1870s, this contrast remains.

The setting has changed radically. Most of the surrounding buildings were constructed within the last 20 years, and are much higher and larger than the structures which stood here when the park was first improved in the 1870s, and when it was rehabilitated in the 1930s. Today, these large structures house offices and businesses, with the exception of the Franklin School and the relocated façade of the Almas Temple.

The materials used to construct walks and other features have changed. The walks are made of synthetic bitumen dating from 1976 and laid over the 1930s paving, which had a concrete base covered with a bituminous material. The more recent concrete is patched, spalling and cracked, in places revealing the older material beneath. Most or all of the original quarter-round curbing is made of a coarser grade of concrete than the original (judging by what appear to be older sections of curbing in other parks and reservations). The surrounding walks were replaced with exposed aggregate concrete at the same time that walks of that material were installed around the park by the District of Columbia.

The plant palette retains high integrity. Most of the same species, and many of the individual specimens, remain from the 1930s. There have been some additions and removals, resulting in a somewhat simpler planting plan.

Workmanship is fair overall. The category of workmanship is relevant to the central plaza and its fountain and retaining wall, and to the curbing. The plaza was recently rehabilitated, and the replacement flagstone paving work was done well. The retaining wall remains in good condition. The fountain's sandstone coping is cracked and spalling, and in need of repair. The curbing that was installed in 1990 to replace the 1904/05 curbing did not replicate the quarter-round profile of the original. Instead, many sections are irregularly square in section rather than curving. The curbing profile changes from one section to the next, and it is difficult to tell whether the work was trying to create a square or quarter-round profile. The boundary curbing is a key visual element, so this problem with the work is particularly noticeable.

Landscape Characteristic:

Natural Systems And Features

Franklin Park came into existence because of the natural springs for which the site was celebrated. The square appears on the L'Enfant Plan as a regular city square. It was not until 1930 that Congress set the land aside to protect the springs, and from 1832, water was piped to supply the White House and other federal buildings.

The springs are referred to in the plural, but their number is not known. There seems to have been one general area where they were located, slightly north of the park's center, beneath the present-day north stairs leading off the plaza.

Open for public use, the springs were covered with some sort of protective brick structure. Sometime in the nineteenth century the springs were closed to public use, though they continued to supply water to the White House. Later, the lines were connected to lines carrying water from the Potomac River, which supplied water for the park's fountain. The springs remained

open until 1897, when they were closed on the eve of Spanish-American War because of fears that the White House water supply could be poisoned.

The natural and constructed environment both affect the light and ambiance of Franklin Park. Because of the dense deciduous tree cover, in summer most of the park lies in deep shade. In winter, the noon sun just grazes the tops of buildings along I Street, so that, while the fountain is in sunlight, the entire half of the park south of the fountain is in shade.

The park is inhabited by the usual urban fauna of squirrels, pigeons, and sparrows. All existing trees and other vegetation have been planted.

Spatial Organization

Ranks of trees surround Franklin Park on the west and north sides. On the east and south sides the spacing, while not as regular, is still continuous. These trees create a distinct boundary for the park. Within this framework is a spatial organization composed of alternating areas of sun and shade. The three ellipses that define the park's circulation system also create three large open areas. The paved plaza occupying the central ellipse is flanked by two large lawns on the east and west sides. From the 1940s until 2004, Y-shaped walks divided these lawns into smaller areas. Trees line the main walks and are scattered along the edges of the lawns, creating a fairly consistent tree cover over the rest of the park.

Topography

Like the rest of Washington, D.C.'s downtown business district, Franklin Park is located in the Coastal Plain physiographic region, in an area that just begins a gradual rise toward the Fall Line, located a mile or so to the north, and the hilly, rocky Piedmont Plateau beyond. The site slopes down from north to south and from northeast to southwest. At the time the park was first being landscaped, it was noted: "The undulating character of the surface will always add a great charm to its appearance." (Annual Report 1868:11). The rolling lawns of Franklin Park were felt to provide a pleasing contrast to the level turf of Lafayette Park. Franklin Park was periodically regraded in the late nineteenth century; it is therefore not known how closely the current terrain resembles the original, natural topography. The only entirely level areas are in the center at the fountain plaza (actually located slightly southeast of the site's true center), at the west where the Barry Monument is located, and at the east where the park lodge formerly stood. All the park's grass panels are raised several inches above ground level.

Land Use

In the mid-nineteenth century, Franklin Park became the center of a residential community that was home to many local and national leaders. As depicted in historic photographs from the late 19th and early 20th centuries, the park was a popular spot for simple activities – mothers and nannies brought children there for an airing, families rested on park benches, and children lingered by the fountain. Franklin School held summer classes in the park. In 1908, a large concrete sandbox was built in the northeast corner, across 13th Street from the school, the first play equipment supplied for children. Later, a small play area with swings and a slide was built nearby. Though they were not allowed, in summers children waded in the fountain.

By the middle of the twentieth century, the character of the neighborhood had changed. Homeowners had begun moving to neighborhoods far from downtown or to the suburbs. Houses were being replaced by commercial structures. Nightclubs and strip clubs had opened, and prostitution had become a problem in the park. However, even as late as the 1940s and 1950s, Franklin Park still possessed a neighborhood character. Photographs show men and couples sitting around the plaza, talking, reading newspapers, and listening to bands.

Franklin Park has functioned as a community gathering place since at least the 1870s. Wreathlayings at the Barry Monument, art fairs, protests, rallies, and religious meetings have all taken place here (for details, see History sections).

Today, the park lies in the heart of Washington's central business district, surrounded by office buildings and hotels. Hundreds of office workers walk through in the mornings and evenings. In fine weather, many workers from nearby buildings eat lunch sitting on the park benches. Indigent people frequent the park, which presents issues for park management. Just in the last few years, dozens of new high-rise apartment and condominium buildings have been constructed in the downtown area, and now, for the first time in decades, Franklin Park is a neighborhood park once again, popular for dogwalking, strolling, and other casual activities. The northernmost walkway is a popular gathering spot for bicycle couriers.

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Lunchtime crowd sitting in Franklin Park. (April 2004; CLP digital photofile "Franklin Park/CLI/Land Use")

Circulation

The first paths in Franklin Park had been “substantially constructed” by 1868 (Annual Report 1868:11) and were relaid by 1872. The material used was probably gravel. The walks were built to a design developed by Engineer Officer Benjamin B. French. An asymmetrical arrangement of curving walks led from the four corners of the square and the mid-points of the long sides to a circular plaza around the fountain, which was placed slightly off-center to the southwest, perhaps to accommodate the spring, in the north (the spring site is beneath the existing north stairs).

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Benjamin's plan was likely inspired by the work of the renowned American horticulturist, Andrew Jackson Downing, in particular his 1852 design for Lafayette Park. Though Downing's plan for Lafayette Park has not survived, maps prepared soon after his death in 1852 record the plan that was installed in Lafayette Park in the 1850s, and it has been assumed by recent scholars that this closely followed the Downing plan (see EDAW, "Presidents Park Cultural Landscape Report," 1995 draft:3-31, 3-43).

Overall, the Lafayette Park design was symmetrical. It featured a large central oval intersected by a pair of curving paths, one at the north and the other at the south. These widened at points to accommodate flower beds.

No such regular geometry underlay the flowing curves of the somewhat leaf-shaped walks that characterized the Franklin Park plan. It was completely asymmetrical and seemingly random in plan, and it is difficult to tell what topographical conditions it may have been responding to, other than the site's gently descending slope from north to south.

The procedure for laying down the graveled walks at Franklin Park may have followed a technique developed for Lafayette Park in those years. The original walks at Lafayette Park had consisted of coarse, unscreened gravel. This proved difficult to maintain and keep in place. Rolling was tried in the early 1870s, but failed to help, so in about 1872 the walks were removed and relaid. The gravel was screened and separated by size, with coarser stones laid at the bottom and finer on top. The very finest gravel was used as a binder, and the whole surface was rolled, resulting in a "hard, compact, and smooth foot-way" (quoted in EDAW, "President's Park CLR," draft 1995:4-20).

In 1872, a new brick sidewalk was built on the east side of Franklin Park along 13th Street, and an existing brick sidewalk on 14th Street was extended to the newly installed iron fence, with the result that the park was entirely surrounded by brick pavement. (Olszewski 1970:17) Curving walks screened by hemlock hedges led from the main walks to the restrooms. (Annual Report 1873:5-6)

As early as the 1870s, Franklin Park's walk system suffered from deterioration. Damaged walks forced pedestrians to wear paths along their margins. The walks would be repaired and then washed out once again. The Annual Report of 1877 recommended laying out walks "according to the original landscaping plans" and coating their surfaces with asphalt or concrete, providing adequate drainage "at all low points". Two years later, the walks were "overhauled". Loose material, such as sand and gravel, was removed, but what further work was undertaken is not known.

Further refinements were made in the 1870s and 1880s. A five-foot-wide asphalt walk was installed in 1878, running southeast to northwest and around the fountain. At the same time, all the "regraveled" walks were "thoroughly overhauled." (Annual Report 1879:1880) Another asphalt walk was laid two years later, from the 13th and K Street entrance to the entrance at

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14th and I Streets. In 1894, a walk of bluestone flagging, 153 feet long and four feet wide, was built from one of the main walks to the lodge. The gravel walks were widened to five feet and paved with asphalt in 1900. The following year, the District government replaced the brick sidewalk on the 14th street side of the park with concrete.

For the next forty years, few changes were made to Franklin Park's circulation system, apart from periodic repairs to the asphalt. As with most of the downtown parks, the asphalt and gravel walks were resurfaced regularly, every year or every few years. In 1905, a mid-block walk was located at roughly the position later occupied by the southern stairway of the Commodore Barry monument plaza, connecting with the 14th Street sidewalk. Shortly after the Barry monument was installed in 1914, a Y-shaped walk was built connecting the monument plaza to the park's internal walk system. In April 1928, a portion of the sidewalk along Franklin Park's 13th Street boundary, 9.55 feet wide and 365.46 feet long, was transferred to the city to allow for street widening. (Olszewski 1970:16)

By the early 1930s, Franklin Park was considered one of the most rundown of Washington's reservations, with greatly deteriorated walks. An opportunity for rehabilitating many of the downtown parks emerged with the election of President Franklin D. Roosevelt and the institution of the New Deal, when funds for such projects became available through the Public Works Administration (PWA). In the spring of 1935, planning for the complete rehabilitation of Franklin Park began with the award of a \$75,000 PWA grant. (Olszewski 1970:29ff)

Staff of National Capital Parks consulted with the Commission of Fine Arts and the National Capital Planning Commission on the work, and the final plan was selected from among four alternatives prepared by National Capital Parks. Designated "Public Works Federal Project No. 641," the plan allotted funding in two contracts: \$26,450 was awarded for planting and \$46,850 was given for construction – grading, construction of a new circulation plan, laying of a flagstone plaza around a new fountain, and alleviation of the drainage problem. Malcolm Kirkpatrick served as the project's landscape architect.

The entirely redesigned circulation system was now essentially symmetrical. (For Franklin, as for the other downtown parks rebuilt at this time, one guiding principle seems to have been the creation of circulation patterns which provided more or less direct lines of travel through the park, on the theory that these were preferred by hurrying commuters.) A central fountain plaza was in the form of a large paved ellipse, oriented east-west. Flanking this elliptical plaza were two elliptical loop walks at the park's west and east ends. These ellipses were oriented north-south, and were not strictly identical: the elliptical walk on the west had a slightly flattened form in plan view. The new walks were constructed of a concrete base topped with a bituminous surface to reduce glare. At the ends of pavement sections, double bands of concrete were installed, with expansion joints between them. The mid-block walk leading east from the Barry statue was removed. Probably as part of the 1936 work, a semicircular walk was built just west of the park lodge.

The central fountain plaza was paved with square flagstones laid diagonally across the elliptical plaza, except for areas bordering the four tree planting areas. Entrances to the plaza were placed at the four cardinal points, and were designed to accommodate topographic changes: low steps were located to the north, south, and east (the top riser of the south step appears to be made of a material like terrazzo), while to the west the plaza was entered at grade. The risers followed the curve of the oval plaza. The left section of the top riser at the south was made of a fine black terrazzo. A low stone retaining wall ran along the boundary of the northeast quadrant (see Small-Scale Features). On completion of the project, the overall amount of paving in Franklin Park had been increased from 36,732 square feet to 49,152. (Olszewski 1970:33-35)

Some additional changes were made in 1946. The walk that had connected the Barry statue plaza with the main walks system from 1914-1936 was recreated. This walk also was Y-shaped, with a twelve-foot-wide walk leading west from the fountain plaza splitting into two nine-foot-wide walks that extended across the center of the elliptical lawn and connected with the Barry monument plaza. A similar walk was built at the park's east side, connecting the park lodge (standing in an equivalent position to the statue) with the internal walk system by crossing the east-side elliptical lawn.

In 1976, under the Bicentennial Downtown Parks program, the Franklin Park walks were repaved with "Pavebrite," a synthetic bitumen containing a mineral aggregate (produced by the Neville Chemical Company of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania). The material was laid over the 1936 asphalt walks. ("Franklin Park," Beautification Files.)

In 1990, the District replaced all the sidewalks and quarter-round curbs surrounding the park in exposed aggregate concrete; sections of sidewalks and adjoining curbs were cast in one piece. Many of the curbs failed to maintain an even quarter-round profile.

However, Franklin Park's internal walks continued to deteriorate. To address some of the continuing problems, National Capital Parks – Central undertook rehabilitation of the central plaza in 2003-2004. Existing flagstone paving was replaced in-kind, but with thicker stones, and some of the most damaged sections of walks were replaced with concrete. The Y-shaped connecting walk at the east end was removed in 2004.

Today, the rehabilitated plaza is in good condition. The 1930s walks, made of bituminous asphalt laid over concrete, in subsequent years were topped with an additional thin layer of a synthetic bitumen. This material now shows extensive cracking, and in some areas has spalled off, revealing the older paving material beneath. National Capital Parks – Central plans to replace these walks with new walks made of Portland Cement Concrete. A few short social trails have been worn across lawns as shortcuts.

Character-defining Features:

Feature: walk system of 1936

Feature Identification Number: 101687

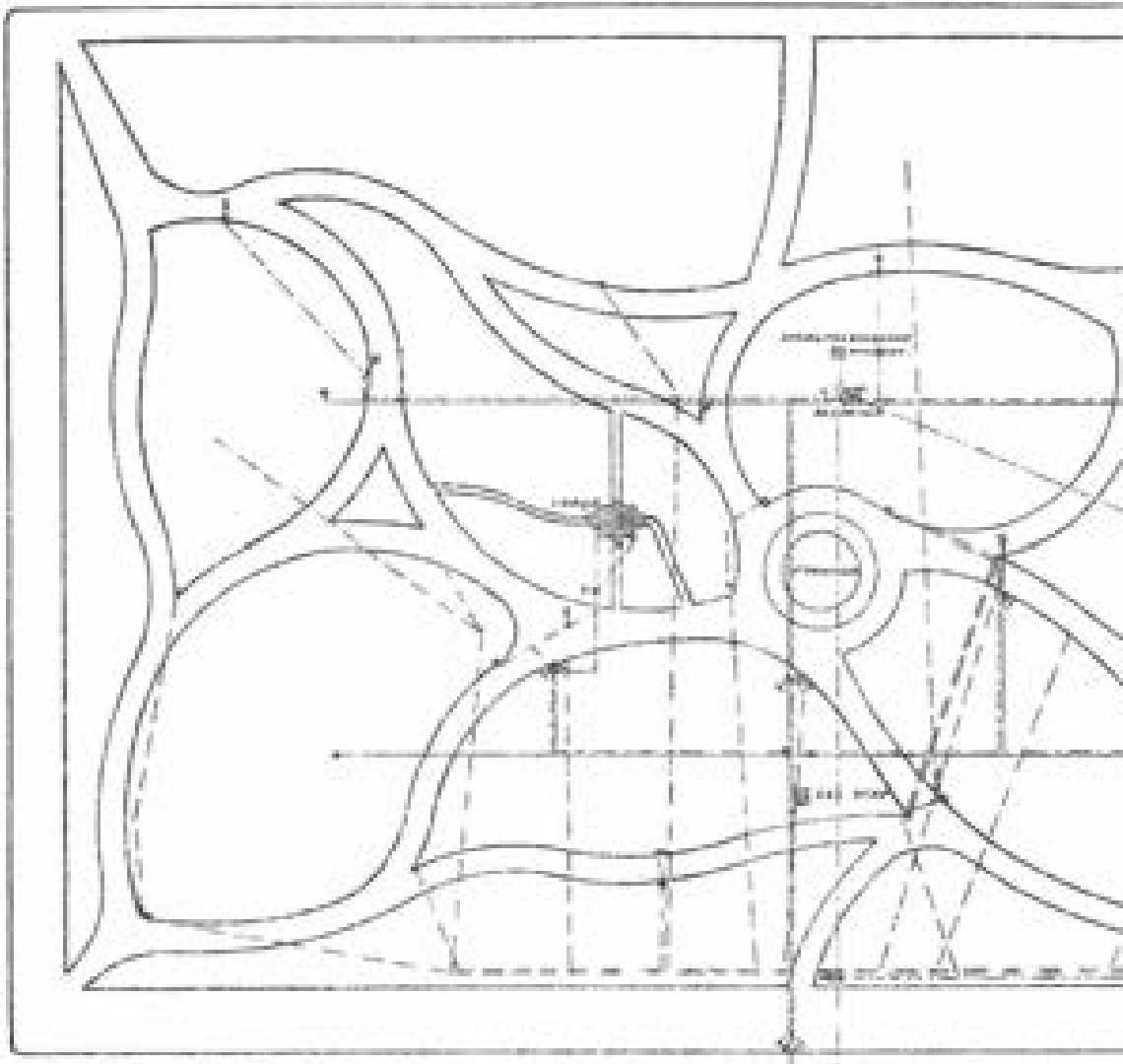
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Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing
IDLCS Number: 046813
LCS Structure Name: Franklin Square - Pathway - Res. 9
LCS Structure Number: 00910000

Feature: central plaza including three stairways and one on-grade approach
Feature Identification Number: 101686
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

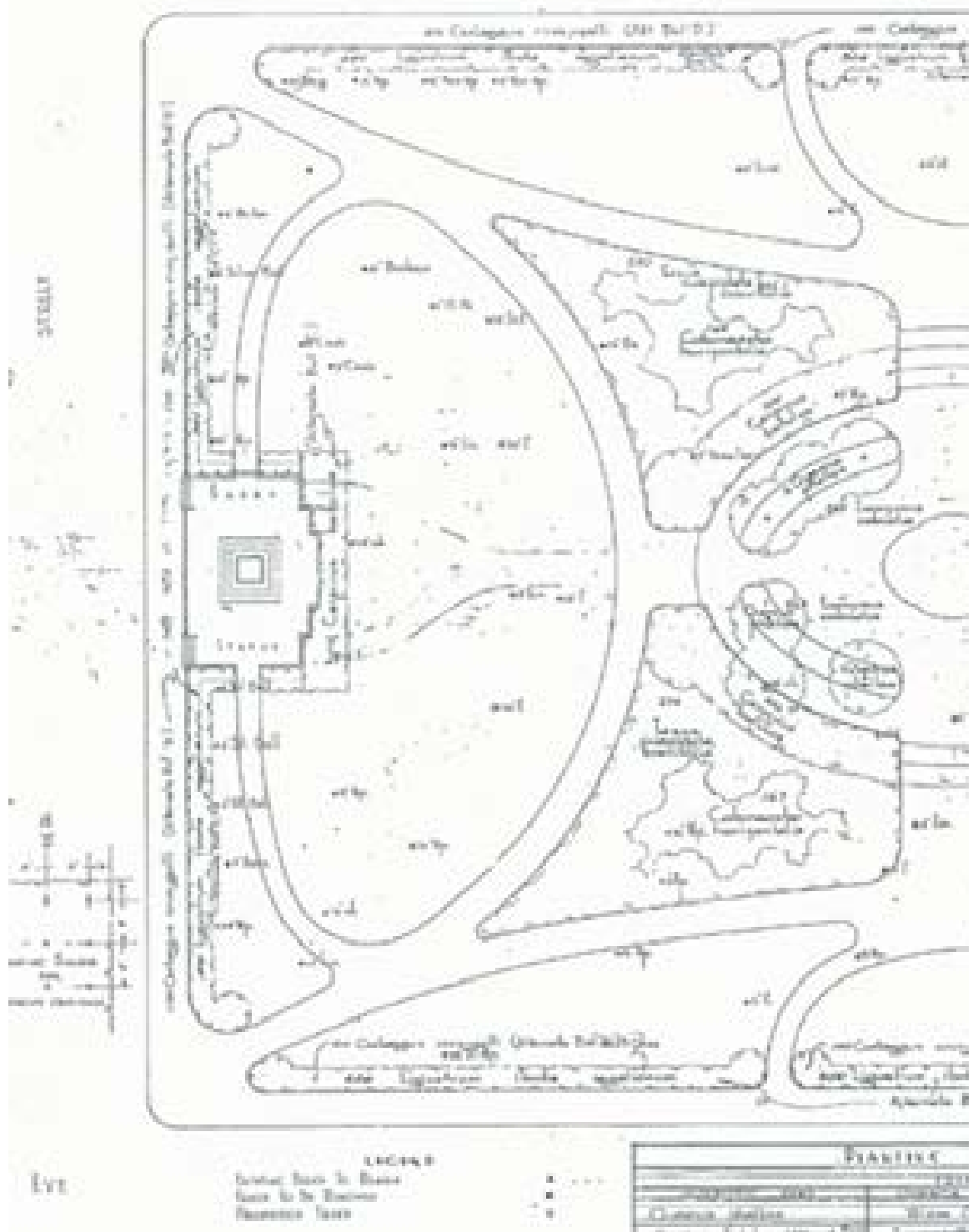
Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Franklin Park

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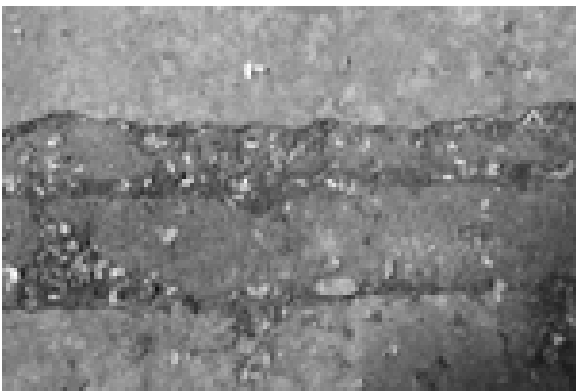
The original circulation plan of Franklin Park was curvilinear and irregular. On this 1886 plan, the spring(s) and its reservoir appear in the upper center. (CLP digital photo, "1886 plan showing spring, cropped")



The existing circulation system of Franklin Park was designed in 1935 and installed the following year. This plan also shows the vegetation planted at that time, which has since changed a great deal. (TIC 812_1687 Franklin 1935 plan copy)



Axial views from the plaza are framed by trees and lightposts. This view looks east to the Franklin School, on the left. (March 2004; CLP digital photofile "Franklin Park/CLI/circulation/view to east")



In areas on the walks where the 1976 synthetic bitumen paving has broken off, expansion joints of the 1936 asphalt paving are visible. (July 2004; CLP digital photofile "Franklin Park/CLI/circulation/pavement joint")

Vegetation

First Planting Design, 1886-1880

Landscaping of Franklin Square began soon after the Civil War ended, with the result that, in a very short time, the empty square was transformed into a lush Victorian park. By 1866, the landscape had been “laid out by the public gardener” following a plan drawn up by Col. Benjamin B. French, Engineer Officer of the OPBG. The plan may have been based somewhat on the picturesque design of 1852 prepared for Lafayette Park by famed American

horticulturist Andrew Jackson Downing. The 1868 Annual Report provided a description of Franklin Park at that time: “The undulating character of the surface will always add a great charm to its appearance. . . . A large number of trees of different species have been set out, and in the course of time various kinds of shrubbery will be planted.”

In 1873, a “quantity of ornamental plants” was planted around the fountain. (Annual Report 1873) Hemlock hedges were installed to screen the curved walks leading to the restrooms and provide privacy. Further grading was carried out and more grass seed sown. Old and partially “decayed aspens” – i.e., cottonwoods – were removed along K Street, and other trees planted in their place. (Annual Report 1873:5-6) By the end of the decade, eighteen flower beds had been laid out on the lawns, supplemented by decorative palms and other subtropical plants. (Annual Report 1880:2340)

Changes and Additions, 1881-1903

Changes continued to be made to Franklin Park’s plantings throughout the late nineteenth century. In the 1880s, eighteen urns to hold specimen plants were distributed throughout the downtown parks, including Franklin. Some specimen plants or species were removed in 1888 – “Chinese” arborvitae (probably oriental arborvitae, *Platycladus orientalis*), balsam fir (*Abies balsamea*), and “Norway fir” (likely Norway spruce, *Picea abies*). When the hemlock hedges that screened the restroom entrances died, they were replaced with hedges of arborvitae. In 1890, ninety trees were transplanted in the park. “Unightly” shrubs and evergreens were removed in 1893, including some large “decaying” cottonwoods along the I Street sidewalk, which were cut down “in response to a petition from prominent citizens living in the vicinity”. (Annual Report 1893:4322) Eight more “unightly” trees were removed the next year, and privet hedges were planted on the east and west sides of the lodge (probably replacing the arborvitae hedges of several years earlier). For a period in the 1890s, goldfish and waterlilies were placed in the fountain basins of Franklin Park and Farragut Square.

The first detailed list of downtown parks and their trees and shrubs was included with the 1894 Annual Report. By this time, Franklin Square was considered “highly improved.” It had gas lights throughout, two drinking fountains, and the watchman’s lodge with restrooms. The fountain was equipped with “French jets,” and the “lawn surfaces” were “planted with choice ornamental evergreen and deciduous trees and shrubs, interspersed with beds and borders for summer planting of decorative flowering and foliated plants; asphalt and gravel walks on lines of travel through [the] park.” (Annual Report 1894:3295)

More dead and dying trees and shrubs were removed in 1895. Five of the eighteen flowerbeds were replaced with sod in 1897 because their locations had proved to be too shady. A “fence” – probably low trespass irons – was erected around the flower border that surrounded the fountain, and the lodge was floored with concrete. Two more “decayed” trees were removed in 1903.

Barry Monument Planting

National Capital Parks landscape architect George Burnap developed a planting plan for the Barry Monument in April, 1914. (Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr., Commission of Fine Arts member and the landscape architect who played perhaps the most important role in District planning in the first half of the twentieth century, conferred on the monument's setting with the sculptor, John Boyle, and the architect, Edward Casey.) The Burnap plan used evergreens, including white and mugo pines, hemlock, juniper, and holly, to create a dark framework enlivened with seasonal color from such plants as azaleas, rhododendrons, purple beech, and rugosa rose. Two beds were symmetrically arranged on either of the monument and a third was located behind it. A pair of elms was to be placed behind the statue as a further enframing, but it is not clear if these were ever planted. Sometime between 1914 and 1934 – no more specific date has yet been determined – crabapple trees were planted along the park's west side, at either side of the Barry Monument. (See "Planting Plan of Barry Monument," Burnap, April 9, 1914; also NCP 18-66, rev. Feb. 20, 1956.)

Increased Planting, 1915-1919

Planting in Franklin Park continued apace in the following years. In 1915, one hundred ninety-seven trees and shrubs were planted around the lodge. Three evergreen trees were planted in 1916; nine evergreen and thirty-eight deciduous shrubs in 1917; and in 1918, "four large evergreen trees previously growing on the terrace of the Executive Mansion" were moved to Franklin Park. (A single new evergreen shrub was planted that year as well.)

A plan dating from September 1918 appears to record current conditions, and shows how greatly the park differed from its state today. A Y-shaped walk had been built leading east from the Barry Monument; there was no corresponding walk on the east side. The round fountain was located slightly off-center within the web of curvilinear walks. Shrubs such as roses, lilacs, spirea, forsythia, Cornelian cherry, and crape myrtle, and beds of annuals and perennials, including begonias and marigolds, were placed at various points along walks, primarily at intersections and entrances from the perimeter sidewalks. Numerous ornamental trees were massed on the lawn areas, such as flowering peach and fringe tree. Several Canadian hemlocks had been planted. Norway maples grew along the park's K Street boundary (since replaced by zelkovas) and oaks along 13th Street.

In 1919, seventy-five deciduous and three evergreen shrubs were added. By the following year, many shrubs had died – one-hundred seventeen evergreen, and sixty or more deciduous. These were removed and "new material planted," but types were not specified. (Annual Report 1915:3713; AR 1918:3779; AR 1920)

Redesign, 1936

After this flurry of activity, little planting was done for the next ten years, and by the early

1930s, Franklin Park was considered one of the city's most rundown reservations. Its walks were greatly deteriorated, its lawns overgrown, and its trees "rotting and unpruned". (Olszewski 1970:29) A plan dated October, 1935 (#1687) shows an extensive planting of *Ligustrum ibota regelianum* hedges lining all the park's street boundaries. Within the redesigned walk system, the three ellipses along with the two segmental walks at north and south resulted in four triangular areas of ground located around the plaza. This plan shows these four plots bordered by *taxus*, with *cotoneaster* growing in the centers. It is not known how much, if any, of this work was carried out.

A "spot plan for tree surgery work" was prepared in 1934 (Olszewski 1970:31), and in spring 1935, planning for the complete rehabilitation of Franklin Park began with the award of a \$75,000 grant from the Public Works Administration. The final plan was selected from among four alternatives prepared by the staff of National Capital Parks, following consultation with the Commission of Fine Arts and the National Capital Park and Planning Commission. Designated "Public Works Federal Project No. 641," the plan allotted funding in two contracts, one for construction, mainly of a new walk system and fountain, and the other, in the amount of \$26,450, for planting – the removal of trees, the purchase and planting of new trees and shrubs, the addition of top soil, etc.

Work began early in 1936 and was completed by summer of that year. Fifteen trees were removed and two were transplanted to provide room for the new walkways. New trees included nine willow oaks designated for the four curvilinear planting areas of the new paved fountain plaza, and 800 European hornbeams, most of which were used to create hedges around the outer border of the plaza. The ranks of willow oaks and the dense hornbeam hedges reinforced the central space by creating a sense of enclosure. Other new plant material included 630 rock cotoneasters, 900 dwarf Japanese yews, and 1055 winter creepers. (Olszewski 1970:33-34)

On the whole, the planting plan was far more regular and less random than before. The plan used a few major deciduous species, rather than the variety of native and non-native ornamentals which had previously dominated the palette. Most trees were planted to reinforce the lines of the streets, the major walks, and the plaza. Some were clustered at corners or intersections of walks. The only shrubs were the thick four hornbeam hedges around the plaza, which extended somewhat along the east-west walk. Ten years later, another planting rehabilitation plan reflected the radical changes resulting from the 1930s work ("Franklin Square, Planting Rehabilitation," Sept. 4, 1946, 812/1863). The *ligustrum* hedges along the streets – if they had ever existed – had been removed.

Rehabilitation, 1946

Nevertheless, after the rehabilitation the park's planting plan did not have a rigid symmetry. Variations existed from east to west and from north to south. For example, many elms were planted in the west loop, while the east side had more oaks. Maples and ginkgos occupied the

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tree spaces along 14th Street, maples and American elms grew along K street, and some unspecified oaks were planted along I Street (these strips of land are owned by the District). On the north, zelkovas framed the central mid-block walk leading to the plaza, and on the south, sophora was paired with Scotch elm as framing elements for the walk. Sophoras were planted in the outer corners of the four triangular areas around the plaza. Trees were clustered behind the lodge at the east. Overall, though, the plan relied on the use of several major deciduous tree species to provide a framework that reinforced the walk system. Within this framework grew one or a few specimens of other, more picturesque species.

Later Plantings, 1956 and 1974

A plan numbered 18-66, apparently dated March 21, 1956, shows the four inner triangles densely planted with azaleas (titled "Planting Rearrangement," the scanned version is difficult to read; NCP 18-66, an earlier version of Feb. 20, 1956, also depicts azaleas along the Barry Monument walks and in the north half-circle of lawn, along K Street). The azalea beds appear in photographs from this decade. Some azaleas may have been moved to other areas of the park in later years, but all are long gone.

Before the current activity, the most recent planting work undertaken at Franklin Park occurred in 1974, when a large number of new and replacement trees were added: five Atlas cedars, six European beeches (including two purple beeches), two tulip trees, three Northern red oaks, eleven willow oaks, twelve more sophoras, fourteen zelkovas, and seven littleleaf lindens. Flowering trees included dogwoods, three varieties of crabapples, Southern magnolias, star magnolias, and deciduous Kobus magnolias. One hundred *Osmanthus heterophyllus* replaced the hornbeam in the hedges.

Current Conditions, 2005

Today, Franklin Park's planting plan retains high integrity to the plan laid out in 1936 and augmented in 1946. Several large deciduous trees planted before 1935 remain, mostly willow oaks and American elms, along the park's north and south sides. The willow oaks around the plaza date from the 1936 rehabilitation. A huge swamp white oak, noted on a 1945 plan as already having a thirty-four-inch diameter, still stands behind the Barry monument, providing a dramatic backdrop for the sculpture. An unusual variety of sycamore, which has shed all of its outer bark, grows in the northeast corner. By 1946, more willow oaks, along with zelkovas and sophoras, had been planted along the walks, concentrated at the four corners. There are no shrubs remaining in Franklin Park.

Following recommendations made by the Downtown Parks Task Force, a number of changes began to be made to the park's vegetation in 2003-2004. A major goal was to reinforce the boundary plantings and remove certain evergreens that blocked views into the park. Another aim was to raise the canopy to create filtered sunlight rather than the deep shade which has existed in many areas of the park. The greater amount of light will improve the health of the

lawns, large expanses of which are now bare ground. Hollies and evergreen magnolias were removed from the park's east side where they were blocking views across the park. Red oaks have been added along 13th Street and crabapples have removed. Along the south boundary, American beeches and star magnolias have been removed. Lindens, American elms, and willow oaks have been added to reestablish this visual border and to frame the entrance to the north-south promenade. A couple of lindens have been added to the southwest. On the north, zelkovas were added to the line of zelkovas already along K Street, and two more Kobus magnolias have been planted. A tulip poplar (*Liriodendron tulipifera*) will be planted on the west lawn where one stood historically. A floral display will be installed around the perimeter of the plaza, where the hedges were historically planted, to provide color to draw people into the park and to help focus attention on the plaza and fountain. In the plaza itself, only two willow oaks will occupy each of the four planting beds so that the trees do not appear crowded. Only one bed now has three willow oaks, all dating from 1936, and all healthy. None of these trees will be removed, but if the center tree should die, it will not be replaced.

Character-defining Features:

Feature: trees planted before 1936

Feature Identification Number: 102327

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: trees planted after 1936 that do not replace trees from Period of Significance in species and location

Feature Identification Number: 102325

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Feature: lawns

Feature Identification Number: 102324

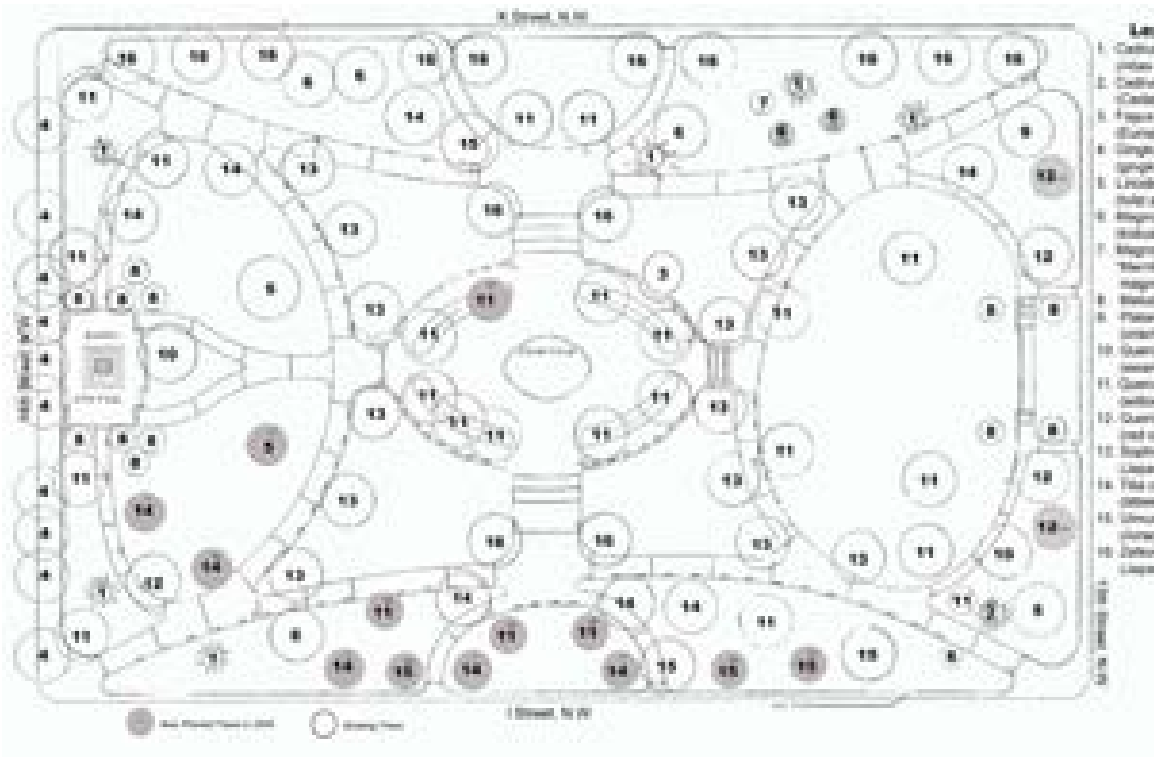
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: trees planted after 1936 that replace the same species in the same location

Feature Identification Number: 102326

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



This plan of the vegetation in Franklin Park notes trees that were added in 2004. ("Veg plan July 2005 final 250")



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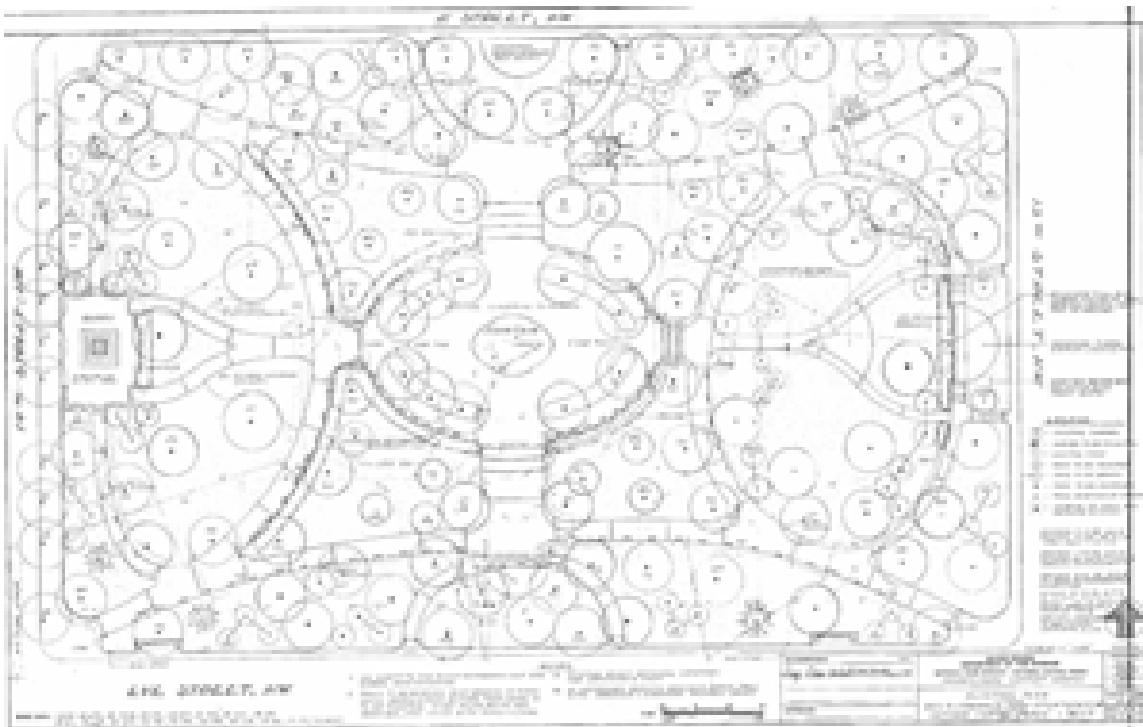
This atlas cedar extends its branches over a walk in the northeast corner of the park. (July 2004; CLP digital photofile "Franklin Park/CLI/vegetation/cedar")



Within the central plaza, and surrounding the fountain, are four planting areas containing willow oaks, most of which date from 1936. (July 2004; CLP digital photofile "Franklin Park/CLI/vegetation/plaza looking W 2")



Among the many fine specimen trees in Franklin Park is this swamp white oak behind the Barry Monument. View is looking west, toward the rear of the monument. (July 2004; CLP digital photofile "Franklin Park/CLI/vegetation/oak behind Barry from SE")



Numerous trees were added in 1974. (TIC 812_1876E; CLP digital image, "Franklin Park planting plan 1974")

Buildings And Structures

Commodore John Barry Monument

The statue of Commodore John Barry, designed by the Irish-American sculptor John J. Boyle (1914), is composed of a bronze portrait figure standing on a tall marble pedestal. The statue occupies the center of a rectangular plaza constructed of pinkish buff marble, crossed with bands of gray marble separating the plaza into three sections. The plaza is surrounded by a low broad curb with posts at the corners. Two flights of three low marble steps lead up to the plaza from the 13th Street sidewalk. A freestanding marble bench behind the statue is supported on five double-scrolled legs. Cast-iron fencing dating from the 1930s runs behind the plaza (described under Small-Scale Features). The figure of Barry on its pedestal and the marble plaza are both contributing features.

Shown surveying the horizon, Barry holds a sheathed sword before him, its point resting on the ground. His uniform represents his service on both land and sea, and his heavy cape billows out behind him. Carved on the front of the pedestal is a female allegorical figure of Victory, clad in classical draperies and standing on the prow of a ship, her draperies blown behind her. In her right hand she holds a laurel branch representing liberty, and in her left is a sheathed sword “symbolizing a splendid service rendered to the young Republic” (sculptor Boyle’s description, quoted from dedication program, in Olszewski 1970:28; copy of program in NCR files, and in Evening Star, May 17, 1914). To her right is a large eagle, another symbol of liberty, and behind her are clusters of laurel and oak leaves. On the pedestal below this figure is a plaque bearing the inscription: “John Barry/Commodore U.S. Navy/Born County Wexford Ireland 1745/Died in Philadelphia 1803.” The marble of the female figure, and of other marble features, is eroded.

Considered the Father of the U.S. Navy, Commodore John Barry (1765-1818) was an emigrant Irish merchant seaman who rose to the position of commander during the American Revolution and outfitted the first Continental fleet. Congress authorized construction of a Barry memorial in June 1906, and appropriated five thousand dollars for a statue to be erected on public ground in the District of Columbia. It is not known why Franklin Park was selected as the site, nor why the statue was placed at one end of the nearly five-acre rectangle. One reason may have been because a major trolley line ran north-south on 14th Street, and thus this location would have gotten considerable public exposure (information from Eve Barsoum, March 2004). The HABS Report for Franklin Park states that landscape architect George Burnap insisted that the statue be placed in this location, “probably in response to criticism from the Senate Park Commission,” which had written:

“the sculptural decorations (in the reservations) have seldom been treated as part of the design, but have been inserted as independent objects valued for their historic or memorial qualities or sometimes for their individual beauty, regardless of the effect on their surroundings.” (Senate Park Commission Report, p. 30)

Burnap himself, in his 1916 book “Parks, Their Design, Equipment, and Use,” wrote: “In

America, we have the horrid habit of placing an equestrian statue to some war hero or another in the exact center of every park . . . a park is a park and should not be made into a setting for a statue.” (Burnap 172)

He continued:

“The new Barry Statue in Washington is an example of a statue facing the street, the landscape background of which serves simultaneously as the outskirts planting of the park. It would be a simple problem in design to compose similar exedras facing into the park, becoming thereby a part of the screen or framing of the park and not in themselves the dominating motive.” (Burnap 180)

A Barry Statue Commission invited twenty-five Irish-American artists to participate in a competition. Boyle, of New York City, won first prize in December 1910. In November 1911, following approval by the commission and the Commission of Fine Arts (founded only the previous year), Boyle was awarded a contract to design the statue, pedestal, and Victory figure. (Olszewski 1970:21, 24) Edward P. Casey served as architect for the project and Irving W. Payne as landscape architect, though landscape architect George Burnap – like Payne, an employee of National Capital Parks – also prepared landscape plans for the enframing plantings (no longer extant). The foundation, pedestal, and plaza were completed by December 1913, ready for the statue to be installed and dedicated the next spring. The bronze figure of Barry was cast by the Roman Bronze Company of Brooklyn, New York. (Olszewski 1970:26)

The decision to erect a monument to Barry may have been a result of a national effort in the early twentieth century by American Catholics to achieve public recognition for contributions made by Catholics to American history. The church and the Knights of Columbus were heavily involved in the creation of the large Columbus Fountain that stands in front of Union Station (1912, Lorado Taft). The involvement of such organizations in the establishment of the Barry Monument is not known; however, research for this inventory was limited, and further investigation might prove useful (information from Eve Barsoum, March 2004; also Kauffman 1982: op. cit.).

Character-defining Features:

- Feature: Commodore John Barry Monument and pedestal
- Feature Identification Number: 101685
- Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing
- IDLCS Number: 7317
- LCS Structure Name: Barry (Commodore John) Memorial-Res. 9
- LCS Structure Number: 00910001

- Feature: Barry statue plaza including bench

Feature Identification Number: 101684

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



The Commodore John Barry Monument faces 14th Street from the center of a small marble plaza. An allegorical victory figure adorns its pedestal. (July 2004; CLP digital photofile "Franklin Park/CLI/B&S/Barry Mon and plaza reduced")

Views And Vistas

Unlike the other L'Enfant parks, such as Lafayette Park, Farragut Square, McPherson Square, and Lincoln Park, on the L'Enfant Plan, Franklin Park was not designated an open area along an avenue or placed at the intersection of major avenues. Instead, it was unique in having been retained as open space to protect a spring. Views, therefore, have not played a major role in its design and development. The major views in the park include views from the park walkways and the sidewalks to the fountain plaza, and views from the fountain and central plaza along the walks, particularly along the shorter north-south axis. Recent removal of evergreen trees was undertaken to create clear views into and through the park, to enhance visitors' feeling of safety, and to make the park more inviting.

When the park was first developed in the 1860s and 1870s, its visual character would have been defined in part by the surrounding houses. Most of these would have been the three- or four-story brick and stone rowhouses typical of Victorian Washington. Later, commercial and institutional structures were built around the park. Only one historic structure, the Franklin School, today remains in its historic location, facing the park's northeast side. Most other buildings are recently constructed twelve-story office building, so the character of the views from the park to its surroundings, has changed greatly.

Character-defining Features:

Feature: views from north and south to fountain

Feature Identification Number: 102329

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: view from surrounding sidewalks to fountain

Feature Identification Number: 102328

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: views through park

Feature Identification Number: 102330

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Benches and trees, including the flowering deciduous magnolias visible here, line the sweeping walks that extend the length of the park along the north and south. View looking NW. (April 2004; CLP digital photofile "Franklin Park/CLI/V&V/view to NW")



Broad walks leading to the plaza emphasize the central north-south cross axis. (CLP digital photofile "Franklin Park/photos spring 2003/DSCN4139 south axis bw 200")

Small Scale Features

Curbing, Fencing, and Retaining Wall

Franklin Park has a small number of contributing small-scale features. The concrete quarter-round curbing (historically called “coping”) along the outer edges of the grass panels was originally installed in 1904 or 1905 to replace the high cast-iron fence that had surrounded the park since at least 1872. (Because the Annual Reports of the OPBG were printed mid-year, it is not always clear in what calendar year changes were made, hence the use of “1904-1905”.) The curbing was replaced in kind using exposed-aggregate concrete in 1990. Not all of the curbing has maintained the original quarter-round curve, illustrated by plans and sections in the 1905 Annual Report of the Chief of Engineers (see photo). The curbing has low integrity, but it should be considered contributing since it was replaced in kind.

Sections of modern post-and-chain fencing line the south plaza steps and run along the adjoining walks. The fencing is a type currently used in downtown parks, composed of simple steel posts surmounted by pointed “acorn” caps, with chains attached to steel loops beneath them on both sides of the posts. Posts and chains are painted black.

Sections of decorative cast-iron fence remain in the park on the west side, behind the Barry Statue, bordering the marble plaza. These fences date from 1936 and are composed of panels defined at both ends by relatively heavy posts, with a thinner post in the center. Each panel is divided into five bays by vertical balusters on each side of this central post. Along the top runs a simple, open fascia element, containing scrollwork in some panels. Finials top the balusters. The fencing was manufactured by the Anchor Fence Company of Baltimore.

A single rock-faced stone ashlar retaining wall runs along the northeast quadrant of the central plaza, at the point where the grade rises the most abruptly. The wall is topped by a broad, rough-faced coping, and incorporates a curved section in the center that probably accommodated an existing tree (the beech which stands in this area now is relatively young). The wall was built in 1936 at the time the fountain plaza and other park features were rebuilt.

Lighting

A few historic photographs suggest the variety of lights formerly used in Franklin Park. Two photographs of 1907 depict the combination light post/drinking fountain, commonly the first type of light used in the downtown parks (see History section). A tall, square, classical pedestal of molded brick had a spigot in the shape of a lion's head. From the pedestal rose a short classical column (probably made of cast iron) surmounted by a large hexagonal lantern. The lantern had a curving iron hood topped with a decorative finial.

Another light visible in historic photographs had a post shaped like a crook that terminated in a large openwork scroll. Hanging from the scroll was a pendant electric fixture. Similar types of lights were common in New York City, and are referred to as "Bishop's Crooks." This same style of light was used in Lincoln Park on Capitol Hill, visible in a 1907 photograph.

In Washington, as in other American cities, electric arc lights (in which a filament was suspended between two wires) began to be installed in the 1890s. The newer system existed alongside the older gas lights for many years. The most common type of electric arc light in the city had a classical fluted post surmounted by a translucent glass globe. Several of these appear in photographs of Franklin Park from the early twentieth century, up to 1930. It does not appear that Franklin Park ever had the Washington Standard light, with its classically molded and fluted post and urn-shaped globe, developed in 1923 and still the standard light used throughout the District.

All lights now in the park are a type known as the "Saratoga," the variety installed during the 1930s rehabilitation. The current lights were installed in 1990/91, replacing a more modern type, the so-called "mushroom" light, brand name "Style King". These, in turn, had replaced the original Saratogas in 1968. ("Lighting Plan," Nov. 19, 1968, #80072, outlined the replacement of fourteen Saratogas with twenty-seven "Style King" lights.)

The aluminum Saratoga lights have a cylindrical lamp held between a steel bottom and a top in the form of a conical cap that has two concave curves in profile. The poles and the high conical bases are fluted. A few of the Saratoga light posts support the urn-shaped Washington Globe lamps; these were probably used by mistake. (The Saratoga lights in Franklin Park were manufactured by VISCO of Eugene, Oregon, according to an undated memo found in material gathered from National Mall & Memorial Parks (formerly NACC files: Jeff Young, Electrical Engineer, Design Services, NCR, to Superintendent NACC.)

Standard cobra-head streetlights project over the surrounding roads. A single Washington Standard light is located on 14th Street.

Benches

The benches staggered along the park's walks are all are of a standard NPS style developed for the National Capital Parks and originally installed here in 1936. What proportion of the current benches are replacements in kind, or include replaced materials, is not known; probably most of the wood slats have been replaced over the years. The benches have cast-iron frames and wood slat backs and seats. Curved struts join front and back legs, and the struts terminate in simple scrolls. The iron frameworks are painted black, and the slats are stained dark. Because the walks are twelve feet wide, the benches stand directly on them, rather than on individual pads set on the bordering lawns.

Trash Receptacles

The park's trash receptacles are tulip-style, with cylindrical wood-slat containers holding steel cans supported on single posts. They date from the 1960s, and most are in poor condition.

Drinking fountains

Until 2003/2004, Franklin Park had at least two cast-concrete Art Deco-style drinking fountains in the form of short octagonal cylinders that rose in four tiers and had battered sides. The fountains probably dated from the 1936 rehabilitation, and were a standard type that had been developed for use throughout the National Capital Parks.

The four drinking fountains now in the park are recent replacements. The type is handicap accessible, with an enameled steel cylinder forming a central post. Projecting from this is a steel arm supporting a round basin. The drinking fountains are located at the intersections of walks, on the four interior triangular lawn panels.

Other – Squirrel Basins, Signs, Utility Boxes, Etc.

Two small concrete basins were placed in the northeast quadrant of the park in 1907 to provide drinking water for squirrels. These contributing features still exist: one is on the northeast interior side of the elliptical walk; the other is on the north side of the walk, closer to the fountain.

In May 1928, the District of Columbia was authorized to install a fire and police alarm box near the lodge on 13th St. These cast-iron boxes used the bases of historic gas lights as supports. Currently, a historic alarm box stands on the sidewalk near the curb at the corner of 13th and I Streets. This is probably the historic box, but it is now located on D.C. property. The alarm box is now empty, as is the case with all these structures remaining in the city.

Three modern steel-and-Plexiglas bus shelters are located on the periphery of the park. One is near the northeast corner, on a concrete apron that extends in from the sidewalk onto park property. Others stand on the sidewalks along 13th Street, near the park's northwest corner, and at 14th and I Streets, at the southwest corner.

Two steel utility boxes are located at the east side of the park, and a third stands southeast of the plaza. Also southeast of the plaza is a low metal cover or plate on the ground, and a number of capped pipes.

A variety of regulatory signs stand in or near the park, including signs for bus stops, traffic, and parking regulations. Most are located on sidewalks, which are D.C. property. One prominent sign on the sidewalk at the park's northwest corner gives the park's name as "Franklin Square." This sign is a type used in other parts of downtown area, and is composed of a heavy black steel pole supporting a frame, topped by a ball finial, that holds a blue sign with white lettering. (On the east of 13th Street, in front of the Franklin School, stands a wayside that offers a concise yet thorough illustrated history of the neighborhood.)

Character-defining Features:

Feature: benches

Feature Identification Number: 101689

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 046810

LCS Structure Name: Franklin Square - Bench (114) - Res. 9

LCS Structure Number: 00910000

Feature: Saratoga lights

Feature Identification Number: 102319

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 046812

LCS Structure Name: Franklin Square-Light Standard (34) - Res. 9

LCS Structure Number: 00910000

Feature: retaining wall

Feature Identification Number: 102318

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: quarter-round curbing

Feature Identification Number: 102317

Franklin Park
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Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: cast-iron fence behind Barry statue

Feature Identification Number: 102281

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 046809

LCS Structure Name: Franklin Square - Fence - Res. 9

LCS Structure Number: 00910000

Feature: two squirrel water basins

Feature Identification Number: 102322

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: trash receptacles

Feature Identification Number: 102321

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Feature: post-and-chain fencing

Feature Identification Number: 102316

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Feature: drinking fountains

Feature Identification Number: 102314

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Feature: utility boxes

Feature Identification Number: 102323

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Feature: signs

Feature Identification Number: 102320

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Feature: bus shelter

Feature Identification Number: 101690

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Feature: pipes

Feature Identification Number: 102315

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



The Saratoga lightposts, installed in the early 1990s, reproduce the park's historic lighting from the 1936. (April 2004; CLP digital photofile "Franklin Park/CLI/SSF/Saratoga light post and crabapples")



Franklin Park

National Mall & Memorial Parks - L'Enfant Plan Reservations

This bench style, from 1936 rehabilitation, is still used in the park. Tulip-style trash receptacles (1960s) are in poor condition. The two Kobus magnolias were planted in 2004. (July 2004; CLP dig. photo "Franklin Park/CLI/SSF/benches can and new mags")



This rough-faced ashlar stone retaining wall extends along the plaza's northeast quadrant and incorporates a rounded projection, allowing for tree roots. (July 2004; CLP digital photofile "Franklin Park/CLI/SSF/stone wall looking W")



Recent (1990) replacement of the historic curbing surrounding the park's grass panels failed to maintain the historic quarter-round profile and does not terminate in corner posts. (July 2004; CLP digital photofile "Franklin Park/CLI/SSF/curbs 1")

Constructed Water Features

The elliptical ornamental fountain that forms the central feature of Franklin Park was installed in 1936 as part of the Public Works Administration-funded rehabilitation of the park. It replaced a smaller, circular fountain that dated from the 1870s and occupied roughly the same location. This fountain had a coping of red granite imported from Aberdeen, Scotland, and was described in the 1875 Annual Report of the Chief Engineer, OPBG, as “finely executed [and] ornamental”. Historic photographs show a craggy mass of presumably artificial rocks piled in the fountain’s center; from this sprayed a broad jet of water.

The fountain was replaced during the park’s rehabilitation in 1936. While he likely had no direct influence on the placement of the new fountain in Franklin Park, George Burnap’s observations on the benefits of fountains in parks, in his 1916 book “Parks: Their Design, Equipment, and Use,” may be illuminating. Burnap disliked the use of statues of military heroes as the focal points of parks. (Burnap 172) He recommended, instead, using fountains, allegorical statues, and urns, features which could be viewed in the round. He particularly commended fountains because they offer visual delight and give the impression of cooling. (Burnap 206, 208) Fountains, Burnap wrote, “should be dominating and forceful, suggesting the energy and action of the environment.” They should be placed “to accent or emphasize some radial or focal point of the design such as may occur at the intersection of formal walks or at the end of promenades or vistas. . . . a fountain illogically placed will inevitably appear errant and astray.” (Burnap 82, 218)

The current fountain stands in the center of the oval flagstone-paved plaza. The sandstone coping is composed of an upstanding molded rim and a broad, spreading collar, and the center sections of the fountain’s long sides project slightly. Rehabilitation of the fountain was funded by the Franklin Square Association in 1991. Today the fountain’s buff-colored stone shows some cracking and spalling. It is outfitted with three multi-headed jets, two at the sides and one in the center. The two “French” jets on either side are original, 1936 elements (a definition of the term “French jet” has not been found). The central jet was added as part of the 1991 rehabilitation.

Character-defining Features:

Feature:	fountain
Feature Identification Number:	101688
Type of Feature Contribution:	Contributing
IDLCS Number:	046811
LCS Structure Name:	Franklin Square - Fountain - Res. 9
LCS Structure Number:	00910000

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Franklin Park's first fountain was installed in 1873; it had a coping of imported Scottish granite and a central pile of rocks. At left is typical D.C. electric arc lamp. (CLP digital photofile "Franklin Park/CLI/water feature/historic fountain in 1930")



The current fountain, from 1936, is more carefully integrated into the park's design than the original. The center fountain jets were added in 1988. (July 2004; CLP digital photofile "Franklin Park/CLI/water feature/fountain looking W")

Condition

Condition Assessment and Impacts

Condition Assessment: Good

Assessment Date: 09/19/2005

Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:

Recent rehabilitation work carried out in Franklin Park has used available information, including the draft of the CLI, to adapt the 1936 plan to meet modern conditions. Some original features, such as interior benches and hedges, have not been restored. Some non-contributing features, such as certain trees, have been removed.

The Assessment Date refers to the date that the park superintendent concurred with the Condition Assessment. The Date Recorded information refers to the date when condition was first assessed by the author of the report.

Condition Assessment: Fair

Assessment Date: 09/19/2011

Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:

Social trails and the walkways are the major issues affecting the condition of the park. Multiple social trails and soil compaction have damaged a number of the lawn panels. The walkways are in need of repaving throughout the park. The walks are currently cracked and there are numerous potholes.

The park benches are generally in good condition though some are in need of repainting and a few are missing.

Impacts

Type of Impact: Deferred Maintenance

External or Internal: Internal

Impact Description: Most walks are damaged and in need of repaving. Many of the benches are in need of repainting or repair and a few are missing. The squirrel baths need to be cleared of debris and repaired.

Type of Impact: Erosion

External or Internal: Internal

Impact Description: Multiple social trails are found throughout the park leaving portions of lawn panels, or in some cases nearly the entire panel, bare.

Type of Impact:	Improper Drainage
External or Internal:	Internal
Impact Description:	Water pools in many places on the lawns and on the Barry Monument plaza.
Type of Impact:	Vandalism/Theft/Arson
External or Internal:	External
Impact Description:	At least one tree has been damaged by graffiti.
Type of Impact:	Adjacent Lands
External or Internal:	External
Impact Description:	High-rise office buildings surround the park. Though these structures help define the urban square, they block sunlight at certain hours. The heavy shade created may impede plant growth and may deter people from visiting the park in the cooler months (or, conversely, could encourage them to visit in hot weather).
Type of Impact:	Visitation
External or Internal:	Internal
Impact Description:	Franklin Park has a large number of daily visitors. Because of its location within the central business district, thousands of office workers pass through the park. It also attracts many visitors and lunchtime picnickers, and serves as a gathering place for bicycle couriers. Indigent persons frequent the park, which presents challenges for park management.
Type of Impact:	Pollution
External or Internal:	External
Impact Description:	Air pollution has eroded the marble features of the Barry Memorial pedestal.

Stabilization Costs

Cost Date: 04/13/2004
Level of Estimate: C - Similar Facilities
Cost Estimator: Regional Office

Landscape Stabilization Cost Explanatory Description:

An estimate prepared by the Downtown Business Improvement District includes estimates for replacement of 20-26 trash receptacles at a total cost of \$20,000. The 1995 LCS (#46810) listed 114 benches, with an interim repair cost of \$500 and \$2000 ultimate cost for repair. Updated in 2002 after bench slats had been replaced, the LCS currently lists a cost of \$500 per bench for repair. The BID estimate also includes costs for Shade Trees and Planting (\$10,000) and Walk Removal, Soil Preparation, and Seeding (\$18,000), but this work has been completed.

Treatment

Treatment

Approved Treatment: Rehabilitation
Approved Treatment Document: Other Document
Document Date: 01/29/2004

Approved Treatment Document Explanatory Narrative:

Project Title: "Rehabilitate Franklin Park Sidewalks," PMIS 107640

Approved Treatment Completed: No

Approved Treatment Costs

Landscape Treatment Cost: 436,352.72
Cost Date: 01/29/2004
Level of Estimate: C - Similar Facilities
Cost Estimator: Park/FMSS

Landscape Approved Treatment Cost Explanatory Description:

The rehabilitation plan developed by National Mall & Monument Parks calls for the removal of all existing sidewalks and the installation of new five-inch-thick Portland cement concrete sidewalks. The existing sidewalks are deteriorated and not repairable; they are severely cracked and warped with tripping hazards present throughout the park (2004-2005).

Bibliography and Supplemental Information

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- Year of Publication:** 1818
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Source Name: Library Of Congress/Dewey Decimal
- Citation Author:** George Burnap
Citation Title: Parks: Their Design, Equipment, and Use
Year of Publication: 1916
Citation Publisher: Lippincott
Source Name: Library Of Congress/Dewey Decimal
Citation Type: Both Graphic And Narrative
Citation Location: private collection

Citation Author: n/a

Citation Title: "Franklin Park" folder in Beautification Files

Year of Publication: 0

Citation Publisher: n/a

Source Name: Other

Citation Number: n/a

Citation Type: Both Graphic And Narrative

Citation Location: The Beautification Files, records of work carried out in the National Capital Parks under the Beautification Program begun under the Lyndon B. Johnson administration, are held in the NCR Cultural Landscapes Program office.

Supplemental Information

Title: letter, Conrad Wirth, NPS, to Joseph Donohue, D.C. Board of Commissioners, Nov. 24, 1952

Description: Nov. 24, 1952

Hon. F. Joseph Donohue, President
Board of Commissioners of the District of Columbia
District Building
Washington 4, D.C.

My dear Mr. Donohue:

I have received your letter of October 15, referring to preliminary plans and a proposal by the firm of Morrison-Knudsen to construct an underground parking garage at Franklin Square Park.

I must inform you that we will oppose the use of Franklin Square Park, or any other park lands, for commercial purposes such as is proposed in your letter. The park lands in Washington, especially in the old City, play a vital part in the character of the National Capital. A garage with a roof garden on it cannot, and will not, serve in their place.

Everyday, we are confronted with proposals from commercial interests to use park lands to save the cost of real estate in furthering their projects. We have no objection to their trying to obtain public lands for such purposes, but we cannot agree that they should be permitted to succeed. Franklin Square park is needed by the general public for park purposes, even more today than it was when originally set aside. We should be grateful to the founders of the National Capital for setting aside areas such as this for park purposes. The entire basic concept of park development and park use dictates against such use as has been proposed.

I appreciate your submitting this matter to me, and I am sorry that I cannot agree with your request to use Franklin Square Park for garage purposes.

Sincerely yours,

Conrad L Wirth
Director, National Park Service