

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
 NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
 INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

MAR 23 1981

DATE ENTERED

 SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
 TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS
**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

The National Mall

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

CITY, TOWN

Washington, D.C.

VICINITY OF

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

11001**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

**4 AGENCY**REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: *(if applicable)*National Capital Region, National Park Service

STREET &amp; NUMBER

1100 Ohio Drive, S.W.

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Washington, D.C.

VICINITY OF

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE.  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

 FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED    DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The National Mall is located in the area encompassed by Constitution and Pennsylvania Avenues on the north, 1st Street, N.W., on the east, Independence and Maryland Avenues on the south, and 14th Street, N.W., on the west. No longer part of the official Mall grounds is the section of land bordered by Jefferson Drive on the north, Independence Avenue on the south, and by 12th and 14th Streets respectively on the east and west. This property is now administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The Mall itself is a large greensward slightly over one mile in length with a standard width of 1500', but narrowing to approximately 500' at its eastern terminus. It is criss-crossed by a series of roads and paths oriented in either a north-south or east-west direction. Three of the streets which run north to south across the Mall are above ground. These are 3rd, 4th, and 7th Streets. Two others, 9th and 12th Streets, have been diverted beneath the ground. Of the four streets which run east to west across the Mall, only two, Madison and Jefferson Drives, allow motorized traffic. The other two, Washington and Adams Drives, were converted to gravelled pedestrian walkways in the mid-1970s.

A number of structures adorn the Mall including nine museums, two sculpture gardens, an ice rink, and a subway station entrance. The latter consists of a metrorail marker and three sets of escalators leading down to the station below. This station is located just south of Adams Drive, bordering the western side of the tunnelled 12th Street axis.

The nine museums include the Smithsonian "Castle", Arts and Industries Building, Museum of History of Technology, Museum of Natural History, National Air and Space Museum, Hirshhorn Museum, National Gallery of Art, National Gallery of Art--East Building, and the Freer Gallery. These structures, though on Park Service land, are under the jurisdiction of the Smithsonian Institution and the National Gallery of Art. Of these buildings, only the Smithsonian "Castle" and the adjoining Arts and Industries Building are presently listed on the National Register. The other structures were not constructed until the 20th century and have not been nominated to the Register. They are mentioned here for reference only.

Five statues grace the Mall: the Naval Peace Monument, Ulysses S. Grant Memorial, James A. Garfield Statue, Andrew J. Downing Memorial Urn, and Joseph Henry Statue. The first of these three are located in Union Square at the eastern terminus of the Mall property.

At the intersection of 1st Street and Maryland Avenue, S.W., stands the statue to President James Garfield. This 9'-tall bronze memorial shows Garfield facing the west, clutching in his left hand a copy of his Inaugural Address on which is inscribed: "Law, Justice, Prosperity." The baroque pedestal includes three allegorical figures representing Garfield's three careers as scholar, soldier, and statesman.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1791-1976

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Pierre Charles L'Enfant  
The McMillan Commission

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Mall is significant as the central axis of the District's monumental core as designed by Pierre Charles L'Enfant in 1791. L'Enfant envisioned a number of boulevards radiating from central points throughout the city which would provide direct access between major points in the city as well as affording long, panoramic vistas. The Mall was to be the foremost avenue of the city, the so-called "Grand Avenue." It was to run west from the Capitol to a point directly south of the President's House where its terminus would be crowned by an equestrian statue of General George Washington. According to L'Enfant's plan, the Mall was to be "four hundred feet in breadth, and about a mile in length, bordered by gardens, ending in a slope from the houses on each side."

L'Enfant was dismissed as the capital's architect in 1791; however, his plan for the city was retained. A lack of funding prevented much of his design from being realized, though. The Mall, protected from residential development, instead of becoming a magnificent esplanade, was left to languish in its natural state.

During the course of the 19th century, L'Enfant's formal design for the Mall was largely forgotten. Congress, wishing to develop the marshy Mall grounds, began to dispose of land tracts which had hitherto been set aside as parkland. The first land disposed of lay at the foot of the Capitol itself, between 1st and 3rd Streets, N.W. This land was given to the Columbia Institute in 1820 for the purpose of constructing a botanic garden. Two years later, Congress imparted the 20 acres immediately west of the Botanic Gardens, between 3rd and 6th Streets (Reservation D), to the District of Columbia government for development. On this land, two streets running parallel to Pennsylvania and Maryland Avenues were constructed. Land along these streets, designated Missouri and Maine Avenues, was divided into lots and sold.

This ended the first phase of the land disposal. The second phase took place in the 1840s. In response to a large monetary gift to the country by James Smithson, Congress in 1846 donated the part of the Mall between 9th and 12th Streets for the construction of a scientific institution. Two years later, it granted 37 more acres of land to the Washington National Monument Society for the construction of an appropriate memorial to the first president. This tract, located west of 14th Street and directly south of the White House, had been set aside for such a monument by L'Enfant himself, and thus, intentionally or unintentionally, corresponded with the original L'Enfant Plan.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Goode, James M. The Outdoor Sculpture of Washington, D.C. Washington, D.C.: The Smithsonian Institution Press, 1974.
- Olszewski, George J. History of the Mall. Washington, D.C.: United States Department of the Interior, 1970.
- Washington—The Design of the Federal City. National Archives Publication No. 73-1. Washington, D.C., 1972.

**ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED**

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 146.35

UTM REFERENCES

**UTM NOT VERIFIED**

A 1,8 | 3,2,5 | 4,7,0 | 4,3 | 0,6 | 4,9,0

B 1,8 | 3,2,5 | 4,7,0 | 4,3 | 0,6 | 0,1,0

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C 1,8 | 3,2,3 | 7,4,0 | 4,3 | 0,6 | 0,5,0

D 1,8 | 3,2,3 | 7,6,0 | 4,3 | 0,6 | 5,3,0

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Starting at 14th St. and Constitution Avenue, N.W., the boundary line goes east on Constitution Avenue to 3rd St., N.W., thence south to Pennsylvania Avenue, thence southeast along Pennsylvania Avenue to 1st Street, thence south along 1st Street to Maryland Avenue, S.W., thence southwest along Maryland Avenue to 3rd Street, S.W., thence south on 3rd Street to Independence Avenue. From Independence Avenue, one

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Donald C. Pfanz, Clerk-typist

ORGANIZATION

National Capital Region

DATE

February 11, 1981

STREET & NUMBER

1100 Ohio Drive, S.W.

TELEPHONE

202-426-6660

CITY OR TOWN

Washington, D.C.

STATE

# 12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_ NONE \_\_\_\_\_

N/A

Required Documentation for Property Already Listed on the Register.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Historic Preservation Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The evaluated level of significance is National State Local.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

*F. B. Toland*

TITLE

Assistant Director, Cultural Resources

DATE

MAR 20 1981

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

*Lynn H. Becker* for Acting Keeper of the Nat'l Register

DATE

5/19/1981

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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Just north of the Garfield Statue are the Peace Monument and the Grant Memorial. The Peace Monument, located at the intersection of 1st Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., is dedicated to U.S. naval personnel who died in the Civil War. The Grant Memorial, located at the eastern end of the Reflecting Pool, is a major statuary group dedicated to the 18th president. Both of these monuments are already listed on the National Register in the Civil War Statuary of Washington nomination.

The remaining two statues on the Mall both are located adjacent to the Old Smithsonian Building. The first, a memorial to Joseph Henry, the first Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, stands directly north of the building across Jefferson Drive on the axis of 10th Street. The 9' bronze statue shows Henry in academic robes looking toward the north with his left hand resting on a book. Maine red granite and Quincy grey granite comprise the pedestal which is just over 7' in height.

The final statue is a small memorial urn dedicated to Andrew J. Downing, the famous landscape architect who designed the Mall grounds in the early 1850s. It stands along the south side of Jefferson Drive at the northwest corner of the Smithsonian Arts and Industries Building. The carrara marble urn stands 4' tall and is 3' wide at the lip. It is ornamented with an entwined foliate design around the bowl and with egg and dart molding on the lip. It stands atop a 5' tall marble pedestal which is engraved on each of its four sides.

The trapezoidal block east of the Air and Space Museum on the south side of the Mall has been reserved by act of Congress for another Smithsonian structure that will balance the National Gallery's East Building on the north side. Two smaller, mostly underground Smithsonian museum buildings are currently being planned for the space just south of the "Castle," now occupied by a Victorian-style garden and a parking lot.

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Congress' disposal of Mall property was temporarily halted at midcentury by the unrest associated with the Civil War. During much of that period, the Mall grounds were used for military purposes, such as bivouacking and parading troops, slaughtering cattle, and producing arms. Shortly after the war ended, however, the disposal continued.

The third and final phase of disposal dealt with two plots of land. The first, located between 12th and 14th Streets, was granted to the Department of Agriculture in 1866. The DOA constructed a building on the southern section of this tract and used the remainder as an experimental garden. The second plot, a 14-acre tract at 6th and B Streets, N.W., was given to the Baltimore and Potomac Railroad in 1872 for the construction of a depot. The railroad also was granted permission to lay track north to south across part of the Mall.

The same year that the railroad was granted this land parcel another mode of transport, the Washington Canal, ended its residency in the city. The canal formed the northern boundary of the Mall before it altered its course and went south through the eastern Mall grounds on its way to Goose Creek. Originally designed by L'Enfant to bolster the commerce of the city, the canal, which opened in 1815, received little use and was filled for sanitary reasons.

The development of the Mall grounds in the first half of the 19th century precipitated the need for a comprehensive landscaping plan for the public lands. Hence, in 1851 President Millard Fillmore hired New York architect Andrew J. Downing to design a landscaping plan for the Mall and President's Park. Downing's plan, approved in 1852, called for six separate parks connected by a series of undulating walks and roadways. The landscape of these lands was to have a wild, natural disposition of trees, shrubbery, and open lawns. Work on the Downing Plan did not last long. Political and financial difficulties, coupled with the untimely death of the creator, combined in bringing the project to a halt. Part of the Mall--the Smithsonian grounds--was altered in accordance with the Downing Plan however, and despite the fact that the project was never resumed, Downing's informal treatment of the Smithsonian grounds gradually spread to the rest of the Mall.

Thus, by the turn of the century the Mall consisted of a hodgepodge of public, private, and commercial structures connected by a patchwork of naturalistic landscaping "chopped into winding carriage drives and bosky walks--'overgrown Downing' it was called...." The year 1900 was a year of celebration in Washington for that year marked the centennial of the District's role as the Nation's Capital. The centennial celebrations brought the city into the public eye and brought many

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legislators and planners to the realization that the city needed a comprehensive plan for its future development. To this end the Senate Committee on the District of Columbia formed a Commission to develop such a plan. Architect Daniel H. Burnham and Landscape Architect Frederick Law Olmstead, Jr., were appointed to the committee and they in turn chose Architect Charles F. McKim and Sculptor Augustus Saint-Gaudens to assist them. These four men were collectively known as the McMillan Commission. after James McMillan, Chairman of the Senate committee.

The group submitted its report to Congress on January 15, 1902. Their plan called for the restoration, development and supplementation of the "Grand Avenue" ideal proposed by L'Enfant in 1791. The core of the Mall was to be a broad grass carpet, typical of those in Europe, 300' in breadth and running the entire length of the Mall grounds, bordered on each side by four rows of American elm trees. Public buildings were to border the whole, separated from the elms by narrow roadways.

Two plazas were planned east of 14th Street, one between 7th and 9th Streets, and the other at the foot of the Capitol. The latter was to feature statues of Grant, Sheridan, and Sherman, and was to bear the appropriate title of Union Square. Both plazas were to be adorned with fountains and terracing.

The creation of the formal Mall which the McMillan Commission envisioned necessitated the alteration of several features then existing on the grounds. The Commission called for the razing of all structures on Reservation D, as well as the relocation or destruction of the Botanical Gardens, the railroad station, and the Smithsonian Building. Furthermore, the group suggested that the axis of the Mall be adjusted to align with an axis running between the Capitol and the Washington Monument.

The plan underwent gradual implementation. 1904 saw the construction of the National Museum (now the Museum of Natural History), and one year later construction on a new Department of Agriculture building got underway. A major roadblock was removed when in 1909 the B & O Railroad depot and tracks were shifted from the grounds to a new location north of the Capitol.

With World War I, museum construction gave way to the erection of various temporary government structures called "tempo." Although most of these were removed during the 1930s, more were erected during World War II, some of which stood into the 1960s.

After World War I, development of the Mall continued. Construction on the Freer Gallery began in 1923, a decade which also saw the dedication of the Grant and Meade Memorials. In 1933, the National Park Service began what was to be a 22 year

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rehabilitation program on the Mall. This program carried out many of the objectives defined in the McMillan Plan, including the relocation of the Botanical Gardens and the removal of the structures on Reservation D, the regrading of the land and the construction of roads and walkways, and the planting of trees and shrubs. In addition, Union Square was developed although in a less formal manner than was previously planned.

In the 1950s the National Capital Planning Commission, in conjunction with other agencies, developed a highway plan which led to the construction of the 9th and 12th Street underpasses. In the mid-1960s other improvements, collectively known as the Owings Plan, were initiated. These resulted in a number of changes on the Mall, including the removal of remaining World War II tempos, the planting of a fifth row of elm trees, and the creation of the Reflecting Pool and the National Sculpture Garden. In the 1970s, in preparation for the upcoming bicentennial, Washington and Adams Drives, which had heretofore been open to traffic, were regraded and made into pedestrian walks.

Apart from the National Gallery of Art, constructed in 1941, no major permanent structure had been built on the Mall since the 1930s. Between the years 1960 and 1980, however, the Mall experienced a period of great construction in which the final four major structures--the Museum of History and Technology, the Hirshhorn Museum, the National Air and Space Museum, and the East Building of the National Gallery of Art--were constructed. Additional features added to the Mall during this period were the Hirshhorn Sculpture Garden, an ice rink, and a subway station entrance.



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goes west to 12th Street, S.W., then north along 12th Street to Jefferson Drive, then west on Jefferson Drive to 14th Street, and finally north on 14th Street, N.W., to the starting point at Constitution Avenue.