

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE



HISTORIC PRESERVATION REVIEW BOARD
APPLICATION FOR HISTORIC LANDMARK OR HISTORIC DISTRICT DESIGNATION

New Designation National Mall Historic District for: Historic Landmark _____ Historic District
X

Amendment of a previous designation X
Please summarize any amendment(s)

This nomination for the National Mall Historic District revises, updates, and expands the original National Register of Historic Places (National Register) nomination for the National Mall. The National Mall was administratively listed in the National Register upon passage of the National Historic Preservation Act on October 15, 1966, as a historic site encompassing the formal greensward and museum buildings between the U.S. Capitol Grounds and 14th Street, NW-SW. The Keeper of the National Register accepted the nomination form documentation for the National Mall on May 19, 1981. This nomination expands the previous boundary to include the area from 14th Street, NW-SW, to the Potomac River behind the Lincoln Memorial and the area from the Thomas Jefferson Memorial to the edge of the White House Grounds.

The National Park Service commissioned this revised nomination in 2011 to satisfy Stipulation 1 of the Programmatic Agreement executed for the National Mall Plan among the National Park Service, the District of Columbia State Historic Preservation Officer, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and dated November 5, 2010. It redefines the National Mall as a historic district with extended boundaries, reevaluates the historic context of the National Mall, and reassesses the significance of its resources. In addition, it considers the National Register eligibility of multiple resources not included in original documentation including museum and government buildings, recently constructed memorials and monuments, cultural landscapes, and archeological sites.

Property name National Mall Historic District

If any part of the interior is being nominated, it must be specifically identified and described in the narrative statements.

Address Bounded by 3rd St., NW-SW, Independence Ave., SW, Raoul Wallenberg Place, SW, CSX Railroad, Potomac River, Constitution Ave., NW, 17th St., NW, White House Grounds, and 15th St. NW], Washington, DC

Square and lot number(s) NA

Affected Advisory Neighborhood Commission NA

Date of construction Varies Date of major alteration(s) Varies

Architect(s) Varies Architectural style(s) Varies

Original use Commemorative and Recreation Present use Same

Property owner Various Federal Agencies

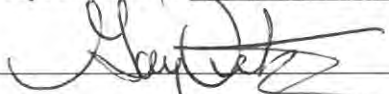
Legal address of property owner 900 Ohio Drive, SW, Washington DC

NAME OF APPLICANT(S) National Mall and Memorial Parks, National Park Service

If the applicant is an organization, it must submit evidence that among its purposes is the promotion of historic preservation in the District of Columbia. A copy of its charter, articles of incorporation, or by-laws, setting forth such purpose, will satisfy this requirement.

Address/Telephone of applicant(s) 900 Ohio Drive, SW, Washington DC/ 202-245-4711

Name and title of authorized representative Gay Vietzke, Superintendent

Signature of representative  Date Oct 3, 2016

Name and telephone of author of application Catherine Dewey/202-245-4711 or Mike Commisso/202-245-4693

Date received _____
H.P.O. staff _____

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE



HISTORIC PRESERVATION REVIEW BOARD
APPLICATION FOR HISTORIC LANDMARK OR HISTORIC DISTRICT DESIGNATION

New Designation **Washington Monument and Grounds Historic District** for: Historic
Landmark ____ Historic District **X**

Amendment of a previous designation **X**
Please summarize any amendment(s)

The landmark status of the Washington Monument and Grounds was recognized by the District of Columbia on November 8, 1964, and the monument was administratively listed in the National Register of Historic Places on October 15, 1966. National Register documentation of the property, including the grounds and ancillary structures on the site, was accepted on May 19, 1981 (NRIS no. 66000035). Since that time, the monument has undergone renovation and restoration, while two other buildings-- the Monument Lodge and the Survey Lodge/Boiler House--have been altered and repaired. The grounds themselves have undergone alterations of greater and lesser impact. In addition, significant historical studies of the buildings, structures, landscape, and archeological features have been undertaken. In 2004, the National Park Service (NPS) completed historic structures reports for the monument, the Monument Lodge, and the Survey Lodge/Boiler House that documented the history and character-defining features of these buildings. In 2015, NPS completed a cultural landscape report (CLR) on the Washington Monument Grounds, which identified cultural landscape features that were not adequately documented in the original nomination. The CLR was based on a 2009 cultural landscape inventory (CLI) that included a consensus determination of eligibility from the District of Columbia State Historic Preservation Office. This amended nomination incorporates information from the recent studies of the monument and grounds, identifies contributing and noncontributing features (see table, p. 24) and brings documentation to current National Register standards. It changes the property's National Register category from "structure" to "historic district" in order to recognize the wealth of contributing resources associated with the monument. The nomination expands on the discussion of the monument's significance, reevaluating National Register criteria and criteria considerations, areas of significance, and periods of significance.¹ Text and information from the 1981 nomination is included in the current nomination where appropriate.

Property name **Washington Monument and Grounds Historic District**

If any part of the interior is being nominated, it must be specifically identified and described in the narrative statements.

Address **14th Street NW between Constitution and Independence Avenues [Washington Monument, National Mall and Memorial Parks]**

Square and lot number(s) **NA**

Affected Advisory Neighborhood Commission **NA**

Date of construction Varies Date of major alteration(s) Varies

Architect(s) Varies Architectural style(s) Varies

Original use Commemorative and Recreation Present use Same

Property owner Department of the Interior, National Park Service

Legal address of property owner 900 Ohio Drive, SW, Washington DC

NAME OF APPLICANT(S) National Mall and Memorial Parks, National Park Service

If the applicant is an organization, it must submit evidence that among its purposes is the promotion of historic preservation in the District of Columbia. A copy of its charter, articles of incorporation, or by-laws, setting forth such purpose, will satisfy this requirement.

Address/Telephone of applicant(s) 900 Ohio Drive, SW, Washington DC/ 202-245-4711

Name and title of authorized representative Gay Vietzke, Superintendent

Signature of representative  Date Oct 4, 2016

Name and telephone of author of application Catherine Dewey/202-245-4711 or Mike Commisso/202-245-4693

Date received _____
H.P.O. staff _____

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. **Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

1. Name of Property

historic name Washington Monument and Grounds Historic District (Additional Documentation, 2016)

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 14th Street NW between Constitution and Independence Avenues

[Washington Monument, National Mall and Memorial Parks]

city or town Washington vicinity

state DC code DC county _____ code 001 zip code 20004

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this ___ nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

X national ___ statewide X local

Signature of certifying official/Title _____ Date _____

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government _____

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official _____ Date _____

Title _____ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government _____

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

___ entered in the National Register ___ determined eligible for the National Register

___ determined not eligible for the National Register ___ removed from the National Register

___ other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper _____ Date of Action _____

Washington Monument and Grounds Historic District
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5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

<input type="checkbox"/>	private
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Local
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - State
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	public - Federal

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

<input type="checkbox"/>	building(s)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	district
<input type="checkbox"/>	site
<input type="checkbox"/>	structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2	4	buildings
3	5	sites
8	6	structures
9	3	objects
22	18	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

7 (2 buildings, 1 site, 3 structures, 1 object)

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Recreation and Culture/monument/marker

Landscape/park

Recreation and Culture/outdoor recreation

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Recreation and Culture/monument/marker

Landscape/park

Recreation and Culture/outdoor recreation

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Mid-19th Century/Exotic Revival (Egyptian Revival)

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: gneiss, concrete

walls: marble, gneiss, granite

roof: marble

other: iron, aluminum

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

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Washington Monument and Grounds Historic District
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Introduction

The landmark status of the Washington Monument and Grounds was recognized by the District of Columbia on November 8, 1964, and the monument was administratively listed in the National Register of Historic Places on October 15, 1966. National Register documentation of the property, including the grounds and ancillary structures on the site, was accepted on May 19, 1981 (NRIS no. 66000035). Since that time, the monument has undergone renovation and restoration, while two other buildings-- the Monument Lodge and the Survey Lodge/Boiler House—have been altered and repaired. The grounds themselves have undergone alterations of greater and lesser impact. In addition, significant historical studies of the buildings, structures, landscape, and archeological features have been undertaken. In 2004, the National Park Service (NPS) completed historic structures reports for the monument, the Monument Lodge, and the Survey Lodge/Boiler House that documented the history and character-defining features of these buildings. In 2015, NPS completed a cultural landscape report (CLR) on the Washington Monument Grounds, which identified cultural landscape features that were not adequately documented in the original nomination. The CLR was based on a 2009 cultural landscape inventory (CLI) that included a consensus determination of eligibility from the District of Columbia State Historic Preservation Office. This amended nomination incorporates information from the recent studies of the monument and grounds, identifies contributing and noncontributing features (see table, p. 24) and brings documentation to current National Register standards. It changes the property's National Register category from "structure" to "historic district" in order to recognize the wealth of contributing resources associated with the monument. The nomination expands on the discussion of the monument's significance, reevaluating National Register criteria and criteria considerations, areas of significance, and periods of significance.¹ Text and information from the 1981 nomination is included in the current nomination where appropriate.

Summary Paragraphs

The Washington Monument and Grounds Historic District is located approximately in the center of the National Mall in Washington, D.C. The site, which comprises U.S. Reservation no. 2, is bounded by Constitution Avenue on the north, 14th Street, Raoul Wallenberg Place (15th Street), and Independence Avenue on the east, the Tidal Basin on the south, and 17th Street on the west. It lies in both the northwest and southwest quadrants of the District of Columbia.²

Constructed in two building campaigns between 1848 and 1884, the monument stands 555 feet 5 1/8 inches tall, the shaft rising 500 feet while the remainder constitutes the capping pyramidion.³ The shaft tapers from a base width of 55 feet 1 1/2 inches to a width of 34 feet 5 1/2 inches at the 500-foot level. The walls of the monument range in thickness from 15 feet at the base to 18 inches at the upper shaft. The exterior walls are composed of white marble. A slight change in the shade of the marble perceptible at the 150-foot level marks the two building campaigns. The Maryland marble of the first building campaign (up to the 150-foot level) has a lighter tone than the marble (mostly from Maryland with additional stone from Massachusetts) employed in the second building campaign. Supporting the entire 81,120-ton edifice is a 36,912-ton foundation of Portland cement and blue gneiss that reaches a depth of 36 feet 10 inches and covers an area of 16,002 square feet.

The exterior walls are underlain by blue gneiss and granite. Commemorative stones donated by various states, private groups, individuals, and foreign countries are set into the interior walls. Interior ironwork supports the elevator at the center of the monument and stairs that climb to its summit. A viewing area is located at the 500-foot level. It contains eight windows, two to a side. Two protective features accompany the pyramidion. The first, dating from 1885, is a system of lightning conductors extending down from the engraved 100-ounce aluminum capstone at the tip of the monument. The

¹ Discussion of the significance of the monument and its grounds is included in Section 8 of the nomination, below.

² The descriptions contained in this nomination combine text from the 1981 National Register nomination for the Washington Monument, from several National Park Service studies, as well as research and observation. The studies include "Historic Structure Report: Washington Monument and Associated Structures," volumes 1-3 (2004), "Cultural Landscape Report: Washington Monument Grounds, Washington Monument" (2003, revised 2011, 2015), and "Cultural Landscape Inventory: Washington Monument Grounds" (2009).

³ A survey conducted by the National Geodetic Survey in 2015 measured the monument as 554 feet 7 11/32 inches tall from current monument plaza. The historical determination of the monument's height, first measured in 1884, was based on brass markers now approximately 9 inches below grade, but then at ground level.

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second is a set of red lights used to alert aircraft to the position of the obelisk, first installed in 1958. There are eight of these lights, one above each of the windows.

The Washington Monument Grounds cultural landscape centers on the grass-covered knoll upon which the monument sits. The knoll was created in the 1880s to cover the monument's reinforced foundations. A broad lawn continues beyond the knoll to the edges of the 106-acre site. Elm trees delineate the site's perimeter along the public streets. Stands of trees – including elm, chestnut, linden, and maple species – mark other locations. The primary stands are located between Maine Avenue and the Tidal Basin, at the northeast corner of the intersection of 17th Street and Independence Avenue, and south of Jefferson Drive between 14th and 15th streets. Groups of cherry trees are located near the Sylvan Theater, near Constitution Avenue, and elsewhere. In 2004-05 the knoll was regraded to integrate security and landscape improvements. A new pedestrian circulation network, also added as part of the security and landscape improvements, features a large elliptical walk at the base of the knoll and two smaller ellipses that intersect at a circular granite plaza at the base of the monument. The network provides circulation around, as well as up to, the monument and links with secondary walks leading to sidewalks along the boundary streets. Granite retaining walls along the edges of the elliptical pathways, along with bollards at path intersections, prevent vehicles from approaching the monument. Because the retaining walls are below the grass surface of the knoll, views to and from the monument remain uninterrupted by vertical barriers.

Also located on the grounds are other buildings, sites, structures, and objects that were built after the monument was completed. The Survey Lodge/Boiler House and the Monument Lodge – one-story buildings constructed of the same granite and marble as the monument – satisfied functional requirements when the monument opened to the public in 1888. The Survey Lodge/Boiler House, located 750 feet southwest of the monument near Independence Avenue, SW, was completed in 1886 to supply steam power for the monument elevator. Originally L-shaped, the building was expanded in 1901 by filling in the open side of the L. A steel and wood storage building was added on the northwest in 1989. As part of a rehabilitation and modernization project in the early 1990s, the structure's original slate roof and cupola were restored. Today, the Survey Lodge/Boiler House houses National Park Service personnel offices and public restroom facilities. The Monument Lodge is located about 480 feet east of the Washington Monument. The rectangular, 25 by 30-foot lodge was originally built in 1888-89 to hold the archives for the Washington National Monument Society and to provide a room for the monument's custodian. It later functioned as a visitors' waiting room. Today, the Monument Lodge houses restroom facilities, ticketing counters for monument tours, and a book shop.

The 2-foot square, 3-foot tall Jefferson Pier Marker, erected in 1889 northwest of the monument, marks the intersection of axes through the center of the White House and the center of the Capitol – the location proposed by Peter (Pierre) L'Enfant as the site of an equestrian statue of Washington in his 1791 plan for the city. The Elevation Obelisk, immediately south of the monument plaza, was erected in 1898 to measure settlement of the monument. Constructed of concrete, the obelisk is 13 ½ feet tall and 3 feet wide. It is located below grade; the shaft in which it is contained is marked by a manhole cover.

The Sylvan Theater is located about 450 feet southeast of the monument. It opened in 1917 as an earthen stage. The existing wood stage, which reached its current size in 1976, is 75 feet wide and 32 feet deep and is covered by a metal and wood roof. An acoustical wall stands at the rear of the stage. A major renovation of the theater took place in 1976 as part of national Bicentennial celebrations. The existing proscenium arch and four auxiliary metal buildings were constructed at that time. Two of the flat-roofed buildings, each approximately 36 by 20 feet, function as dressing rooms; the other two (also flat-roofed and 16 by 10 feet) provide electrical power and equipment storage.

The National Museum of African American History and Culture, at the northeast corner of the Washington Monument Grounds along Constitution Avenue between 14th and 15th streets, NW, was under construction at the time of this nomination, and its significance is not evaluated as part of this amended Washington Monument and Grounds National Register nomination. It has been identified as a contributing building in the National Mall Historic District National Register nomination.

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Description of Resources

The Washington Monument (contributing structure)

Exterior

The Washington Monument was built between 1848 and 1884 as the nation's primary memorial to George Washington, commander of the Continental Army during the American Revolution and first president of the United States under the Constitution. Its construction took place in two major phases, 1848-58 and 1876-84. Construction of the Monument Lodge and a boiler house, now known as the Survey Lodge, as well as landscaping of the grounds, occurred in the years immediately following completion of the monument. Alterations and additions to the monument, its associated buildings, and the grounds have occurred throughout the property's history.

Peter (Pierre) Charles L'Enfant's 1791 identified the location for an equestrian monument to Washington (proposed by Congress in 1783) to be erected at the intersection of the east-west axis through the Capitol and the north-south axis through the White House on what is now the National Mall. As built, however, the Washington Monument stands 351.6 feet east and 123.17 feet south of that point. The choice of this site may have been influenced by the fact that L'Enfant's location for the monument lay very near the Potomac River, which would have required extensive earth-moving operations to create a building site suitable to the monument as designed by Robert Mills. The Washington National Monument Society, the private entity responsible for funding and building the monument, had continual difficulty raising money for the project, which may have encouraged it to seek a location that did not require substantial preconstruction preparations.

Mills, the nation's Architect of Public Buildings from 1836 to 1842, originally envisioned a neoclassical monument, which provided for a nearly flat-topped obelisk surrounded by a circular colonnade that would function as a pantheon honoring heroes of the American Revolution. Construction on the obelisk began in 1848 following Mills' plan, although a decision on whether or not to build the pantheon was deferred until a later date. When the monument project was resumed in 1876, Mills' successor, Lt. Col. Thomas Lincoln Casey of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, redesigned the monument to resemble an unadorned Egyptian obelisk with a pointed pyramidion in accordance with the suggestions of George Perkins Marsh. The United States ambassador to Italy, Marsh had studied the proportions of obelisks located in Rome. Casey also discarded the idea of Mills' pantheon. The monument design revised by Casey and Marsh is essentially what appears today.

The foundation for the monument reflects its two building campaigns. During the initial construction period, eight stepped-back courses of blue gneiss laid with lime mortar constituted the foundation. In the later campaign, Casey underpinned and then encapsulated this foundation with hydraulic cement concrete, giving it both a broader spread and a deeper footing. The existing foundation base measures 126 feet, 5 ½ inches per side and reaches a depth of 36 feet, 10 inches below the floor of the monument, and covers an area of 16,002 square feet.

The completed Washington Monument stands 555 feet, 5 1/8 inches tall, the shaft rising 500 feet while the remainder constitutes the capping pyramidion. The shaft tapers from a base width of 55 feet, 1 ½ inches to a width of 34 feet 5 ½ inches at the 500-foot level. The walls of the monument range in thickness from 15 feet at the base to 18 inches at the upper shaft. They are composed of white marble underlain by blue gneiss and/or granite. As part of the first construction campaign, paired marble doors, 16 feet tall, were installed at ground level to provide entrance to the monument interior from both the east and west facades. When the monument was completed in 1884, the west doorway was closed and its exterior ornament removed, and the east door was reduced to 8 feet in height. Its ornament was also removed. Removal of the ornament brought the monument closer to a pure obelisk form. The east doorway is 5 feet 8 inches wide, and the marble doors are fixed in the open position.

A slight change in the shade of the exterior marble is perceptible at the 150-foot level, where the second building campaign began, and the masonry pattern also changes at this point.⁴ The coursed, smooth ashlar marble blocks from Maryland that were employed in the first construction campaign are of a light tone and laid in a random bond pattern, with extremely thin mortar joints. Roughly dressed blue gneiss constitutes the interior construction. Above the 150-foot level,

⁴ The HSR states that the second building campaign began at the 150-foot level (HSR, 4-4 – 4-7). This conclusion appears to be based on drawings of the work during Casey's administration. The inscription on the aluminum cap to the pyramidion, however, indicates that the first stone of the second building campaign was laid at the 152-foot level.

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the coursed ashlar exterior marble blocks (mostly from Maryland with additional stone from Massachusetts) have a darker tone and are laid in a Flemish bond pattern with slightly thicker mortar joints. Courses of granite and blue gneiss form the interior walls of the lower parts of the second building campaign. In the upper part of the monument, marble begins to appear more frequently on the interior, forming a checkerboard pattern with the darker granite and, above 460 feet, becoming the sole interior surface. The pyramidion at the top of the monument is constructed of ashlar marble laid in a running bond pattern. A solid marble capstone sits atop the pyramidion, acting as a keystone. Its cast-aluminum tip, nearly 9 inches tall, is inscribed on all four sides with information related to the construction and completion of the monument and the names of many of those involved.

Two observation windows pierce each face of the pyramidion. Each window is 3 feet wide. Those on the east are 24 ½ inches tall, while those on the other three sides are 18 inches tall. The openings were originally unglazed and could be closed by interior marble shutters, which hung flush with the exterior surface, rendering the openings nearly invisible in accordance with Marsh's expressed intent. Storm windows were used as early as 1890, and the glazing has changed several times during the monument's history. Bulletproof glass was first installed in 1974-1976. The marble shutters remained in the open position until 1975, when the installation of a protective glass wainscoting on the interior walls necessitated their removal. Two flashing, red, aircraft-warning lights were installed on each face of the pyramidion in 1958. The current window glass and aircraft warning lights date from the 1997-2000 renovation of the monument.

On August 23, 2011, a 5.8 magnitude earthquake occurred, its epicenter located near Mineral, Virginia. The quake caused damage to the Washington Monument: broken and cracked masonry blocks, mortar shaken from horizontal and vertical joints between stones, damage to the lightning protection system, and bent elevator counterweight rods. Although never considered structurally unsound, the monument was immediately closed as a result of the damage, most of which took place above the 450-foot level. Exterior repairs consisted of securing loose stones, sealing cracks, patching stones and mortar, repointing joints, and removing and reinstalling the lightning protection system. The Washington Monument reopened to the public on May 12, 2014.⁵

The monument rises from the center of a **circular plaza (noncontributing structure)** on top of a grass-covered knoll. (The knoll and the remainder of the grounds are described below, under "Monument Grounds.") The current plaza around the monument was built as part of security and landscape improvements for the monument designed by the Olin Partnership and undertaken in 2004-05. Although it employs different materials, the current plaza retains the extent of the paved surface surrounding the monument that was established by the end of the nineteenth century. The plaza is composed of alternating concentric rings of light Ash Rose and darker Mesabi Black granite with eight built-in, curved, white marble benches near the outer edge. Surrounding the monument at the outer edge of the plaza are **fifty aluminum flagpoles displaying American flags (one group of contributing objects)**. Aluminum flagpoles were installed in 1957. The aluminum poles were replaced in kind in during renovations of the monument undertaken from 1997 to 2000.

Interior

The entrance level of the monument consists of the elevator at its center, surrounded by the east portal and east elevator lobby, the south corridor, the west elevator lobby and west chamber, and, on the north, access to stairs ascending the interior of the monument. The 1884 east exterior door opens onto the east portal, which leads through the monument's 15-foot-thick walls to the east elevator lobby. The portal has granite pavers that slope from the east door down to the lobby. The portal is faced with white marble dating to the monument's first building campaign, and its west opening is filled with all-glass double doors topped by a single-pane transom. The doors and transom were installed in 1992. Most of the finishes of the east elevator lobby also date to 1992, when the granite pavers were installed, and the north, south, and west walls were finished in off-white plaster. The west elevation of the east elevator lobby includes the brushed bronze double doors of the elevator, surmounted by a bronze bas-relief portrait of George Washington, which was installed in 1993. The east wall of the elevator lobby consists of the white marble and blue gneiss masonry from the monument's original construction campaign. Historical graffiti, including carved characters, a profile of George Washington, and the date 1861, can be seen on the south side of the east wall.

⁵ Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc., "Washington Monument Post-Earthquake Assessment," prepared for the National Park Service, n.d., 1-3.

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A corridor on the south side of the monument's ground level connects the east and west elevator lobbies. The corridor functions as a waiting room for visitors. In each corner of the corridor is an iron column that is part of the interior structure constructed in the monument's second building campaign. The corridor has a terrazzo floor with decorative mosaic panels bordered in a Greek key pattern, installed and also probably designed by the Office of Public Buildings and Grounds during improvements made to the entry level in 1904. Also part of the 1904 improvements are the green and white marble baseboards, wainscot, and chair rail in the corridor, as well as the plaster walls above. The current plaster ceiling, featuring articulated beams and decorative cove molding, was constructed in 1975. Affixed to the walls are bronze garlands, sconce lighting, and a quotation describing Washington, all installed in 1993.

The west elevator lobby also contains terrazzo and mosaic flooring, marble baseboards, wainscot, and chair rail, and plaster walls, all dating from 1904. The brushed bronze elevator doors are located on the east elevation of the lobby. These doors are slightly smaller than those in the east lobby and have a simpler surround. The west chamber – planned by Mills as the west entrance to the monument – exhibits marble walls from the monument's original construction, as well as a terrazzo and mosaic floor dating to 1913. The west chamber is dominated by a bronze reproduction of the statue of Washington designed by French sculptor Jean-Antoine Houdon in the 1780s. The reproduction was part of the 1992-93 entrance level improvements at the monument.

The interior structural frame, consisting of two sets of four iron columns arranged in concentric squares and stiffened with girders and braces, supports the monument stairs and elevator. The columns are known as Phoenix columns because they were originally manufactured by the Phoenix Iron Company of Phoenixville, Pennsylvania, although other companies also manufactured columns for the monument. Beginning at the 20-foot level, original stair landings are located every 10 feet up to the 480-foot level, with cast-iron stairs alternating on the north and south sides between the landings, which are constructed of iron plates covered with terrazzo panels. The interior framing has remained generally the same since it was designed by Casey during the monument's second building campaign. The elevator itself has been replaced several times, the latest in 1997-2000, and changes have been made to improve safety. These include the installation of metal screening around the elevator shaft in 1929 and the extension of all the landings to the elevator so that it could stop on any level. Glass panels have replaced the metal screens in some locations to give visitors better views of the monument's 193 memorial stones as the elevator descends from the top of the monument. Donated by individuals, states, and organizations, the first stones were received in 1849 and continued to be donated and inserted into wells in the interior walls after the monument opened to the public.

The 490-foot level contains displays interpreting the history of the monument, updated during the earthquake repairs of 2012-14. With the exception of the interpretive displays, marble masonry, and painted iron interior structure, the finishes at the 490-foot level date to a 1997-2000 renovation. This work encased the masonry surfaces in protective glass panels supported by painted metal framing. The landing consists of a terrazzo floor around the elevator shaft with stairs at the northeast and southeast corners to the 500-foot level.

The 500-foot level was also completely renovated in 1997-2000, and current finishes, with the exception of the interpretive displays and marble masonry, date from that project. The masonry is protected by glass panels held in metal frames, as on the 490-foot level. The eight windows in the pyramidion are glazed with bullet-proof glass. The floor of the 500-foot level has the same terrazzo surface as that of the 490-foot level. The elevator occupies the center of the landing.

After the 2011 earthquake, repairs were also required on the interior of the monument. These included repairs to stone panels, insertion of stainless steel plates or dowels to secure marble panels to their supporting stones, and repair of the elevator counterweight rods.

The Monument Grounds Cultural Landscape (contributing site)

The Washington Monument Grounds cultural landscape encompasses the entire 106-acre historic district. At the center of the cultural landscape is the knoll (**historic associated feature**)⁶ created in the 1880s to cover the monument's

⁶ The term "historic associated feature" is used to enumerate and describe small-scale and landscape features not individually countable according to National Register guidelines. The convention was developed to reconcile the requirements of the NPS List of Classified Structures (LCS) and Cultural Landscape Inventories (CLIs) with National Register documentation guidelines. The LCS is an evaluated inventory of all historic and prehistoric buildings, structures, and objects that have historical, architectural, and/or engineering significance within the National Park System. The CLI is an evaluated inventory of all landscapes that have historical,

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reinforced foundations. The monument and plaza stand atop this knoll. A broad flat lawn continues beyond the knoll to the edges of the site. A natural rise in the ground southeast of the Monument Lodge has been modified several times over the years – and as recently as 1997 – to create a berm that provides the illusion of an unbroken greensward stretching from the Mall to the monument. Street trees (**historic associated feature**), consisting mostly of elms, delineate the site's perimeter along the public thoroughfares. Gaps in the elms on 14th and 17th streets maintain the vista between the Capitol, the Washington Monument and the Lincoln Memorial. Groves of trees (**historic associated feature**) – including elm, chestnut, linden, and maple species – mark other locations. The primary stands are located between Maine Avenue and the Tidal Basin, at the northeast corner of the intersection of 17th Street and Independence Avenue, and south of Jefferson Drive between 14th and 15th streets. A mulberry tree (**historic associated feature**), dating to the period of significance, is located southwest of the Washington Monument. Groups of cherry trees (**historic associated feature**) are located near the Sylvan Theater, near Constitution Avenue, along the Tidal Basin, and elsewhere. A planting plan developed by the Olin Partnership in 2002 envisioned the addition of more than 700 trees to the grounds, especially cherry trees. Partially implemented during the 2004-05 landscape and security improvements, the number of trees was reduced to just over 600 to accommodate the construction of the National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC) and the Potomac Park Levee. The additional trees are being planted in association with the NMAAHC construction.

Buildings

The **Monument Lodge (contributing building)** is located about 480 feet east of the base of the Washington Monument. The lodge was originally built in 1888-89 to hold the archives for the Washington National Monument Society and to provide a room for the monument's custodian. Later, it was used as a waiting area for visitors. Today, the Monument Lodge houses restroom facilities, ticketing counters for monument tours, and a book shop.

The one-story, flat-roofed Greek Revival building with a partial basement, designed by Washington architects William Poindexter and Co., is rectangular in plan and measures approximately 25 by 30 feet. It is constructed of granite-faced brick at the foundation and random-coursed ashlar marble blocks above. The exterior granite and marble is dressed to a rusticated finish. A thin projecting molding runs along all elevations above the lintels over the windows and doors, and a marble cornice caps the walls. Two partially fluted, Doric, in antis columns create a shallow portico entrance at the center of the east elevation. The wall behind the columns is constructed of yellow brick; modern metal double doors fill the exterior doorway in this wall, below an eighteen-light wood transom. Paired, eight-light wood windows above marble panels flank the entrance. While the window sashes date from a 2005-06 restoration, the window trim, including wood pilasters, was installed in 1889. The north and south elevations each consist of two bays containing a door (not original) and a window above a marble panel. The windows and trim match those on the east elevation. Portions of the original wood pilasters remain in the transom above the later doors on the north and south elevations. The restoration of the Monument Lodge in 2005-06 removed a concrete block addition and returned the west elevation to its original appearance, which consists of a central projecting bay flanked by windows in the outer bays. The outer bay windows match those on the north, south, and east elevations. The three openings in the projecting center bay each contain a single twelve-light sash between wood pilasters. All of the windows are located above marble panels.

The interior of the Monument Lodge consists of three distinct spaces: the central shop and ticketing area, the men's rest room to the north and the women's rest room to the south. The tripartite division of the lodge's interior space dates to the building's original construction, but the room uses and most of the finishes in these rooms have been altered. Wood double doors dating to 1889 with original hardware remain in place behind the modern exterior door. The terrazzo floor of the central shop and ticketing area, decorated with a central shield and border ornament, dates to 1910.

The Monument Lodge is located directly east of the Washington Monument, and its site, at the base of the monument knoll, maintains unobstructed views of the monument from the east. Exposed aggregate concrete walks connect the lodge to 15th Street and the pedestrian circulation network of the monument grounds. On the west side of the lodge, a stone retaining wall at the edge of the knoll creates a terrace, paved with exposed aggregate concrete. The

designed, vernacular and ethnographic significance within the National Park System. Although not officially part of the NR nomenclature, the convention of historic associated features is used by several NPS regions in order to keep track of all NR eligible resources managed within the National Parks. All known resources are included in this National Register documentation either as a countable resource or as a historic associated feature.

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concrete walks and the retaining wall were part of the 2004-05 security and landscape improvements to the monument. The exposed aggregate concrete paving west of the Monument Lodge was extended to the retaining wall when the concrete block addition to the lodge was removed in 2005-06.

The **Survey Lodge/Boiler House (contributing building)**, located 750 feet southwest of the Washington Monument near Independence Avenue, SW, was completed in 1886 by contractor William Bradley to house boilers to supply steam power for the Washington Monument elevator. When first constructed, a buried steam tunnel connected the building to the underground engine room of the monument. (The tunnel still exists.) Originally L-shaped, the building was expanded in 1901 by filling in the open side of the L. The expansion accommodated the conversion of the elevator's power supply from steam to electricity.

The Survey Lodge/Boiler House is a one-story utility building with a full basement. It employs Greek and Colonial Revival decorative motifs, such as sidelights and a transom around the door, lintels over the windows, and a cupola. It was built using surplus stone left over from the construction of the Washington Monument. With the exception of the southwest façade, the exterior is faced with rusticated ashlar marble with a granite base course, two granite belt courses, and granite sills, lintels, and cornice. The southwest façade, most of which was constructed in 1901, is built of brick surfaced with stucco.

The main southeast façade is four bays wide, with the building's original entry (now closed) located in the gabled east bay. The current entrance is located in the bay next to the original door and was added during the 1901 expansion. Two-over-two wood windows fill the remaining two bays. The northeast façade, three bays wide, dates from 1886 and contains a door and two windows. The door was installed in a window opening in 1989. The two-over-two windows match those on the southeast façade. The original northwest elevation, also part of the 1886 construction, was composed of four two-over-two windows (like those found elsewhere in the Survey Lodge) and the 1886 marble and granite chimney at the west corner. That elevation is now blocked from view by a wood and steel utility shed added to this side of the building in 1989. The exception to the stucco-surfaced brick of the southwest elevation is its northernmost bay, which also includes the marble and granite chimney. Two two-over-two windows with segmental heads pierce the 1901 construction.

After 1923, the building no longer served as a power house for the monument elevator. Between 1926 and 1933 it was occupied by the Design and Construction Division of the Office of Public Buildings and Public Parks of the National Capitol and became known as the Survey Lodge. Use of the building as office space resulted in the division of the large interior spaces into smaller rooms. Renovations in 1989 removed any remaining original interior finishes. The renovation included construction of the utility shed on the northwest elevation, over a former coal vault. Constructed of steel columns and beams, wood board walls, and a corrugated steel gable roof, the addition is used for equipment and vehicle storage. As part of a rehabilitation and modernization project in the early 1990s, the original slate roof and cupola of the Survey Lodge/Boiler were restored. The square wood cupola features paired pilasters at its canted corners and a metal bell-shaped roof. Today, the Survey Lodge/Boiler House contains National Park Service personnel offices and public restroom facilities.

The Survey Lodge/Boiler House faces Independence Avenue and is set within a group of trees, including elms and catalpa trees (**historic associated features**), that screen it from view from the Washington Monument. Walks connect the building to Independence Avenue and 17th Street, and another walk loops around the lodge and connects to the larger monument grounds circulation network. **Iron and wood-slat benches (one group of contributing objects)** line the walk toward 17th Street. An asphalt service drive arcs behind the Survey Lodge, providing ingress and egress from Independence Avenue. **Cobblestone gutters (one group of contributing objects)** run along portions of both sides of the drive and may have been constructed as early as 1901. **Washington Globe streetlights (one group of contributing objects)** associated with the drive also contribute to the monument's significance.

Two late twentieth-century buildings embody National Park Service efforts to provide visitor services on the National Mall. A former **Tourmobile kiosk (noncontributing building)**, later used as an information booth and now by concessioners, is located on the south side of Jefferson Drive between 14th and 15th streets. It is hexagonal in shape with a pagoda-style roof and approximately 10-15 feet in diameter. The Tourmobile Service was inaugurated in 1969 and ran until 2011. A larger octagonal kiosk selling refreshments stands at the east end of the parking lot near the Tidal Basin Boat Dock. The **Refreshment kiosk (noncontributing building)** has large service windows and a pointed roof. It is approximately 15-20 feet in diameter.

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As part of Bicentennial improvements to the monument grounds, a **comfort station (noncontributing building)** was built south of the Sylvan Theater. It was designed by National Park Service architect Ben Biderman. The slightly ovoid structure is constructed of aggregate cement panels with a flat roof.

In 2001, a **temporary security screening building (noncontributing building)** was constructed at the plaza level on the east side of the monument, abutting the east door. It is a one-story building, three bays wide and four bays deep, containing two rooms, with a flat, parapet roof. The exterior surface of the building is synthetic stucco scored to resemble the masonry pattern of the monument's marble walls. The metal visitors entrance door is located in the center of the east side of the building; the exit door is in the south elevation. Horizontally oriented windows on three sides light the interior.

Structures

Along Constitution Avenue, flanking the 15th Street entrance to the monument grounds, stand two massive, square, rusticated sandstone piers known as the **Bulfinch Gateposts (2 contributing structures)**. The Neoclassical gateposts are remnants of the enclosure installed around the U.S. Capitol grounds in the 1820s, which included additional piers, two gatehouses, and more slender columns.⁷ They are attributed to architect Charles Bulfinch, who guided restoration and completion of the Capitol between 1818 and 1829. The gateposts measure five feet square at the base and stand twelve feet high. Decorative features, including Greek guilloche carving and a decorative cap, were designed to harmonize with the basement story of the Capitol building. The Bulfinch enclosure was removed from the Capitol grounds in 1874 when landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr., redesigned Capitol Square. The two monument grounds gateposts were relocated to their current site around 1880. These gateposts, along with two others along Constitution Avenue and the two gatehouses (now in President's Park South), were listed in the National Register on November 30, 1973 (NRIS #73002120).

Portions of five streets cross the monument grounds: 15th Street between Constitution and Independence avenues and its continuation south to Maine Avenue (now called Raoul Wallenberg Place), Madison and Jefferson drives between 14th and 15th streets, Independence Avenue between 14th and 17th streets, and Maine Avenue from the Tidal Basin to Raoul Wallenberg Place.⁸ **Fifteenth Street between Constitution and Independence avenues (noncontributing structure)** was a winding park road beginning in the late nineteenth century, but was changed to its current symmetrical configuration in 1997. **Raoul Wallenberg Place (15th Street south of Independence Avenue, contributing structure)** has followed its current course since at least the early twentieth century. The **Independence Avenue corridor (contributing structure)**, consisting of the extension of Independence and Maine avenues through the monument grounds, was constructed in 1943 as part of improvements designed to facilitate traffic flow between downtown Washington and the new Pentagon building in Arlington, Virginia. The corridor includes an overpass (**historic associated feature**) where eastbound Independence Avenue passes over westbound Maine Avenue. The courses of **Madison Drive and Jefferson Drive within the monument grounds (noncontributing structures)** were altered in 1997.

In addition to these existing streets, the **Tidal Basin Parking Lot Corridor (contributing structure)** is a remnant of River Road, constructed along the edge of the Tidal Basin in the early twentieth century to connect 15th and 17th streets. By 1909, a walk had been built south of River Road along the Tidal Basin. Construction of the Independence Avenue and Maine Avenue extensions severed River Road's connection with 15th and 17th streets, and at some unspecified time, the truncated street began to serve as a parking area for visitors to the Tidal Basin. The current parking lot has an asphalt surface, striping for diagonal parking, and concrete curbs. The **concrete walk with its metal pipe handrail (contributing structure)** continues to follow the north edge of the Tidal Basin.

⁷ A total of eight gateposts and two gatehouses that were part of the Bulfinch enclosure still exist. In addition to the two gateposts on the monument grounds, one gatepost is located in President's Park South and another stands near the National Gallery of Art at 7th Street and Constitution Avenue. The other four gateposts are located on the grounds of the National Arboretum. As mentioned, the two gatehouses are in President's Park South.

⁸ The rights of way of Constitution Avenue, 14th Street, Independence Avenue between 14th and 15th streets, and 17th Street function as boundaries for, but lie outside of Reservation no. 2. The streets and features within their rights of way (roadways, curbs, sidewalks) are therefore not evaluated in this National Register nomination.

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A service drive has encircled the Survey Lodge since at least the early twentieth century. When originally constructed, it connected to a curvilinear drive through the monument grounds. After the curvilinear drive was removed in 1936, the course of the service drive was altered. The existing **Survey Lodge service drive (contributing structure)** was probably altered to accommodate the extension of Independence Avenue in 1943 and altered again thereafter.

The 2004-05 regrading of the knoll – part of the security and landscape improvements to the monument grounds – also included a new **pedestrian circulation system (non-contributing structure)** around the monument integrated into the existing pedestrian circulation. The existing pedestrian circulation elements include the parallel walks west of the monument to 17th Street, walks from the monument north to Constitution Avenue at 15th Street and the German-American Friendship Garden, and the walks along 15th Street and Jefferson and Madison drives. The new pedestrian circulation network features a large elliptical walk at the base of the knoll and two smaller ellipses that intersect at the monument plaza. The walks are constructed of exposed aggregate concrete. Granite retaining walls along the edges of the elliptical pathways, along with bollards at path intersections, prevent vehicles from approaching the monument. Because the retaining walls are below the grass surface of the knoll, views to and from the monument remain open and uninterrupted by vertical barriers. Due to the recent date of the pedestrian circulation system within the monument grounds, it is considered a noncontributing feature.

To satisfy current standards for flood protection, the Flood Control Levee that runs from 23rd Street NW to 17th Street NW between the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool and Constitution Gardens was expanded across 17th Street and onto the monument grounds. The work was completed in 2014. The original levee was constructed in the late 1930s and later altered. The improvements to the levee on the monument grounds consist of a movable post and panel closure system across 17th Street in conjunction with flanking permanent barriers. The monument grounds **Flood Control Levee segment (noncontributing structure)** consists of an arc-shaped flood wall (clad in gray granite), 120 feet long and 9 feet tall at its highest point near 17th Street.⁹

Sites

The **Sylvan Theater (contributing site)** has been used as a venue for public gathering and events for nearly a century. Although the majority of its physical features have been altered during that time (and do not contribute to the site's significance), its use as a public gathering space has been continuous since it opened in 1917. The theater is located about 450 feet southeast of the Washington Monument and is surrounded by a variety of plantings, including cherry trees, a row of holly trees, a privet hedge, and shrubs. The theater began as an earthen stage constructed as part of the expanded entertainment and recreational use of the Washington Monument Grounds during the early twentieth century. The existing flagstone steps (**historic associated feature**) may date to that original construction or from subsequent early improvements. A wood stage supported by iron girders was built in 1944. In 1966, a proscenium arch was constructed over the stage.

A major renovation of the theater took place in 1976 as part of preparations for the national Bicentennial celebration. The 1944 wood stage was enlarged and a new proscenium arch constructed. The existing stage is 75 feet wide and 32 feet deep, and is covered by a metal and wood roof. An acoustical wall stands at the rear of the stage. Four auxiliary structures were also constructed as part of the Bicentennial improvements. All four are brown, metal, flat-roofed structures. They are void of windows, instead having vents along the upper portions of the wall which admit air and light. The two larger structures, which border the stage on either side, are dressing rooms. They are identical in design, both being about 36 feet by 20 feet and 10 feet tall. Both have one entrance on the south side and two on the side facing the stage. The two smaller structures at the rear of the stage, each measuring approximately 10 by 16 feet, provide electrical power and storage.

The Sylvan Theater setting was altered in 2004-05 as part of the Washington Monument Grounds security and landscape improvements. At this time a path and walled terrace were cut through the monument mound, which had previously provided uninterrupted lawn seating from which audiences viewed performances.

⁹ The entire Flood Control Levee is a contributing feature of the National Mall Historic District National Register Nomination. The segment on the monument grounds, completed in 2014, does not contribute to the monument's significance.

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The **German-American Friendship Garden (contributing site)** is located on the monument grounds near Constitution Avenue on either side of the north-south axis through the White House. Designed by Oehme van Sweden and Associates and developed in 1987-88, the garden is symmetrically oriented across the 16th Street axis, with identical gardens flanking a central lawn, all connected by a network of walks (**historic associated feature**). Each garden is focused on a circular terrace with a fountain and benches. The vegetation of the gardens consists of perennials and small flowering trees native to Germany and the United States.

The **Floral Library (noncontributing site)**, located in the angle formed by Independence Avenue and the Tidal Basin Parking Lot, represents an evolution of the Tulip Library on the site that was part of Lady Bird Johnson's "Beautification Program," a late-1960s effort led by the First Lady to create a more beautiful capital city. The work of the National Park Service, the Tulip Library was established in 1968 and subsequently evolved into a seasonal garden. The Tulip Library and its subsequent evolution into the Floral Library fall outside the Washington Monument and Grounds period of significance for National Register Criterion C and therefore does not contribute to the site's significance.

Objects

The **Jefferson Pier Marker (contributing object)** is a low granite block located at the intersection of the axes through the White House and the Capitol, planned by L'Enfant as the location of a monument to Washington. The site is 371.6 feet west and 123.17 feet north of the Washington Monument. The original pier, established in 1804 during Thomas Jefferson's presidency to mark the nation's prime meridian, was a more substantial structure of stone with rubble and cement fill. It was accidentally destroyed in 1872, and the current marker was erected in 1889 in the original location. The square marker, 2 feet on each side and 3 feet 3 inches high, has a pyramidal cap. Inscribed on its western face is the following information:

POSITION OF JEFFERSON
PIER ERECTED DEC 18, 1804,
RECOVERED AND RE-ERECTED
DEC 2, 1889
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

The marker rests on a square concrete base that sits slightly below grade following the regrading of the monument knoll as part of the Washington Monument Grounds security and landscape improvements in 2004-05.

The concrete **Elevation Obelisk (contributing object)** was erected in 1898 by the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey to serve as a benchmark to measure settlement of the Washington Monument. A small-scale replica of the monument (3 feet wide at the base, 13 ½ feet tall), the obelisk is located below grade approximate 150 feet south of the center of the monument. It is concealed by a standard manhole cover and is not visible from above ground.

Double-lamp street lights known as Twin Twenty lampposts were the standard fixtures for major roadways along and within the National Mall between 1923 and 1960. **Twin Twenty streetlights along Independence and Maine avenues (one group of contributing objects)**, either dating from the period of significance or replaced in kind, remain in use. Twin Twenty lampposts are also used along the boundary streets with the exception of the segment of 14th Street between Madison and Jefferson drives, which now features slender fluted lampposts surmounted by a glass cylinder with an ornamental top. These standards are known as Olmsted lights. **Twin Twenty streetlights along 15th Street (one group of noncontributing objects)** within the monument grounds replaced Washington Globe lamps that illuminated this street previously. **Washington Globe lights along the service drive behind the Survey Lodge (one group of contributing objects)** and segments of **cobblestone gutters (one group of contributing objects)** are associated with an early twentieth-century configuration of the service drive. **Washington Globe lights along Madison and Jefferson drives (one group of noncontributing objects)** were installed when the routes of those streets were altered in 1997.

Two 100th Anniversary Plaques (one group of contributing objects) are set into the pedestrian walks connecting 17th Street to the ovoid path surrounding the Washington Monument (one in each walk). The bronze plaques were laid near 17th Street in 1984 in commemoration of the monument's 100th anniversary and were donated by the National Society of Professional Engineers.

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Among the earliest amenities on the monument grounds were benches, which provided resting places for visitors as early as 1905. By 1932, benches constructed of cast iron with wood slats were located at the base of the monument, and more were added in subsequent years along pedestrian pathways. As the walks across the site changed, so, too, did the location and style of the benches provided. Currently, **iron-and-wood style benches (one group of contributing objects)** are located only at the edges of the site, along Constitution Avenue, 17th Street, Raoul Wallenberg Place, and the Tidal Basin.

Archeological Sites

Archaeological resources within the Washington Monument and Grounds derive from five sites. Four are with the nineteenth-century development of Washington; the fifth comprises a collection of artifacts associated with American Indian habitation of the area. None of the sites, however, have been determined to be eligible for the National Register.

The **17th Street Wharf site (noncontributing site, D.C. Archaeological Site Inventory no. 51NW232)** is located within the right-of-way of 17th Street south of Constitution Avenue and partially on the monument grounds. In 1807, a wharf was built at the southern terminus of 17th Street at the mouth of Tiber Creek. Originally a large earthen causeway retained by a massive timber structure, the wharf served as a major shipping point for the city. The wharf was enlarged and improved several times during the nineteenth century. Historically, the construction and operation of the wharf was closely associated with enslaved and free African-Americans. At the end of the nineteenth century, the 17th Street Wharf was buried as part of the land reclamation project that filled the mouth of the Tiber Creek. In 2011, as part of the construction of a new closure across 17th Street for the Potomac Park Levee, archeological test pits were excavated in the vicinity of the historic wharf. Excavations uncovered well-preserved deposits associated with the site, including building materials, glass and ceramic vessels, and food remains. No evidence of the wharf itself, however, was discovered during the excavations, and the National Park Service deemed the site not eligible for inclusion in the National Register.¹⁰

Archeological investigations were undertaken at the site of the National Museum of African American History and Culture, which is bound by Constitution Avenue, NW, on the north, 14th Street on the east, Madison Drive on the south, and 15th Street on the west. One investigation evaluated features and deposits associated with the historical development of the Washington Monument Grounds, including a possible remnant of a nineteenth-century circulation system that may have been part of the first formal landscaping of the grounds, as well as nineteenth-century domestic refuse (bottle glass, ceramics, and other wares), architectural items, and building materials. Phase I and Phase II archaeological studies of the African American Museum site concluded that no National Register-eligible archaeological resources were present, and the site no longer exists as a result of the construction of the museum.¹¹

Archeological investigation at NMAAHC also analyzed the **Washington City Canal Archeological Site (noncontributing site, D.C. Archaeological Site Inventory no. 51NW241)**. The Washington City Canal, which once connected the Potomac and Anacostia rivers, was completed between to 15th Street by 1815. It was continually repaired and improved over the next fifty years before being abandoned, filled, and paved over in the early 1870s. During archeological monitoring for the relocation of a Washington Gas line as part of the construction of the NMAAHC, wood planks and posts were exposed that may have functioned as timber shoring or served to control erosion. Although the planks and posts may be related to the construction of the Washington City Canal, the feature could not be dated due to the limited nature of the archeological activities associated with the gas line relocation.¹²

An additional urban infrastructure site was located as part of archeological work associated with construction of the NMAAHC. Designated the **Water Intake Tunnel Archeological Site (noncontributing site, D.C. Archaeological**

¹⁰ Louis Berger Group, Inc., "Archeological Monitoring of Construction, Potomac Park Levee, National Mall and Memorial Parks, District of Columbia, Final Report," prepared for the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, March 2013, 1-6; Stephen Potter, Regional Archeologist, National Capital Region, National Park Service, to Catherine Dewey, Historic Architecture Program Manager, National Capital Region, National Park Service, December 15, 2014.

¹¹ Louis Berger Group, Inc. "Phase II Archaeological Investigation for the National Museum of African American History and Culture, District of Columbia," prepared for the Smithsonian Institution, February 2008, 65-76 and 79.

¹² Thunderbird Archeology, "National Museum of African-American History and Culture, Washington, District of Columbia, Results of Archeological Monitoring of Gas Line Relocation and Documentation of Water Intake Tunnel," prepared for AECOM Technical Services and the Smithsonian Institution, June 2012, 7-15.

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Site Inventory no. 51NW243), the study documented the intake tunnel, now abandoned, that originally extended from the Tidal Basin toward the intersection of 14th Street, NW, and Constitution Avenue. The date of the tunnel, which appears on a 1930 map of the Washington Monument Grounds, could not be determined. The documented tunnel section measured 3 feet in width by 4.5 feet in height and was constructed of 1-foot-thick concrete. The water intake tunnel was documented as part of mitigation for the construction of the National Museum of African American History and Culture on archeological resources.¹³

The **Monument Grounds Archeological Site (noncontributing site, D.C. Archaeological Site Inventory no. 51NW35)** was excavated in the 1880s, likely in association with the underpinning of the Washington Monument in 1879-1880 and subsequent regrading of the grounds. The excavations occurred before the advent of modern archaeology, and today the location of the site cannot be pinpointed with any accuracy. The prehistoric (Native American) artifacts obtained from the site form a collection of 147 artifacts that indicate episodic use of the area for at least 7,000 years. This collection of Native American artifacts is now held by the Smithsonian Institution.¹⁴

Views

Primary views and vistas that contribute to the site's significance include views of the Washington Monument from the city and surrounding region (**historic associated feature**); views from the top of the Washington Monument to the surrounding city and important sites (**historic associated feature**); views from the grounds to the Lincoln Memorial, White House, Thomas Jefferson Memorial, and the U.S. Capitol (**historic associated feature**); and vistas associated with the cross axis of the National Mall (incorporating the Washington Monument, Lincoln Memorial, White House, Thomas Jefferson Memorial, and the U.S. Capitol) (**historic associated feature**). The landscape plans that have been developed for the monument grounds are consistent in protecting the primacy of the monument's broad lawn and open space. These spatial features protect the significant views associated with the monument grounds.

Future Construction

National Museum of African American History and Culture

Authorized by Public Law 108-184, signed by President George W. Bush in December 2003, the Smithsonian Institution National Museum of African American History and Culture was under construction at the time of this nomination, and is therefore not evaluated for significance.¹⁵ Located at the northeast corner of the Washington Monument Grounds along Constitution Avenue between 14th and 15th streets, NW, the museum was designed by Freelon Adjaye Bond/SmithGroup and construction began in 2012. It is expected to open in the fall of 2016. The 400,000-square-foot building, which includes five above-grade floors and five below, will be 216 feet long on each side. It will house galleries, administrative and program offices, and an education center. The museum's defining feature will be a three-tiered corona, constructed of perforated, bronze-colored, aluminum panels to allow light into galleries. At night, light emanating from the museum will create a glow through the corona. The shape of the corona is based on the column capitals of Yoruba architecture, and the angle of the tiers matches that of the Washington Monument (17.4 percent).

Visitors will enter the museum from the Constitution Avenue or Madison Drive through stone-framed vestibules in the glass-walled facades. The Washington Monument will be visible from the south façade, and the museum's porch roof will extend into a paved plaza and seating area surrounding a reflecting pool. On the north, an oculus at the center of a seating area near the entrance will allow light into a below-grade Contemplative Court. Between the oculus and Constitution Avenue, a polished, black granite wall will recall Tiber Creek and the Washington City Canal, which ran along the site until the late nineteenth century. The landscape will also include groves of trees and seating for public activities.

¹³ Thunderbird Archeology, "National Museum of African-American History and Culture, Washington, District of Columbia, Results of Archeological Monitoring of Gas Line Relocation and Documentation of Water Intake Tunnel," 25-31.

¹⁴ Louis Berger Group, Inc., "Geoarcheological Investigation for the Washington Monument Visitor Screening Facility, National Mall and Memorial Parks, District of Columbia, Final Technical Report," prepared for the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, September 2011, 5.

¹⁵ The National Museum of African American History and Culture has been evaluated as part of the updated and expanded National Mall Historic District National Register nomination and has been found to contribute to its significance.

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Table of Contributing and Noncontributing Features

This table lists the contributing and noncontributing resources of the Washington Monument and Grounds Historic District, combining those identified in the 1981 NR form with the resources identified since 1981. The table also includes "Historic Associated Features." This term is used to enumerate and describe small-scale and landscape features not individually countable according to National Register guidelines. The convention was developed to reconcile the requirements of the NPS List of Classified Structures (LCS) and Cultural Landscape Inventories (CLIs) with National Register documentation guidelines. The LCS is an evaluated inventory of all historic and prehistoric buildings, structures, and objects that have historical, architectural, and/or engineering significance within the National Park System. The CLI is an evaluated inventory of all landscapes that have historical, designed, vernacular and ethnographic significance within the National Park System. Although not officially part of the NR nomenclature, the convention of "Historic Associated Features" is used by several NPS regions in order to keep track of all NR eligible resources managed within the National Parks. All known resources are included in National Register documentation either as a countable resource or as a Historic Associated Feature. A map of the resources is included in the nomination as Appendix C.

Resource Name	LCS/CLI Feature Number or Archeology Site	Construction Date(s) and/or Period(s) of Significance	Contributing or Noncontributing Status	Resource Type(s)	Resource Count
BUILDINGS – 6					
Comfort Station	CLI#136236	1976	Noncontributing ¹⁶	Building	1
Tourmobile Kiosk	CLI#136238	1969	Noncontributing ¹⁷	Building	1
Refreshment Kiosk	CLI#136246	Unknown	Noncontributing ¹⁸	Building	1
Monument Lodge	LCS# 100069 CLI# 136220	1888-1889	Contributing	Building	1
Survey Lodge/Boiler House	LCS# 100070 CLI# 136222	1886	Contributing	Building	1
<i>Historic Associated Feature¹⁹</i>					
<i>Vegetation:</i> Catalpa tree behind Survey Lodge	136344	Pre -1943	NA	NA	NA
Temporary Screening Building	CLI#136242	2001	Noncontributing ²⁰	Building	1
SITES – 8					

¹⁶ The Comfort Station is identified as a noncontributing resource of the Washington Monument and Grounds Historic District because it is not significant under National Register Criterion A or under Criterion D, it falls outside the 1791-1943 period of significance for Criterion C, and it does not meet any of the National Register Criteria Considerations.

¹⁷ The Tourmobile Kiosk is identified as a noncontributing resource of the Washington Monument and Grounds Historic District because it is not significant under National Register Criterion A or under Criterion D, it falls outside the 1791-1943 period of significance for Criterion C, and it does not meet any of the National Register Criteria Considerations.

¹⁸ The Refreshment Kiosk Station is identified as a noncontributing resource of the Washington Monument and Grounds Historic District because it is not significant under National Register Criterion A or under Criterion D, it falls outside the 1791-1943 period of significance for Criterion C, and it does not meet any of the National Register Criteria Considerations.

¹⁹ See introduction for explanation of "Historic Associated Features."

²⁰ The Temporary Screening Building is identified as a noncontributing resource of the Washington Monument and Grounds Historic District because it is not significant under National Register Criterion A or under Criterion D, it falls outside the 1791-1943 period of significance for Criterion C, and it does not meet any of the National Register Criteria Considerations.

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17 th Street Wharf Archeological Site (Site 51NW232; ASMIS No. NAMA00346.000)	51NW232	1807-1902	Noncontributing ²¹	Site	1
Floral Library	CLI#136366	1968	Noncontributing ²²	Site	1
German-American Friendship Garden	CLI# 136360	1987-1988	Contributing	Site	1
<i>Historic Associated Features²³</i>					
<i>Circulation:</i> Garden Walks	CLI# 136306	1987-1988	NA	NA	NA
Monument Grounds Archeological Site	51NW035	Prehistoric	Noncontributing ²⁴	Site	1
Sylvan Theatre	LCS#046850 CLI#136230	1917; 1944; 1976	Contributing	Site	1
<i>Historic Associated Features²⁵</i>					
<i>Small-scale features:</i> Flagstone steps at the Sylvan Theatre	136270	1917-1930s	NA	NA	NA
Washington City Canal Archeological Site	51NW241	1810-1815	Noncontributing ²⁶	Site	1
Washington Monument Grounds Cultural Landscape (Reservation No. 2)	NA	1791-1943	Contributing	Site	1
<i>Historic Associated Features²⁷</i>					
<i>Views and Vistas:</i> Views from D.C. and surrounding region to Monument	137108	1848-1884	NA	NA	NA
Views from top of Monument to the surrounding city and important sites	137110	1848-1884	NA	NA	NA
Views from the site to the Lincoln Memorial, White House, Thomas Jefferson Memorial, and the U.S. Capitol	137112	1848-1884	NA	NA	NA
Vistas of the Monument from Lincoln Memorial, White	137114	1848-1884	NA	NA	NA

²¹ The 17th Street Wharf is identified as Site 51NW232 in the D.C. Archeological Site Inventory and is assigned ASMIS No. NAMA00346.000 in the NPS Archeological Site Management Information System. Due to the fact that conclusive evidence of the wharf was not discovered during excavations for the Potomac Park Levee project, the site is not eligible under Criterion D and has been evaluated as a noncontributing resource within the Washington Monument and Grounds Historic District.

²² The Floral Library is identified as a noncontributing resource of the Washington Monument and Grounds Historic District because it is not significant under National Register Criterion A or under Criterion D, it falls outside the 1791-1943 period of significance for Criterion C, and it does not meet any of the National Register Criteria Considerations.

²³ See introduction for explanation of "Historic Associated Features."

²⁴ The Monument Grounds is identified as Site 51NW035 in the D.C. Archeological Site Inventory. The exact location of the site is unknown; however, recent geoarcheological work on the Washington Monument Grounds identified two buried surfaces, or paleosols, that the D.C. Historic Preservation Office considers part of Site 51NW035. Due to the fact that the site is from the prehistoric time period and is outside the 1791-1943 period of significance for Criterion D, it has been evaluated as a noncontributing resource within the Washington Monument and Grounds Historic District.

²⁵ See introduction for explanation of "Historic Associated Features."

²⁶ Due to the fact that the archeological features associated with the Washington City Canal Archeological Site could not be dated, the site has been evaluated as a noncontributing resource within the Washington Monument and Grounds Historic District.

²⁷ See introduction for explanation of "Historic Associated Features."

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House, Thomas Jefferson Memorial, and the U.S. Capitol					
<i>Vegetation:</i> Street Trees along Tidal Basin Parking	137132	varies	NA	NA	NA
Lawn	136312	1875-1876	NA	NA	NA
Mulberry Tree	136314	Pre-1943	NA	NA	NA
Street Trees along 17th Street	136316	ca.1870s	NA	NA	NA
Street Trees along Constitution Avenue	136318	1874-1875	NA	NA	NA
Street Trees along 14th Street	136320	ca.1850s, 1874-1875	NA	NA	NA
Cherry Groves along Tidal Basin	136322	1912	NA	NA	NA
Open Groves	136324	1875-1876, 1888, 1894-1895,	NA	NA	NA
Elms along Tidal Basin Parking Lot	136342	1902-1903	NA	NA	NA
<i>Topography:</i> <i>Mound (Knoll)</i>	NA	1848-1884, 1984, 2004-2005	NA	NA	NA
Water Intake Tunnel Archeological Site	51NW243	no date	Noncontributing ²⁸	Site	1
STRUCTURES – 14					
15 th Street between Constitution and Independence avenues	CLI#136298	1997	Noncontributing ²⁹	Structure	1
Raoul Wallenberg Place, SW (15 th Street, SW)	CLI#136268	1791-1792	Contributing	Structure	1
Bulfinch Gateposts	LCS# 46862, 46863 CLI# 136226	ca. 1820s	Contributing	Structures	2
Flood Control Levee Segment	NA	2014	Noncontributing ³⁰	Structure	1
Independence Avenue Corridor (including Maine Avenue Corridor)	LCS#046872 CLI# 136262	1943	Contributing	Structure	1
<i>Historic Associated Features³¹</i>					
<i>Circulation:</i> Independence Avenue Overpass Bridge	CLI# 136228	1943	NA	NA	NA

²⁸ Due to the fact that the archeological features associated with the Water Intake Tunnel Archeological Site could not be dated, the site has been evaluated as a noncontributing resource within the Washington Monument and Grounds Historic District.

²⁹ In 1997, 15th Street between Constitution and Independence avenues was altered from its historic alignment. This segment of 15th Street is identified as a noncontributing resource of the Washington Monument and Grounds Historic District because it is not significant under National Register Criterion A or under Criterion D, it falls outside the 1791-1943 period of significance for Criterion C, and it does not meet any of the National Register Criteria Considerations.

³⁰ The Flood Control Levee was first built in West Potomac Park in 1936 and altered in 1939 and 1974. The entire levee is a contributing feature of the National Mall Historic District. Further improvements in the levee took place in 2014, and a small section was built on the Washington Monument Grounds. This section of the levee is identified as a noncontributing resource of the Washington Monument and Grounds Historic District because it is not significant under National Register Criterion A or under Criterion D, it falls outside the 1791-1943 period of significance for Criterion C, and it does not meet any of the National Register Criteria Considerations.

³¹ See introduction for explanation of "Historic Associated Features."

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Jefferson Drive, SW	CLI# 136302	1997	Noncontributing ³²	Structure	1
Madison Drive, NW	CLI# 136300	1997	Noncontributing ³³	Structure	1
Monument Plaza	CLI#136272	2004-05	Noncontributing ³⁴	Structure	1
Pedestrian Circulation System	CLI# 136274	various dates	Noncontributing ³⁵	Structure	1
Survey Lodge Service Drive	CLI#136254	ca. 1943	Contributing	Structure	1
Tidal Basin Parking Lot Corridor	CLI#136264	1902-1903; 1943	Contributing	Structure	1
Tidal Basin Walk (including pipe handrail)	CLI#136266, 136382	ca. 1909	Contributing	Structure	1
Washington Monument	LCS#001372 CLI# 136218	1848-1884	Contributing	Structure	1
OBJECTS – 12					
100 th Anniversary Plaques	CLI#136378	1984	Contributing	Object	2
Benches – cast iron-and-wood slat at perimeter of site	CLI#136374	n.d.	Contributing	Object	1 (group)
Cobblestone Gutters along Survey Lodge Service Drive	CLI#137128	ca. 1902	Contributing	Object	1 (group)
Benches – concrete-and-wood slat, recycled plastic, stone	NA	various	Noncontributing ³⁶	Object	1 (group)
Elevation Obelisk	LCS#046864 CLI#137136	1898	Contributing	Object	1
Jefferson Pier Marker	LCS# 011969 CLI# 136224	1889	Contributing	Object	1
Ring of aluminum flagpoles	CLI# 136376	1958	Contributing	Object	1 (group)
Twin Twenty Streetlights along 15 th Street between Independence and Constitution Avenues	NA	1997	Noncontributing ³⁷	Object	1 (group)
Twin Twenty Streetlights along Independence and Maine	CLI#136368	1943	Contributing	Object	1 (group)

³² In 1997, Jefferson Drive, SW, on the Washington Monument Grounds was altered from its previous alignment. This segment of Jefferson Drive is identified as a noncontributing resource of the Washington Monument and Grounds Historic District because it is not significant under National Register Criterion A or under Criterion D, it falls outside the 1791-1943 period of significance for Criterion C, and it does not meet any of the National Register Criteria Considerations.

³³ In 1997, Madison Drive, NW, on the Washington Monument Grounds between Constitution and Independence avenues was altered from its historic alignment. This segment of Madison Drive is identified as a noncontributing resource of the Washington Monument and Grounds Historic District because it is not significant under National Register Criterion A or under Criterion D, it falls outside the 1791-1943 period of significance for Criterion C, and it does not meet any of the National Register Criteria Considerations.

³⁴ The Monument Plaza is identified as a noncontributing resource of the Washington Monument and Grounds Historic District because it is not significant under National Register Criterion A or under Criterion D, it falls outside the 1791-1943 period of significance for Criterion C, and it does not meet any of the National Register Criteria Considerations.

³⁵ The Pedestrian Circulation System is identified as a noncontributing resource of the Washington Monument and Grounds Historic District because it is not significant under National Register Criterion A or under Criterion D, it falls outside the 1791-1943 period of significance for Criterion C, and it does not meet any of the National Register Criteria Considerations.

³⁶ The benches on the Washington Monument Grounds (other the cast iron-and-wood-slat benches referred to above) are identified as noncontributing resources of the Washington Monument and Grounds Historic District because they are not significant under National Register Criterion A or under Criterion D, they fall outside the 1791-1943 period of significance for Criterion C, and they do not meet any of the National Register Criteria Considerations.

³⁷ The Twin Twenty Streetlights on 15th Street between Constitution and Independence avenues are identified as noncontributing resources of the Washington Monument and Grounds Historic District because they are not significant under National Register Criterion A or under Criterion D, they fall outside the 1791-1943 period of significance for Criterion C, and they do not meet any of the National Register Criteria Considerations.

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Avenues					
Washington Globe Streetlights along Jefferson and Madison Drives	NA	1997	Noncontributing ³⁸	Object	1 (group)
Washington Globe Streetlights along Survey Lodge Service Drive	CLI#136370	ca. 1902?	Contributing	Object	1 (group)

³⁸ The Washington Globe Streetlights on Jefferson and Madison drives within the monument grounds are identified as noncontributing resources of the Washington Monument and Grounds Historic District because they are not significant under National Register Criterion A or under Criterion D, they fall outside the 1791-1943 period of significance for Criterion C, and they do not meet any of the National Register Criteria Considerations.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☒ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- ☐ A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☒ B removed from its original location.
- ☐ C a birthplace or grave.
- ☐ D a cemetery.
- ☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☒ F a commemorative property.
- ☒ G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Architecture
Community Planning and Development
Engineering
Entertainment/Recreation
Ethnic Heritage (Black)
Landscape Architecture
Politics/Government
Social History

Periods of Significance

Criterion A: 1791-Present

Criterion C: 1791-1943

Significant Dates

1848

1876

1884

1943

1963

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Robert Mills

Lt. Col. Thomas Lincoln Casey

William Poindexter and Company

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Summary Paragraphs

The Washington Monument and Grounds Historic District satisfies National Register Criterion A (properties associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history) at the national level in three areas of significance. The district is nationally significant in the area of politics and government as part of the establishment of the new national capital. In addition, the monument and grounds are nationally significant in the area of social history as a gathering place for American citizens to exercise their First Amendment rights of free assembly and free speech in efforts to influence politicians' actions regarding issues of national importance, including equal rights, military involvement, and social and environmental policy. In the area of ethnic heritage (black), the Washington Monument and Grounds are also nationally significant for the important role they played in the 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom – a significant event in the civil rights movement of the 1960s that began on the monument grounds and culminated at the Lincoln Memorial.³⁹

The historic district is nationally and locally significant under Criterion A in the area of entertainment/recreation. The grounds are nationally significant as the site of continuing entertainment in the form of memorial visitation, which began to be encouraged in the United States in the middle of the nineteenth century as part of a movement aimed at advancing the physical and mental well-being of American citizens. In addition, national celebrations, such as those surrounding George Washington's birthday and Independence Day have taken place on the monument grounds since the nineteenth century. Theater, music, dance, and other performances have taken place on the monument grounds for most of its history; the establishment of the Sylvan Theater in 1917 provided a purpose-built venue for these activities. The monument grounds are locally significant as the site of ongoing recreational opportunities for Washington residents. Recreational facilities were constructed on the monument grounds beginning in the early twentieth century. Prior to World War II, these facilities included roads, bridle paths, tennis courts, football fields, and swimming pools. Even after most of the built facilities were removed, the monument grounds have continued to act as the location of recreational activities for local residents, such as softball, kickball, and ultimate frisbee.

The Washington Monument and Grounds are also nationally significant under National Register Criterion C (properties significant for their design or construction) within the areas of Architecture, Engineering, Landscape Architecture, and Community Planning and Development. The monument is a major example of nineteenth-century Egyptian Revival and commemorative architecture in its use of an unadorned obelisk – a memorial form used in Egypt, in Roman antiquity, in Europe after the Renaissance, and in the United States in the nineteenth century. The monument is a notable accomplishment in structural engineering for its period, having been the tallest structure in the world upon its completion in 1884 and remaining to this day the tallest freestanding stone building in the world. It is also noteworthy as a memorial cultural landscape, the form and materials of the site (grass-covered knoll, expansive lawn, perimeter trees) emphasizing the massiveness of the obelisk and focusing the visitor's attention on the individual it commemorates in ways that recall late eighteenth- and early-nineteenth century concepts of the sublime and the romantic. The monument and its designed cultural landscape (including subsidiary buildings, structures, and objects) are central components of the capital's monumental core, acting as the crucial link between the President's house and the Capitol in Maj. Peter (Pierre) Charles L'Enfant's 1791 city plan and as the crux of the kite-shaped McMillan Plan of 1901-02.

The Washington Monument and Grounds satisfy three National Register Criteria Considerations. The Bulfinch Gateposts near Constitution Avenue at 15th Street satisfy Criterion Consideration B (moved properties). The two sandstone gateposts attributed to Charles Bulfinch were part of a group moved from the grounds of the United States Capitol after Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr., began his alterations to the Capitol grounds in 1874. The gateposts' design, materials, and workmanship remain unchanged as a result of the move, maintaining integrity in these areas, as is required for moved properties significant for their design. Although they have lost their association with their original setting and their feeling has also been compromised, the two gateposts, along with the two Bulfinch Gatehouses across Constitution Avenue in President's Park South, have been in their existing locations long enough to have created a new context as architectural features of their respective parks. The monument also satisfies Criterion Consideration F (commemorative properties) for

³⁹ It should be noted that other ethnic groups may have significant associations with the monument grounds, but research that would document that significance has thus far not been undertaken.

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the significance of its Egyptian Revival design and as a symbol of the principles the nation cherished in its first president. The monument and grounds satisfy Criterion Consideration G (properties less than fifty years old) for the ongoing importance of the activities that take place there. As a part of the National Mall, the monument grounds continue to function as a significant public gathering space for national celebrations and expressions of First Amendment freedoms.

Periods of Significance

Periods of significance have been defined for the two National Register criteria that the Washington Monument and Grounds satisfy. These intervals are described below.

Criterion A: The period of significance for Criterion A has been designated as 1791 to the present. This period begins with the establishment of the new national capital and Peter Charles L'Enfant's plan for the city, which included symbolic placement of a memorial to George Washington at the intersection of axes running through the sites of the executive and legislative branches of government. The area defined by this arrangement of buildings, memorial, and open space created a public forum in which issues of national significance would be played out. Celebrations of George Washington's birthday and Independence Day on the monument grounds began in the nineteenth century and continue to the present day. As part of the National Mall's public landscape, the monument grounds have had important roles in political demonstrations, becoming the site of, among other things, citizen advocacy of equal rights and opposition to American military involvement. The continued use of the monument and its grounds as the location for the expression of freedoms guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution and celebrations of significant national events signifies its exceptional, ongoing importance as a public gathering space and justifies the continuation of the period of significance to the present day.

Criterion C: The nomination identifies the period of significance for Criterion C as 1791 to 1943. The period begins with the site's designation by L'Enfant as the location of a memorial to George Washington at the great cross axis of the Mall. It ends in 1943 when Independence Avenue was extended through the monument grounds and the Thomas Jefferson Memorial was dedicated, providing a focal point for the axial view south from the White House across the monument grounds and completing the monument landscape as it exists today. Throughout this period the site was the location of significant planning, design, construction, and alteration. In 1804, President Thomas Jefferson established the intersection of L'Enfant's two axes with a pier to mark the prime meridian he proposed for the young country. The formation of the Washington National Monument Society took place in 1833, resulting in the planning, fundraising, site selection, and ultimately, in 1848, the beginning of construction. This first building campaign ended in 1858 when funds disappeared in a squabble over control of the society. Calls to complete the monument began soon after the end of the Civil War and engendered debate in Congress and in the public media on the most practical means and the most aesthetically appropriate form by which to continue. That process did not begin in earnest, however, until August 1876, when Congress passed legislation that ensured completion of the monument.

Lt. Col. Thomas Lincoln Casey of the U.S. Army's Corps of Engineers undertook that task, and the capstone was put in place in December 1884. Work continued on the grounds and to make the monument itself ready for public use. The monument was opened to the public in 1888. The popularity of the monument with visitors and Washington residents led to improvements in the structure and the site throughout the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The size and configuration of the grounds also evolved over the course of the period of significance. As depicted on the 1797 Dermott map, the site was originally bounded on the east by the proposed line of 15th Street (never constructed as planned by L'Enfant), the Potomac River on the west and south, and the Washington City Canal on the north. The establishment of 14th Street across the Mall, authorized in 1832, provided the eastern boundary for the monument grounds adopted by Andrew Jackson Downing in his 1851 plan for Washington's central public reservations. The canal was converted into a sewer in the early 1870s and surfaced as a city street (then North B Street, now Constitution Avenue), which marked the northern boundary of the monument grounds. When the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reclaimed the Potomac Flats west of the monument grounds in the late nineteenth century as usable parkland, the monument landscape was extended to the west and south and the Tidal Basin built as an aesthetically pleasing way to keep the Washington Channel clear of

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sediment. With the completion of the Independence Avenue extension and the Thomas Jefferson Memorial in 1943, the monument grounds reached their current configuration and all significant features had been built.

Narrative Statement of Significance

The 1981 National Register nomination for the Washington Monument cited its significance in the areas of Architecture, Engineering, Landscape Architecture, and Commemoration.⁴⁰ Subsequent studies have expanded our understanding of the significance of the monument and its grounds, and National Register classifications have been further refined since the original documentation. This narrative statement addresses each of the relevant criteria, considerations, and areas of significance, and assesses the level of that importance (national, state, or local).

Criterion A (Properties associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history)

Politics/Government: The Washington Monument and Grounds Historic District is nationally significant in the area of politics and government as a significant feature of the plan of the new national capital. In 1791, President George Washington selected the site of the nation's capital, as well as the planner of the new city, Maj. Peter (Pierre) Charles L'Enfant. Washington and Congress approved L'Enfant's plan for the location of the executive and legislative branches of the United States government, as well as the green space and proposed statue to Washington that connected the two, by the end of the year. This topographic organization of the branches of government, connected physically and visually through open space and a memorial to Washington, has formed the symbolic core of American government ever since. The Washington Monument and Grounds are part of the physical representation of the separation of powers that defines American democracy, while also symbolizing the necessary interaction between the branches and the importance of Washington in the founding of the country.

The historic district is also nationally significant in the area of politics and government as the site of important political demonstrations that influenced the manner in which the nation is governed. See *Social History* and *Ethnic Heritage (Black)* (below) for a more complete description of the significance of the Washington Monument and Grounds in these areas.

Social History: The Washington Monument and Grounds is nationally significant in the area of social history as part of the National Mall – the public forum created by the L'Enfant and McMillan plans that has witnessed demonstrations on issues of national significance and rituals of American democracy, as well as national celebrations and observances. Standing at the center of the great cross-axis of the Mall, the Washington Monument and Grounds have played an important role in these public events, including certain rituals of American government, such as presidential inaugurations. The grounds witnessed patriotic rallies during World War II and celebrations at war's end. Peace rallies took place on the monument grounds in 1969 and 1971 as part of Mall-wide demonstrations, and other events on the National Mall since that time have extended into the grounds. These included demonstrations on equal rights for African Americans, marches for gay and lesbian civil rights, and events designed to raise awareness of HIV and AIDS. The continued use of the monument and its grounds as a forum for demonstrations and debates on political and social issues and as the site of public gatherings for nationally important events signifies its exceptional, ongoing importance as an integral part of the public gathering space of the National Mall.

Ethnic Heritage (Black): The historic district is nationally significant in the area of ethnic heritage (black) for the important role it played in one of the seminal events in the civil rights movement. During the national debate on racial equality, the monument and grounds acted as the gathering place for participants in the August 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom. The marchers organized on the monument grounds before proceeding to the Lincoln Memorial and the Reflecting Pool. Speakers at the Lincoln Memorial, including the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., called for justice and economic equality. The march was part of a drive to pass the Civil Rights Act that outlawed discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, or national origin.

⁴⁰ Section 7 of this nomination explains the relationship of this amended nomination to the 1981 documentation.

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Entertainment/Recreation: The Washington Monument and Grounds are also both nationally and locally significant in the area of entertainment/recreation. The monument and grounds are nationally significant as the site of continuing entertainment and recreation in the form of memorial visitation, which, along with other leisure activities, began to be encouraged in the United States in the middle of the nineteenth century as part of a movement aimed at advancing the physical and mental well-being of American citizens. The value of such activity also guided the City Beautiful Movement of the early twentieth century. The monument proved immediately popular upon its opening in 1888 and has been an important destination for visitors to Washington ever since. The monument and its grounds have also been the location for the celebration or observance of important national anniversaries or milestones for more than a century and a half. Celebrations of George Washington's birthday and Independence Day on the monument grounds began in the nineteenth century and continue to the present day. The Sylvan Theater has also drawn visitors seeking dramatic and musical entertainment since it opened in 1917. The monument grounds are locally significant as the site of ongoing active recreational opportunities for Washington residents; these have included swimming pools, tennis and basketball courts, and baseball, softball, football, and soccer fields. Although built recreational facilities have been removed, the monument grounds continue to be used for softball, frisbee, kickball, jogging, and other recreational activities for local residents.

Criterion C (Properties that embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic value, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction)

Architecture: Originally designed by Robert Mills, the nation's Architect of Public Buildings from 1836 to 1842, the Washington Monument and Grounds is nationally significant in the area of architecture as the work of a master and because it possesses high artistic value as a unique example of a movement in the nineteenth century to commemorate, through built works, the lives of important Americans, especially the revolutionary generation. Such monuments were based on European precedents (or precedents adopted in Europe), which often took the form of columns, obelisks, or mausoleums. Examples in the United States include Mills' 1813 columnar monument to Washington in Baltimore (175 feet tall) and the Bunker Hill Monument, a 225-foot-tall granite obelisk in Boston designed by Solomon Willard and completed in 1842. The Washington Monument designed by Mills in 1848 – at a planned 600 feet tall – by far eclipsed the size of these early memorials and was seen from the beginning as the nation's tribute to the enduring influence of Washington's principles. The refinement of the design to more closely represent Egyptian obelisks erected as commemorative works in Rome, undertaken during the monument's second building campaign by Lt. Col. Thomas Lincoln Casey and George Perkins Marsh, the United States' minister to Italy, reinforced the sense of Washington's eternal significance and created an outstanding example of Egyptian Revival architecture.

Community Planning and Development: The Washington Monument is nationally significant as a principal feature of the Plan of the City of Washington, the country's foremost example of both Baroque and City Beautiful planning principles. The monument and grounds are located at the intersection of the great cross axis of the National Mall, the central feature of Maj. Peter (Pierre) Charles L'Enfant's 1791 design for the new capital of the new United States. L'Enfant's design had its roots in French Baroque precedents such as the royal court at Versailles and the royal chateau at Marly, but it was also influenced by the Paris of the late eighteenth century – in particular, the L-shaped public space composed of the Louvre, the Tuileries Garden, the site of the Church of the Madeleine, and the Place Louis XV (later the Place de la Concorde). L'Enfant proposed an equestrian statue in memory of George Washington at the intersection of the axes through the President's house and the Capitol. The statue would be visible from the President's house and from the Capitol and vice versa. By emphasizing the physical distinction between the homes of the president and Congress, L'Enfant illustrated the separation of powers inherent in the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. By connecting those sites visually with the Washington statue, he linked the legislative and executive branches in the common pursuit of the first president's vision of republican government. While the Washington Monument was ultimately constructed south and east of the proposed location, it has remained as a visual link between the White House and Capitol and has continued to function as the hinge of the central public space planned by L'Enfant.

The Senate Park (or McMillan) Commission, which included some of the nation's leading designers (Charles Follen McKim, Daniel H. Burnham, Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr., and Augustus Saint-Gaudens), reimagined L'Enfant's plan

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at the beginning of the twentieth century. The plan reemphasized the importance of the monument by angling the greensward of the Mall to place the monument on axis with the Capitol and by locating memorials (ultimately dedicated to Lincoln and Jefferson) at the ends of the axes that crossed the monument grounds. The commission members all participated in the design of the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago, the first fully fledged exercise in the principles of the City Beautiful movement, which emphasized broad boulevards, rectilinear landscape compositions, public art, and Beaux-Arts buildings. The implementation of the Senate Park (or McMillan) Plan in Washington is the most completely realized, permanent implementation of City Beautiful ideas in the United States, and the Washington Monument and Grounds retains primary significance at the center of the governmental and memorial cross axis its implementation reinforced.

Engineering: The Washington Monument is nationally significant in the area of engineering as a milestone of mid- and late-nineteenth-century construction. The tallest building in the world when it was completed in 1884 (it was eclipsed in height by the Eiffel Tower in 1889), the monument remains the world's tallest, free-standing stone structure. Lt. Col. Thomas Lincoln Casey of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers superintended the completion of the monument, beginning his task in 1879. Casey determined, in consultation with George Perkins Marsh, the American minister to Italy, the final design and proportions of the monument. He developed the means to strengthen the existing foundations using complex excavating techniques and concrete rather than stone for strength. He also developed the means of raising the monument using marble facing and granite backing stones and designed the monument's interior iron structure as a framework for an elevator that transported materials and workmen to the top of the monument as it was constructed. The monument's importance has been recognized by the American Society of Civil Engineers, which designated it a Historic Civil Engineering Landmark in 1981.

Landscape Architecture: The grounds of the Washington Monument are nationally significant in the area of landscape architecture, possessing high artistic value as a complement to the unique design of the monument itself. Upon completion of the monument in 1884, Casey designed the landscape to remain simple and dignified as an appropriate foreground to the purity of the obelisk itself. From the beginning, the monument grounds have consisted of a grass-covered knoll on which the monument sits, a broad expanse of grass reaching to the boundaries of the site, trees concentrated near the perimeter of the grounds, and pedestrian and vehicular pathways linking the monument with surrounding streets. Other structures on the site, such as the Monument Lodge, which originally acted as the keeper's lodge and as archives for monument records, and the Survey Lodge/Boiler House, which once supplied power to the monument elevator, were located in such a way as to remain unobtrusive and to complement the monument in terms of materials and design. The form and materials of the landscape emphasize the massiveness of the obelisk and focus the visitor's attention on the individual it commemorates in ways that recall late eighteenth- and early-nineteenth century concepts of the sublime and the romantic. The landscape design is therefore significant as Casey's adaptation of the site to its commemorative purpose, using elements of earlier landscape design principles.

Criterion Consideration B (Properties removed from their original or historically significant locations can be eligible if their significance is primarily for architectural value or they are a surviving property most importantly associated with a historic person or event)

The Bulfinch Gateposts satisfy Criterion Consideration B as significant architectural features of the monument grounds. The two sandstone gateposts currently located at Constitution Avenue and 15th Street were designed by Charles Bulfinch as part of the fence surrounding the United States Capitol grounds. The pair was removed after Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr., began his alterations to the Capital grounds in 1874 and relocated to the monument grounds around 1880. As a resource significant under Criterion C, such a moved property must retain enough of its original features to convey its architectural values. The gateposts' design, materials, and workmanship remain unchanged as a result of the move, maintaining integrity in these areas. No longer located on the Capitol grounds, the gateposts have lost their association with their original setting and their feeling has also been compromised, although their use at the entrance to the monument grounds does convey their original use at the perimeter of the Capitol compound. Further, the two gateposts (along with

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the two Bulfinch Gatehouses across Constitution Avenue in President's Park South) have been in their existing locations long enough to have created a new context as architectural features of their respective parks.

Criterion Consideration F (Properties primarily commemorative in intent can be eligible if design, age, tradition, or symbolic value has invested it with its own historic significance)

The monument and grounds satisfy Criterion Consideration F because they possess significance in their own right for their design, age, tradition, and symbolic value. When it was conceived by Robert Mills, the Washington Monument's size and mass were said to symbolize George Washington's towering and enduring importance to the United States. The symbolic importance of the monument was recognized in the Senate Park Commission's 1901-02 plan for Washington, which used the obelisk as the focal point of memorials to leaders of the American Revolution and the Civil War that stretched across the National Mall. Development of this memorial landscape has continued with the monument at its center, symbolizing the principles for which Washington stood and his significance to the country's founding, unification, and endurance. The obelisk Mills proposed represented a recognizable commemorative form that dated back to the Egyptians and was adopted in Rome during both the antique and modern periods. The final form of the monument, conceived by Lt. Col. Thomas Lincoln Casey and Ambassador to Italy George Perkins Marsh, created a pure obelisk that, along with its isolated setting on a rise of ground, reflects the eclectic and Romantic inspirations of late nineteenth-century design. The tallest building in the world when it was completed in 1884, the monument is also a milestone of mid- and late-nineteenth-century construction. It remains the world's tallest, free-standing stone structure.

Also located on the Washington Monument Grounds are a small number of commemorative works and markers were either not congressionally authorized, are small in scale, represent less well known events in American history, or commemorate local history. They include the German American Friendship Garden and plaques commemorating the 100th anniversary of the monument's construction. These works are considered contributing as signifiers of broader cultural attitudes and represent the value placed on the commemorated subjects by their sponsors. They show how the monument grounds, like the National Mall of which it is a part, continues to serve as a canvas upon which successive generations of local citizens and communities have written the story of the events, persons, and organizations that have shaped our society.

Criterion Consideration G (A property achieving significance within the last fifty years is eligible if it is of exceptional importance)

The monument and grounds satisfy Criterion Consideration G for their ongoing importance as a part of the nationally significant public space of the National Mall and as a continuing venue for entertainment and recreation for visitors and local residents. In recent years the monument grounds have been the site of public gatherings related to many political and social issues, including American military involvement, ongoing pursuit of equal rights, as well as marches for gay and lesbian civil rights and AIDS awareness. Celebrations of George Washington's birthday and Independence Day on the monument grounds began in the nineteenth century and continue to the present day, and the grounds have become an important part of the landscape for presidential inaugurations. The monument grounds are also home to cultural events such as concerts and films and a significant location for recreational activities by Washington citizens. The continued use of the monument and its grounds as a forum for the debates on political and social issues, as the site of national celebrations of significant national events and cultural activities and as a location of recreational opportunities signifies its exceptional, ongoing importance as an integral part of the public gathering space of the National Mall.

Assessment of Integrity

The Washington Monument retains a high degree of integrity to the Criterion C period of significance (1791-1943) in nearly all of the National Register's seven categories: location, setting, form, design, materials, feeling, and association. The monument itself remains in the location chosen by the Washington National Monument Society and approved by President James Polk in 1848. The setting of the monument in a broad open space at the center of the National Mall, remains unchanged since the early twentieth century, when West Potomac Park and the Tidal Basin were created, establishing the site's southern and western boundaries. The obelisk form of the monument remains unchanged since its

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design was finalized by Lt. Col. Thomas Lincoln Casey in the monument's second building campaign, and virtually all of the significant materials (marble, blue gneiss, and granite, aluminum capstone, iron internal structure, terrazzo lobby floor) remain in place. Alterations to the design and materials mainly derive from upgrades to the elevator, electrical, and lighting systems, stairs, and signage. Repairs during the major renovations to the monument (1934, 1964, and after the 2011 earthquake) resulted in minor loss of original material.

The monument grounds cultural landscape has witnessed greater changes than the obelisk itself, but the grounds retain moderate integrity and continue to display the most important character-defining features of Casey's original design. The monument still sits on its grass-covered knoll, surrounded by a broad lawn punctuated with groups of trees and vegetation at its borders. Subsidiary buildings and objects, such as the Monument Lodge, the Survey Lodge/Boiler House, the Elevation Obelisk, and the Jefferson Pier Marker, remain in their original locations and have been maintained in or restored to their original exterior appearance. Details of the grounds have changed, however, having an effect on the grounds' feeling and association. The size of the grounds increased with the filling of the Potomac Flats in the late nineteenth century. The added grounds on the south became the location of additional features, such as the Tidal Basin, Sylvan Theater, the Thomas Jefferson Memorial, and Independence Avenue. The general form, design, materials, and setting of the current monument grounds date from the completion of the Jefferson Memorial and Independence Avenue in 1943. Additional, more recent changes include the German-American Friendship Garden near Constitution Avenue, the addition of a temporary screening building on the monument plaza, redesign of the pedestrian circulation to incorporate vehicular security barriers, realignment of 15th Street as it travels through the site, insertion of a segment of the Potomac Park Levee in the northwest portion of the grounds, and construction of the National Museum of African American History and Culture at the intersection of Constitution Avenue and 14th Street. Most of these changes diminish but do not obscure an understanding of the salient features of Casey's original design. One of the changes, the redesign of the pedestrian circulation system, reinforced Casey's simple design for the monument grounds and emphasized the form of the grassy knoll. Modifications to the grounds have continued to support and enhance its monumental commemorative purpose as well as the first amendment activities that the property also derives significance from.

The ancillary buildings, sites, structures, and objects also retain integrity to the Criterion C period of significance. (See table, p. 24.) All of these features remain in their original locations, with the exception of the Bulfinch Gateposts, which were moved to monument grounds in 1880. Original design, materials, and workmanship retain integrity, except for the Sylvan Theater, which has been frequently altered since its original construction, which consisted of an earthen stage with shrub-enclosed wings. The theater is, however, significant as the ongoing site of cultural events, rather than for its design. Alterations have affected the integrity of some contributing features. A steel and wood storage building was added on the northwest side of the Survey Lodge/Boiler House in 1989, and the interior of the Monument Lodge has been remodeled to accommodate evolving functions. Both those buildings benefitted from restoration campaigns that returned their exteriors to closer approximations of their original design. The slate roof and cupola of the Survey Lodge was restored in the 1990s, and a 1950s addition on the west side of the Monument Lodge was removed in 2005-06. The immediate settings of these features have been most affected by changes over time, especially to circulation. These changes have altered the ways visitors approach the secondary resources. Still, since these features have remained in their original locations and their relationships to the monument and grounds are unchanged, the feelings and associations they arouse have integrity to the period of significance.

Developmental History/Additional Historic Context

Native American and Colonial History in the Tiber Creek Area

Nearly 13,000 years ago, small groups of Native Americans foraged in the Potomac River watershed. Transient use of the area continued until about 4,000 years ago, when archeological studies show that inhabitants quarried stones from the banks of Rock Creek to transport to nearby campsites to be transformed into tools. Artifacts collected from the Washington Monument Grounds in the 1880s suggest that Native American peoples used the mouth of Tiber Creek for at

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least 7,000 years, most likely as a seasonal residence.⁴¹ In the five centuries before Europeans began to immigrate to the Mid-Atlantic region, the lower Potomac watershed witnessed an expansion of the native population and the development of villages and complex social structures. The village known as Necohtank, inhabited by a native group called the Necostans, functioned as a local trading center. It stood on the east bank of the Anacostia in what is now Washington's Benning neighborhood.

The earliest account of contact between native populations and Europeans in the area dates to 1608, when Captain John Smith explored the Potomac River from its mouth at the Chesapeake Bay to the falls above what is now Georgetown. European immigration soon followed Smith's voyage, with Jesuit missions to the lower Potomac watershed by 1639 and the first land grant on the Potomac shore of the Maryland colony in 1662. A year later, Francis Pope patented land around a creek he named the Tiber. His patent ("Rome") lay north of the land on which the Capitol was eventually built. By early in the eighteenth century, as European immigration increased, the native inhabitants had largely moved away from the confluence of the Potomac and Anacostia rivers, although native hunting parties continued to move through the region.

Pope's patent was among the earliest in the part of Maryland that eventually became the District of Columbia. Another early patentee was George Thompson, who in 1664 patented three land grants (Duddington Manor, Duddington Pasture, and New Troy) totaling nearly 1,800 acres. Most patents in the area, however, were not received until the end of the seventeenth century, bringing the earliest European residents to Tiber Creek and its surrounding land. The turn of the century brought a consolidation of land holdings in colonial Maryland and the transition from a labor force composed mostly of European indentured servants to one made up primarily of enslaved Africans. The land west of the Anacostia River, including what are now the Washington Monument Grounds, developed slowly, in large part due to the more fertile soil along the east bank, which favored the cultivation of tobacco and drew more settlers. By some estimates, it wasn't until after 1720 that the land that became Washington, D.C., began to display the characteristics of a stable settlement, especially increasing numbers of women and families and a rising birth rate.

Throughout the eighteenth century, the future federal district lands remained sparsely settled. As the century progressed, the reliance of planters in the Maryland and Virginia tidewater on tobacco as a cash crop began to wane, giving way to more diversified agriculture that included corn and wheat as well as tobacco. On the dispersed land holdings of plantations at this time, laborers – enslaved, indentured, and free – were often transported to the sites of their work for seasonal residence in accordance with the agricultural cycle. Housing and agricultural buildings at these sites were of impermanent construction: wood-framed or built of logs. Most plantations had a more substantial dwelling house for the owner, which was surrounded by outbuildings for cooking, cleaning, storage, and servant housing. Enslaved domestic workers played an important role in the running of these plantation households.⁴²

In the late eighteenth century, Daniel Carroll of Duddington, owned the land that became the site of the Washington Monument. Carroll inherited Cerne Abbey Manor, a collection of tracts totaling nearly 1,400 acres that had formerly belonged to George Thompson, through his father's 1773 will. The property also included much of the area that would become the National Mall and the Capitol Grounds. Carroll, who in 1790 began a manor house on what is now South Capitol Street at Q Street, was a planter and a brickmaker, both professional pursuits that would have required

⁴¹ The Monument Grounds archeological site is identified as Site 51NW35 in the D.C. Archaeological Site Inventory. The 147 artifacts in the collection were collected in the 1880s, likely in association with excavations for the underpinning of the Washington Monument in 1879-1880 and the subsequent regrading of the grounds. The excavations occurred before the advent of modern archeology, and today the location of the site cannot be pinpointed with any accuracy. Because the exact location of the site is unknown and the ability of the resource to convey its significance is low, the Monument Grounds site has been evaluated as a noncontributing site.

⁴² Louis Berger Group, "Phase IA Archaeological Investigation for the Potomac Park Levee, National Mall and Memorial Parks," prepared for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the National Park Service. January 2009, i-iii, 3; John Milner Associates, "Washington Monument Grounds Cultural Landscape Report," prepared for National Park Service, Denver Service Center and National Capital Region, December 2003 (revised August 2011), 2-1 – 2-2; Louis Berger Group, "Phase I Archaeological Investigation for the National Museum of African American Museum of History and Culture," prepared for the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture, July 2007, 25-35.

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structures in various locations on his holdings and involved the employment of enslaved and free labor. According to the 1790 federal census, Carroll held thirteen slaves, and he was known to have hired out some of these laborers to others for making bricks. When Carroll rebuilt his manor house in 1794, the bricks are documented to have come from his own kilns, undoubtedly made by his own enslaved workers.⁴³

The Washington Monument Site in the L'Enfant Plan

President George Washington, empowered by the Residence Act of July 16, 1790, chose the site of the first permanent capital of the United States. On January 24, 1791, Washington made his choice public. The capital would be located on a ten-mile-square site of tidal plain and river terrace, mostly in the state of Maryland, at the confluence of the Potomac and Anacostia rivers. Washington also chose the architect of the future capital: Peter (Pierre) Charles L'Enfant, a French-born former military officer who studied at the Royal Academy of Painting and Sculpture in Paris. L'Enfant had served in the Continental Army during the American Revolution, including a stint at Valley Forge under Washington's command. After the United States gained its independence from Great Britain, he settled in New York, working as an architect. Among his commissions there were a temporary structure for a Federalist pageant encouraging ratification of the Constitution, and alterations that turned New York's city hall into Federal Hall. Following those alterations, Federal Hall became the home of Congress until it moved to the District in 1800, and was the setting, in 1789, for George Washington's inauguration as the nation's first president.⁴⁴

L'Enfant and a team consisting of surveyor Andrew Ellicott; Benjamin Banneker, an African American farmer, surveyor, and astronomer; engineer Isaac Roberdeau; and others surveyed the site for the new city, and in the summer of 1791, L'Enfant provided Washington with a detailed plan that survives today in both original and facsimile form. (Historical Figure 1) His design had its roots in French Baroque precedents such as the royal court at Versailles and the royal chateau at Marly, but it was also influenced by the Paris of the late eighteenth century. In particular, the L-shaped public space composed of the Louvre, the Tuileries Garden, and the site of the Church of the Madeleine, with the Place Louis XV (later the Place de la Concord) and its equestrian statue of the king at the angle of the L, seems to have resonated with the transplanted Frenchman. L'Enfant transformed the Paris precedent into the central motif of his plan for Washington: A proposed residence for the president and a building for the legislature, both on eminences above the flood plain, stood at two termini of a T-shaped public space. L'Enfant proposed an equestrian statue in memory of Washington – already approved by the Continental Congress in 1783 – at the intersection of the axes through the buildings, much as the statue of the monarch formed the hinge between the church and the royal palace in Paris. In the United States capital, the proposed statue conceptually linked the executive and legislative branches of the republican government. The statue of Washington, the nation's first great leader and symbol of national unity, would be visible from the President's house and from the Capitol and vice versa. By emphasizing the physical distinction between the homes of the president and congress, L'Enfant illustrated the separation of powers inherent in the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. By connecting those sites visually with the Washington statue, he linked the legislative and executive branches in the common pursuit of the first president's vision of republican government.⁴⁵

⁴³ Louis Berger Group, Inc., "Phase II Archaeological Investigation for the National Museum of African American Museum of History and Culture," prepared for the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture, February 2008, 13-19, 76-79; Priscilla W. McNeill, "Rock Creek Hundred: Land Conveyed for the Federal City," *Washington History* 3:1 (Spring/Summer 1991), 41-45.

⁴⁴ Kenneth Bolling, "Introduction" to Special Bicentennial Issue: Washington, D.C., 1791-1991, *Washington History* 3:1, Spring/Summer 1991, 6-7; William C. Allen, *History of the United States Capital* (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 2001), 4; John W. Reps, *Monumental Washington: The Planning and Development of the Capital Center* (Princeton, New Jersey: Princeton University Press, 1967), 5-9; Scott Berg, *Grand Avenues: The Story of the French Visionary who Designed Washington, D.C.* (New York: Pantheon Books, 2007), 39-43.

⁴⁵ Pamela Scott, "'This Vast Empire': The Iconography of the Mall, 1791-1848," in *The Mall in Washington, 1791-1991*, Richard Longstreth, ed. (Washington, D.C.: National Gallery of Art, 1991), 37-45; Silvio A. Bedini, "The Survey of the Federal Territory: Andrew Ellicott and Benjamin Banneker," *Washington History*, 3:1 (Spring/Summer 1991), 77-89.

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The first step in turning L'Enfant's plan into a built and peopled city was the acquisition of land within the federal district. The property owners in the area, who have come to be known as the "original proprietors," agreed on March 30, 1791, to a plan and compensation for transfer of the land to the government. Daniel Carroll of Duddington, who owned the largest amount of land in the area designated to become the capital, was one of the nineteen proprietors engaged in these negotiations. In essence, the landowners would be paid for land on which public buildings were built or were reserved to the government and would receive half of the lots laid out on their former holdings. These lots could subsequently be sold. The government would receive the remaining half of the proprietors' lots, which it would sell to raise money for development of the city. The government would also receive land designated for city streets, for which the proprietors would not be compensated.⁴⁶

On March 2, 1797, Washington issued a description of the lands reserved to the government, which became known as appropriations or reservations. The location of the President's house was designated Reservation no. 1. Reservation no. 2 encompassed both the Capitol site and the Mall. Washington's memorandum designated the site on which L'Enfant proposed to place the equestrian statue of the first president Reservation no. 3. (Historical Figure 2) The site was defined as:

The public appropriation beginning at the intersection of the south side of Canal Street [now Constitution Avenue], drawn on the south side of the Canal, and the west side of fifteenth street west. Thence south with the west side of fifteenth street west, until it intersects the Potomac River, thence northwesterly until it intersects the Canal, thence easterly with the Canal to the beginning.⁴⁷

Development of the Public Reservations in the First Half of the Nineteenth Century

Early development of the land acquired for federal uses in the District centered on features most needed for the functioning of the government, rather than symbolic or ornamental elements. The Residence Act provided for the removal of the federal government from Philadelphia by November 1800, and the city commissioners, as well as Washington and Thomas Jefferson, the first president's secretary of state, concentrated on construction of the President's house and the Capitol in order to meet this deadline. Such a pragmatic approach was necessitated by the difficulties inherent in the development of a capital city of ambitious plan on an essentially undeveloped site by an infant country with limited financial means and immature building, labor, and transportation networks.⁴⁸

After he became president, Jefferson sought to use a feature of L'Enfant's plan to establish a prime meridian to serve as a baseline for timekeeping, mapping, and surveying in the United States. A national line of longitude meant that the new country would not have to rely on a prime meridian located elsewhere, such as the Greenwich meridian in Great Britain. The idea had been floated in 1791, with the planned American meridian following a north-south course through the center of the Capitol. Jefferson, however, hired surveyors Nicholas King and Isaac Briggs to run a north-south line through the center of the President's house. The meridian would have followed the L'Enfant street that terminated at the center of the President's house (now 16th Street) and continued through the executive mansion south through the spot the planner had designated as the site of Washington's statue. Jefferson had three markers erected to identify the meridian. One was placed on what is now Meridian Hill, another at the intersection of the national meridian with an east-west line through the

⁴⁶ McNeill, 39-45.

⁴⁷ "Description of Appropriations (Reservations) selected and set aside by President Washington for the use of the United States, upon the laying out of the Federal City – Washington, D.C.," in "Legislative History of National Capital Parks and Description of the Seventeen Original Reservations," National Park Service, National Capital Region, Washington, D.C. The monument grounds reservation was changed from its original designation (no. 3) to its current number (no. 2) in the nineteenth century. The boundaries of the site also changed as the National Mall evolved. These alterations are addressed below, under the heading "The Monument Grounds between Building Campaigns."

⁴⁸ Scott, "This Vast Empire," 46; William C. Allen, *History of the United States Capitol* (Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office, 2001), 34.

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south end of the Capitol. The third marker stood on the site L'Enfant intended for Washington's equestrian statue. With its location 6 feet from the edge of Tiber Creek, this marker was built in a more substantial manner than the other two, which were obelisks hewn from single stones. Freestone walls filled with broken stone and cement comprised the Jefferson Pier (also called the Jefferson Stone), which was capped by a 10-inch-square slab of sandstone into the top of which the lines of the axes had been carved. The marker, erected in October 1804, stood 3 to 4 feet above the surrounding grade.⁴⁹

Of all the proposed features of the L'Enfant plan, only one element beyond the buildings for the president and congress was undertaken on Washington's central public grounds in the early nineteenth century – the city canal. Planned to link the Anacostia and Potomac rivers as a means of transporting goods in an efficient manner, L'Enfant also envisioned the canal as an ornamental complement to the monumental buildings, incorporating fountains, cascades, pools, and other elements. As with the priority given to the President's house and the Capitol, construction of the canal focused on practicalities rather than urban embellishments. Daniel Carroll of Duddington was one of the commissioners of the congressionally chartered canal company, first organized in 1802 and reorganized in 1809. The company hired architect Benjamin Henry Latrobe to design and oversee construction of the waterway, and Latrobe produced the first drawings in 1804. Construction on the first phase began in 1810, and the canal, stretching from a lock at 6th Street across the Mall and through southeast Washington to the Anacostia River, officially opened in the fall of 1815. This portion of the work involved both digging the canal through the low ground in some locations and filling in the banks of Tiber Creek in others. The canal company also operated wharfs along the creek west of 6th Street, which generated funds and required improvements and maintenance.

In 1831, the Washington Canal Company sold its interest in the waterway to the City of Washington, which appropriated \$20,000 for its completion. Two years later, Congress confirmed the sale with the requirement that the canal be completed to 15th Street; it also appropriated money to do so. The expanded canal was navigable by 1840. As the second phase of construction included the broad mouth of the creek, this work necessitated filling in either side of the creek to create an embankment and presumably remove the existing wharfs. Archeological monitoring on the Washington Monument Grounds undertaken during the construction of the National Museum of African American History and Culture uncovered wood planks and posts that may have functioned as timber shoring or served to control erosion in the canal. Although the planks and posts may be related to the construction of the Washington City Canal, the feature could not be dated due to the limited nature of the archeological activities associated with the gas line relocation.⁵⁰

Construction of the canal is often considered "the major Irish construction project in the District.," although Irish immigrants were also heavily involved, as bricklayers, masons, stonecutters, and laborers, on most public works projects in Washington before the Civil War. Enslaved African American workers were also hired out for public works projects, including the President's house and the Capitol. For the canal, enslaved workers were engaged in some of the initial digging of the channel, as well as subsequent improvements and maintenance. The portion of the canal and its embankments between 14th and 15th streets included an area that is part of the Washington Monument Grounds, now the location of the National Museum of African American History and Culture.⁵¹

Construction of the city canal narrowed Tiber Creek, providing the opportunity to bridge the waterway and connect the northwest and southwest portions of the city. A provision in a May 7, 1822, congressional act provided for "one or more bridges" over the canal between 2nd and 6th streets, and ten years later legislation authorized the continuation of 7th, 12th,

⁴⁹ John Milner Associates, "Washington Monument Grounds Cultural Landscape Report," 2-3, 2-32, n. 15.

⁵⁰ Lee W. Formwalt, "Benjamin Henry Latrobe and the Development of Transportation in the District of Columbia, 1802-1817," *Records of the Columbia Historical Society* 50, 1980, 47-59; Cornelius W. Heine, "The Washington City Canal." *Records of the Columbia Historical Society*: 53-56, 1956, 11-15; Thunderbird Archeology, "National Museum of African-American History and Culture, Washington, District of Columbia, Results of Archeological Monitoring of Gas Line Relocation and Documentation of Water Intake Tunnel," prepared for AECOM Technical Services and the Smithsonian Institution, June 2012, 7-15.

⁵¹ Louis Berger Group, Inc., "Phase I Archaeological Investigation for the National Museum of African American Museum of History and Culture," 36-37; Louis Berger Group, Inc., "Phase II Archaeological Investigation for the National Museum of African American Museum of History and Culture," 19-20, 32-36. The quote comes from the Phase II investigation, p. 19. The African American Museum site is identified as Site 52NW203 in the D.C. Archaeological Site Inventory. The archaeological studies of the site concluded that no National Register-eligible archaeological resources are present.

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and 14th streets through the Mall across bridges over the canal. These later bridges were presumably constructed in association with the extension of the canal from 6th to 15th streets in the 1830s, and they appear in DeKrafft's 1846 map of Washington. (Historical Figure 2) The location of these streets, which functioned as de facto boundaries of segments of the Mall and the monument grounds, would influence future development of these public spaces.⁵²

Transportation also spurred other public works associated with the Washington Monument and Grounds. The city council authorized construction of a wharf at the foot of 17th Street on November 10, 1806, and appropriated \$2,000 for its construction. The *National Intelligencer and Washington Advertiser* published specifications in 1807, and the wharf began its operations later that year. The city funded its expansion to 200 feet in length and 25 feet in width in 1808. Twenty years later, Washington's city council appropriated \$500 to complete the wharf's walls.

In its early years, stevedores unloaded building supplies, produce, and household items at the wharf. As workers frequently engaged on Washington's wharves and in construction enterprises, free and enslaved African Americans were undoubtedly included in the labor force that built the 17th Street Wharf and participated in its daily operation. Expansion of the wharf continued as Washington's transportation infrastructure developed further. The Chesapeake & Ohio Canal was extended east to meet the city canal by 1833, and a lock was built in what is now Constitution Avenue as a transition between the two waterways. In 1837, a stone house for the lockkeeper was constructed west of the wharf. Later moved, the Lockkeeper's House is now located in West Potomac Park.⁵³

Design and Location of the Washington Monument

Several attempts were made to fulfill the Continental Congress's resolution to commemorate Washington's service to the country with a monument located in the capital's central public space. After the first president's death in 1799, at least two proposals were made for a mausoleum to house his remains (one within the Capitol and one on the lawn in front), and Congress revisited the equestrian statue proposal three times, in 1816, 1819, and 1824. During the centennial of Washington's birth in 1832, Congress authorized a full-length copy of Gilbert Stuart's portrait of the president and a marble sculpture of a seated Washington in Roman dress by Horatio Greenough. None of the proposals for more monumental commemoration, however, succeeded in the first fifty years after Congress had authorized the equestrian statue.

On September 26, 1833, dozens of citizens met in the capital's City Hall to address the lack of success in building an appropriate monument to Washington. As a result, the Washington National Monument Society was formed. At its second meeting, the society elected officers. The membership selected Supreme Court Chief Justice John Marshall as president. When Marshall died in 1835, former President James Madison replaced him. Other officers included Judge William Cranch of the District of Columbia Circuit Court, Washington Mayor John P. Van Ness, and former Librarian of Congress George Watterston. In addition to these officers, the society selected a board of thirteen managers and determined its method of fundraising. Seeking broad participation in the project, the society limited donations to a dollar per year. The board of managers appointed agents to collect the funds and offered them a commission on donations collected as an incentive.

By 1836 the society had raised over \$28,000 and invested the money in stocks and securities. In the same year, it invited designs for the monument from American artists. The society imposed no restrictions on the design and made no suggestions on its form. Proposals should only "harmoniously blend durability, simplicity, and grandeur," according to the society's advertisement, which indicated that the estimated cost should not total less than \$1 million.⁵⁴

The initial submissions to the design competition failed to capture the society's imagination. The organization then appointed a committee, in November 1844, "to procure a suitable design" for the monument. The following spring, the

⁵² George J. Olszewski, "History of the Mall, Washington, D.C.," Office of History and Historic Architecture, Eastern Service Center, National Park Service, Washington, D.C., March 1970, 7-11.

⁵³ Louis Berger Group, "Phase IA Archaeological Investigation for the Potomac Park Levee, National Mall and Memorial Parks," iii-iv, 14; Louis Berger Group, Inc., "Archeological Monitoring of Construction, Potomac Park Levee, National Mall and Memorial Parks," prepared for the Department of Transportation, Government of the District of Columbia, March 2013, 24.

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committee endorsed a design submitted by Robert Mills, and the society formally adopted this design on November 18, 1845. Mills, who studied architecture under both Jefferson and Latrobe, had been the Architect of Public Buildings in Washington between 1836 and 1842, during which time he had designed the Treasury Building, the Patent Office (with Ithiel Town and William P. Elliot), and the General Post Office. His design for the monument called for a circular colonnade 250 feet in diameter and 100 feet high, which functioned as a base for a 500-foot-tall obelisk, producing a monument that reached 600 feet into the sky. (Historical Figure 3) The design featured an elaborate decorative scheme in bronze on the colonnade's entablature (including the coat of arms of each state), and at the entrance to the monument, Mills envisioned a tetrastyle portico which would support a "triumphal car" carrying a statue of Washington. On each face of the shaft just above the colonnade, bas reliefs would depict the four most important (although unidentified) events in Washington's career, and a simple star would mark the shaft 50 feet from the top. On the inner wall of the colonnade, engaged columns were planned to respond to the freestanding columns on the perimeter and to frame niches for the reception of sculpture. This gallery would serve as a national pantheon dedicated to the heroes of the American Revolution. At the center of the monument would be a tomb for Washington's remains, should authorization for their removal from Mount Vernon be given. "[A]n easy graded gallery, traversed by a railway," was proposed to ascend through the shaft to a "circular observatory" at the monument's summit. The society estimated that Mills' design could be constructed for \$200,000, the shaft alone for \$50,000.⁵⁵

The obelisk, deriving as it did from ancient Egyptian models, had long been associated with commemorative works in classical architecture. It had been used in the United States to commemorate the Battle of Bunker Hill outside Boston. Solomon Williard's monument to the battle, a 225-foot-tall granite obelisk, was completed in 1842. Mills' combination of a simple, tapering shaft with classical features such as the colonnade and sculpture had also appeared in Neoclassical monument designs, especially the reconstruction of the Tomb of Mausolus at Halicarnassus in Turkey by Comte de Caylus and a monument to the French Revolution on the ruins of the Bastille proposed by Jean Molinos and Jacques Le Grand. What set Mills' design apart from these memorials was its ambitious size. Mills and the society intended for the monument's height and mass to convey Washington's significance to the young country and to set it apart from all previous monuments. In his remarks at the laying of the monument's cornerstone, Congressman Robert C. Winthrop specifically linked Washington's importance to the unprecedented scale of the design. "Build it to the skies," he said, "you cannot outreach the loftiness of his principles! Found it upon the massive and eternal rock: you cannot make it more enduring than his fame!"⁵⁶

At the time that the Monument Society selected Mills' design, the final site had not been identified. In 1838, the society petitioned Congress to provide an unspecified site "on the public mall" for the monument, and in 1844, a joint resolution was introduced in the House of Representatives that would have placed the monument at the center of a site bounded by the city canal, B Street South, and 7th and 12th streets. Congress took no action on either of these propositions, but on January 31, 1848, it approved a resolution providing for the president of the United States, along with the board of managers of the society, to select a site for the monument "upon . . . some portion of the public grounds or reservations within the city of Washington, not otherwise occupied." On February 2, 1848, President James K. Polk and the society managers determined that the monument would be located in Reservation no. 3 – the site that L'Enfant had envisioned for the equestrian statue of Washington. The deed was executed on April 12, 1848, and recorded in city land records on February 22, 1849. The society later described the beauty of this site, its practicality for transportation of materials, its visibility from Mount Vernon, its choice by Washington as the location for a memorial to the American Revolution, and L'Enfant's proposal as reasons for its selection.⁵⁷

⁵⁴ Frederick Harvey, "History of the Washington National Monument and Washington National Monument Society," Senate doc. No. 224, 57th Congress, 2nd session, February 6, 1903, 25-26.

⁵⁵ Harvey, 13-28; John Milner Associates, Inc., "Washington Monument and Associated Structures Historic Structure Report," vol. I, Washington Monument, prepared for National Park Service, Denver Service Center and National Capital Region, June 2004, 2-2 – 2-3. The quotations are from Harvey, 26-28.

⁵⁶ John M. Bryan, *Robert Mills, America's First Architect* (New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 2001), 290-291; Scott and Lee, 100-101. Winthrop is quoted in Bryan.

⁵⁷ Harvey, 305-307.

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In a history of the Washington Monument Society, its secretary, Frederick Harvey, states that the huge colonnade and pantheon Mills planned to surround the obelisk were never formally approved by the society. "The first purpose," he wrote, "was to erect the shaft and secure funds to that end." In April 1848, a committee of the monument society recommended that the height of the monument reach 500 feet and that the surrounding pantheon be left in abeyance – that is, suspended temporarily. Illustrations available to donors to the society in 1848 showed the monument both with and without the colonnade, implying that a final decision had not yet been made.

In part, this stance resulted from financial circumstances. Very soon after the Washington National Monument Society issued its call for designs for the monument, a national economic downturn slowed the flow of donations for its construction. Questions about the legitimacy of its fundraising methods also hindered the society's efforts. The board of managers made various attempts to increase donations, such as dropping the \$1 limit and increasing the commissions of its agents to enhance their incentive to gather funds. The illustrations offered to donors were also intended as incentives. The returns on these efforts, however, "did not meet the expectations of the Society," according to Harvey.⁵⁸

The uncertainty of the final design and the society's shaky financial footing may have some relevance for the ultimate location of the monument. When its cornerstone was laid in an elaborate, well-attended, Masonic ceremony on July 4, 1848, the site stood 371.6 feet east and 123.17 feet south of the spot L'Enfant had intended for Washington's equestrian statue. Speculation about the reason for this off-axis location has included the inability of the marshy soils on the banks of Tiber Creek to support the weight of the monument and its foundations, the need for extensive landfill to create a large enough building surface to support the monument and colonnade, and the fact that the canal and its adjacent street had pushed the center line of the Mall's green space to the south. Accounts of the monument society's proceedings shed no light on this decision, and no other primary sources have been uncovered that explain the choice more definitively. Given that the society's fundraising efforts consistently fell below expectations, however, the site ultimately chosen had important advantages, not the least of which would have been that it did not require the additional expense of substantial filling and grading that L'Enfant's site would have entailed.⁵⁹

The First Construction Campaign, 1848-1858

Construction on the monument's foundations from large rough blocks of bluestone gneiss began in June 1848. William Early of Washington received the contract for the bluestone. Thomas Symington of Baltimore, who won the contract to supply the monument's marble, donated the 24,500-pound marble cornerstone. It was laid during the July 4, 1848, ceremony that included President Polk, members of his cabinet and Congress, representatives of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the District of Columbia, military units, fire companies, and bands. The cornerstone held a zinc case filled with mementoes, and the festivities ended in a fireworks display. Work continued rapidly thereafter, and the monument grounds began to resemble a small village composed of construction buildings: a watchman's lodge, an office and reception room for visitors, an engine house, sheds for sawing lumber, cutting stone and storing cement, shops for carpenters and blacksmiths, a stable, and a feed house. A wharf was constructed on the river side of the site; ox-drawn wagons transported the stone to the monument.⁶⁰

Construction of the monument and its associated outbuildings meant that some private uses of the site had to end. Washington's public grounds had long been used for private purposes, with or without authorization. Some residents grew crops there, grazed their animals, stored property, dumped trash, and apparently even lived on the public reservations, including the monument grounds. In August 1848, the board of managers of the monument society determined to notify "the persons now occupying a portion of the ground assigned to the Society as a site for the monument to remove their houses and fences thereupon within three months." Peter Shiphaws and his family were among these residents, and in December 1848 they sought the intercession of an "R. Cochran" with the monument society's managers. The African

⁵⁸ Harvey, 28-47.

⁵⁹ John Milner Associates, "Washington Monument Cultural Landscape Report," 2:3.

⁶⁰ John Milner Associates, "Washington Monument and Associated Structures Historic Structure Report," vol. I, Washington Monument, 2-4; John Milner Associates, "Washington Monument Cultural Landscape Report," 2:6; Louis Torres, *To the immortal*

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American family had had problems finding another place to live since receiving the notice to move and did not wish to be perceived as intruders, which might result in "legal action," according to Cochran's letter. The family sought permission to remain on the site until they could find another place to live. Cochran attested to the family's good character and referred the society to several well-regarded citizens, including Washington's mayor, for confirmation. One of the Shiphaws' references, J. Pettibone, received permission from the society to create an ice pond on the south side of the reservation at a rent of \$50 per year. It is not known whether the Shiphaws received the permission they sought.⁶¹

Once the society had removed private uses from the site and constructed the appropriate buildings and machinery, work progressed with relative rapidity. Although the rough gneiss, delivered in blocks at least 16 feet long and 7 feet thick, was finished by hand, a crew of twenty-one skilled laborers headed by foreman David Hepburn completed the foundations by the end of the first construction season. For increased strength, the foundation stones were dovetailed into each other, as well as laid with mortar composed of hydraulic cement, lime, and sand. Construction on the shaft began in 1849, and the construction crew, which included masons, blacksmiths, carpenters, stonecutters, riggers, and laborers, had grown to fifty-seven by the end of the year. William Dougherty acted as Mills' superintendent of construction, overseeing the daily work at the monument. Gneiss continued to be used for the interior of the monument with marble facing the exterior of the structure. Although problems beset the construction – delays in transportation due to the lack of capacity of the railway between Baltimore and Washington, the cost of the architrave stones for the monument doors, and difficulties in funding – the monument shaft reached 126 feet in height by the end of 1852. Included among this work were what have come to be known as "memorial stones" – stones donated by states, organizations, and individuals for the monument's construction. The first was donated by a group of citizens in Alabama in 1849. The monument society then adopted a policy for the donated stones, first seeking to have all the American states and territories represented and then expanding opportunities for donations from American Indian tribes, professional organizations, labor unions, individuals, and even foreign countries. Ninety-two stones, all of which were integral to the monument's structure, had been installed on the interior of the shaft by 1855.

The shaft had risen to 152 feet by this date, but the society's building funds were exhausted. As a result, the board of managers sent a memorial, or petition, to Congress, describing its efforts and the failure to raise enough funds to continue. A committee of the House of Representatives selected to study the matter recommended, on February 22, 1855 (the anniversary of Washington's birth), to appropriate \$200,000 to continue construction. On the same day, however, a group of individuals representing a political party called the Know-Nothings called a meeting of the monument society, packed the meeting with their own members, and elected a new board of managers. As both the meeting and the election contradicted the process stipulated in the society's by-laws, the previous managers, as well as superintendent Dougherty, refused to recognize the authority of the new board, throwing management of the monument into chaos. Not surprisingly, Congress refused to appropriate funds to continue construction of the monument under these circumstances.⁶²

The Know-Nothing Party began in the 1840s as a nativist organization opposed to immigration, especially of Irish Catholics, to eastern cities. It officially identified itself as the American Republic Party, and then the American Party. A secret society, the Order of the Star Spangled Banner, affiliated itself with the party, but members were instructed to respond to questions about the society with the phrase "I know nothing." The party began to be called the Know-Nothings by 1853. It exercised political power in east coast cities, including Baltimore and Washington, and brought several congressmen to office. John T. Towers, elected mayor of Washington in 1854, was a member of the Know-Nothing Party. Its political philosophy was apparent in its takeover of the monument society's board of managers. It argued that the society employed too many foreign-born workers and Catholics and therefore should be replaced with a new board that would hire American-born workers. The Know-Nothings were also responsible for the March 6, 1854, theft of a memorial

name and memory of George Washington": The United States Army Corps of Engineers and the Construction of the Washington Monument (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, December 1984), 17.

⁶¹ Scott, "This Vast Empire," 46; John Milner Associates, "Washington Monument Cultural Landscape Report," 2-5 – 2-6; R. Cochran to Board of Managers, Washington Monument Society, December 4, 1848, Record Group 42, Records of the Public Buildings and Public Parks of the National Capital, entry 433, Records Relating to Obtaining Public Ground for the Site of the Monument, box 1.

⁶² Torres, 16-26; Harvey, 56-58.

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stone donated by Pope Pius IX, the head of the Catholic Church and political leader of the Papal States. The location of the stone remains unknown.

The two rival boards of managers existed simultaneously for three years, but, in part because the Know-Nothings had replaced William Dougherty as superintendent of construction with Samuel L. Briggs, the earlier board of managers lost physical control of the monument site. Not surprisingly, donations to the monument society completely evaporated. In its three years of control over the monument, the Know-Nothing board managed to add two courses (approximately 4 feet) of additional masonry to the shaft using marble that had been previously rejected. The national political power of the party declined steeply after the 1856 elections, when its presidential candidate, former President Millard Fillmore, carried only one state. The party subsequently disbanded. The monument society's Know-Nothing managers ultimately relinquished their control of the monument, the monument site, office, and ledgers on October 20, 1858.⁶³

Know-Nothing control of the Washington National Monument Society hastened the end of the first period of construction on the monument. Its lack of progress, the disappearance of donations resulting from competing boards of managers, the Civil War and its aftermath, changing architectural tastes – all these events contributed to a fallow period in the monument's construction that lasted nearly two decades.

The Monument Grounds between Building Campaigns

The monument grounds, on the other hand, received great attention and witnessed greater activity than the monument itself during this time. In October 1850, a contingent of city leaders – including Joseph Henry, secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, Mayor Walter Lenox, and W.W. Corcoran, a financier, art collector, and a member of the Washington National Monument Society – approached President Fillmore with the idea of landscaping Washington's central public spaces. The mission to the president coincided with efforts on the part of Commissioner of Public Buildings Ignatius Mudd to improve the Mall in association with the construction of the Smithsonian Institution and the Washington Monument. Mudd, at the suggestion of the civic leaders and with the president's approval, subsequently invited Andrew Jackson Downing, the country's preeminent theoretician of landscape design in the first half of the nineteenth century, to inspect the public grounds and produce a plan for their improvement.⁶⁴

Dated February 1851, the plan Downing produced consisted of a series of "different, but compatible gardens," in the words of landscape historian Therese O'Malley. (Historical Figure 4) Using the existing streets to divide the gardens, Downing created what he called six "scenes," including a "Botanic Garden" between 1st and 3rd streets, a "Fountain Garden" between 3rd and 7th streets, the "Smithsonian Pleasure Grounds" between 7th and 12th, an "Evergreen Garden" between 12th and 14th, "Monument Park" between 14th Street and the Potomac, and the "Parade or President's Park." The designer varied the plantings and composition of each scene's features, but circulation paths and planting lines leaped across the boundaries of the individual parks to knit the entire composition into a whole. On the Washington Monument Grounds, Downing proposed picturesque compositional techniques: looping, asymmetrical paths and spare plantings of trees near the monument, with denser groups of trees along the boundaries of the site. He also envisioned an additional bridge at the west end of the city canal to link Monument Park with President's Park. Downing intended the curving lines and soft edges of his massed plantings to relieve the angularity of the classical forms of L'Enfant's original plan and the city's public buildings.⁶⁵

President Fillmore initially approved only the portion of Downing's plan west of 7th Street, but in 1852 also approved the design to the east. The plan would, however, only be implemented in a fragmentary way. In the spring of

⁶³ Thomas J. Curran, "Know-Nothing Party," *The Oxford Companion to United States History*, Paul S. Boyer, editor in chief (New York: Oxford University Press, 2001), 423; Torres, 25-27; Harvey 56-64. The 1981 nomination states that 13 additional courses (26 feet) were added to the monument by the Know-Nothing party. Harvey, who, as secretary of the Washington National Monument Society had access to primary sources for his report to Congress, states that 4 feet were added during the Know-Nothing period. The HSR for the monument adheres to this conclusion.

⁶⁴ Therese O'Malley, "'A Public Museum of Trees': Mid-Nineteenth Century Plans for the Mall," *The Mall in Washington, 1791-1991*, Richard Longstreth, ed. (Washington, D.C.: National Gallery of Art, 1991), 64-65; U.S. Commissioner of Public Buildings, *Report of the Commissioner of Public Buildings*, 1850, 9.

⁶⁵ O'Malley, 66-71.

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1851, grading, draining, and clearing of the Smithsonian grounds began. Funding to landscape the grounds south of the President's House was also approved at this time. However, likely due to the construction on the monument grounds, funds for its landscaping were either not requested or, if requested, not appropriated. The following year, when Downing died in a steamboat accident on the Hudson River, the landscape plan lost the chief advocate of its principles. It also lost the detailed plans of the design, which were known to exist but never found after Downing's death. Work following Downing's plans continued until the funds already appropriated by Congress were exhausted. The Smithsonian grounds and President's Park were the only areas to have been completed in a manner approaching Downing's intentions, as shown in Albert Boschke's 1857 map of the city. (Historical Figure 5) ⁶⁶

Downing's landscape plan was part of a movement that began in the middle of the nineteenth century that emphasized recreation and leisure as methods of producing mental, physical, and spiritual health in the American citizenry. The movement responded to the Industrial Revolution's impact on the American workplace and on cities, especially the long, inflexible hours and crowded urban areas that critics considered responsible for increased crime, disorder, and unhealthy living conditions. Parks provided clean air and open land, recalling rural values that were seen as antidotes to urban crowding. Downing's winding paths and informal plantings, influenced by nineteenth-century Romantic conceptions of landscape design, followed this call for echoes of the countryside within the city. In addition to the recreational value of strolling through beautiful scenery, the recreation and leisure movement advocated "rational recreation," which included other activities, including team sports and visits to libraries, museums, and memorials. All such activity was understood as exercise for the mind and the spirit as well as the body. Central Park in New York, initially opened in 1857 and then altered by Frederick Law Olmsted and Calvert Vaux, was the first comprehensive example of such a park in the United States. While Downing's plan for "Monument Park" was not implemented precisely as he had envisioned, his design provided the inspiration for the winding drives and walks that characterized the grounds after the monument was completed and opened to the public in 1888.⁶⁷

One of the more important and long-lasting ramifications of the Downing plan for the Washington Monument Grounds was its extension to the east: Downing identified 14th Street as the eastern boundary of his Monument Park. Since 14th Street where it crossed the Mall was an existing street in 1851, while 15th Street, the original eastern boundary of Reservation no. 3, existed only in half-century-old documents from George Washington's time, Downing's plan followed a practical logic. President Fillmore approved that logic when he approved the Downing plan in 1851, and Commissioner of Public Buildings John B. Blake adhered to it in his 1858 description of the landscape's divisions. He described Reservation no. 3 as "the park and part of the Mall, being the whole of the public grounds West of 14th Street to the Tiber Creek and the Potomac." The Office of Public Buildings and Grounds, a unit of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers that became responsible for Washington's government buildings and public parks in 1867, subsequently followed the Downing-Blake subdivisions, including the Monument Grounds. The Corps numbered these units in a system that diverged from the original reservation numbers set down by President Washington, and the Monument grounds became Reservation no. 2. An 1898 law that defined the extent of the District's parks codified this reservation system. Those reservation numbers and boundaries remain in use to the present day.⁶⁸

⁶⁶ Boyle, 85-86; O'Malley, 72; U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, National Capital Region, "Cultural Landscape Inventory: National Mall and Memorial Parks, the Mall," 2006, 13, 32-33; William Patrick O'Brien, "Administrative History, 1791-1983 (Epilogue 1983-1997): The White House and President's Park," National Park Service, December 2001, 90-94.

⁶⁷ "A History of Recreation in East and West Potomac Parks" (revised draft), 6-7.

⁶⁸ Historic American Buildings Survey, "The National Mall and Monument Grounds (Reservation Numbers 2, 3, 3A, 3B, 4, 5, 6, 6A)," HABS No. DC-678, 1993, 9-15; *Statutes at Large*, 30 Stat. 570, July 1, 1898. These paragraphs address the issue of the Monument Grounds boundaries that was raised during Section 106 consultation for the National Museum of African American History and Culture. During that consultation, an inconsistency was pointed out between the eighteenth-century boundaries of the Monument Grounds, with its eastern border at the proposed line of 15th Street, as identified in Washington's description of the original appropriations and Dermott's 1797 mapping of the city, and the site's current limits, which uses 14th Street as the eastern edge. Based on the research cited in this section, the updated Washington Monument and Grounds nomination concludes that the actions of Downing, President Fillmore, the commissioner of public buildings, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and congress resulted in the expansion of the monument grounds east to 14th Street in the nineteenth century.

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With the coming of the Civil War, the public grounds were appropriated for military uses. As central public spaces near the major transportation route of the Potomac River and near the important government buildings, the Mall, the Washington Monument Grounds, President's Park, and the Capitol grounds were called into service for the duration of the war. President Abraham Lincoln ordered the use of the Washington Monument Grounds as a cattle yard in May 1861, and forty-five head of cattle were transported to the site. The army stored hay in one of the monument society's outbuildings. This use of the grounds expanded over the course of the war. Additional cattle grazed within the yard's fence, and a slaughterhouse was built. In addition, extensive horse stables, officers' quarters, a bunkhouse for civilians, and a mess hall were built on the monument grounds. On February 22, 1862 – the 130th anniversary of George Washington's birth – a Navy rigger installed a 45-by-30-foot Union flag given to the Washington National Monument Society on a pole on top of the unfinished monument. The flag flew for the remainder of the war.⁶⁹

After the war, the Office of Public Buildings and Grounds became responsible for dismantling military intrusions on the public grounds and restoring the landscape. Col. Orville Babcock, who headed the office from 1872 to 1877, considered the monument grounds to be in very bad condition – subject to flooding, ungraded, and without roads, walks or trees. Babcock began the process of improving the grounds with the cooperation of the reorganized Washington National Monument Society, which offered Babcock the use of its buildings for his work. Babcock stored tools and other property in one, and the society auctioned the remaining buildings, as well as stones, tools, the engine boiler, and other property to clear the grounds.

Babcock began draining the marshy area between the Washington Monument and President's Park as a means of flood control, ultimately expanding the monument grounds by 25 acres. Presumably, this work was accomplished in conjunction with, or at least approximately at the same time as, the territorial government of Washington's conversion of the city canal into a covered sewer in the early 1870s. B Street North (now Constitution Avenue) was established above the sewer line. The filling in of the marsh resulted in the accidental demolition of the original Jefferson Pier from its location at the intersection of the axes through the White House and the Capitol. Babcock established three small ponds (one of which was subsequently called Babcock Lake) south of B Street North, where the mouth of Tiber Creek had once been located. The ponds helped control flooding and provided the U.S. Commission of Fish and Fisheries the opportunity to hatch and raise carp. He also leveled the high ground around the unfinished Monument and planted grass over the site. OPBG built two tree-lined roads through the grounds: Meridian Avenue, 69 feet wide, which extended from the line of 16th Street into the center of the grounds before branching into several curves, and a 35-foot-wide park road beginning at the line of 15th street and curving east to 14th Street. OPBG also established propagating gardens in the southern part of the site near the river. The establishment of B Street North and the park road opposite 15th Street provided the opportunity to reuse two gateposts attributed to Capitol architect Charles Bulfinch that had been removed from the Capitol grounds in 1874. Two Bulfinch gatehouses and a gatepost were installed in President's Park South in 1880. One of the gatehouses is located at the northwest corner of 15th Street, opposite the westernmost gatepost on the monument grounds. The monument grounds gateposts may have been relocated at the same time as the other Bulfinch-designed features.⁷⁰

Through the third quarter of the nineteenth century and beyond, the monument grounds remained a working landscape. Early in the period, it was a construction site, the wood buildings of which were devoted to erecting a structure planned to be the largest in the world. Nearby, the 17th Street Wharf had been widened to 150 feet and extended 750 feet into Tiber Creek. The *USS Pawnee* was anchored at the end of the wharf during the Civil War, in the event that federal officials needed to escape from Confederate attack. At least six buildings stood on the wharf, according to Boschke's 1857 map. The wharf became known as Galt Wharf when Thomas J. and William M. Galt moved their coal and wood business there near the beginning of the Civil War. By this time, wharf business consisted mainly of unloading coal and wood. Later, sand dealers would establish themselves on the wharf. John Lord placed his sand business on the wharf around 1878 or 1879, heralding a wave of such businesses that eventually took it over.

⁶⁹ Historic American Buildings Survey, "The National Mall and Monument Grounds (Reservation Numbers 2, 3, 3A, 3B, 4, 5, 6, 6A)," HABS No. DC-678, 1993, 10-11; Boyle, 98, 103; John Milner Associates, "Washington Monument Cultural Landscape Report," 2-8.

⁷⁰ HABS No. DC-678, 1993, 11-15; U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, National Capital Region, "Cultural Landscapes Inventory: Washington Monument Grounds, Washington Monument," 2009, 22-24; John Milner Associates, "Washington Monument Cultural Landscape Report," 2-8 – 2-9.

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Throughout the period, the wharf's business owners and their employees were a mixture of Americans of both European and African descent. Prior to the emancipation of enslaved workers (which included nineteen-year-old Ophelia Calvert, held in bondage by Thomas Galt), African Americans labored at loading and unloading the ships that arrived at the wharf and continued to do so as free stevedores after the Civil War. By 1880, both black and white businessmen would own sand-dealing operations on the wharf, and an African American named Henry Heill ran a lunch room there in 1881. Investigations of the 17th Street Wharf archeological site, undertaken as part of the Potomac Park Levee expansion, recovered a variety of nineteenth-century artifacts likely related to the wharf and its operations. These included timbers that may have been part of the wharf itself; building materials such as roofing slate, window glass, and sheet metal; glass, ceramic, and stoneware bottles and jars; and food remnants such as oyster shells and animal bones. Some of these artifacts were discovered beneath the current street, others to the east, beneath the sidewalk and on the monument grounds. No definitive evidence of the wharf itself, however, was found.⁷¹

Thomas Lincoln Casey and the Completion of the Monument

The improvements to the Washington Monument Grounds that took place in the years after the Civil War set the stage for the completion of the monument itself. The approach of the centennial observance of the Declaration of Independence spurred renewed interest in finishing the work, and the Washington National Monument Society began to seek funds from the government to restart construction, rather than relying on private contributions. As early as 1872, society president John Carroll Brent appealed for funds to the House Committee for the District of Columbia, which, the following year, appointed a select committee to consult with the society to determine how to complete the monument in time for the one hundredth anniversary of American independence. The committee turned to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for advice on matters of engineering and construction. Debate on how to complete the monument continued for several years, owing to concerns about the stability of the original foundations and about the advisability of constructing the colonnaded pantheon according to Mills' original design. These issues remained unresolved, and the society missed the centennial deadline.

On July 5, 1876, however, legislation was introduced authorizing the federal government to assume responsibility for the monument. On August 2, Congress passed a bill that returned ownership of the monument, its grounds, temporary structures, and machinery to the United States; provided for a commission to oversee completion of the work; and authorized \$200,000 to carry out the project. The Joint Commission for Completion of the Washington Monument included the President of the United States, the Supervising Architect of the Treasury Department, the Architect of the Capitol, the Chief of Engineers of the Corps of Engineers, and the First Vice-President of the Washington National Monument Society. The commission appointed a board of engineers to examine the monument's foundations. The board, the joint commission, and, ultimately, Congress determined that the monument's foundations needed to be strengthened before the monument could be completed. Congress authorized \$36,000 for this work on June 14, 1878.

A few days later, the joint commission appointed Lt. Col. Thomas Lincoln Casey as Engineer in Charge of the project and Capt. George W. Davis as his assistant. Casey, son of Brev. Maj. Gen. Silas Casey, had graduated first in his class from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. Experienced in constructing fortifications during the Civil War, he also supervised construction of a road through the Washington Territory and taught at the academy. In March 1877, he became Superintending Engineer in Charge of Public Buildings and Grounds in Washington, from which post he directed construction of the State, War, and Navy Building (now the Eisenhower Executive Office Building), the Washington Aqueduct, and other public buildings in Washington. Davis served in the infantry during the Civil War and became a

⁷¹ Louis Berger Group, "Phase IA Archaeological Investigation for the Potomac Park Levee, National Mall and Memorial Parks," iii-iv, 31-33; Louis Berger Group, Inc., "Archeological Monitoring of Construction, Potomac Park Levee, National Mall and Memorial Parks," 10-30; Potter to Dewey, December 15, 2014. The 17th Street Wharf is identified as Site 51NW232 in the D.C. Archaeological Site Inventory..

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captain in the regular army at its conclusion. Stationed in the southwestern United States, Davis superintended building operations there. At the monument, Davis administered contracts and handled the daily business of construction.⁷²

Casey's plan to strengthen the monument's foundations required excavation under the original foundation to both broaden its spread and deepen its underpinning. Tunnels four feet wide were dug by hand and filled with concrete. The new slab was then tied into the existing foundations with concrete buttresses. The new work was then encapsulated in concrete to provide a solid, nearly pyramidal base. Needless to say, the work required extraordinary planning in order to maintain the monument's stability. The initial labor force acting under Casey to carry out this work consisted of his assistant George W. Davis, a clerk, a draftsman, six riggers, a stone mason, three stone cutters, two drillers, two carpenters, twenty-six laborers, a night watchman, and a water boy. Casey looked all over the country for the special skills required for the underground excavations, seeking out miners in Nevada and water supply excavators in Baltimore. The first work involved repairing existing structures on the site to be used as shops for the various trades and storage for materials. Work on the foundations commenced in February 1879 and was completed by May 28, 1880. The base of the finished work measures 126 feet, 5 ½ inches per side and reaches a depth of 36 feet, 10 inches below the floor of the monument. Despite the delicate nature of underpinning the foundations for the immense structure, no cracks or other damage appeared in the shaft when the strengthening was complete.⁷³

As work on the foundations progressed, Casey turned his attention to the design of the monument itself, as well as the method of its construction. During the 1870s debate over how to complete the monument, objections to Mills' original design (both the Egyptian Revival shaft and the classically inspired colonnade) were raised by members of Congress, in architectural circles, and among the public. As much as any objective criticism of the Mills design, these objections document changing architectural tastes in Victorian America. Critics generally scorned the unornamented obelisk, preferring instead more ornate Gothic, Romanesque, or Italianate proposals. Such designs had been submitted to the Washington National Monument Society, Congress, and the joint commission, although no competition for completion of the monument was ever considered. Wooed by its advocates and sometimes appearing to lean toward a more ornate Victorian approach, the monument society ultimately remained committed to Mills' obelisk, submitting a memorial to Congress on April 29, 1880, stating its desire to complete the monument based on the earlier design. The document included letters from George Perkins Marsh, the American ambassador to Italy that documented the appropriateness of the obelisk form for commemorative purposes. During the construction of the foundations, Casey had consulted with Marsh on the final design of the monument shaft, refining it to resemble an unadorned Egyptian obelisk with a pointed pyramidion, its 10-to-1 ratio of height to base width taken from Marsh's studies of Egyptian obelisks in Rome.⁷⁴

Work on continuing the shaft began in the summer of 1880, beginning with the removal of the two courses of inferior stone added during the Know-Nothing management of the monument. The internal iron structure also had to be constructed and an elevator installed in order to raise materials to the top of the shaft. The ironwork consisted of concentric squares composed of columns and stiffened with girders and braces. The Phoenix Iron Company of Phoenixville, Pennsylvania, J.B. and J.M. Cornell of New York City, and H.A. Ramsay and Son of Baltimore supplied the ironwork. The interior skeleton supported stairs, as well as an Otis Brothers elevator, and the equipment for the new work required two steam engines constructed at the base of the monument to supply power. A cornerstone marking the resumption of the work was laid at the 150-foot level on August 7, 1880. President Rutherford B. Hayes placed a coin etched with his initials and the date in the bed of mortar on which the cornerstone was laid.

Hugh Sisson's Beaver Dam Quarry, in Cockeysville, Maryland, provided most of the marble for the monument's second building campaign, with John A. Briggs supplying a few blocks from the Lee Marble Quarry in Sheffield, Massachusetts. The granite backing stone came from four quarries: Davis Tillson and Bodwell Granite Company of Rockland, Maine, Cape Anne Granite Company of Boston, and William S. White of Hurricane Island, Maine. A spur from the Baltimore and Potomac Railroad, branching off of Maryland Avenue, SW, down 14th Street to the monument grounds, delivered materials. Awaiting them was a labor force of 175 workers, including stonecutters, masons, blacksmiths,

⁷² Torres, 31-44.

⁷³ Ibid., 59-66.

⁷⁴ Harvey, 96-99; Torres, 49-57.

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carpenters, riggers, engine drivers, machinists, firemen, water and tool boys, and laborers. Stone cutters and laborers accounted for the largest segments of the labor force.

The large, specialized pool of workers, the use of rail service much improved since the first building campaign, and especially the availability of steam power to dress the stones and raise them to the top of the shaft allowed construction of the monument to advance at a rapid rate. Four-and-a-half years after construction began at the 150-foot level, the shaft had reached the base of the pyramidion at the 500-foot level. Casey and assistant engineer Bernard Richardson Green redesigned the pyramidion in the fall of 1884. The new design employed marble, rather than iron and glass, as had been planned, so that oxidation of the iron would not discolor the shaft below, and a system of supporting ribs that allowed the pyramidion to be relatively light while maintaining suitable wind resistance. Stone for the pyramidion was delivered in October 1884, dressed the following month, and quickly set into place. The cast-aluminum capstone of the pyramidion was hoisted to the monument's pinnacle on December 6, 1884. On February 21, 1885, the monument was dedicated in a ceremony attended by President Chester A. Arthur, and featuring an oration by Robert C. Winthrop, who had spoken at the original cornerstone ceremony in 1848. When it was completed, the Washington Monument was the tallest building in the world, and the interior structure the largest iron frame in the world. Although both achievements would soon be eclipsed by the Eiffel Tower in Paris, the monument remains the tallest freestanding stone building in the world.⁷⁵

As historian Kirk Savage has pointed out, the Washington Monument as completed accomplished a fundamental alteration of the L'Enfant Plan that Mills' design had implied but which was not perceptible until the monument's completion. L'Enfant had placed the capital city's most important building – the Capitol – on the tallest eminence in his composition of intersecting legislative and executive axes, with the President's house on a slightly lower rise of ground. The spot chosen for the statue of Washington, on the other hand, would have been at the lowest elevation of the central landscape, and the memorial would not have been expected to rival the buildings that housed Congress and the president either visually or symbolically. As built, however, the Washington Monument rose hundreds of feet higher than either government edifice. By constructing the tallest building in the world as the monument to the first president, Casey and the Corps of Engineers shifted the emphasis of the intersection of L'Enfant's axes away from its symbolism as the meeting point of public spaces linking the branches of government with the ideals of Washington and the founding generation. Instead, the monument became the undisputed visual focus of a developing public landscape, leading to its importance as a symbol of the city itself. Further, by providing a means for visitors to reach the top of the monument and look down from its height, the completed memorial rivaled and, in some sense, displaced, the west terrace of the Capitol as the viewing platform from which the city would best be known.⁷⁶

During the five years after the monument's completion, the Office of Public Buildings and Grounds improved the monument to allow for public visitation. The work included closing the west door, reducing the east door in size, and removing the Mills-designed ornament from the openings in order to conform more closely to the pure obelisk form. Also accomplished were the insertion of the remaining memorial stones on the interior walls, conversion of the freight elevator to passenger use, replacement of the wood stairs with iron treads, and construction of a bluestone-paved lobby floor supported by iron beams and plates.⁷⁷

When the expanded foundations had been completed in 1880, they were covered with earth, formed into a steep terrace, and sowed with grass. As the shaft neared completion four years later, Casey again took up the final disposition of its grounds. Casey offered two proposals on how to landscape the grounds to the Joint Commission on the Completion of the Washington Monument. The more elaborate proposal envisioned a marble terrace ornamented with statuary resting on an earthen substratum that covered the foundations. Casey's second proposal involved a naturalistic approach to the landscape. "The other method of finish proposed," he wrote in his 1884 annual report to the commission, "is to fill earth about the present terrace, and joining with it, and to extend this filling so far from the Monument as to fade the slopes of the embankment gradually into the surrounding surfaces, and this to be done with so much skill as to give to the mound an

⁷⁵ Torres, 65, 95; John Milner Associates, Inc., "Washington Monument and Associated Structures Historic Structure Report," vol. I, Washington Monument, 2-7 – 2-12; 3-5 – 3-10.

⁷⁶ Kirk Savage, *Monument Wars* (Berkeley, California: University of California Press, 2009), 55, 103-105, 132-134.

⁷⁷ John Milner Associates, Inc., "Washington Monument and Associated Structures Historic Structure Report," vol. I, Washington Monument, 3-11-3-12.

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appearance as far from artificial as possible . . . with a pavement to be put around the foot of the Monument.” This approach to the landscape accorded with a suggestion made in 1873 by Army Corps of Engineers First Lieut. W.L. Marshall. Reporting to Chief of Engineers Gen. A.A. Humphreys on the strength and stability of the monument at that time, Marshall had suggested that the monument foundations should be covered with earth to present “the appearance of a massive obelisk shooting vertically from the solid earth.” The joint commission adopted the second, naturalistic approach. An 1886 topographical map guided the work, which was complete enough by November 1887 for a granolithic plaza to be placed at its base. The plaza, with a radius of 70 feet, was encircled by a 50-foot-wide gravel roadway.⁷⁸

Casey’s completed landscape design emphasized the obelisk itself – and therefore the man it memorialized – by setting it off from the surrounding city and providing clear views of the monument from within the landscape precinct. This approach has affiliations with concepts of the sublime and the romantic from the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries in its emphasis on the massiveness of the obelisk and its symbolic association with commemoration, as well as in its focus on a single individual. Designs influenced by these concepts looked on landscape as a stimulus to reflection on philosophical subjects, especially time, death, and the power of nature. Similar installations, although with much smaller built elements, can be found in the eighteenth-century English landscapes at Castle Howard, Stowe, and Stourhead. In these instances, classical temples were set on high ground visible across broad lawns, their lonely settings and architecture based on ancient precedents intended to prompt thoughts on an individual’s relationship to the cosmos.⁷⁹

Curving gravel roads (35 feet wide) and plank paths for pedestrians (9 feet wide) linked the plaza to 14th Street on the east and B Street on the north. Early photographs of the monument and its grounds show that the knoll was a grass-covered open expanse, on which the monument sat, with trees at the perimeter of the site. In addition to this landscape treatment, Babcock Lake near the corner of 17th and B streets was filled in. The presence of the lake was thought to have affected the monument’s stability, as subsidence was greater on that side of the monument.⁸⁰

The steam engine and boiler that provided power for the monument elevator had been located in separate buildings at the base of the structure on its west side. As these wood outbuildings would have detracted from the dignity and purity sought for Washington’s monument, the boiler was moved 750 feet to the southwest and placed within a new building, known as the Boiler House (now the Survey Lodge). Designed by Casey’s office and completed June 30, 1886, by contractor William Bradley, it was built from marble and granite left over from the construction of the monument. A buried steam tunnel connected the boiler house to the underground engine room at the monument. Although utilitarian in purpose, the boiler house incorporated aesthetic touches in its contrast between quarry-faced marble walls with smooth-dressed granite water tables, sills, and details and in its domed cupola with decorative pilasters.⁸¹

The Boiler House was built with Congressionally appropriated funds, but the Washington National Monument Society provided funding for design and construction of the Monument Lodge, located 480 feet east of the monument entrance. The building was intended to provide for the management of the monument, as well as its maintenance, and to act as an archive for records of the society and the Joint Commission for the Completion of the Washington Monument. Casey asked William Poindexter and Company for a design on June 8, 1887. Poindexter had been employed by the Supervisory Architect of the Treasury before establishing an independent practice. He had designed buildings for the Soldiers Home, the Virginia State Library, and Randolph-Macon Women’s College, and was co-founder of the Washington chapter of the American Institute of Architects. His design combines Greek columns with a variety of stone textures. Late nineteenth-century American architecture frequently featured such eclectic combinations of motifs.

John Lane and Antonio Malnati won the construction contract for the Monument Lodge and began building on May 28, 1888. The lodge was not ready in time for the monument’s opening to the public on October 9, 1888, and the completion date was extended three times. Construction crews finished the building at some point after January 22, 1889,

⁷⁸ John Milner Associates, Inc., “Washington Monument and Associated Structures Historic Structure Report,” vol. I, Washington Monument, 3-13-3-14.

⁷⁹ Elizabeth Barlow Rogers, *Landscape Design: A Cultural and Architectural History* (New York: Harry N. Abrams, 2001), 234-247; Geoffrey and Susan Jellicoe, *The Landscape of Man* (New York: Thames and Hudson, 1996), 232-247.

⁸⁰ John Milner Associates, “Washington Monument Cultural Landscape Report,” 2-15; 3-12.

⁸¹ John Milner Associates, Inc., “Washington Monument and Associated Structures Historic Structure Report,” vol. III, Survey Lodge, prepared for National Park Service, Denver Service Center and National Capital Region, June 2004, 2-1 – 2-2.

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and it was subsequently transferred from the monument society to the federal government. Lane and Malnati also used left over marble and granite from monument construction, although the building also likely used purchased stone. The lodge's in antis Doric columns face east and frame its entrance. The door opens onto a public room, which was originally flanked on one side by a room containing the archives of the monument society and the joint commission and on the other by a keeper's room and restrooms. A plank walk linked 14th Street to the lodge, which was intended as a meeting point for visitors to the monument. So many people began to visit the site, however, that many bypassed the lodge and headed directly for the monument itself.⁸²

One other addition to the monument grounds completed its early landscape. A new Jefferson Pier Marker was erected on the foundations of the original pier at the intersection of the axes through the White House and the Capitol. The original pier was accidentally destroyed in 1872 during alterations to the monument grounds. The square granite marker, 2 feet on each side and 3 feet 3 inches high, has a pyramidal cap and an inscription on its western face.⁸³

Expansion of the Monument Grounds and the McMillan Plan, 1882-1902

In the last two decades of the nineteenth century, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers planned and completed a program of improvements along the Potomac River that pushed the shoreline west of its original location, significantly enlarging the land mass of Washington's central public space. The changes resulted from a project initially undertaken by the Corps in 1874 to improve navigation of the Potomac, which had been impeded by sediment. The potential of the channel dredging to provide earth with which to control flooding and to raise the muddy, unhealthy area known as the Potomac Flats soon became evident, and in 1882 the Corps began implementing a plan, developed by Maj. Peter C. Hains, to accomplish these goals. On August 2 of that year, Congress made the first appropriation of funds for the work, and reclamation of land near the monument grounds began in August 1884 to prepare for the creation of the Tidal Basin. By the end of the century the dredging and filling project had created 739 additional acres of usable land, as well as the Tidal Basin (which borders the south side of the monument grounds), the gates used to flush the Washington Channel of sediment, and a retaining wall along the new shoreline. Congress determined that the new land mass would be used for park purposes by legislation approved on March 3, 1897. The law designated the reclaimed land "Potomac Park." In August 1901, 31 acres of the new park (between the Tidal Basin, 17th Street, and the former western edge of the monument grounds) were designated the "Monument Park Annex." Additional land was ceded to the monument grounds a few years later, when, in 1907, the U.S. Fish and Fisheries Commission relinquished to the Office of Public Buildings and Grounds the area under its jurisdiction at the southeast corner of the intersection of 17th Street and B Street North. With the addition, the monument grounds reached its current extent, covering approximately 106 acres.⁸⁴

The public land added by the reclamation of the Potomac Flats provided the canvas on which the Senate Park (or McMillan) Commission, expanded on and reimagined the public spaces L'Enfant had designed in 1791 and that Downing had redefined in the middle of the nineteenth century. The commission was named for Michigan Sen. James McMillan, who headed the Senate Committee on the District of Columbia, and sought to reconcile a variety of plans that had been proposed for Washington's downtown as the city entered the new century. Multiple individuals, government bodies, and organizations championed proposals for improvements, including the OPBG, the American Institute of Architects, and the Washington Board of Trade. McMillan introduced a resolution on March 8, 1901, authorizing a committee, in consultation with appropriate professionals, to report to the full Senate on plans for improving Washington's park system, which included the Mall, the Washington Monument Grounds, Potomac Park, and President's Park, as well as Rock Creek Park, Civil War fort sites, public squares, and recreational parks. Less than two weeks after the resolution passed, the

⁸² John Milner Associates, Inc., "Washington Monument and Associated Structures Historic Structure Report," vol. II, Monument Lodge, prepared for National Park Service, Denver Service Center and National Capital Region, June 2004, 2-1 – 2-9.

⁸³ John Milner Associates, "Washington Monument Cultural Landscape Report," 2-9.

⁸⁴ U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, National Register Nomination: "East and West Potomac Parks Historic District (revised nomination), November 11, 2001, 8.60-8.61; Gordon Chapell, "Historic Resource Study – East and West Potomac Parks: A History," Denver Service Center, National Park Service, June 1973, 19-66; Robinson & Associates, Inc., "Historic Preservation Report for the National Museum of African American History and Culture," prepared for the Smithsonian Institution, July 2007, 28; "Cultural Landscapes Inventory: Washington Monument Grounds, Washington Monument," 20-38.

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committee appointed architects Daniel H. Burnham and Charles F. McKim and landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr., to be the consulting experts. Sculptor August Saint-Gaudens joined the commission in June to provide advice on memorials to Abraham Lincoln and Ulysses Grant, both of which had been proposed prior to the commission's creation.⁸⁵

All four commission members had been involved with the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago in 1893, perhaps the most completely realized example of City Beautiful planning in the United States. The City Beautiful movement constituted a progressive attempt by American architects, landscape architects, civic organizations, and municipal administrators to address the functions and appearance of burgeoning cities at a time when urban planning as a discipline did not exist. Using principles of composition taught at the École des Beaux-Arts in Paris, with their largely Baroque emphasis on movement through space and hierarchical groupings of buildings, the City Beautiful movement attempted to grapple with the ugliness perceived in the unplanned and unruly growth of American cities, as well as practical matters such as recreation, transportation, and sanitation. The World's Columbian Exposition provided a successful model of ways to address all these real-life concerns, albeit in a relatively small and temporary manner.⁸⁶

Washington at the beginning of the twentieth century, with its street plan based to a great extent on Baroque precedents, offered an opportunity to establish a large and permanent urban center according to the principles developed for the World's Columbian Exposition. Almost from the beginning, members of the McMillan Commission recognized this opportunity and determined not to limit the scope of their efforts to Washington's parks, as provided for in the Senate resolution. Following a suggestion by Burnham, the commission broadened its charge to address the placement of buildings and memorials and transportation patterns in downtown Washington and in the city's outer reaches. The plan proposed to ring Capitol Square with office buildings serving Congress and to place the executive departments around Lafayette Square. It envisioned municipal government buildings to replace the run-down private properties south of Pennsylvania Avenue east of the White House and a memorial bridge from the Lincoln Memorial site to Arlington National Cemetery. No American city had ever contemplated such a sweeping, comprehensive redefinition of its physical fabric. It was, as planning historian Jon Peterson has written, "a new and comprehensive vision for the capital and the nation."⁸⁷

The commission's report to Congress – *The Improvement of the Park System of the District of Columbia*, published in 1902 – noted that "the great space known as the Mall, which was intended to form a unified connection between the Capitol and the White House, and to furnish sites for a certain class of public buildings, has been diverted from its original purpose and cut into fragments, each portion receiving a separate and individual treatment, thus invading what was a single composition."⁸⁸ The commission's task was to develop "such a plan as shall tend to restore that unity of design which was the fundamental conception of those who first laid out the city as a national capital." In addition to their opportunity to "restore" L'Enfant's plan, Burnham, McKim, and Olmsted saw the chance to extend it. "The reclamation of the Potomac flats," they wrote, "has added to the public grounds a considerable area, one portion of which must be treated as a continuation of the Mall and Monument grounds."⁸⁹

The Senate Park Commission plan extended the Mall beyond the Washington Monument to include a site proposed for the Lincoln Memorial at the western end of the Capitol axis and a second memorial space (its purpose not determined in the plan published in 1902) at the southern end of the White House axis. From the commission's earliest

⁸⁵ Jon A. Peterson, "The Senate Park Commission Plan for Washington, D.C.: A New Vision for the Capital and the Nation," in *Designing the Nation's Capital: The 1901 Plan for Washington, D.C.*, Sue Kohler and Pamela Scott, eds. (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Commission of Fine Arts, 2006), 6-14.

⁸⁶ Thomas S. Hines, "The Imperial Mall: The City Beautiful Movement and the Washington Plan of 1901-02," *The Mall in Washington, 1791-1991*, Richard Longstreth, editor (Washington, D.C.: National Gallery of Art, 1991), 79-84; Peterson, 1-2; "Cultural Landscape Inventory: National Mall and Memorial Parks, the Mall," 2006, 49.

⁸⁷ Pamela Scott, "'A City Designed as a Work of Art': The Emergence of the Senate Park Commission's Monumental Core," *Designing the Nation's Capital: The 1901 Plan for Washington, D.C.*, Sue Kohler and Pamela Scott, editors (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Commission of Fine Arts, 2006), 90; Charles Moore, ed., *The Improvement of the Park System of the District of Columbia*, Report of the Senate Park (McMillan) Commission, 57th Congress, 1st Session, Senate Report No. 166, 1902, 33-64; Peterson, 5.

⁸⁸ Moore, 23.

⁸⁹ Ibid., 10.

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studies, the Washington Monument functioned as a focal point for this composition. A drawing from the end of April 1901 shows an open corridor at the center of the Mall, flanked by rows of trees, and the Capitol axis realigned to bisect the monument. A June plan extends this axis to the proposed Lincoln Memorial space on the edge of the Potomac. The monument retained its importance in the final composition: the commission's report stated that it "has taken its place with the Capitol and the White House as one of the three foremost national structures." The final plan proposed reconfiguring the Washington Monument grounds into a Greek cross ornamented by terraces and pools to emphasize the intersection of the two axes and the relationship between the two branches of government. Immediately west of the monument, the planners envisioned a sunken pool and garden at the site L'Enfant proposed for Washington's statue. The plan also proposed Fifteenth Street as the eastern boundary of the monument grounds.⁹⁰

Since the Senate resolution establishing the McMillan Commission provided no authority for carrying out the plan, its directives were implemented on a project-by-project basis, often with strong advocacy by Burnham, McKim, Olmsted, Jr., and Charles Moore, the commission secretary. The design and construction of a new building for the Department of Agriculture (first phase completed 1908) and the new National Museum (now the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History; opened 1910), for instance, helped establish building setback lines on the Mall and reorient the Capitol axis through the Washington Monument. Congress authorized the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts (CFA) in 1910 to advise the federal government on the location of statues, fountains, and monuments and the selection of their artists. Burnham, Olmsted, and Moore were all CFA members at various times in its first quarter of the twentieth century, giving the McMillan Commission direct influence over aspects of the plan's implementation.⁹¹

Comprehensive efforts to implement the McMillan Plan did not begin, however, until the late 1920s and early 1930s. Legislation approved in 1929 included funding for improvements to the Mall from Union Square to 14th Street. At about the same time, legislators and the city's planning and advisory organizations – the Office of Public Buildings and Public Parks (OPBPP), CFA, and the National Capital Park and Planning Commission (NCPPC) – addressed the monument and its grounds.⁹² Legislation was introduced in Congress in 1928 that included language calling for the completion of the monument grounds according to the McMillan Plan. It was hoped that the work could be accomplished by the bicentennial of Washington's birth in 1932. Ulysses S. Grant III, the director of OPBPP, and NCPPC were aware, however, of concerns dating to Lt. Col. Casey's time that changes to the monument grounds could affect the monument's stability, and the legislation was amended to provide \$30,000 during fiscal year 1930 for evaluation of the effects of the McMillan Plan on the monument before any work took place. The legislation included the selection of an advisory committee to oversee the work, which was made up of Olmsted, Jr.; architect William A. Delano, an NCPPC member and former CFA commissioner; civil engineers J. Vipond Davies and Lazarus White; Maj. D.H. Gillette, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; and John L. Nagle, who was described as "designing engineer."⁹³

The advisory committee first met in June 1930 and undertook a study of soil conditions at the monument that included borings to the bedrock some 80 feet below ground level. It concluded that the added earth required for the McMillan Plan terrace on the east side of the monument and the cuts into the earth to create the pool and sunken garden on the west would unbalance the loads on the monument's foundations and therefore threaten the obelisk's stability. The only way to ensure that stability, the committee determined, would be to underpin the monument to bedrock or dismantle

⁹⁰ Kohler and Scott, plates V-VI; Mall Cultural Landscapes Inventory, 49-50; Moore, 47-48. The quotation is in Moore, p. 48.

⁹¹ Sue Kohler, "The Commission of Fine Arts: Implementing the Senate Park Commission's Vision," *Designing the Nation's Capital: The 1901 Plan for Washington, D.C.*, Sue Kohler, and Pamela Scott, editors. (Washington, DC: U.S. Commission of Fine Arts, 2006), 249-263.

⁹² Congress created OPBPP by legislation approved on February 26, 1925, which abolished the Office of Public Buildings and Grounds, removed its responsibilities from the Corps of Engineers, and concentrated design, construction, and maintenance of all of Washington's federal parkland in a new independent agency. NCPPC evolved from the National Capital Park Commission, created by Congress in 1924 to oversee development of the parks and playgrounds of the National Capital. On April 30, 1926, legislation changed the commission's name to the National Capital Park and Planning Commission and enlarged its responsibilities to include comprehensive planning for the capital and its environs.

⁹³ U.S. Congress, House of Representatives, *Improvement of the Washington Monument Grounds*, House Doc. No. 528, 72nd Cong., 2nd sess., 1934, 1-6; John Milner Associates, "Washington Monument Cultural Landscape Report," 2-21 – 2-23.

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the monument, construct a new foundation that was anchored to the bedrock, and then reconstruct the monument on the new foundation. Due to the costs of such an approach and due to an historical appreciation of the monument's original construction, the advisory committee recommended abandoning the elaborate McMillan Plan for the site and seeking new plans that linked the monument grounds to the Lincoln Memorial on the west and the Mall on the east in an appropriate manner. Delano subsequently produced a plan known as the "Formal" or "Balustrade" plan that continued the McMillan Plan's tree-lined central greensward from Union Square up to the monument itself and on the west added a large open space across the east-west axis from the Capitol that echoed the shape of the Rainbow Pool at the east end of the Lincoln Memorial grounds. Olmsted and Henry Hubbard, a former pupil of Olmsted and a member of the Olmsted Brothers firm, developed what became known as the "Informal" plan, which included brief reinforcement of the east-west and north-south axes at the edges of the site through the use of framing walks, but also provided two egg-shaped circulation paths that converged at the monument. Olmsted and Hubbard also proposed dense plantings of trees on the north and south to frame views of the monument.⁹⁴

The report issued to Congress by Grant in January 1933 (with which President Herbert Hoover concurred in his transmittal letter) concluded that neither plan completely ensured the monument's stability without underpinning the foundation to bedrock. It also stated that no general consensus had been reached as to which plan was most aesthetically appropriate for the site. (NCPPC and CFA both considered the plans and agreed only that the monument's stability needed to be guaranteed.) Given the economic crisis in the country at the time – the United States was well into the Great Depression – the report recommended following the Informal plan with regard to the roads on the monument site to link it with the Lincoln Memorial grounds and the Mall and to make sure the site's plantings also blended with the public grounds to the east and west. That approach, Grant wrote, would avoid any improvements that would "materially change the characteristics of the setting of the Monument as planned and intended by its builders." He further recommended that the government should make it a general policy to change the monument grounds a little as possible. This policy seems generally to have been followed. Work on the monument grounds up to 1936 – undertaken by the National Park Service, which became responsible for Washington's parks as a result of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt's reorganization of the executive branch in 1933 – involved only removal of the existing curvilinear roads through the site, leaving the Monument sitting on its knoll in a large open greensward linked to the perimeter circulation by a single road to the east.⁹⁵

Operational, Entertainment, and Recreational Improvements before World War II

As the McMillan Commission proposal for the monument grounds was conceived, disseminated, debated, placed on hold, and ultimately shelved, the monument, its ancillary structures, and the site continued to evolve in order to satisfy operational and visitor needs. Some of the changes would barely have been noticed by the public. The Boiler House (now the Survey Lodge) was altered from its L-shaped original footprint to a rectangular plan in 1901 to accommodate the transition from steam to electricity to power the monument elevator. Constructed mostly of stuccoed brick, the addition housed an electric dynamo and generator. At the same time, OPBG replaced the steam elevator at the monument with an electric one and installed an elevator motor in what had been the original engine room below grade on the west side of the monument. This space, called the motor room after the changeover, was further altered to accommodate the new use. Lockers were installed for attendants (1904-05), a concrete floor replaced the existing wood floor (1906-07), and a vertical wall was built against the sloping exterior surface of the monument foundation, creating a shelf at the top (1908-09). The use of the Boiler House to hold the electrical power plant was, however, short-lived. In 1923, a private company began to supply electricity to the monument grounds, and three years later, OPBPP turned the Boiler House into offices.⁹⁶

The alteration to the elevator paved the way for renovation of the monument lobby as a waiting area. The renovation was needed because the waiting room at the Monument Lodge proved too small for the increasing number of

⁹⁴ U.S. Congress, House of Representatives, *Improvement of the Washington Monument Grounds*, 7-17.

⁹⁵ U.S. Congress, House of Representatives, *Improvement of the Washington Monument Grounds*, 29-42; John Milner Associates, "Washington Monument Cultural Landscape Report," 2-22 – 2-23. The quotation from Grant's report is on page 42.

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visitors. In 1903, a storeroom at the monument's entrance level was emptied and matting placed on the granite floor to function as a temporary waiting area. The following year, this space was improved, creating the L-shaped waiting area on the south and west sides of the entrance level that exists, largely unchanged, today. The work included steel framing, new walls with two-toned marble wainscot, coved ceiling with crown molding, and a terrazzo floor with an inlaid Greek key pattern and wreathes holding quotations related to Washington's life. Four oak settees provided seating, and glazed wood doors separated the waiting room from the entrance through the thick stone walls. The 1904 work at the monument also included improved heating (both in the lobby and at the observation level at the top of the monument), iron gates and a revolving door at the entrance, and wood shutters over the pyramidion windows. OPBG extended the lobby improvements to the west alcove in 1913, using the same terrazzo floor with mosaic inlay, plaster walls, and marble wainscot. In 1910, the public waiting area at the Monument Lodge received the same kind of improvements to the walls and floor as the monument elevator lobby. The exterior of the monument received its first comprehensive cleaning and repair in 1934. In that year, contractor Alexander Howie, Inc., encased the entire structure with aluminum scaffolding, and then repointed mortar joints, cleaned the exterior stones, and repaired cracks in the masonry. The work was completed in January 1935.⁹⁷

Work on the monument grounds during this period addressed operational needs. In 1898, the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey erected the Elevation Obelisk, a 13-foot-tall, concrete replica of the monument, 150 feet to the south to serve as a benchmark against which to measure settlement. A year later, OPBG expanded the propagating gardens along 15th Street south of the monument with the addition of reclaimed land near the Tidal Basin. The office developed a grid of streets on the property over the next few years and began moving structures to the site. A two-story frame building associated with the construction of the Gen. William Tecumseh Sherman statue in President's Park and five White House greenhouses were moved there in 1901-1902. Brick buildings supplanted some of the older wood structures along 15th Street at about the same time, and two granite gateposts were erected at the 15th Street entrance. In 1907, a greenhouse near the Fish Commission ponds was moved to the propagating gardens. OPBG used the greenhouses and shop buildings on the monument grounds to support all their maintenance and improvement work in Washington's downtown parks.

Improvements for visitors addressed those who came to experience the commemorative aspect of the site, but also expanded its uses to include recreational and entertainment opportunities that neither Robert Mills nor Col. Casey probably had foreseen. In the years between 1901 and 1903, OPBG extended 17th Street south of B Street North to the Tidal Basin, forming the site's western boundary, and constructed a macadam road that connected 15th and 17th streets, known as River Road, that followed the curving northern edge of the Tidal Basin. A cinder walk bordered the road along the basin and a bridle path followed its course on the opposite side. OPBG also built new board walks or repaired existing ones and planted dozens of trees, especially American elms, along the streets it established. In 1912, a shipment of 3,020 Japanese cherry trees was sent from the city of Tokyo to Washington, D.C., as a symbolic gesture of Japanese-American understanding and friendship. Hundreds of the trees, mostly specimens of the white or pale pink Yoshino cherry, were planted around the perimeter of the Tidal Basin, in some cases replacing the elm trees planted earlier. It may have been at around this time that the mulberry tree southwest of the monument first appeared. Aerial photographs from 1919, 1923, and 1930 show vegetation in the current location of the tree. Eighty-four benches consisting of iron frames with wood slats were distributed in a circle around the monument plaza in 1932. Lighting to expand the time in which visitors could come to

⁹⁶ John Milner Associates, Inc., "Washington Monument and Associated Structures Historic Structure Report," Volume III, Survey Lodge, 3-3 – 3-4; John Milner Associates, Inc., "Washington Monument and Associated Structures Historic Structure Report," Volume I, Washington Monument, 3-20.

⁹⁷ John Milner Associates, Inc., "Washington Monument and Associated Structures Historic Structure Report," Volume II, Monument Lodge, 3-14 – 3-17; John Milner Associates, Inc., "Washington Monument and Associated Structures Historic Structure Report," Volume I, Washington Monument, 3-14 – 3-20. The precise location of the 15th Street entrance to the propagating gardens, with its granite gateposts, is not specified in the CLR. A 1924 map of the area from the Office of Public Buildings and Public Parks depicts such an entrance opposite the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, at approximately the line of C Street SW.

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the monument was also installed. In 1904, OPBG erected twelve electric lights around the monument and added fifty-five gas lights in 1911. Floodlights to illuminate the monument itself were first installed in 1931.⁹⁸

If neither Mills nor Casey had foreseen recreational opportunities on the monument grounds, the McMillan Commission did – or at least in this vicinity. The commission's report noted that "the positive dearth of means of innocent enjoyment for one's leisure hours is remarkable" in the city. To satisfy this need, the planners envisioned ball fields, tennis courts, playgrounds, and stadiums in the area designated "the Washington Common" near what is now the Thomas Jefferson Memorial.⁹⁹ Although built facilities never followed the McMillan Plan in detail, recreational activities on the Washington Monument Grounds beyond strolls through its green space flourished early in the twentieth century. OPBG concentrated the recreational facilities it developed at the monument grounds in its northwest quadrant near 17th and North B streets. In 1907, OPBG leased one of the ponds created by the U.S. Fish and Fisheries Commission to city authorities for use as a swimming pool. In 1910, the office canceled that lease and filled in the pond, but leased another strip of land on the grounds on which to build swimming pools. That same year, a building on the Fish Commission site was renovated for use by visitors and two rest rooms were installed nearby. The remaining fish ponds were filled, graded, and sown with grass by 1911.

OPBG also developed facilities for organized sports on the monument grounds. (Historical Figure 6) Three baseball diamonds were added in 1911 to the nine that had been established at an unknown previous date, and three more were laid out in 1914. A year later, OPBG built a track and field facility that included high jump, broad jump, and pole vault pits; shot put, hammer, and discus courts; and a half-mile turf running track. Local universities, public and private schools, social organizations, and police and fire departments used the facility. Over the next decade, a soccer field, three football fields, several tennis courts, a basketball court, and an archery range were built. Changes took place in the number of these facilities over the period, and some were altered. The football fields were removed in favor of additional tennis courts, for instance, and the surfaces of three of the tennis courts were changed from clay to concrete. The number of baseball diamonds had been reduced to eight by 1927. Such changes to these facilities over a relatively short period of time suggest that OPBG responded to the recreational needs of Washington citizens as they evolved.¹⁰⁰

The importance of the recreational facilities on the monument grounds to Washington residents is well illustrated by the public's resistance to construction of a flood control levee proposed for the monument grounds and West Potomac Park in 1934. Resistance revolved around the necessity of removing the swimming pools run by the District of Columbia that had been constructed near the intersection of 17th and the former B Street North (by then renamed Constitution Avenue). The protests delayed demolition of the pools until new pools could be constructed elsewhere. A disastrous flood in 1936, however, resulted in the construction of a temporary levee that same year. In 1938, the permanent flood control levee, a concrete and earth structure that raised the ground level on the north side of the Reflecting Pool, was constructed. While no levee construction took place on the monument grounds itself, the area immediately east of 17th Street – where the pools had stood – was regraded to provide flood protection.¹⁰¹

Many of the remaining recreational facilities on the monument grounds were removed during World War II. On April 28, 1942, the National Park Service transferred 22.17 acres in the northwest portion of the grounds to the Public Buildings Administration for the construction of three temporary buildings for war-time use. A parking lot was also established along the line of 16th Street. A fence encircled the war-time buildings, separating them from the rest of the monument grounds. Three additional wings were built on one of the temporary buildings in 1943, and the parking lot was expanded. Construction for non-park purposes continued, and by 1949, temporary office buildings covered the western section of the monument grounds for almost the entire length of 17th Street. Such construction necessitated the removal of

⁹⁸ John Milner Associates, "Cultural Landscape Report," Executive Summary – 5-10, 2-16, 4-24; Melanie Choukas-Bradley, *City of Trees: The Complete Field Guide to the Trees of Washington, D.C.*, 3d ed. (Charlottesville, VA: University of Virginia Press, 2008), 38-43; "Cultural Landscapes Inventory: Washington Monument Grounds, Washington Monument," 99.

⁹⁹ Moore, 49-50.

¹⁰⁰ John Milner Associates, "Cultural Landscape Report," 2-16 – 2-20.

¹⁰¹ John Milner Associates, "Cultural Landscape Report," 2-23; U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form: East and West Potomac Parks Historic District (revised nomination), November 11, 2001, 7:19, 8:81.

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many of the purpose-built recreational facilities, and these facilities were not rebuilt after the war, although recreational use of the grounds continued.¹⁰²

The early years of the twentieth century also witnessed the first use of the monument grounds as a venue for public entertainments. Festivities on the monument grounds had frequently, of course, included music, fireworks, and other forms of entertainment, but those activities played secondary roles to what were primarily commemorative events. The McMillan Plan designated the Mall as the location of museum buildings and considered festive occasions (at which fireworks might be displayed) appropriate for the Washington Common, it but did not recommend the construction of theaters, opera houses, or other performance venues. The dearth of such facilities was evident when the first film was shown on the monument grounds in 1916: The white marble wall of the monument itself acted as the background for the moving images in the absence of a proper screen.¹⁰³

A more permanent location for public performances was established the following year, when the Sylvan Theater was built through the efforts of Alice Pike Barney and the Office of Public Buildings and Grounds. Barney, a painter with exhibitions in Paris, London, Boston, and Washington to her credit, also wrote, produced, and directed a variety of theatrical works during the first two decades of the twentieth century, when she made the District of Columbia her primary home. The daughter of philanthropists Samuel and Ellen Pike of Cincinnati, Alice married wealthy Cincinnati businessman Albert Clifford Barney in 1876. When the couple moved to Washington, the Society of Washington Artists, the city's most important arts organization, accepted Alice as a member. She subsequently built a house, designed by local architect Waddy B. Wood, on Sheridan Circle that became known as Studio House. There, in addition to continuing her painting career and creating a salon on the Paris model, she hosted meetings of the society as it discussed its plans to promote the arts in Washington. A philanthropist like her parents, Barney often created theatrical performances to raise money for the charities she supported. Her work progressed from private showings at Studio House to productions in public venues such as the Willard Hotel, and ultimately to performances in the city's purpose-built theaters.

In the spring of 1916, Barney persuaded the husband-and-wife Shakespearean actors R.D. Shepherd and Odette Tyler to perform scenes at Dumbarton Oaks in honor of the 300th anniversary of the Bard's death. The performance took place on May 26, and the funds raised provided for a free performance the following night at the base of the Washington Monument. The crowds on the monument grounds grew so large that many could not see the two actors, which prompted Barney to seek a permanent outdoor venue for Shakespeare and other classical theater. She invited Col. William W. Harts, the Officer in Charge of the Public Buildings and Grounds, to dinner at Studio House on several occasions to discuss the project, and the colonel proved receptive to the idea. In the late summer of 1916, OPBG staff began constructing a theater site southeast of the monument at the base of the knoll, and work continued through the fall. The sod stage – 5 feet above grade, 30 feet deep, and 80 feet across – matched the size of the stage of the Metropolitan Opera in New York. Thirty-foot-square "wings" of grass and screening shrubbery flanked the stage. Three flights of flagstone steps ascended to the stage from the rear. In addition to filling and grading, sodding, seeding, and planting, OPBG installed lights as well as a drainage system consisting of nearly 400 feet of terra-cotta pipe. By 1931, a screen of trees stood at the back of the stage and privet hedge masked the wings.

The Sylvan Theater was scheduled to open on June 1, 1917, but rain canceled the performance after the crowd, estimated at 13,000, had already begun to gather. The inaugural program, produced and directed by Barney, instead took place the following day, with as many as 15,000 in attendance. Barney remained involved with the Sylvan Theater only until 1920, when she moved to Europe and, subsequently, to California. After her departure, the theater hosted a wide variety of functions. Private organizations, such as the Order of Elks and the Ku Klux Klan, held rallies and ceremonies there; various organizations promoted public speeches and programs; and numerous military bands performed. During the 1920s, Easter services and summer vespers took place there. This list of uses suggests the theater's popularity, as does

¹⁰² "Cultural Landscapes Inventory: Washington Monument Grounds, Washington Monument," 46; John Milner Associates, "Cultural Landscape Report," 2-24 – 2-25.

¹⁰³ John Milner Associates, "Cultural Landscape Report," 2-20, 4-7; Moore, 49-50.

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the determination of the National Park Service to erect a wood stage supported by iron girders, replacing the original earthen one, in 1944.¹⁰⁴

The remaining significant construction on the monument grounds during this period was undertaken to enhance city and regional circulation, rather than access to the monument, the Mall, and West Potomac Park. The extension of Independence Avenue, SW, from 14th Street to 23rd Street (along with the connection of Maine Avenue, SW, to Independence) was built at this time in part to improve vehicular access to the Pentagon, which was being constructed on the Virginia side of the Potomac River. Philadelphia-based architect and former Commission of Fine Arts member Paul Cret and consulting engineers Modjeski and Masters of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, designed the extension as a dual highway system in which all drives were one way. This approach limited alterations to the Tidal Basin and maintained the area's park-like appearance by protecting existing views and vegetation. The roadwork did, however, require flattening the shoreline of the northern lobe of the Tidal Basin from its original rounded shape, slightly altering the southern boundary of the monument grounds. Highway Engineering and Construction Company of Washington, D.C., built the extension in two sections – first from 17th Street, SW, to the Lincoln Memorial and then from 14th Street, SW, to 17th Street. An overpass was constructed where eastbound lanes of Independence Avenue passed over the westbound Maine Avenue lanes. Highway Engineering was awarded the construction contract in 1942, and all roadwork was complete by September 1943. The project necessitated the relocation of all but around twenty National Park Service greenhouses, shops, warehouses, storage garages, and offices at the propagating gardens west of 15th Street, SW. The completion of the Independence Avenue extension occurred in the same year as the dedication of the Thomas Jefferson Memorial on the south side of the Tidal Basin. Designed by John Russell Pope, the circular, marble memorial to George Washington's secretary of state and the country's third president fulfilled a McMillan Plan vision for a monumental building to terminate the north-south axis through the White House and across the monument grounds.¹⁰⁵

Development of the Monument and Grounds since World War II

Mission 66 and Related Development

Mission 66 was an NPS-wide effort to address park needs after years of deferred maintenance and to accommodate substantial increased visitation after World War II. The program received backing from President Dwight Eisenhower, and Congress first appropriated funding in 1956. NPS set the fiftieth anniversary of the agency ten years later as the program's projected end date. All told, Congress appropriated more than a billion dollars for park projects across the country during that time, which NPS used to establish new parks, build or improve park roads, add visitor parking, upgrade interpretive facilities, expand historic preservation efforts, increase staffing and employee housing, and establish a wide variety of recreational facilities. Perhaps the signature feature of the program was the visitor center – a centralized facility to provide visitor services and interpretation and to control circulation. Centralizing these services near a park's most important attractions was an attempt to restrict the footprint of built features and therefore limit their impact on a park's natural or historic resources.¹⁰⁶

Planners in NPS's National Capital Parks (NCP) envisioned a few variations on the Mission 66 visitor center for the parks under its jurisdiction, which included the Mall, the Washington Monument, East and West Potomac Parks, and

¹⁰⁴ U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form: Alice Pike Barney Studio House, March 30, 1995, 8:1-8:9; Col. William W. Harts, "Report upon the Improvement and Care of Public Buildings and Grounds, and upon the Care and Maintenance of the Washington Monument and of the Highway Bridge across the Potomac River, District of Columbia, and upon the Erection of Monuments, Memorials, etc., Washington, D.C.," *Annual Report of the Chief of Engineers*, 1917, 3715; John Milner Associates, "Cultural Landscape Report," 2-20, 2-25, 4-20. The Studio House National Register Nomination reports that six chestnut trees had been planted at the back of the stage for acoustical purposes by the time the theater opened, but Harts' annual report on the work does not mention these trees. The CLR notes their presence on a 1931 plan of the site.

¹⁰⁵ Scott G. Shultz, "The Development of the Historic Landscape of the Washington Monument Grounds and West Potomac Park," prepared for the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, 1995, 17-22.

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Rock Creek Park, among others.¹⁰⁷ One was a \$176,000 visitor facility at the Washington Monument, intended to resolve multiple issues. Like nearly all the other NPS historic sites in Washington at this time, security personnel, rather than trained interpreters, manned the monument. Visitors gained their understanding of the historic importance of Washington and the monument from these guards. At the proposed visitor center, trained staff would perform interpretive duties. The building would also provide shelter for those waiting to enter the monument, as well as exhibits, concessions, and restrooms. Parking for 600 cars would be located nearby, to be used not only by those visiting the monument, but also by participants in the numerous civic events that took place on the monument grounds or in the vicinity, such as the Cherry Blossom Festival, Independence Day celebrations, and the Christmas Pageant of Peace. Planning documents listed only the purpose and anticipated cost of the projects it described. Details of the visitor center design, even its location, were not included, so little is known about NCP's specific plans for the building. In any event, NPS planners at the national level did not approve the visitor center at the Washington Monument and it was never built.¹⁰⁸

The Mission 66 program, did, however, fund other projects at the monument. NCP also proposed replacement of the existing elevator and the floodlights that had illuminated the monument since 1931, as well as installation of aircraft warning lights on the world's tallest freestanding stone structure. In 1958, much of this work was carried out. As a result of the changes to the elevator, visitors entered the elevator cab on the west to be transported to the observation (500-foot) level. (They had previously entered on the east.) On their return, they descended one flight of stairs to the 490-foot level, where they entered the elevator, and exited on the east when they reached the ground. This change in the circulation pattern required new framing and floor plates and an added stair at the 490-foot level. A total of eight red aircraft warning lights were also installed above the windows of the pyramidion, and the floodlights were replaced.¹⁰⁹

The Mission 66 plans also called for the elimination of the approach road to the monument from the east and the conversion of the circular drive at its base to a pedestrian walk. As part of the new pedestrian circle, new permanent flagpoles were proposed. A ring of flags at the monument's base representing the forty-eight states had first been employed in 1920 in a celebration of George Washington's birthday. After that time, the flags (on wood poles) were placed around the monument on a temporary basis for the Washington birthday celebrations and similar events. Preparations for a permanent flag display were made during 1957, and on February 22, 1958 – the 236th anniversary of Washington's birth – forty-eight flags on permanently placed aluminum poles were displayed. A flag representing Alaska was added on the July 4, 1959, and one representing Hawaii a year later. Automobile access to the monument ended in 1960.¹¹⁰

Regional planners also envisioned replacing the Sylvan Theater, using \$100,000 in Mission 66 funding. While the theater was not replaced, a proscenium arch was added over the existing stage. Other work that took place during the Mission 66 era (although not necessarily funded through the program) included improvements to the concession stand on the west side of Monument Lodge. First planned in 1948, the concessions operation was expanded in 1955, adding a larger canopy and a fenced eating area. In fiscal year 1963-1964, a cinder block, shed-roof addition replaced the earlier concession stand. Workers cleaned the monument exterior and repaired damaged stones and joints in 1964, using rigging rather than scaffolding to perform their work. The World War II temporary buildings that filled the west side of the monument grounds along 17th Street were also removed in 1964. Two information kiosks were constructed on the

¹⁰⁶ Ethan Carr, *Mission 66: Modernism and the Park Dilemma* (Amherst: University of Massachusetts Press, 2007), 142-197; Sarah Allaback, *Mission 66 Visitor Centers: The History of a Building Type* (Washington, DC: Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 2000), 24-27.

¹⁰⁷ National Capital Parks was the precursor to today's National Capital Region of the National Park Service.

¹⁰⁸ Robinson & Associates, Inc., "National Park Service, National Capital Region Administrative History, 1952-2005," 68-73; "National Capital Parks Preliminary Prospectus" [Mission 66], n.d., Record Group 79, Records of the National Park Service, Finding Aid A1, Entry 2, Mission 66 Final Prospectus, 1955-60, box 14, National Archives, College Park, Maryland, 15-16, 32.

¹⁰⁹ John Milner Associates, Inc., "Washington Monument and Associated Structures Historic Structure Report," Volume I, Washington Monument, 3-15 – 3-17; "National Capital Parks Preliminary Prospectus," 15-16.

¹¹⁰ John Milner Associates, "Cultural Landscape Report," 2-20 – 2-27; "National Capital Parks Preliminary Prospectus," 32-33. On July 4, 1971, President Richard Nixon proclaimed that the flags should be displayed twenty-four hours a day, rather than being taken down at sunset, which had been the previous practice.

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monument grounds in 1966, one north of the Monument Lodge and one near the parking area entered from 16th Street. Two groves of Yoshino cherry trees were also planted in 1966, one on either side of the parking area.¹¹¹

Two other mid-1960s planning efforts proposed changes at the Washington Monument, but altered the monument and grounds only in minor ways. "The Washington Mall Master Plan," by Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM), was the first comprehensive plan for the National Mall since before World War II. Proposed in 1966 under NPS contract, the plan proposed to remove automobiles from the National Mall by tunneling north-south streets under the park or terminating them at Constitution and Independence avenues, turning the east-west roads within the Mall into pedestrian pathways, providing satellite parking and shuttle bus transportation, and instituting an internal sightseeing vehicle route distinct from pedestrian traffic. Within the automobile-free zone, new amenities, such as visitor centers, bandstands, and kiosks and pavilions for concessions, would be created. The signal alteration at the monument would be a "Grand Overlook Terrace" located on the 14th Street cross axis to emphasize the view of the Washington Monument and its grounds. The most prominent projects accomplished under the SOM plan were the creation of Constitution Gardens and the Capitol Reflecting Pool and the institution of the Tourmobile service to transport visitors to various locations on the National Mall. An existing kiosk along Jefferson Drive between 14th and 15th streets was built at this time to sell Tourmobile tickets. Many other aspects of the proposal, including the overlook terrace at the Washington Monument, were, however, never built.¹¹²

Lady Bird Johnson chose the "field of conservation and beautification" as one of the areas in which she wished to become involved during the presidential administration of her husband, Lyndon Baines Johnson. She convened the first meeting of the "Committee for a More Beautiful Capital" at the White House on February 11, 1965, to determine ways to improve the city's appearance and to make it a model that other cities in the United States could emulate. In 1966, a "Beautification Task Force" was created in National Capital Region (NCR) headquarters, which planned and designed the work that would be carried out.¹¹³ The task force and the committee accomplished a tremendous amount of work in the four-year period (1965-1969) of the program's existence. Among the most visible outcomes were the floral displays and permanent plantings established in many NCR parks. These included hundreds of thousands of daffodil bulbs in Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway and on Columbia Island. One of the unusual and permanent floral installations resulting from the committee's work was the "Tulip Library" on the monument grounds south of Independence Avenue near the Tidal Basin, where a brochure provided visitors with the names of the varieties of flowers they saw. Established in 1968 on a half-acre plot, the area quickly became a seasonal garden, with tulips, annuals, and chrysanthemums succeeding each other as the year progressed. The variety of flowers planted in the area led to its being renamed the Floral Library.¹¹⁴

Preparations for the Bicentennial

An anticipated increase in the number of visitors to the Nation's Capital to celebrate the Bicentennial of the American Revolution in 1976 also resulted in substantial funding of park improvements in Washington, including the Washington Monument. Edwin C. Bearss, a longtime NPS historian who became the chief of the History Division in 1981, likened the park development that took place in anticipation of the Bicentennial to the 1930s work by the Civilian Conservation Corps and to the Mission 66 program, although the Bicentennial work affected fewer parks than either of the

¹¹¹ "National Capital Parks Preliminary Prospectus," 33; John Milner Associates, Inc., "Cultural Landscape Report," ES-11, 2-25; John Milner Associates, Inc., "Washington Monument and Associated Structures Historic Structure Report," Volume I, Washington Monument, 3-15 – 3-17; John Milner Associates, Inc., "Washington Monument and Associated Structures Historic Structure Report," Volume II, Monument Lodge, 2-6; "Cultural Landscapes Inventory: Washington Monument Grounds, Washington Monument," 49. The concessions addition was removed when the Monument Lodge was restored in 2005-2006.

¹¹² Skidmore, Owings & Merrill, "The Washington Mall Master Plan," prepared for the National Park Service, January 1966, 1-7, 10-14; John Milner Associates, Inc., "Cultural Landscape Report," 3-19.

¹¹³ In 1962, National Capital Parks were organized as a National Park Service region, which later became known as the National Capital Region (NCR). The region also included federal parkland in suburban Maryland and Virginia. See Robinson & Associates, Inc., "National Park Service, National Capital Region Administrative History, 1952-2005," prepared for the National Park Service, Department of the Interior, 2008, 17-20.

¹¹⁴ Robinson & Associates, Inc., "National Park Service, National Capital Region Administrative History, 1952-2005." Prepared for the National Park Service, Department of the Interior, 2008, 99-101.

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earlier programs. Still, \$100 million was spent on infrastructure, preservation, and visitor services construction at twenty-two parks between July 1, 1973, and June 30, 1976.¹¹⁵

As part of the Bicentennial preparations, substantial work was carried out on the interior of the monument between 1974 and 1976. At the entrance, new granite flooring replaced the existing floor, and revolving doors (installed in 1972) were removed in favor of glass double doors in aluminum framing. The entrance passage walls were surfaced with 4-inch-thick marble slabs. New marble seats were installed on the south side of the elevator lobby, and the lobby's plaster ceiling replaced with a suspended acoustic ceiling. On the east, at the elevator threshold, an open space in the floor was closed with reinforced concrete and a suspended ceiling installed above. NPS also improved the finishes at the upper levels. Both the 490- and 500-foot levels received new marble chip floors. At the 490-foot level, glass panels held in aluminum frames were laid against the walls and a suspended acoustical ceiling like that of the entrance lobby was hung. Bullet-proof glass was installed in the eight windows of the pyramidion and the shutters removed. NPS also ended the public use of the stairs in the monument at this time, after having limited its use to down traffic in 1971. Restoration of the lightning rods on the pyramidion and repointing of the exterior masonry was also included in the Bicentennial work.¹¹⁶

The Sylvan Theater received considerable attention at this time. The theater itself underwent a substantial overhaul. The proscenium arch was replaced and the stage enlarged to its current size. In addition, four auxiliary metal structures were built. Two were dressing rooms, located on either side of the stage. The other two buildings, located at the rear of the stage, provided electrical power and storage. Architect Ben Biderman designed the oval exposed-aggregate comfort station, approximately 30 feet across, that was built near the theater. A temporary theater building, known as the Kodak Theater, was also built between the Sylvan Theater and the Monument Lodge. The Kodak Theater operated between April and October, showing a short film on the life of George Washington, before being removed.¹¹⁷

Improvements since the Bicentennial

The German-American Friendship Garden also resulted from a centennial observance, in this case the three-hundredth anniversary of the founding of Germantown, Pennsylvania, in 1683, marking the beginning of German immigration to what would become the United States. Planning for the garden began in 1983, but work did not begin until 1987. The land at the entrance to the 16th Street parking lot was set aside for the garden, which was designed by Oehme van Sweden and Associates. The design featured identical planted areas flanking a central lawn. Each garden focused on a circular terrace with a fountain and benches. The vegetation of the gardens consisted of perennials and small flowering trees native to Germany and the United States. The project was completed in 1988.¹¹⁸

In 1989, an extensive rehabilitation program began at the Survey Lodge/Boiler House to repair termite damage, modernize the building's interior, and to restore missing features. While the modernization replaced the existing wood floors with concrete and installed modern finishes, the work also included reconstruction of the original cupola and installation of a new slate roof over the original iron-truss structure. The cupola and original slate roof had been removed in 1932. The work was completed by early 1993.¹¹⁹

Alterations at the Washington Monument in 1992 and 1993 reversed some of the Bicentennial improvements in the elevator lobby and restored some original features. Bicentennial alterations such as the acoustic ceiling, the new marble finish of the entrance passage, and the aluminum-framed glass doors were removed. Repairs were made to the

¹¹⁵ Merrill J. Mattes, "Landmarks of Liberty: A Report on the American Revolution Bicentennial Development Program of the National Park Service" (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, History Division, 1989), National Park Service website, <http://www.cr.nps.gov/history/hisnps/NPSHistory.htm>, v, 1-4.

¹¹⁶ John Milner Associates, Inc., "Washington Monument and Associated Structures Historic Structure Report," Volume I, Washington Monument, 3-18.

¹¹⁷ John Milner Associates, Inc., "Cultural Landscape Report," ES-11, 2-27; "Cultural Landscapes Inventory: Washington Monument Grounds, Washington Monument," 49.

¹¹⁸ John Milner Associates, Inc., "Cultural Landscape Report," 2-27, n. 223, 2-40; "Cultural Landscapes Inventory: Washington Monument Grounds, Washington Monument," 50.

¹¹⁹ John Milner Associates, Inc., "Washington Monument and Associated Structures Historic Structure Report," Volume III, Survey Lodge, 3-5.

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original passage walls. Frameless glass doors with a glass transom were installed at the end of the passage. The marble wainscot and mosaic floors were also restored. New work included new bronze doors and a limestone surround for the elevator that emulated Mills' design for the exterior doors, and bronze inscriptions, swags, and a bas relief plaque on the walls. A reproduction of Jean-Antoine Houdon's eighteenth-century statue of Washington was installed in the chamber west of the elevator lobby at this time.

A three-year program of improvements to the monument began in 1997. Alterations to the elevator allowed visitors to view memorial stones on three levels as the elevator car descended. The work required removal of railings and protective wire screens and the installation of glass panels at the three levels, and NPS instituted a conservation program on the memorial stones. After the elevator changes were complete, the 490- and 500-foot levels were remodeled, with new terrazzo floors and new protective glass panels in metal frames on the walls. New exhibits were also displayed.

A campaign to clean and repair the exterior of the monument began in 1998. Michael Graves designed the aluminum scaffolding for the work, which featured a mesh covering marked to resemble ashlar stone. Six hundred thirty lights illuminated the mesh covering from the inside. NPS closed the monument to the public while the scaffolding was erected, between October 5, 1998, and February 22, 1999, but it remained open when the exterior cleaning and repairs commenced. The 1997-2000 work also altered vehicular circulation on the east side of the monument. In 1997, Fifteenth Street and Madison and Jefferson drives between 14th and 15th streets were all realigned to their current symmetrical arrangement, with 15th Street bowing around the Monument Lodge and the two drives running diagonally toward the lodge. New Twin Twenty and Washington Globe streetlights and new sidewalks accompanied the realignment of the streets.¹²⁰

In August 1998, the National Park Service installed two rings of concrete Jersey barriers around the base of the monument in response to bombings of the United States embassies in Kenya and Tanzania. The attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon on September 11, 2001, created a deeper involvement in security issues on the National Mall, including the Washington Monument. Senior leadership in the Department of the Interior, including Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton and National Park Service Director Fran Mainella, concluded immediately after the attacks to increase security at several NPS units across the country, including the major monuments and memorials in Washington. The Washington Monument was one of the NPS memorials in the city closed for a period of time after September 11 for security reasons. NPS also instituted visitor screening at the monument in a temporary building attached to its east face.¹²¹

In subsequent years, the National Park Service and other federal agencies began to consider how best to face the terrorist threat to the National Mall's museums, galleries, offices, monuments, and visitors. In October 2002, the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC) released "The National Capital Urban Design and Security Plan," a document that offered a framework and strategy to improve security in the monumental core and downtown. The plan was developed in cooperation with federal and city agencies that included NCPC, the Commission of Fine Arts (CFA), the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, the General Services Administration, the National Park Service, the Secret Service, the offices of the District of Columbia mayor and city council, and others. In general, the permanent measures envisioned in the plan mirrored but refined the temporary ones already implemented. The design of the most visible aspects of the permanent security features (bollards, post-and-rail fencing, low walls, site features such as lamp posts and benches) were intended under the plan to be compatible with the architecture of the building the barriers protected and remain as "transparent" as possible. Achieving a measure of transparency for the added security construction at some of the more visible and significant National Mall sites called for solutions beyond bollards and fencing. This was an especially important issue for those properties associated with the Mall axes.¹²²

¹²⁰ John Milner Associates, Inc., "Washington Monument and Associated Structures Historic Structure Report," Volume I, Washington Monument, 3-16, 3-21, 4-15; John Milner Associates, Inc., "Cultural Landscape Report," 2-29; "Cultural Landscapes Inventory: Washington Monument Grounds, Washington Monument," 51-52.

¹²¹ Janet A. McDonnell, *The National Park Service: Responding to the September 11 Terrorist Attacks* (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, National Center for Cultural Resources, 2004), 2-18, 90.

¹²² U.S. Government Accountability Office, *National Mall: Steps Identified by Stakeholders Facility Design and Approval of Security Enhancements*, GAO-05-518, June 2005, 12-22.

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At the Washington Monument, in 2002, the Olin Partnership designed the main security feature – 30-inch-high rose-colored granite walls that also functioned as retaining walls along the walks. The interlocking concentric barrier rings created a 400-foot perimeter around the monument, preventing approach by motor vehicles. Because the level of the ground was raised on the inside of the perimeter, the security features, while visible, read as a part of the landscape, rather than a vertical barrier between visitors and the monument. In addition, the work reconfigured existing pedestrian paths to enhance the new walls' elliptical shape and established a stone plaza with built-in modern benches at the base of the monument. Both the current shape of the knoll and the current plaza around the monument were created as part of these security and landscape improvements. Although it employs different materials, the new plaza retained the extent of the paved surface surrounding the monument that was established by the end of the nineteenth century. After closing in September 2004 for the extensive landscape redesign, the Washington Monument officially reopened July 4, 2005. The Olin Partnership's initial planning for security at the monument also included an underground visitor facility entered through the Monument Lodge, and a tunnel to the monument itself. Although the idea received conceptual approval from planning agencies, it failed to win public support or congressional funding and was ultimately abandoned. The temporary security screening structure at the base of the monument, constructed in 2001, remained in place. The Monument Lodge was restored after the completion of the Olin landscape and security improvements. The work removed the 1963-1964 cinder block concessions addition and added a paved terrace to the west.¹²³

At about the same time as the alterations to the monument grounds and the Monument Lodge, a temporary visitor services building consisting of a steel structure with a blue cloth roof was built northeast of the monument along Madison Drive between 14th and 15th streets. Donated by Discovery Communications, the \$2 million facility included four galleries that provided information about George Washington, the city of Washington, the history of the monument, and the monument grounds as a public gathering space. The facility was removed when construction on the National Museum of African American History began.¹²⁴

The National Museum of African American History and Culture

In the last two decades of the twentieth century, the desirability of the National Mall as a location for commemorative works and museums, as well as the controversy associated with a few of the projects, raised concerns over the potential for an overload of such construction in the monumental core. Congress and federal planning agencies responded to these concerns with legislation and planning proposals. The 1986 Commemorative Works Act established the National Capital Memorial Commission (NCMC) to oversee future commemorative projects in Washington, and ten years later the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC) formed a Memorials Task Force. The memorial commission and the task force then combined resources with the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts to study the problem. The resulting Joint Task Force on Memorials issued, in December 2001, the *Memorials and Museums Master Plan* at the request of Congress. The document identified one hundred potential sites for new monuments and museums, the vast majority located away from the National Mall. The Joint Task Force also worked with congressional staff to draft language to amend the Commemorative Works Act to further limit new construction on the National Mall. Signed into law on November 17, 2003, the "Commemorative Works Clarification and Revision Act," among other actions, created a "Reserve," which included Union Square, the Mall greensward, the Washington Monument Grounds, the White House Grounds and President's Park South, and almost all of West Potomac Park. The legislation concluded that the Reserve was "a

¹²³ John Milner Associates, Inc., "Cultural Landscape Report," 2-30 – 2-31; Cultural Landscapes Inventory: Washington Monument Grounds, Washington Monument," 54; American Society of Landscape Architects, "Monumental Security." *LAND online: Landscape Architecture News Digest* 10 April 2006, <http://www.asla.org/land/2006/0410/olin.html>; Vernon Mays, "Invisible Barriers," *Landscape Architecture* September 2002, American Society of Landscape Architecture online archive <http://www.asla.org/lamag/lam02/september02/feature1.html>.

¹²⁴ John Milner Associates, Inc., "Cultural Landscape Report," ES-13; "Cultural Landscapes Inventory: Washington Monument Grounds, Washington Monument," 52, 54. Citing the Cultural Landscapes Inventory, the Cultural Landscape Report states that the temporary structure went up in 2004. The CLI, however, lists the construction date as both 1999 and 2004.

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substantially complete work of civic art” and prohibited future memorial construction in “the great cross-axis of the Mall,” with the exception of those memorials already approved.¹²⁵

The *Memorials and Museums Master Plan* addressed the potential locations of future museums, but it acknowledged that no legislation existed comparable to the Commemorative Works Act to govern their placement. Instead, enabling legislation specified the museum location or left the decision to the museum’s governing board. An example is the Smithsonian Institution’s National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC), which, at the time of this nomination, was under construction on a site bounded by Constitution Avenue, 14th Street, Madison Drive, and 15th Street. The public law authorizing construction of the museum, signed by President George W. Bush on December 16, 2003, gave the Smithsonian’s Board of Regents the power to choose a site among four possibilities. The choices included two locations on the National Mall (the chosen site and the Smithsonian’s Arts and Industries Building). The regents chose the prominent 5.3-acre location on the monument grounds on January 30, 2006. The National Park Service transferred administrative jurisdiction over the site to the Smithsonian on June 1, 2007. Detailed studies of the location and its relation to the museums to the east, the Mall centerline, the Washington Monument, and the Federal Triangle buildings informed the design by David Adjaye and the partnership of Freelon Adjaye Bond/Smith Group.¹²⁶

The development of the NMAAHC also affected the implementation of the planting plan for the monument grounds developed by the Olin Partnership in 2002, as did the construction of a portion of an upgraded flood control levee for West Potomac Park and downtown Washington. The Olin plan envisioned the addition of more than 700 trees to the grounds, especially cherry trees. Partially implemented during the 2004-05 landscape and security improvements, the number of trees was reduced to just over 600 to accommodate the construction of the museum and the levee. The additional trees are being planted in association with the NMAAHC construction.¹²⁷

Earthquake Damage and Repairs

At approximately two o’clock in the afternoon on August 23, 2011, a 5.8 magnitude earthquake shook the earth 150 miles around its epicenter near Mineral, Virginia. Several aftershocks followed the initial quake. The geology of the east coast of the United States allows for earthquakes to be felt across a greater distance than quakes of similar magnitude in the west. The U.S. Geological Survey reported that the August 23, 2011, event was, geographically, the most widely felt earthquake in United States history, causing damage in, among other places, Washington, D.C., more than 80 miles away from the epicenter. Earthquakes on the east coast can be more damaging than those in the west because eastern buildings are often older and were not designed to withstand strong quakes. At the Washington Monument, the seismic action broke and cracked some marble blocks, shook mortar from joints between stones, damaged the lightning protection system, and bent the elevator counterweight rods. One of the marble pyramidion panels sustained a 1-inch-wide, 4-foot 4-inch vertical crack all the way through its 7-inch thickness. Pieces of stone also fell in the interior of the

¹²⁵ National Capital Planning Commission, “Joint Task Force on Memorials Report, *Memorials and Museums Master Plan*, December 2001, 2-7, National Capital Planning Commission website, http://www.ncpc.gov/DocumentDepot/Publications/2MPlan/MemorialsandMuseumsMasterPlan_PartOne.pdf, accessed October 23, 2013; *An Act to authorize the design and construction of a visitor center for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial*, Public Law 108-126, *U.S. Statutes at Large* 117 Stat. 1349, November 17, 2003. The Commemorative Works Clarification act constituted Title II of the legislation.

¹²⁶ 117 Stat. 2676; Jacqueline Trescott, “Mall Site Is Chosen for Black History Museum,” *Washington Post*, January 31, 2006, Washington Post website, <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/01/30/AR2006013001562.html>, accessed May 19, 2014.

¹²⁷ John Milner Associates, Inc., “Cultural Landscape Report,” ES-13; U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service. “Cultural Landscape Inventory: National Mall and Memorial Parks, Constitution Gardens,” 2008, 68-69. The largest part of the levee runs parallel to the Reflecting Pool at the Lincoln Memorial. To provide more reliable flood protection to a portion of the monumental core and downtown Washington, D.C. and to meet U.S. Army Corps of Engineers standards, the flood protection system at the east end of the levee (which had consisted of sandbags, moveable concrete barriers, and soil) was replaced with a movable post and panel closure system across 17th Street in conjunction with flanking permanent masonry barriers. One of these barriers stands on the Monument Grounds. The work was completed in 2014.

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monument, and cracks occurred in some of the haunches that support the ribs of the pyramidion and in some beams that tie into the pyramidion ribs. Although never considered structurally unsound, the monument was immediately closed as a result of the damage, most of which took place above the 450-foot level. Exterior repairs consisted of securing loose stones, sealing cracks, stone and mortar patching, repointing joints, and removing and reinstalling the lightning protection system. The Washington Monument reopened to the public on May 12, 2014.¹²⁸

The Washington Monument and Grounds as Public Gathering Space and Political Forum

The symbolic value of the Washington Monument was recognized even as the structure was being built. Fourth of July fireworks displays on the grounds of the national memorial to the victorious commander in the American Revolution and the country's first president began in the 1850s. They were televised for the first time in 1947, and the practice of celebrating the founding of the United States with fireworks illuminating the sky above the Washington Monument continues to the present day. Other patriotic events of national importance have also been staged on the monument grounds. The Grand Army of the Republic, a fraternal organization of veterans of all the branches of the United States military who had served during the Civil War, commemorated the country's reunification by holding their annual national encampment on the monument grounds in 1892 and 1902. A large war-bond rally took place there in September 1943, and 250,000 people attended the "Cavalcade of Freedom" on July 4, 1944. The end of World War II brought additional celebrations to the grounds a year later.¹²⁹

The Washington Monument and Grounds has also for many years been the chosen venue for celebrations of nationally significant events and anniversaries, as well as other special events of a celebratory, cultural, or educational nature. Fourth of July celebrations at the monument, which began in the 1850s, now draw as many as 500,000 visitors each year. The presidential inauguration occurs every four years on the west lawn of the Capitol, and the adjacent Mall and monument grounds offer citizens the space from which to participate in this ritual of American government.¹³⁰

The use of the monument grounds as a venue for the exercise of the freedoms of speech, assembly, and government petition granted by the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution did not properly begin until the twentieth century. Early political demonstrations in Washington's public spaces took place at the seats of power. "Coxey's Army," for instance, composed of five hundred unemployed men led by stone quarry owner Jacob Coxey, traveled from Ohio to Washington to petition Congress for relief in the summer of 1894. The National Women's Party aimed at securing the right to vote for women by marching from the Capitol to the White House the day before Woodrow Wilson's inauguration as president in 1913 and picketed the White House in 1917. These and other demonstrations took place in locations where decisions about national policy were made by elected officials. Exercise of the rights of assembly and free speech at a purely symbolic location can be said to have begun with a concert by renowned mezzo-soprano Marian Anderson at the Lincoln Memorial on Easter Sunday in 1939. African American civic leaders, officers of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), and Anderson's managers planned the concert as a protest against segregation after the Daughters of the American Revolution and the District of Columbia Board of Education refused on racial grounds to allow her to sing at Constitution Hall or a local high school. Realizing the symbolic value of the Lincoln Memorial as an alternative venue for the concert, the organizers sought and received permission to hold the concert there from Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes, who cleared the plan with President Roosevelt.¹³¹

After Anderson's concert, the National Mall continued to be the venue for public assemblies on important national issues, especially civil rights. One of the most successful of these demonstrations took place on August 28, 1963. Known as the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, it was organized by a coalition of civil rights groups including the

¹²⁸ Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc., "Washington Monument Post-Earthquake Assessment," prepared for the National Park Service, n.d., 1-3, 12-25; John Milner Associates, Inc., "Cultural Landscape Report," Foreword.

¹²⁹ U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, National Capital Region, "A History of Recreation in East and West Potomac Parks" (draft), April 2008, 47-48; John Milner Associates, Inc., "Cultural Landscape Report," 2-16, 2-23, 2-29.

¹³⁰ "Final National Mall Plan Environmental Impact Statement," vol. 1, 319-321.

¹³¹ Lucy G. Barber, *Marching on Washington: The Forging of an American Political Tradition* (Berkeley, California: University of California Press, 2004), 11-40, 54-74, 89-97; Scott A. Sandage, "A Marble House Divided: The Lincoln Memorial, the Civil Rights Movement, and the Politics of Memory, 1939-1963," *Journal of American History* 80 (June 1993), 135-145.

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National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the National Urban League, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, the Congress of Racial Equality, and the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee. The demonstrators organized on the Washington Monument grounds in view of the White House, where they were entertained by folk singers such as Joan Baez, Bob Dylan, and Peter, Paul, and Mary. (Historical Figure 7) The estimated 250,000 demonstrators then marched from the monument grounds down Constitution and Independence avenues to the Lincoln Memorial and the Reflecting Pool. The monuments to Washington and Lincoln became the backdrops for music and speeches. Millions of Americans watched the event on television. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s now famous "I Have a Dream" speech proved to be one of the most inspiring moments of the day's events. After the demonstration, several of its leaders, including King, met with President John F. Kennedy at the White House, who used the occasion to rally support for his civil rights legislation.¹³²

The positive reception of the 1963 march generated additional demonstrations on nationally important issues on the National Mall, including some on the monument grounds. On November 15, 1969, the Peace Moratorium drew 250,000 people to the monument grounds to protest the war in Vietnam, one of several such demonstrations across the country. In 1971, three large protests against the Vietnam War were planned for the National Mall. The National Peace Coalition March against the War, on April 24, consisted of a march on Pennsylvania Avenue to the White House, followed by an evening rock concert on the monument grounds. As a crowd of about 4,000 people gathered at the monument, however, some participants began to remove flags from the flagpoles around the plaza, sparking a confrontation with U.S. Park Police and additional vandalism. At protests against the war in Washington on May 3-5, approximately 20,000 demonstrators attempted to disrupt the city's normal routine. Bicycle racks and wooden barricades at the Lincoln Memorial, for instance, were used to block traffic crossing Memorial Bridge. More than 10,000 police, soldiers, and national guardsmen responded to the situation, and helicopters landed marines on the Washington Monument Grounds.¹³³

Other issues of national significance have been debated on the monument grounds, and most of these demonstrations have been peaceful. Earth Day, for instance, is an annual, worldwide day of environmental activism founded by Senator Gaylord Nelson of Wisconsin. The first Earth Day, which took place across the country on April 22, 1970, included both the celebration of the natural world and demonstrations against pollution and environmental degradation of all kinds. In Washington, the Washington Area Environmental Coalition sponsored a march that began at 21st Street and Constitution Avenue, N.W., and passed the Department of the Interior Building on its way to the Sylvan Theater. Approximately 1,700 college students and school children participated in the march. The program at the Sylvan Theater included a speech by Maine Senator Edmund Muskie and songs by folk singer Pete Seeger. Earth Day activities have frequently taken place on the National Mall since that time.¹³⁴

¹³² Barber, 145-161.

¹³³ John Milner Associates, Inc., "Cultural Landscape Report," 2-30; Barber, 202-210.

¹³⁴ Robinson & Associates, Inc., "National Park Service, National Capital Region Administrative History, 1952-2005." 145-146.

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- "Cultural Landscape Inventory: National Mall and Memorial Parks, the Mall," 2006.
- "Cultural Landscape Inventory: Washington Monument Grounds, Washington Monument," 2009.
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volume designated 'Register of Squares,' vol. 1, no. 9a)." In *Legislative History of National Capital Parks and Description of the Seventeen Original Reservations*, n.d., National Park Service History E-Library, http://www.nps.gov/history/history/online_books/ncr/legislation.pdf, viewed June 13, 2012.

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--- National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form: East and West Potomac Parks Historic District (revised nomination), November 11, 2001.

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Previous documentation on file (NPS):

☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)
☒ previously listed in the National Register
☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
☒ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # DC-349
☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #
☐ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey #

Primary location of additional data:

☐ State Historic Preservation Office
☐ Other State agency
☒ Federal agency
☐ Local government
☐ University
☐ Other
Name of repository: NPS National Mall and Memorial Parks HQ

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 106 acres

(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The boundaries of the Washington Monument and Grounds are unchanged since the 1981 National Register documentation. Beginning at the southwest corner of Constitution Avenue and 14th Street, NW, thence southerly along the western side of 14th Street to its intersection with Independence Avenue, thence westerly along the north side of Independence Avenue to its intersection with 15th Street, thence southerly along the west side of Raoul Wallenberg Place (15th Street) to the Tidal Basin, thence northwesterly along the wall of the Tidal Basin to its intersection with 17th Street, thence northerly along the east side of 17th Street to its intersection with Constitution Avenue, thence easterly along the south side of Constitution Avenue to the point of beginning. The Washington Monument and Grounds constitutes U.S. Reservation no. 2.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary of the Washington Monument and Grounds as used in this National Register nomination coincides with current U.S. Reservation no. 2 and reflects the evolution of the site over time. In 1848, the Washington National Monument Society, with President James K. Polk's approval, chose what was then called Reservation no. 3 (bounded by the proposed line of 15th Street on the east and the Potomac River, Tiber Creek, and the Washington City Canal on the south, west, and north) as the site of the Washington Monument. Andrew Jackson Downing's 1851 plan for the Mall and President's Park, approved by President Millard Fillmore, altered the site, using the existing 14th Street as the eastern boundary and South B Street (now Independence Avenue) as part of the south boundary. The river, the creek, and the canal continued as the remaining south, west, and north boundaries. The creek and canal were filled in the 1870s, and B Street North (now Constitution Avenue) was established. B Street North then became the north boundary of the monument grounds. In 1894, the Office of Public Buildings and Grounds, an office in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers responsible for Washington's parks, prepared a map of the reservations under its jurisdiction; the map designated the Monument grounds as Reservation no. 2. With the reclamation of the Potomac Flats in the last two decades of the nineteenth century, the south and west boundaries of Reservation no. 2 changed. Construction of the Tidal Basin seawalls was completed in 1896, and 17th Street was extended south of what is now Constitution Avenue to the basin at the beginning of the twentieth century. In 1901, the reclaimed land between the Tidal Basin and the original monument grounds east of 17th Street was transferred to the Office of Public Buildings and Grounds and referred to as the "Monument Park Annex." The public grounds bounded by 14th Street on the east, Independence Avenue and the Tidal Basin on the south, 17th Street on the west, and Constitution Avenue on the north have comprised the Washington Monument Grounds since that time.

Longitude and Latitude Coordinates

A. 38.891959, -77.039296	H. 38.885983, -77.037038
B. 38.891916, -77.032144	I. 38.886780, -77.038244
C. 38.887671, -77.032094	J. 38.887089, -77.038231
D. 38.887986, -77.033683	K. 38.887378, -77.037784
E. 38.883853, -77.033523	L. 38.887846, -77.038899
F. 38.884908, -77.035033	M. 38.888911, -77.039355
G. 38.884954, -77.036391	

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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Judith H. Robinson and Tim Kerr
organization Robinson & Associates, Inc. date June 24, 2016
street & number 1909 Q Street, NW, Suite 300 telephone (202) 234-2333
city or town Washington state DC zip code 20009
e-mail admin@robinson-inc.com

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form: To follow in subsequent draft

- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Appendix A: Historical Figures

- **Maps:**

Appendix B: A map to which all photographs are keyed is included in Appendix B.

Appendix C: A map showing contributing and noncontributing features.

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

- Appendix B: Photographs

Property Owner:

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name _____
street & number _____ telephone _____
city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

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APPENDIX A: HISTORICAL FIGURES

Washington Monument and Grounds Historic District
Name of Property

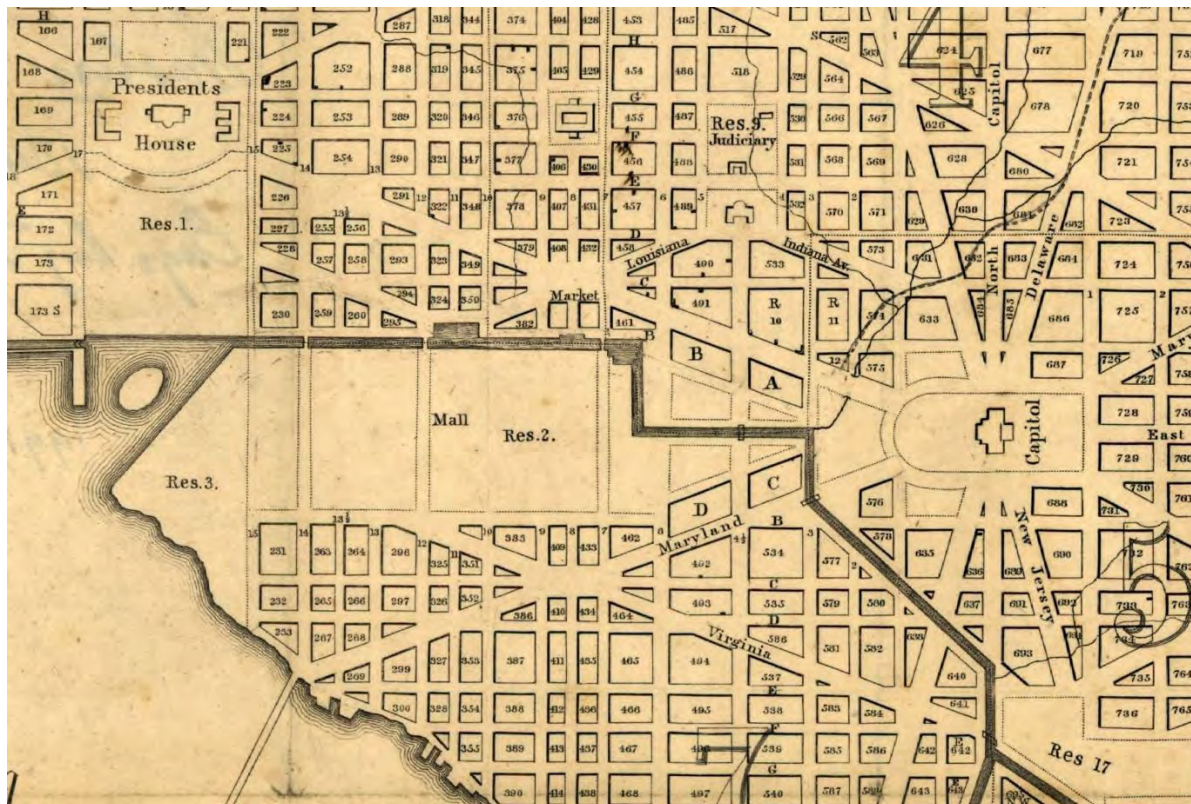
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Historical Figure 1 – Peter (Pierre) Charles L'Enfant proposed an equestrian statue of George Washington at the intersection of axes through the President's house and the Congress house (Capitol) – marked by the letter A – in his 1791 plan for Washington. North is at the top of the illustration. (Library of Congress)

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Historical Figure 2 – The extent of original Reservation no. 3 can be seen in this 1846 map of Washington. North is at the top of the illustration. (Library of Congress)

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Historical Figure 3 – Robert Mills's original design for the Washington Monument included a classical colonnade 250 feet in diameter surrounding the base of his memorial obelisk. (Library of Congress)

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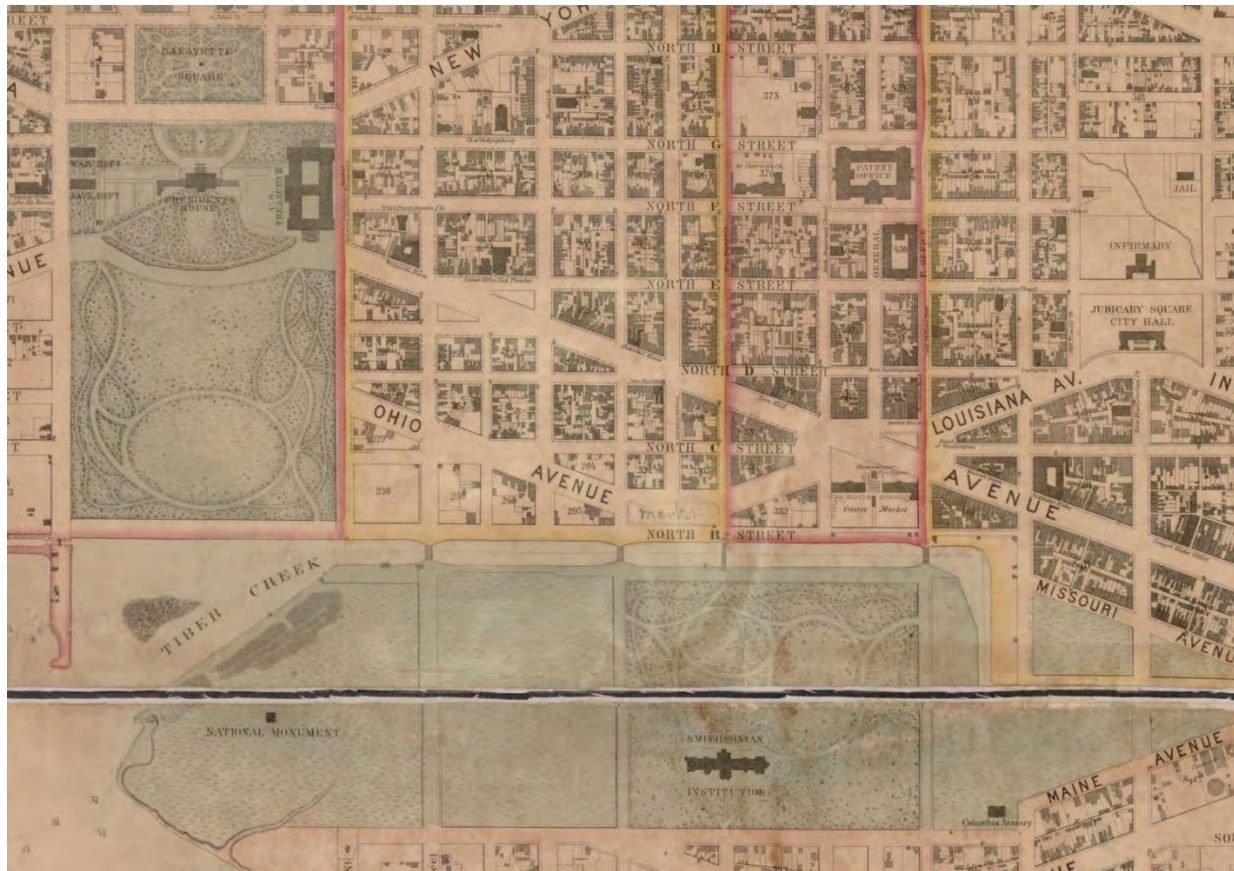
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Historical Figure 4 – Andrew Jackson Downing’s 1851 plan for Washington’s “Public Grounds” included curving roads and picturesque groupings of trees in “Monument Park,” which extended from 14th Street to the Potomac River. In Downing’s plan, south is at the top, and the Washington Monument and Grounds at the upper right. (National Archives)

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Historical Figure 5 – Albert Boschke’s 1857 map of Washington shows landscaping based on Downing’s design at the Smithsonian Institution and at the White House, but not elsewhere on the Mall. North is at the top of the illustration. (Library of Congress)

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Historical Figure 6 – In the early twentieth century, as shown in this circa 1920 photograph, recreational facilities had been built on the monument grounds along 17th Street, leaving the monument isolated on its grassy knoll. (Library of Congress)

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Historical Figure 7 – An estimated 250,000 people participated in the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom on August 28, 1963. The demonstrators organized on the Washington Monument Grounds before marching to the Lincoln Memorial to hear speeches from civil rights leaders, including Martin Luther King, Jr. (Associated Press/Huffington Post)

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APPENDIX B: PHOTOGRAPHS

Washington Monument and Grounds Historic District
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PHOTOGRAPHS

The photographs included in the nomination are organized starting with images depicting the primary vistas that contribute to the Washington Monument and Grounds Historic District. Following this series are photographs of a select number of contributing and noncontributing resources representing important features that define the character of the district.

Name of Property: Washington Monument and Grounds Historic District
City or Vicinity: Washington, D.C.
Name of Photographer: Martin Stupich
Date of Photographs: March and April 2016
Location of Original Digital Files: Smithsonian Institution
Number of Photographs: 21

Photo #1 (DC_WAMO_0001)

View of Washington Monument along the north-south axis, view to the north

Photo #2 (DC_WAMO_0002)

View away from the Washington Monument on the east-west axis looking towards the Lincoln Memorial and the WWII Memorial, view to the west

Photo #3 (DC_WAMO_0003)

View from the Jefferson Pier along the north-south axis towards the White House, view to the north

Photo #4 (DC_WAMO_0004)

View from the Washington Monument along east-west axis, showing alignment with the Monument Lodge and the Capitol

Photo #5 (DC_WAMO_0005)

View of the Washington Monument Lodge showing south and east sides, view to northwest

Photo #6 (DC_WAMO_0006)

View of the Temporary Screening Building showing south and east sides

Photo #7 (DC_WAMO_0007)

View of the front of the Sylvan Theater looking to the south

Photo #8 (DC_WAMO_0008)

View of Independence Avenue to the south with Twin Twenty street lights

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Photo #9 (DC_WAMO_0009)

View of the Survey Lodge/Boiler House, looking west

Photo #10 (DC_WAMO_0010)

Flood Control Levee segment on the Monument Grounds, looking southwest

Photo #11 (DC_WAMO_0011)

View of the German American Friendship Garden, looking northeast

Photo #12 (DC_WAMO_0012)

View of the two Bulfinch Gateposts looking west

Photo #13 (DC_WAMO_0013)

View of 15th Street, looking south

Photo #14 (DC_WAMO_0014)

View of the refreshment kiosk at the edge of the Tidal Basin, looking south

Photo #15 (DC_WAMO_0015)

View of the Tidal Basin Parking Lot Corridor; view to the south

Photo #16 (DC_WAMO_0016)

View of the pipe handrail along the Tidal Basin walk, looking southeast

Photo #17 (DC_WAMO_0017)

View of the Washington Monument knoll, looking northeast

Photo #18 (DC_WAMO_0018)

View of the plaza and ring of flagpoles surrounding the Washington Monument, looking east

Photo #19 (DC_WAMO_0019)

View of the pedestrian circulation system that includes site protection security wall, looking southwest

Photo #20 (DC_WAMO_0020)

View of the catalpa tree (historic associated feature) west of the Survey Lodge

Photo #20 (DC_WAMO_0021)

View of the mulberry tree (historic associated feature) southwest of the Washington Monument

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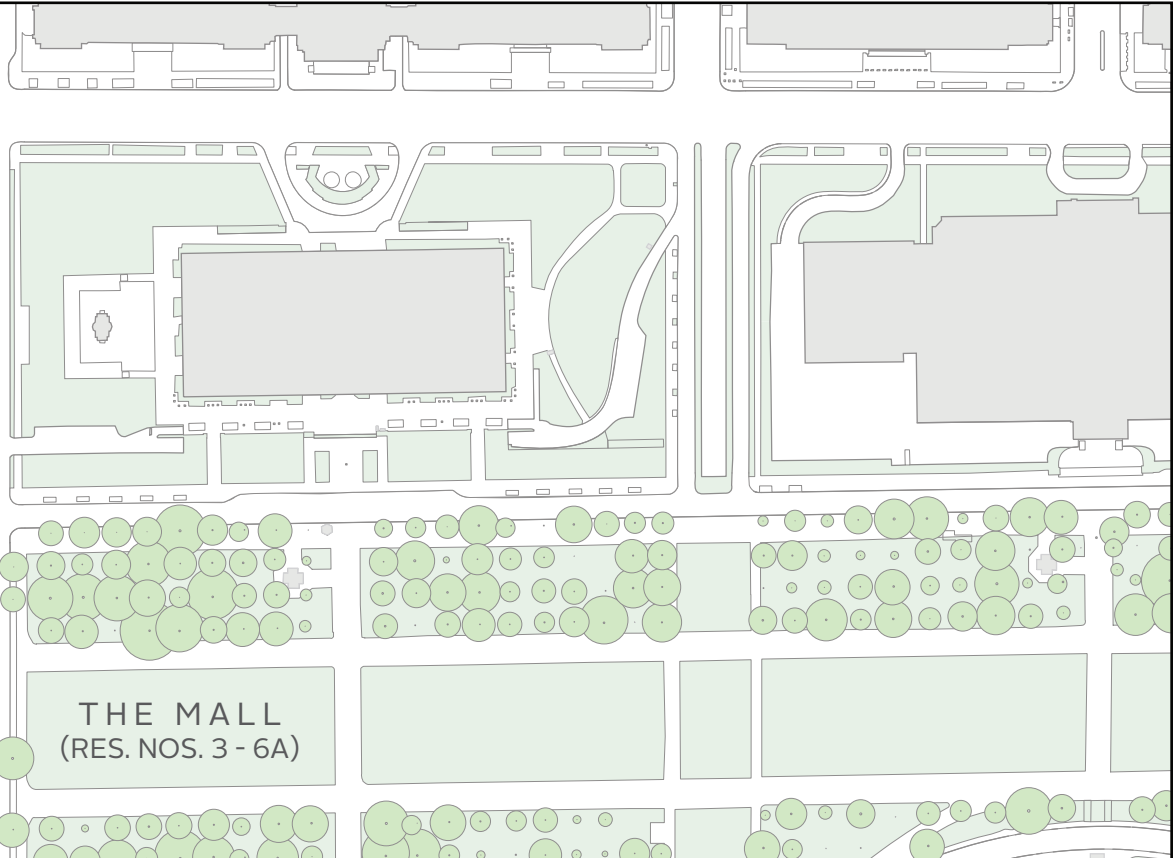
WASHINGTON MONUMENT AND GROUNDS HISTORIC DISTRICT NATIONAL REGISTER NOMINATION: INDEX TO PHOTOGRAPHS

- U.S. Reservation No. 2, Washington Monument and Grounds, and National Register Nomination Boundary
- National Museum of African American History and Culture Site (Under Construction)
- North
- Direction of Photograph
1. General view of Washington Monument along the north-south axis, view to the north.
 2. Long view away from the Washington Monument on the east-west axis looking towards the Lincoln Memorial and the WWII Memorial, view to the west.
 3. General view from the Jefferson Pier along the north-south axis towards the White House, view to the north.
 4. Long view from the Washington Monument along the east-west axis, showing alignment with the Washington Monument Lodge and the Capitol.
 5. General view of the Monument Lodge showing south and east sides; view to the northwest.
 6. General view of the Temporary Screening Building showing south and east sides; view towards the northwest.
 7. View of the front of the Sylvan Theater looking to the south.
 8. View of Independence Avenue to the south with Twin Twenty street lights.
 9. General view of the Survey Lodge/Boiler House; southwest side; view to the northeast.
 10. 17th Street Flood Control Levee segment looking southwest.
 11. General view of the German American Friendship Garden; view to the northeast.
 12. General view of the two Bulfinch Gateposts looking to the west.
 13. General view of 15th Street looking south.
 14. View to the refreshment Kiosk at the northern edge of the Tidal Basin; view to the southwest.
 15. General view of the Tidal Basin Parking Lot Corridor; view to the south.
 16. General view of the Tidal Basin Walk with its pipe handrail, view looking southeast.
 17. Long view of the Washington Monument knoll with the National Museum of African American History and Culture, under construction, in the background; view looking northeast.
 18. General view of the plaza and ring of flagpoles surrounding the Washington Monument; view looking east.
 19. General view of the pedestrian circulation system that includes site protection security walls; view looking southwest.
 20. View of the Catalpa tree south of the Survey Lodge and considered an historic associated feature in the landscape.
 21. View of the Mulberry tree located Southwest of the Washington Monument and considered an historic associated feature in the landscape.

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APPENDIX C: CONTRIBUTING AND NONCONTRIBUTING FEATURES MAP



WASHINGTON MONUMENT AND GROUNDS HISTORIC DISTRICT NATIONAL REGISTER
NOMINATION: CONTRIBUTING AND NONCONTRIBUTING RESOURCES MAP

U.S. Reservation No. 2,
Washington Monument and Grounds, and
National Register Nomination Boundary

National Museum of African American
History and Culture Site
(Under Construction)

North

Noncontributing Resource

Contributing Resource

BUILDINGS

1. Comfort Station

2. Tourmobile Kiosk

3. Refreshment Kiosk

4. Monument Lodge

5. Survey Lodge/Boiler House

6. Temporary Screening Building

SITES

7. 17th Street Wharf Archeological Site

8. Floral Library

9. German-American Friendship Garden

10. Monument Grounds Archeological Site

11. Sylvan Theatre

12. Washington City Canal Archeological Site

13. Washington Monument Grounds Cultural Landscape

14. Water Intake Archeological Site

STRUCTURES

15. 15th Street, between Constitution and Independence Avenues

16. Raoul Wallenberg Place, SW (15th Street SW)

17. Bulfinch Gatepost

18. Bulfinch Gatepost

19. Flood Control Levee Segment

20. Independence Avenue Corridor (including Maine Avenue corridor)

STRUCTURES (CONT.)

21. Jefferson Drive, SW

22. Madison Drive, NW

23. Monument Plaza

24. Pedestrian Circulation System

25. Survey Lodge Service Drive

26. Tidal Basin Parking Lot Corridor

27. Tidal Basin Walk (including pipe handrail)

28. Washington Monument

OBJECTS

29. 100th Anniversary Plaque

30. 100th Anniversary Plaque

31. Benches at Site Perimeter (cast iron and wood slat)

32. Benches (concrete and wood slat, recycled plastic, stone)

33. Cobblestone Gutters Along Survey Lodge Service Drive

34. Elevation Obelisk

35. Jefferson Pier Marker

36. Ring of Aluminum Flagpoles

37. Twin Twenty Streetlights Along 15th Street, between Constitution and Independence Avenues

38. Twin Twenty Streetlights Along Independence and Maine Avenues

39. Washington Globe Streetlights Along Jefferson and Madison Drives

40. Washington Globe Streetlights Along Survey Lodge Service Drive