
National Park Service
Cultural Landscapes Inventory
2009



Lincoln Park
National Capital Parks-East - Capitol Hill Parks

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Inventory Summary

The Cultural Landscapes Inventory Overview:

CLI General Information:

Purpose and Goals of the CLI

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

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

Scope of the CLI

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

treatment guidelines for the cultural landscape.

Inventory Unit Description:

Lincoln Park is a seven-acre park located in Washington, D.C., one mile due east of the United States Capitol building. The park is bounded on the north and south by East Capitol Street, on the east by 11th Street N.E. and S.E., and on the west by 13th Street N.E. and S.E. The park has a long history as both a neighborhood park and a memorial landscape, whose focus is the Emancipation Monument and the memorial to Mary McLeod Bethune. The site is important as a component of the L'Enfant Plan for Washington, as a prominent African American cultural site, and as a neighborhood park that functions as a community gathering place. As it exists today, the park is mostly the result of National Park Service work conducted in 1934 and 1969-1971ff.

The circulation system comprises a largely rectilinear grid of concrete walks that extend the axes of adjoining streets into the park, and an interrelated set of three plazas arranged along a central, sunken rectangular court, with the two monuments situated at the east and west ends. The park is bilaterally symmetrical along the east-west axis of East Capitol Street. A cross-axis extends the line of 12th Street across the west end of the park, and the Emancipation Monument stands at the intersection of these two axes.

The park's major features are its two memorials, the Emancipation Monument (1876) and the Mary McLeod Bethune Memorial (1974), both illustrating themes of African American freedom and progress. The Emancipation Monument is composed of a life-size figure of Abraham Lincoln extending one hand over a kneeling African American man, and holding in the other a copy of the Emancipation Proclamation. The former slave is depicted as rising, with broken shackles on his wrists. The figures stand on a classical granite pedestal.

The Emancipation Monument was originally oriented west toward the Capitol. In 1974, it was rotated 180 degrees to face the Mary McLeod Bethune Memorial, placed at the east end of the new sunken plaza. The Bethune Memorial is a three-figure bronze sculptural group, with a monumental figure of the renowned leader handing a scroll representing the legacy of her life's work to a young boy and girl. The plaza was sunk about two feet below grade so that the large figure of Bethune would not overshadow the smaller statue of Lincoln, which stands on a ground-level plaza at the west. East of the Emancipation group, three broad concrete steps lead down to the sunken court. In the center of the sunken plaza is a large, rectangular grass panel. Simple concrete retaining walls lined with benches and planters extend along the plaza's north and south sides. At the east, a semicircular wall curves behind the Bethune group.

Vegetation consists primarily of open lawn areas planted with mature deciduous trees. Most were planted informally as individual specimens or in small groups; some were arranged in lines, notably the American elms around the park's perimeter and the star magnolias flanking the north and south sides of the sunken court. Many trees date from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

While some of the park's small-scale features still date from the 1970s redesign by architect Hilyard Robinson, many of them have been replaced since 2003. These include all new benches and trash receptacles, which follow the same style as their wood-slat predecessors but were built using recycled

wood. Other recent additions to the site furnishings include urn-shaped planters and new equipment for the play area on the northeast side of the park. The reproduction Millet lamp posts, handicap accessible drinking fountains, and play area equipment on the southeast side of the park were all installed shortly before 2003. The park has been bordered by high concrete quarter-round curbing since 1905.

However, much of the extant curbing is probably of more recent vintage.

By far the most important vista from the park is the view along its east-west axis, extending down East Capitol Street to the U.S. Capitol. Placement of the Emancipation Monument near the west end of the park emphasized this view. Other important vistas include the view northwest from the park along Massachusetts Avenue to Stanton Park, the north-south view along the 12th Street axis, the view between the two statues, and views to and from the surrounding neighborhood, still largely composed of late Victorian rowhouses.

Lincoln Park has two Periods of Significance: the year 1791, when the land was included on the L'Enfant Plan and acquired by the D.C. Commissioners; and 1867 to 1934, extending from the date of the initial design, carried out by the Office of Public Buildings and Grounds, Army Corps of Engineers, to its thorough reconstruction by the National Park Service. It is eligible under criteria A and C for its contribution to the L'Enfant plan, its landscape design, and the design of the Emancipation Monument. The park possesses additional significance under criterion A as a prominent site relating to African American history in the city. From the dedication of the Emancipation Monument in 1876, to the use of the park for Civil Rights rallies in the 1960s, to the dedication of the Mary McLeod Bethune memorial in 1974, Lincoln Park has been an important site for black Washingtonians. However, not included within the Periods of Significance in this inventory is the park's reconstruction from 1969 to 1971, after a design by the noted African American architect Hilyard Robinson, the installation of the Bethune Memorial in 1974, and subsequent changes that followed the Robinson design. These fall outside the fifty-year benchmark used by the National Register to determine significance in all but the most unusual cases.

Analysis of the site according to five of the National Register integrity characteristics – location, setting, design, association, and feeling – reveals that Lincoln Park retains only partial integrity to its second Period of Significance, 1867-1934. Integrity of location and setting have altered little. The park's design is determined primarily by its circulation system and its vegetation. The circulation retains some features that were integral to the 1934 National Park Service redesign, which focused on the location of the Emancipation Monument, sited towards the western edge of the park facing the U.S. Capitol. The main entrance to the park was from this end, in line with East Capitol Street, and included the 1911 promenade by George Burnap, with its ornate paving and lush plantings emphasizing the importance of the axis. The 1934 plan retained from earlier periods the scattered specimen trees and formal boundary plantings of American elms. Many of the park's current trees date to the second Period of Significance.

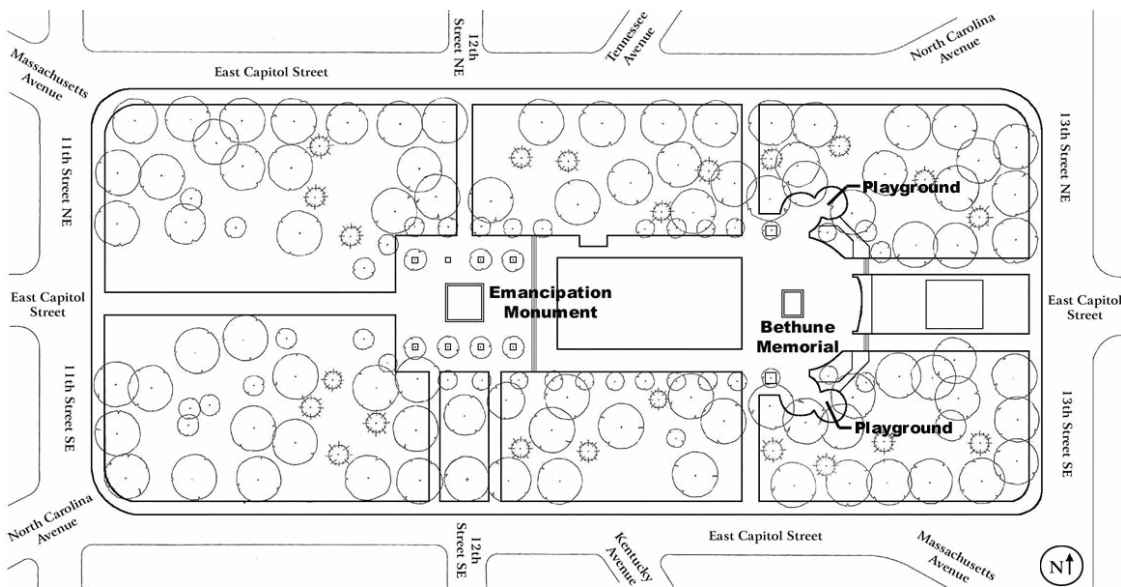
Alterations were made to the landscape in 1969-1971, and years following, after plans by architect Hilyard Robinson. With a few exceptions, the alignment of the paved walks today are largely those of Robinson's plans. The 1911 promenade is now a wide, paved walkway with no bordering plantings or

other features, except light posts.

Certain other aspects of the design retain integrity. The main feature determining spatial organization is the east-west axis through the center of the park, which also forms a dominant view corridor. The arrangement of trees to north and south help emphasize the center axis. Robinson's design, with the addition of the large, open, sunken plaza, altered this organization somewhat but did not fundamentally change it. The addition of the Mary McLeod Bethune Memorial and the rotation of the Emancipation Monument to face it, while it altered the relation of the Lincoln statue to the Capitol, could also be seen to have strengthened the central axis.

The feeling conveyed to park visitors – the experience of Lincoln Park as a serene neighborhood park – was changed by the 1970s redesign from a picturesque landscape for sitting and resting to a formal, albeit more open, park. Changes made for more active use have also resulted in a different experience for visitors. The associative qualities of Lincoln Park remain intact, and have even, to some extent (particularly regarding memorial use), been strengthened by recent changes. However, the park's dual uses as memorial site and as neighborhood park were altered by the 1970s reconstruction. Historically, the two uses had been physically integrated. The current landscape creates a separation between the stark memorial space of the central plaza area, and the shaded, landscaped outer areas most often used by runners, sunbathers, strollers, and dog walkers.

Site Plan



Adapted from "Existing Planting Plan," 1984. (Prepared by Stephanie Ryberg, CLP digital file, final LP CLI images/site plan)

Property Level and CLI Numbers

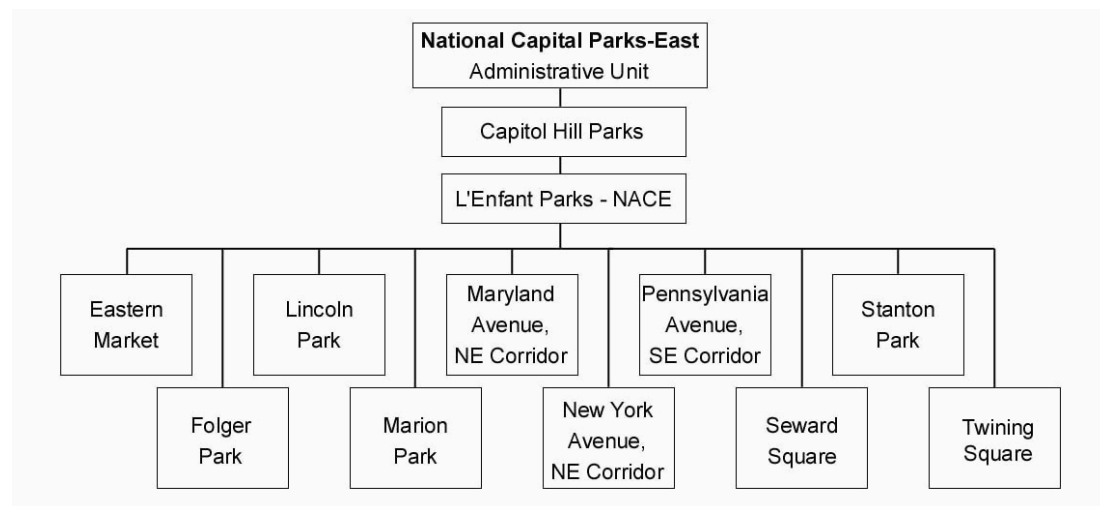
Inventory Unit Name:	Lincoln Park
Property Level:	Component Landscape
CLI Identification Number:	600072
Parent Landscape:	600071

Park Information

Park Name and Alpha Code:	National Capital Parks-East - Capitol Hill Parks -NACE
Park Organization Code:	3563
Subunit/District Name Alpha Code:	National Capital Parks-East - Capitol Hill Parks - NACE
Park Administrative Unit:	National Capital Parks-East

CLI Hierarchy Description

Lincoln Park was identified as a component landscape of the Capitol Hill Parks, part of the L'Enfant Plan for the City of Washington. The landscape contains all of Reservation 14, all land historically associated with Lincoln Park. The landscape is separate and distinct from the other L'Enfant parks and the park's historical record is distinct as well. The park falls under the National Capital Parks-East division of the National Capital Region.



Lincoln Park is one of the L'Enfant Plan reservations within National Capital Parks - East. (CLP digital photofile final LP CLI images/hierarchy)

Concurrence Status

Inventory Status: Complete

Completion Status Explanatory Narrative:

The draft Level II analysis and evaluation was completed in December 2003 by Stephanie Ryberg, an intern hired through the National Conference of Preservation Education (NCPE) and a graduate student in historic preservation planning. Much of the site history was adapted from the 1968 report by NPS historian George Olszewski, "Lincoln Park, Washington, D.C.," supplemented by material from files held at the National Capital Region (Maintenance Division, Beautification Files; Land Use Coordination Files) and National Capital Parks-East. Historic photograph research was conducted at the Washingtoniana Division of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Branch of the D.C. Public Library and at the library of the Historical Society of Washington, City Museum.

Kay Fanning, landscape historian for the Cultural Landscape Program, National Capital Region, revised the draft in 2004.

Concurrence Status:

Park Superintendent Concurrence:	Yes
Park Superintendent Date of Concurrence:	09/04/2009
National Register Concurrence:	Eligible -- SHPO Consensus Determination
Date of Concurrence Determination:	08/02/2004

National Register Concurrence Narrative:

The State Historic Preservation Officer for the District of Columbia concurred with the findings of the Lincoln Park CLI on 8/2/04, in accordance with Section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act. It should be noted that the Date of Eligibility Determination refers to this Section 110 Concurrence and not the date of National Register Eligibility, since that is not the purview of the Cultural Landscapes Inventory.

Concurrence Graphic Information:

Lincoln Park
National Capital Parks-East - Capitol Hill Parks

 United States Department of the Interior
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
National Capital Region
1100 Ohio Drive, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20242

August 25, 2009

Memorandum:

To: Cultural Landscape Inventory Coordinator, National Capital Region

From: Superintendent, National Capital Parks – East

Subject: Statement of Concurrence, Lincoln Park Cultural Landscape Condition Reassessment

I, Gayle Hazelwood, Superintendent of National Capital Parks – East, concur with the condition reassessment for the Lincoln Park cultural landscape:

CONDITION REASSESSMENT: Good

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

Fair: indicates the inventory unit shows clear evidence of minor disturbances and deterioration by natural and/or human forces, and some degree of corrective action is needed within 3-5 years to prevent further harm to its cultural and/or natural values. If left to continue without the appropriate corrective action, the cumulative effect of the deterioration of many of the character defining elements, will cause the inventory unit to degrade to a poor condition.

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

The cultural landscape condition reassessment for Lincoln Park is hereby approved and accepted.

 9/4/09
Superintendent, National Capital Parks – East Date

Concurrence letter from the superintendent of National Capital Parks – East, dated September 4, 2009.

Lincoln Park
National Capital Parks-East - Capitol Hill Parks



United States Department of the Interior

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

May 25, 2004

Memorandum

To: Cultural Landscapes Inventory Coordinator, National Capital Region
From: State Historic Preservation Officer, District of Columbia
Subject: Statement of Concurrence, Lincoln Park Cultural Landscape Inventory

I, Lisa Burcham, District of Columbia State Historic Preservation Officer, concur with the findings of the Lincoln Park Cultural Landscape Inventory as submitted on May 25, 2004.


Lisa Burcham
District of Columbia
State Historic Preservation Officer


Date

Concurrence memo for FY2004 signed by the DC SHPO on 8/2/2004.

Revisions Impacting Change in Concurrence:

Revision Date: 03/30/2004

Revision Narrative:

Kay Fanning revised the draft document, incorporating comments from reviewers.

Revision Date: 11/30/2004

Revision Narrative:

Kay Fanning entered information on Tennessee and Kentucky Avenues in Views and Vistas, and listed the views from along the roads to the park as contributing.

Revision Date: 05/03/2005

Revision Narrative:

Minor revisions were made to illustration captions.

Revision Date: 09/04/2009

Revision Narrative:

The condition of the cultural landscape is reassessed and updates are made to the Management Information, Chronology and Physical History, Analysis and Evaluation, Condition, and Treatment chapters of the inventory.

Geographic Information & Location Map

Inventory Unit Boundary Description:

Lincoln Park is located in the city of Washington, D.C. and encompasses seven acres (865 feet east to west and 385 feet north to south). The park is bounded on the north and south sides by East Capitol Street, on the west by 11th Street, N.E. and S.E., and on the east by 13th Street, N.E. and S.E. The park is situated at the convergence of East Capitol Street and Massachusetts, Kentucky, Tennessee, and North Carolina avenues.

State and County:

State: DC

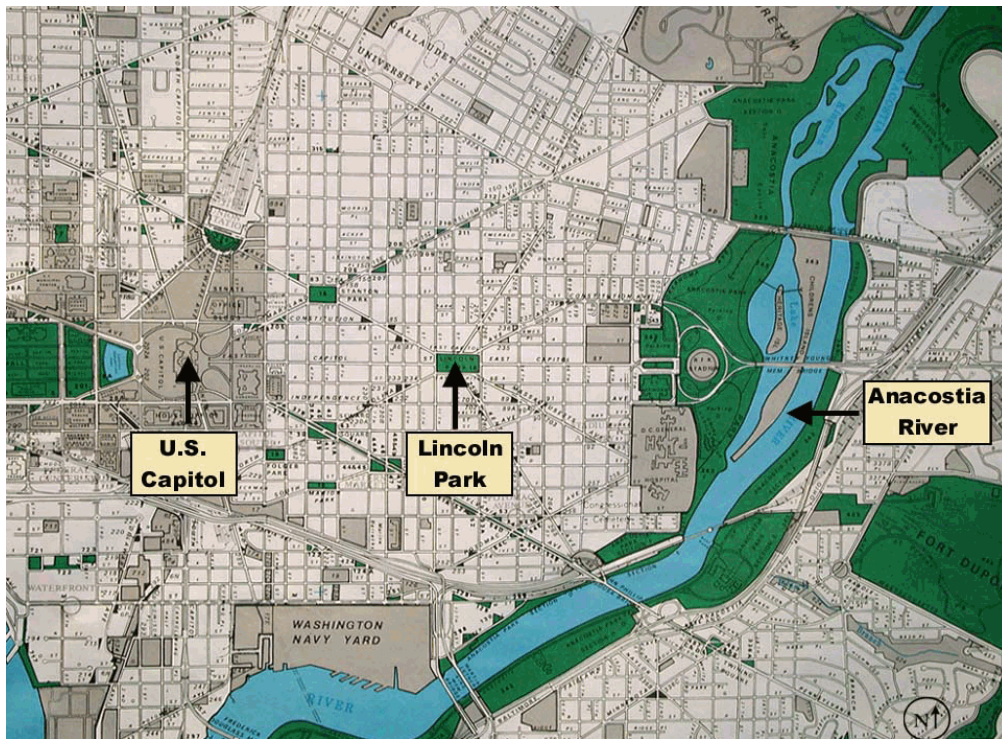
County: District of Columbia

Size (Acres): 7.00

Boundary UTMS:

Source:	USGS Map 1:24,000
Type of Point:	Point
Datum:	NAD 27
UTM Zone:	18
UTM Easting:	327,523
UTM Northing:	4,306,150
Source:	USGS Map 1:24,000
Type of Point:	Point
Datum:	NAD 27
UTM Zone:	18
UTM Easting:	327,250
UTM Northing:	4,306,160
Source:	USGS Map 1:24,000
Type of Point:	Point
Datum:	NAD 27
UTM Zone:	18
UTM Easting:	327,523
UTM Northing:	4,306,261
Source:	USGS Map 1:24,000
Type of Point:	Point
Datum:	NAD 27
UTM Zone:	18
UTM Easting:	327,250
UTM Northing:	4,306,271

Location Map:



Lincoln Park location, from Map A: Park System of the Nations Capital and Environs, 'National Capital Region, National Park Service. (CLP digital photofile, final LP CLI images/location map)'

Regional Context:

Type of Context: Cultural

Description:

Situated on East Capitol Street at a point where several major avenues converge, Lincoln Park occupied a prominent place in the L'Enfant Plan and is today the centerpiece of its residential neighborhood. Like the rest of Capitol Hill, the area around Lincoln Park was slow to develop, as the city's early commercial, residential, and institutional growth began northwest of the Capitol. It was not until after the Civil War that large rowhouses began to be built facing the park, with smaller residences on adjacent streets. At this time the park was first landscaped with shade trees, winding paths, ornamental flowerbeds, and many benches to provide a restful retreat for its neighborhood.

The park has always served as a gathering place for its community. In the first decades of the twentieth century, church meetings, including services, rallies, and children's Sunday school classes, were frequently held here in the summer months. Weekend concerts by military bands were also popular.

The placement here of the Emancipation Monument, however, in the 1870s has long made the park a destination for African Americans and others. Civil Rights rallies were staged here in the 1960s. The monument to Mary McLeod Bethune, founder of the National Council of Negro Women (funded by this organization in her memory) was planned for the park from the early 1960s, though not installed until 1974. The Bethune Memorial has strengthened the park's meaning as a site symbolizing the freedom and social progress of African Americans. The park today hosts an annual celebration on Bethune's birthday, organized by the National Council of Negro Women in collaboration with the National Park Service.

The majority of the late-nineteenth-century structures remain today, and the Lincoln Park neighborhood retains far more of its historic character than the neighborhoods of the L'Enfant Parks in the old downtown business district, such as Farragut and McPherson squares and Franklin Park, which are now mostly surrounded by undistinguished, modern twelve-story office blocks. Lincoln Park still is heavily used by its community for a variety of recreational activities, from sitting, reading, and picnicking to jogging and dog walking.

Type of Context: Physiographic

Description:

Lincoln Park encompasses seven acres of level terrain. Like much of Capitol Hill, the park is located on a high plateau that extends west from the site of the U.S. Capitol. Capitol Hill is located within the Coastal Plain physiographic region, with soils composed mostly of unconsolidated sands and gravels.



Aerial view of Lincoln Park, looking northwest, 1992. (reproduced from HABS report, photograph taken by Jack Boucher)

Type of Context: Political

Description:

Lincoln Park is administered by National Capital Parks – East, a division of the National Capital Region of the National Park Service. It is located in a residential section of the historic Capitol Hill neighborhood. Most of the adjacent structures are private residences (and most are late Victorian rowhouses). A few churches and small business are also located near the park.

Management Unit: National Capital Parks - East

Tract Numbers: Reservation 14

Management Information

General Management Information

Management Category: Should be Preserved and Maintained

Management Category Date: 09/26/2003

Management Category Explanatory Narrative:

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

Maintenance Location Code: NACE-121

Agreements, Legal Interest, and Access

Management Agreement:

Expiration Date: NA

NPS Legal Interest:

Type of Interest: Fee Simple

Public Access:

Type of Access: Unrestricted

Explanatory Narrative:

The park is an urban, neighborhood park that is open to everyone. Signs at the park entrances indicate that the park closes at dusk.

Adjacent Lands Information

Do Adjacent Lands Contribute? Yes

Adjacent Lands Description:

On all four sides, Lincoln Park is surrounded by a largely intact streetscape composed of late nineteenth-century rowhouses. These are generally three stories in height, constructed of patterned red brick or rough-faced granite. Most have rooflines animated by dormers, conical towers, or other features.

In 2009, a series of new Washington globe street lights was planned for the right-of-way along the outer perimeter of the park, between the sidewalk and the road. As it pertains to city property, this project is being carried out by the District of Columbia Department of Transportation. However, its successful completion will improve the safety of Lincoln Park visitors by providing additional light along the edges of the site.



Rowhouses along East Capitol Street, seen from east end of park. Lincoln Park is surrounded by well-maintained late-Victorian structures, vividly conveying a sense of the historic neighborhood. (final images/rowhouses along E. Capitol St.)

National Register Information

Significance Criteria: C - Embodies distinctive construction, work of master, or high artistic values

Period of Significance:

Time Period:	AD 1791
Historic Context Theme:	Expressing Cultural Values
Subtheme:	Landscape Architecture
Facet:	Regional Planning
Other Facet:	None
Time Period:	AD 1867 - 1934
Historic Context Theme:	Creating Social Institutions and Movements
Subtheme:	Recreation
Facet:	Spectator Pastimes (Passive)
Other Facet:	None
Time Period:	AD 1867 - 1934
Historic Context Theme:	Expressing Cultural Values
Subtheme:	Landscape Architecture
Facet:	Regional Planning
Other Facet:	None
Time Period:	AD 1867 - 1934
Historic Context Theme:	Expressing Cultural Values
Subtheme:	Landscape Architecture
Facet:	The 1930's: Era Of Public Works
Other Facet:	None

Area of Significance:

Area of Significance Category:

Landscape Architecture

Area of Significance Subcategory:

None

Statement of Significance:

Since 1876, the year the Emancipation Monument was dedicated, Lincoln Park has served as a symbol of political freedom. Before the dedication of the Lincoln Memorial in 1922, Lincoln Park served as a pilgrimage and tourist destination. Installation of the Lincoln statue helped lead to development of the park as a picturesque neighborhood retreat in the 1870s, when it was laid out with a system of curvilinear walks and planted with hundreds of specimen trees and shrubs. In the early 20th century, the walks were rebuilt in a more formal, geometric manner. Thorough rehabilitation with Works Progress Administration (WPA) funds, under management of the National Park Service, led to further formalization of the circulation system. The park continued to retain meaning for the city's African American community, and was chosen as the site for a memorial to Mary McLeod Bethune in the 1960s. The rehabilitation by architect Hilyard Robinson, though drastically altering the circulation and other features of the park, do not meet the fifty-year requirement for National Register status.

There are two Periods of Significance for the park: the year 1791, when the land was included on the L'Enfant Plan and acquired by the D.C. Commissioners; and 1867 to 1934, extending from the date of the initial design, carried out by the Office of Public Buildings and Grounds, Army Corps of Engineers, to its thorough reconstruction by the National Park Service. The park is listed as a contributing resource in three separate National Register nominations: "The L'Enfant Plan for the District of Columbia," "The Capitol Hill Historic District," and "Civil War Statues in the District of Columbia." It is listed under criteria A and C for its contribution to the L'Enfant plan, its landscape design, and the design of the Emancipation Monument. The park possesses additional significance under criterion A as a prominent site relating to African American history in the city. From the dedication of the Emancipation Monument in 1876, to the use of the park for Civil Rights rallies in the 1960s, to the dedication of the Mary McLeod Bethune memorial in 1974, Lincoln Park has been an important site for black Washingtonians.

Lincoln Park originally formed part of a tract known as "the Houpyard." The park occupied a prime location on the 1791 L'Enfant Plan, one mile east of the U.S. Capitol on the East Capitol Street corridor. The Capitol faces east, and it was anticipated that Capitol Hill would soon become an important area for embassies and other institutions. Marked on the L'Enfant Plan as square "B," L'Enfant designated the site as a location reserved for both a historic column and a mile column from which distances would be measured throughout the continent. The land was acquired by the Commissioners of the District of Columbia for street and avenue construction.

However, development was slow to occur on Capitol Hill. Gradually through the nineteenth century, the area surrounding Lincoln Park became a residential neighborhood. Before the Civil War, the park's undeveloped site was used as a dump. A Union hospital, known as "Lincoln Hospital," was erected

there in the second year of the war.

Washington's dramatic growth during the Civil War led to the rapid development of many residential neighborhoods, including Capitol Hill and the area surrounding Lincoln Park. Congress formally designated the site "Lincoln Square" in May 1866, one year after the president's assassination.

The Office of Public Buildings and Grounds (OPBG), under the Army Corps of Engineers, oversaw development of Lincoln Park from the 1860s. The work received added impetus from the ambitious projects undertaken throughout the city by the Territorial Government between 1871 and 1874. The park was graded in 1868, and between 1871 and 1875 trees and shrubs were planted, walks were laid out, a lodge with restrooms was built, and water and gaslines were laid. Benches were placed along the walks, and a pair of decorative brick fountains were placed near the park's center. The first gas lights were set in place. The square was enclosed with a wood paling fence.

In 1876, a monument to Lincoln, known as the Emancipation Monument, was erected at the west end of the park, on axis with East Capitol Street and the U.S. Capitol. The work of sculptor Thomas Ball, the statue was entirely paid for with funds donated by freed slaves. It depicts a standing Lincoln holding the Emancipation Proclamation in one hand and extending the other over a kneeling slave. His shackles broken, the slave is about to rise to his feet. President U.S. Grant attended the dedication ceremony, where Frederick Douglass delivered a stirring address.

The monument transformed Lincoln Square into a popular tourist destination. It served as the primary national memorial to Lincoln until 1922, when the Lincoln Memorial was dedicated in Washington's West Potomac Park.

Various changes were made to the park's walk system in the late 19th century, and almost 200 new trees were planted. Substantial residential growth occurred in the neighborhood. Electric lights were first introduced to Lincoln Park in 1897. The park's lighting system was entirely converted to electricity in 1923. Iron post-and-chain replaced the wood fencing in the 18--s, before being replaced in turn by high quarter-round curbing in 1905. The park became popular as a community gathering space; religious meetings and summer band concerts were frequent events.

In 1911, a broad paved promenade, known as the "Lincoln Mall," was built, leading to the Emancipation Monument from the entrance at the park's west end. The decorative concrete walk was flanked by semicircular lawn areas with benches, surrounded by beds of perennial flowers, hedges, and flowering trees. The promenade emphasized the axial relation of the statue to the U.S. Capitol.

Between 1916 and 1920, various changes were made to the park that formalized its design. The lodge was replaced, with the new structure standing on axis with the Emancipation Monument, at the east end of the park. New, straight concrete branch walks were added, and over 100 new evergreen and deciduous shrubs were planted, some as replacements.

In the 1920s, the Emancipation Monument was supplanted by the Lincoln Memorial as a tourist

destination, and the park began to deteriorate. The surrounding community also declined.

Lincoln Park was transferred to the National Park Service in 1933, and rehabilitation work funded by the Works Progress Administration began in 1934. The curvilinear walks were replaced by a more formal, geometric plan, influenced by the 1901 City Beautiful plan developed by the McMillan Commission in their efforts to return the National Mall to the fundamental principles of the L'Enfant Plan. Among their secondary aims was the strengthening of the East Capitol Street axis. New concrete walks were built to provide direct routes from the surrounding streets to the various attractions within Lincoln Park. Benches were repaired and two sandboxes installed. Nearly 140 trees were replaced or given surgery.

After this, few changes were made to the park until the 1970s. Lincoln Park has historically symbolized political freedom, and it became the venue for local Civil Rights rallies in the 1960s. Also because of this association, the park was selected as the site for a memorial to Mary McLeod Bethune, educator, activist, and founder of the National Council of Negro Women. In preparation for the new statue, designed by sculptor Robert Berks, the National Park Service undertook a major rehabilitation of the park. Local African American architect Hilyard Robinson was the primary designer.

Most changes were made between 1969 and 1971, though the Bethune statue was not installed until 1974. A site was selected for the memorial at the east end of the park, corresponding to the location of the Emancipation Monument. Placed between the two statues was a sunken central plaza. The monumental Bethune statue was set on this lower grade to avoid overwhelming the smaller figure of Lincoln. The Emancipation Monument was rotated 180 degrees to face the Bethune memorial instead of the Capitol. The walk system was made more rectilinear, and new entrances to the park were created. Two small play areas were built northeast and southeast of the plaza.

Some of these changes were funded by \$1 million grant from the Downtown Parks for the Bicentennial Program, established in anticipation of the 1976 Bicentennial. Recent changes to Lincoln Park have included installation of Washington Standard light posts and rehabilitation of the two play areas.

Not included within the Periods of Significance in this Cultural Landscape Inventory is the park's reconstruction from 1969 to 1971, after a design by the noted African American architect Hilyard Robinson, the installation of the Bethune Memorial in 1974, and subsequent changes following the Robinson design. Though both the Robinson design and the Bethune Memorial extend and enrich the park's symbolic expression of the liberties and progress achieved by African Americans over the last 140 years, the designs fall outside the fifty-year benchmark used by the National Register to determine significance in all but the most unusual cases. This inventory provides detailed information on these features, but evaluation of their significance must wait for a future report. (For further information regarding integrity, see Analysis and Evaluation Summary in Part 3a of this inventory.)

State Register Information

Identification Number: n/a
Date Listed: 01/19/1971
Name: L'Enfant Plan of Washington

Explanatory Narrative:

Lincoln Park is included as a contributing resource, under the category of "squares," to the L'Enfant Plan of Washington by the District of Columbia. The preliminary identification for the nomination was made on November 8, 1964, with the major elements designated on January 19, 1971.

Chronology & Physical History

Cultural Landscape Type and Use

Cultural Landscape Type:	Designed
Other Use/Function	Other Type of Use or Function
Outdoor Recreation-Other	Both Current And Historic
Outdoor Sculpture (Statuary)	Both Current And Historic
Urban Park	Both Current And Historic
Playground	Both Current And Historic
Leisure-Passive (Park)	Both Current And Historic

Current and Historic Names:

Name	Type of Name
Freedom Park	Historic
Emancipation Park	Historic
Lincoln Park	Both Current And Historic
Lincoln Square	Historic
Reservation 14	Both Current And Historic

Ethnographic Study Conducted: No Survey Conducted

Ethnographic Significance Description:

n/a

Chronology:

Year	Event	Annotation
AD 1791	Planned	The site is included as a public square on L'Enfant's plan for the Federal City. Pierre Charles L'Enfant
	Purchased/Sold	The land is acquired by the D.C. Commissioners for streets and avenues in the new city.
AD 1860 - 1865	Developed	The land is used during the Civil War as the site of a temporary Union Hospital, known as the "Lincoln Hospital."
AD 1866	Memorialized	House Resolution 601 names the park "Lincoln Square" after President Abraham Lincoln, assassinated in April 1865.
AD 1867	Land Transfer	Oversight for the city's parks is transferred to the Office of the Chief of Engineers, United States Army, War Department.
AD 1869 - 1871	Planted	Many trees and shrubs are planted in Lincoln Park during these years.
AD 1871	Built	A wooden paling fence is built around the park.
AD 1874	Built	The wooden paling fence is replaced by iron post-and-chain fencing.
	Built	Lincoln Square is landscaped for the first time, with a design featuring a curvilinear walk layout.
AD 1876	Planted	One-hundred sixty-one trees of various species are planted in Lincoln Park.
	Memorialized	The Emancipation Monument is dedicated on April 14, 1876. A walk is constructed from the western edge of the park to the main interior walk. Edwin Ball General O.E. Babcock

Lincoln Park

National Capital Parks-East - Capitol Hill Parks

AD 1874	Altered	The Office of Public Buildings and Grounds erect a park lodge in Lincoln Park and install seventeen gas burning lamps, two drinking fountains, and two decorative brick fountains.
AD 1888	Damaged	A blizzard causes damage to thirty-eight of the park's trees, mostly evergreens, and 1,360 square yards of walks. The trees are replaced and the walks resurfaced.
AD 1889	Paved	Brick sidewalks are installed around the perimeter of the park, and the post-and-chain fencing is moved back to the inner edge of the new sidewalks.
AD 1894	Paved	A new asphalt walk is laid along the park's central east-west axis, leading from East Capitol Street to the Emancipation Monument. This is the first asphalt walk in Lincoln Park.
AD 1896	Damaged	A hurricane damages many trees in the park, including silver poplars, silver maples, and ashes.
AD 1911	Built	A new walk called the "Lincoln mall" is built from the park's western edge to the Emancipation Monument. A perennial garden with seating areas is installed along it.

George Burnap

AD 1914	Built	The original park lodge is replaced by a new structure at the park's east end. New walks are constructed to form an eastern entrance to the park.
AD 1931	Rehabilitated	Major sidewalk repairs are completed.
AD 1933	Land Transfer	Lincoln Park is transferred to the National Park Service.
AD 1934	Reconstructed	The original winding walk system is replaced by a more formal, geometric walk layout. Benches are replaced, and the NPS prunes 140 trees.
AD 1950 - 1960	Damaged	Several hurricanes during these years result in the loss of many trees in Lincoln Park.

Lincoln Park

National Capital Parks-East - Capitol Hill Parks

AD 1969 - 1971	Reconstructed	A complete redesign of the walk system is carried out, including the construction of a large sunken central plaza. The park lodge is removed.
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Hilyard Robinson

AD 1973 - 1974	Rehabilitated	Adjustments are made to the Hilyard Robinson design, and its remaining features - such as the north and south play areas, benches, planting, etc. - are completed under the Bicentennial Downtown Parks Program.
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AD 1974	Memorialized	The Mary McLeod Bethune Memorial is dedicated in Lincoln Park on July 10, 1974, under Congressional authorization dating from 1960 (Public Law 86-484, 74 Stat. 154).
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Robert Berks

AD 1992	Altered	Reproductions of the Washington Standard, or Millet, lamp posts are installed. Historically, this design had been used in Lincoln Park.
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AD 2000 - 2001	Rehabilitated	The southeast play area is rehabilitated. New playground equipment and new benches are installed.
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AD 2003	Rehabilitated	The northeast play area is rehabilitated.
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	Altered	New equipment is installed in the play area on the northeast side of the park.
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AD 2003 - 2004	Altered	The existing 1970s fiberglass planters throughout the park are replaced with more classical urn-shaped planters.
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AD 2003 - 2008	Planted	Two littleleaf linden trees are planted in the northeast quadrant of the park, where two Spanish chestnut trees had previously been removed in 2003.
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AD 2004	Altered	A new fence, community bulletin boards and storage cabinets are put in around the north play area to match the design of the south play area.
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AD 2004 - 2005	Altered	The benches and trash receptacles lining the paths are replaced with new ones that followed the same style and were built using recycled wood.
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Lincoln Park

National Capital Parks-East - Capitol Hill Parks

AD 2008	Rehabilitated	The walkways and some of the curbing to the east of the central panel of the plaza are repaved and replaced in kind.
AD 2009	Planned	The planting of a new willow oak is planned for the north side of the plaza's central panel, where a large tree of this kind died and was removed in 2000.
	Planned	The planting of a new willow oak is planned for the north side of the plaza's central panel, where a large tree of this kind died and was removed in 2000. Several other plants including holly, littleleaf linden, magnolia, and Japanese zelkova are also planned for the park.

Physical History:

1791-1865: Acquisition and Early Use

In 1790, the Commissioners for a new District of Columbia were charged with laying out the federal city of Washington, D.C. (Olszewski 1968: 1) Pierre Charles L'Enfant developed a plan that was primarily based on Baroque principles of city planning, a grid system of streets overlaid by diagonal avenues connecting major buildings and spaces. L'Enfant intended for the intersection of major thoroughfares and radial streets to form the centers of residential neighborhoods and to provide the locations for markets and public parks.

L'Enfant intended that all public reservations contain statues or memorials honoring great citizens. The site of Lincoln Park, the largest of the residential parks, was marked with the letter "B" and was to provide the location for "an historic column – also intended for a Mile or itinerary column, from whose station (a mile from the Federal House) all distances of places throughout the continent are to be calculated". (notes from L'Enfant Plan, quoted in National Register Nomination, "L'Enfant Plan")

Before 1791, Lincoln Park formed part of a tract of land known as "the Houpyard," owned by George Walker of Georgetown. (Olszewski 1968: 5) In 1791, the federal government acquired 3,606 acres of land for streets and avenues, which included the Houpyard property and the future site of Lincoln Park. (HABS 1992: 2) Surveyor Andrew Ellicott replaced L'Enfant in 1792, and his version of the L'Enfant plan became the official guide for the city's development.

Throughout the early nineteenth century, little development took place at Lincoln Park. Though L'Enfant had envisioned the neighborhood east of the Capitol developing as the city's "Embassy Row," initial development of the city actually occurred to the west and north.

When the Office of Commissioners was abolished in 1802, control over the public reservations was transferred to the Superintendent of Public Buildings. Then, in 1816, the position of Superintendent was eliminated and responsibility for the parks was given to the Commissioner of Public Buildings. In 1849, supervision of the Commissioner was transferred from the President to the newly formed Department of the Interior. (Olszewski 1968: 1-2) Benjamin B. French, Commissioner of Public Buildings from 1854 to 1866, developed a plan for "the large park at the intersection of East Capitol Street and North Carolina and Massachusetts Avenues." This first plan for Lincoln Park included only sidewalks and trees, organized in a simple, formal fashion; it was never implemented.

No improvements had been made to Lincoln Park by mid-century and little development had taken place in the surrounding neighborhood. The only recorded use of the site prior to the Civil War was as an occasional dump.

During the Civil War, a temporary Union hospital – mockingly referred to as the "Lincoln Hospital" – was built on the site. It was operated by the U.S. Sanitary Commission and served the nearby Washington Navy Yard and Marine Barracks. (Olszewski 1968: 6) Opened in 1862, by 1864 the hospital had 2,575 beds, making it the largest of the twenty-five hospitals

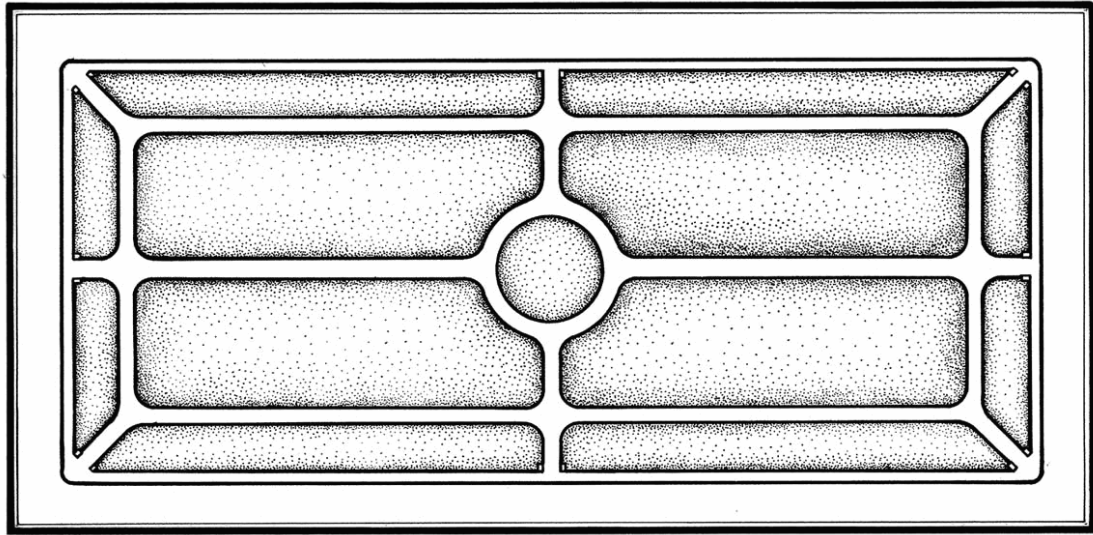
listed in the Department of Washington.

Though little specific information has been found on Lincoln Hospital, poet Walt Whitman – who spent most of the war years visiting the sick and wounded in Washington’s army hospitals – left a vivid description of how these altered the city’s appearance:

“Fancy to yourself a space of three to twenty acres of ground, on which are group’d ten or twelve very large wooden barracks, with, perhaps, a dozen or twenty, and sometimes more than that number, small buildings, capable altogether of accommodating from five hundred to a thousand or fifteen hundred persons. . . . They make altogether a huge cluster, with the additional tents, extra wards for contagious diseases, guardhouses, sutler’s stores, chaplain’s house; in the middle will probably be an edifice devoted to the offices of the surgeon in charge and the ward surgeons, principle attaches, &c. . . . Here in Washington, when these army hospitals are all fill’d (as they have been already several times,) they contain a population more numerous in itself than the whole of the Washington of ten or fifteen years ago. Within sight of the capitol, as I write [October 1863], are some thirty or forty such collections, at times holding from fifty to seventy thousand men.” (Whitman, *Specimen Days*, p. 737, quoted in *Reps, Washington on View*, p. 164)

Whitman mentions Lincoln Hospital as being one of the largest. Along with the others, it was dismantled in 1865 at the end of the war.

Washington’s dramatic growth during the war led to the rapid development of many residential neighborhoods, including Capitol Hill, where the first major communities were centered around the Washington Navy Yard and the Capitol Hill Boarding House (residences for members of Congress). Later, the areas surrounding the neighborhood parks laid out in the L’Enfant Plan – Stanton Park, Folger Square and Lincoln Park – began to grow. (National Register Nomination, “Capitol Hill Historic District,” 1976)



It is not known if this proposed plan for Lincoln Park, prepared by the Office of the Commissioner of Public Buildings in 1885, was ever implemented. (from HABS report; CLP digital photofile, final LP CLI images/1885 plan)

1866-1911: Memorialization and Initial Development

As the community surrounding Lincoln Park continued to develop, residents called upon Congress to formally designate and improve the park. After the assassination of President Lincoln in April 1865, Congress passed House Resolution 601 on May 21, 1866, and formally named the area “Lincoln Square.” (HABS 1992:2) This was the first site in Washington, D.C., to bear the President’s name.

The following year, the Office of the Commissioner was eliminated and control over the parks was transferred to the Office of Public Buildings and Grounds (OPBG), within the Army Corps of Engineers. (Olszewski 1968: 2) In 1868, the site of the park was filled to the grade of the surrounding streets.

The first documented improvements to the park were made between 1871 and 1875. Trees and shrubs were planted around 1871, the same year the square was enclosed with a wooden paling fencing, probably to prevent livestock from wandering freely across. (Olszewski 1968: 12-13) Also in that year, Officer in Charge General O.E. Babcock submitted a request for \$8,500 to pave walkways and to construct a park lodge. His request was denied, but Babcock reapplied the following year, and by 1875 the work was completed. (HABS 1992: 3). Though the formal walkways were not paved until a few years later, an 1872 report by Babcock noted that Lincoln Park was the only public reservation outside of the northwest quadrant to have received any improvements. By 1873, waterlines had been laid and the major walkways had been staked and most graveled.

The majority of early improvements to the park were undertaken in 1874. A system of curving

walks was staked, excavated, and filled with gravel, resulting in 5,383 square yards of park walks. The picturesque plan recalled the 1851 design of famed horticulturist Andrew Jackson Downing for the National Mall and Lafayette Square, and harmonized with the natural undulation of the park's topography. A number of trees were moved to accommodate the new walks. (HABS 1992: 1, 3) Entrances to the park were located at each of the four corners and also at the mid-point of the long north and south sides. A lodge was built southwest of the park's center, housing toilets for men on one side and for women and children on the other, and also containing shelter for a park watchman and storage space for tools and maintenance equipment. Designed in the rural Gothic style promoted in Downing's books, the lodge was similar to others built in city parks in fiscal year 1875; it had clapboard walls, a standing-seam metal roof, a decorative barge board in the side gable, and a small tower over the entrance. It was connected to city water and sewer lines. (Olszewski 1968: 15-16) Gas mains were laid near the park and fifteen gas-burning lamp posts were installed, bringing the total of gas lamps in the park to twenty-seven.

Other improvements completed in 1874 and 1875 included the installation of two thirty-foot-diameter decorative brick fountains with spray jets, and two combination drinking fountains and light posts. (Olszewski 1968: 14-15) The fountains were located on the park's central north-south axis (an axis which is no longer extant). The wooden paling fence was replaced by iron post-and-chain. (HABS 1992: 1)

The first significant addition to the park's landscape occurred as a result of Lincoln's assassination, in 1865. On the morning following Lincoln's death, a sixty-year-old woman named Charlotte Scott, a former Virginia slave living in Marietta, Ohio, donated the first five dollars she ever earned to her employer, asking that it be used toward a monument for the slain president. He, in turn, sent it to the Western Sanitary Commission of St. Louis, which inaugurated a campaign among freed slaves, leading eventually to the raising of \$18,000 for a memorial. The largest portion was donated by African American veterans of the Union Army who had served under the command of General J.W. Davidson.

The Lincoln monument was created by sculptor Thomas Ball (1819-1911), at the time residing in Florence, Italy. Ball's other notable works included an equestrian statue of George Washington in the Boston Public Garden and a statue of Daniel Webster in Central Park. (LCS – Lincoln Park; Emancipation Monument 2002) His statue of Lincoln was based on a study he had begun independently, and was cast in bronze at the Royal Foundry in Munich, Germany.

Popularly known as the Emancipation Monument, the statue depicts Abraham Lincoln extending his left hand above a kneeling freed slave while holding a copy of the Emancipation Proclamation in his right. Ball had originally used an anonymous figure for the slave, but the Western Sanitary Commission asked that the figure to be modeled after an actual freedman. The Reverend William Greenleaf Eliot, an affiliate of the commission, provided a picture of Archer Alexander, the last Missouri slave captured under the Fugitive Slave Law. After his escape, Alexander had worked for the Eliots and received their protection until emancipation. (O'Connor 1989; in 1885, Eliot published Alexander's biography.)

After accepting the monument in 1874, Congress directed that it be placed in Lincoln Square. Three-thousand dollars was appropriated for the granite pedestal, designed by Babcock and executed by the Bodwell Granite Company. (Olszewski 1968: 28)

The Emancipation Monument was dedicated on April 14, 1876, the eleventh anniversary of Lincoln's assassination. Congress declared this day a holiday in the District of Columbia, allowing all federal and local government offices, as well as many businesses, to close so workers could attend the celebration. ("Abraham Lincoln – A Sad Anniversary..." 1876)

Though the park design included a raised mound in its center as the site for a memorial (anticipated as being a tall column), the monument was placed off-center to the west, in line with East Capitol Street and facing the United States Capitol Building. It was the second monument honoring Lincoln to be erected in Washington, after a statue in Judiciary Square near the D.C. Courthouse, dedicated on April 15, 1868. It was the first, however, to occupy a public reservation. Frederick Douglass delivered the dedication speech. Other attendees included President Ulysses S. Grant, members of the cabinet, the Senate, and the House of Representatives, justices of the Supreme Court, the Japanese Minister, and the Marine Corps Band.

The monument transformed Lincoln Square into a popular tourist destination, commonly referred to as "Freedom Park" in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, and it was featured in numerous guidebooks, postcards, and travel accounts. It was depicted on a three-cent stamp commemorating the seventy-fifth anniversary of emancipation in 1938, and on the Thirteenth Amendment Issue stamp, unveiled on October 20, 1940 at the New York World's Fair. A copy of the statue was erected in Boston in 1879. (Reasons and Patrick 1972) The Emancipation Monument served as the primary national memorial to Lincoln until 1922, when the Lincoln Memorial by architect Henry Bacon was dedicated in Washington's West Potomac Park.

To accommodate the Emancipation Monument, various improvements were made to Lincoln Park, including the construction of two walks leading from East Capitol Street to the main park walk and the installation of two more gas lights to illuminate the new walks. (Olszewski 1968: 19 and HABS 1992: 3) One-hundred sixty-one trees were planted and twenty new benches were added.

At the time of the monument's dedication, Lincoln Park was situated on the eastern boundary of the neighborhood. Residential development surrounded the park on three sides, but to the east lay undeveloped land. A speculator-fueled development boom in 1885 resulted in much of the development that now surrounds the park.

A few modifications were made to the Lincoln Park design in the late nineteenth century. Flower beds were installed in 1884, planted variously with chrysanthemums, hyacinths, tulips and crocuses. A blizzard in 1887 caused considerable damage to trees and walks, resulting in the removal and replacement of thirty-eight trees and the resurfacing of 1,360 square yards of

pavements. A hurricane in 1896 caused severe damage to poplars, maples, and ash trees. (Olszewski 1968: 18-19)

The District of Columbia government, which maintained jurisdiction over the city's sidewalks, laid brick sidewalks around the perimeter of the park, and the iron post-and-chain fence was moved back to the sidewalks' inner edge. The north entrance was improved in 1893 by extending the gravel walk from the post-and-chain fence out to the sidewalk. The first walk to be paved with asphalt instead of gravel was a new entrance walk built in 1894, extending from East Capitol Street along the central axis to the Emancipation Monument. (Olszewski 1968: 20)

In the early twentieth century, the city began to convert its gas lamps to electric. Though the decision to end the use of gas did not come until 1923, electric lighting was introduced in Lincoln Park in 1897. (Olszewski 1968: 15) During this year, three new gravel walks were added, along with the eight new electric lamps (twelve gas lamps remained and seventeen had been removed). Throughout this period, the park continued to function as a residential park, though tourists still frequently came to see the Emancipation Monument. As a central gathering space for the Capitol Hill neighborhood, the park had been used for community events such as religious gatherings and band concerts as early as the 1870s. (HABS 1992: 4)

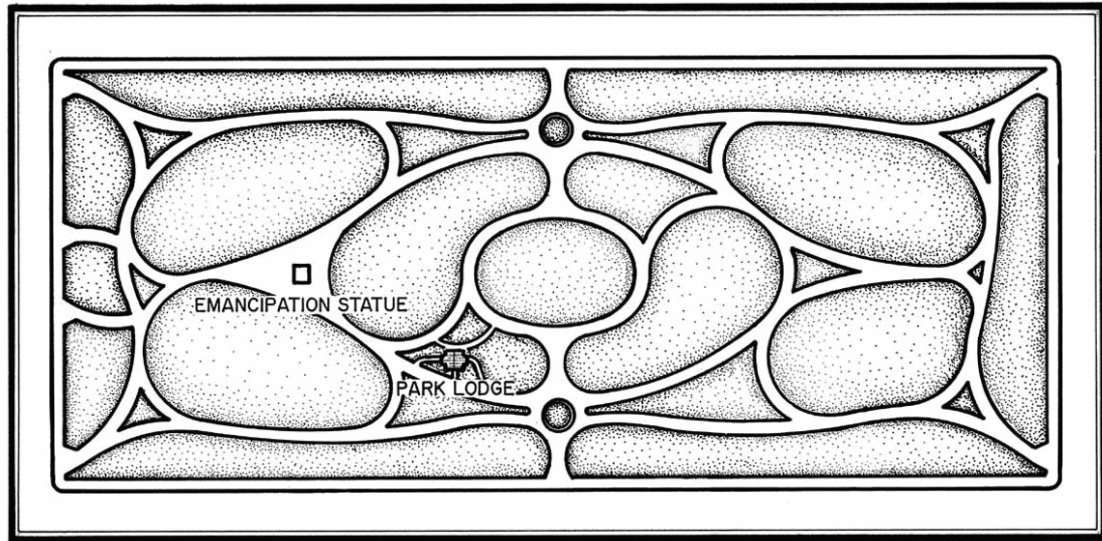
The Office of Public Buildings and Grounds undertook several projects in Lincoln Park in the early years of the century. In 1903, the north brick fountain was replaced with an iron fountain. The following year, the south fountain was replaced with a three-basin iron fountain. The iron post-and-chain fencing was removed in 1905 and replaced with quarter-round concrete coping to make the park more open and accessible. Without a perimeter fence, the park had had an "unfinished appearance" and the curbing added a "pleasing finish." (Annual Report 1903, 1905)

The turn of the century in Washington, D.C. was marked by the formation of the Senate Park Commission, commonly called the McMillan Commission. The commission was formed in 1901 to plan the design of the growing city, primarily the historic core of L'Enfant's plan, but also including additional park land. Members of the Commission included architects Daniel Burnham and Charles F. McKim, landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr., and sculptor Augustus Saint Gaudens. While the commission's 1902 report set forth an overall park system for the city, their only recommendations for the existing small, neighborhood parks within L'Enfant's plan was that they be continually adapted to the needs of the surrounding residents.

In 1910, the Commission of Fine Arts (CFA) was established as a consulting organization to the government on the design of bridges, sculpture, parks, paintings, and buildings. Its responsibilities included approving statuary for parks and park landscaping programs. Daniel Burnham and Francis Millet, chairman and vice-chairman respectively of the new commission, began developing new lighting standards for the city, completed in 1923.

In the early 20th century, most changes to Lincoln Park involved improvements to lighting systems, and reflected contemporary changes in technology. Eleven of the remaining gas lamps were removed in 1905. In 1910, the Office of Public Buildings and Grounds installed

eight high-powered arc lights in Lincoln Park. Though electricity was growing in popularity, thirty-one new gas lights were installed in the park in 1913; two were relocated three years later. Finally, in 1923, the city began converting all lamps to electricity. Fourteen 100-candle power lights were installed in Lincoln Park in 1929, the year the change was completed throughout Washington. Just two years later, the Potomac Electric Power Company (PEPCO) replaced the 100-candle power lights with eighteen 250-candle power lamps. (Olszewski 1968: 15)



Existing conditions (1886), Office of Public Buildings and Grounds. (from HABS report; CLP digital photofile, final LP CLI images/1886 existing conditions)



Emancipation Monument from west, with the original park lodge in the background, 1903. Note the circular planting bed to the rear of the monument. (courtesy of the Washington, D.C. Public Library, Washingtoniana Division; Eman. Monu. 1903)



Lincoln's Emancipation Statue, 'showing the monument from the southeast. In front are a scrolled, crook-shaped electric lamp post and circular flower beds. July 1907. (courtesy of the Washington, D.C. Public Library, Washingtoniana Division; EM 1907)'

1911-1934: George Burnap Promenade and Other Design Changes

In 1911, George Burnap, Chief Landscape Architect of the Office of Public Buildings and Grounds (OPBG), designed a broad promenade, called the “Lincoln Mall,” leading from East Capitol Street to the Emancipation Monument. The decorative paving was executed in “granolithic” concrete, a concrete which included a fine granite aggregate. The polychrome paving was executed in a pattern of parallel stripes, with alternating large and small diamonds running down the center. The promenade passed through a large, oval garden, which replaced some of the circular flower beds. Planted with perennials and flowering shrubs and backed by hedges, the garden formed six small seating areas, three on either side of the mall. (TIC Files 1911). In each seating area stood a bench, and a single clipped ornamental tree planted was at the front. The 1911 Annual Report of the OPBG noted that “a broad entrance mall now leads directly to statue on axis of East Capitol Street, replacing previous circuitous walk system.”

By this time, the forty-year-old park lodge had fallen into disrepair. In 1913, Congress allocated \$3,500 in funding for construction of new lodges in several of the city’s parks, including Lincoln Park. The Lincoln Park lodge was completed in May 1914. It was to have been built in the same location as the previous structure, southwest of the center, but community opposition led to its placement further east, on axis with the Emancipation Monument. The new lodge was a twelve-feet-high rectangular stuccoed structure with small, square, four-paned windows,

crowned by a parapet with recessed panels. Lattices to support vines covered the exterior walls. The building included modern plumbing for restrooms, storage space for maintenance equipment, and lockers for maintenance workers. Other lodges of the same design were built in Lafayette Square (still extant), Franklin Park, and Judiciary Square. (Olszewski 1968: 16-17, Morris 1999: 14) New concrete walks, and one new gravel path, led to the lodge, necessitating the reconfiguration of the park's eastern edge and the addition of two parallel entrance walks along the north and south sides of the new lodge. This structure stood until the 1970s, when it was demolished during construction for the Bethune Memorial.

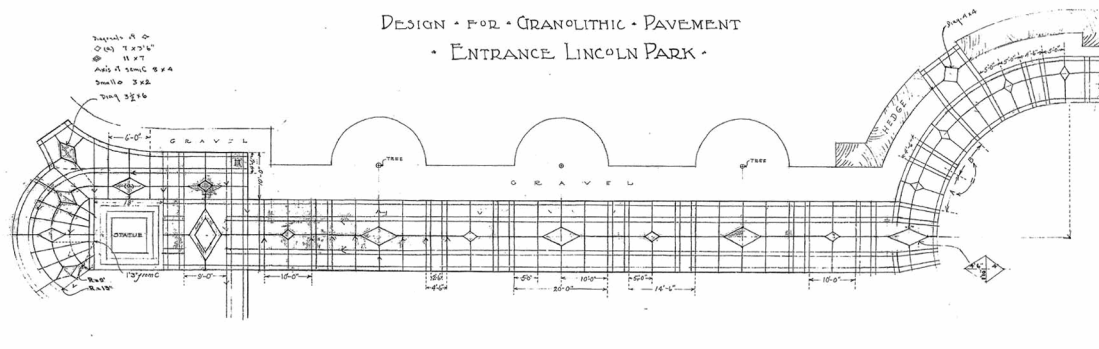
Three new concrete walks were built in 1916, and tar and sand were added to the walks in 1917. Seventy-nine new evergreen shrubs were planted in 1918, with an additional nineteen deciduous shrubs planted the following year. In 1920, about fifty-four new evergreen and deciduous shrubs were planted, some as replacements for dead shrubs. (Annual Reports 1916-1920)

The cumulative result of the changes made during this period was a formalization of the park's design. The placement of the lodge on axis with the Emancipation Monument created an east-west axiality to the park that had not previously existed. In addition, the entrances from both the east and west sides of the park were made more rectilinear, with straight walks leading directly to the park's two main features – the Emancipation Monument and the lodge.

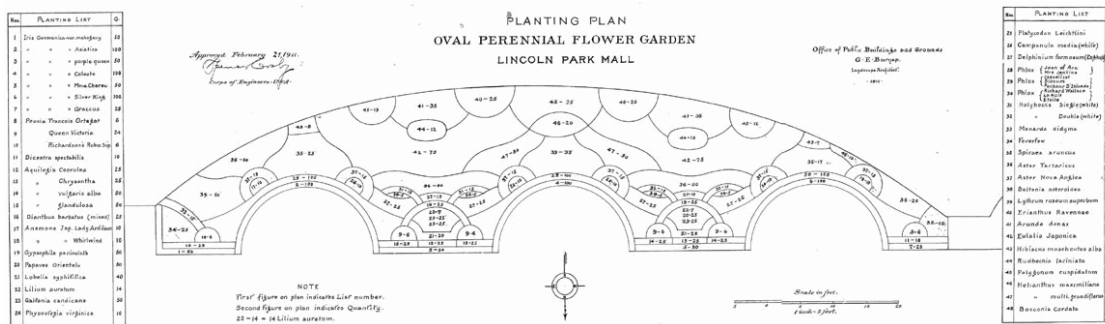
On its completion in 1922, the Lincoln Memorial supplanted Lincoln Park as a tourist destination, and the park began to deteriorate. Neighborhood protests prevented an attempt to transfer the name of Lincoln Park from the historic site to the grounds of the new memorial. Lincoln Park was slated for rehabilitation under the Works Progress Administration (WPA), part of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt's New Deal, since the WPA was charged with carrying out public works improvement projects to provide work relief during the Depression. Plans for the rehabilitation were developed in 1931, but the only work completed that year was the reconstruction of severely damaged sidewalks. (Morris 1999: 14, Olszewski 1968: 31)

At the same time the park was declining, the surrounding residential community also began to suffer. From its early development, the neighborhood had been a melting pot for immigrant populations. Development in the early twentieth century resulted in the building of larger, more elegant homes facing Lincoln Park, with more modest dwellings located on the side streets. Because of the Depression and increasing popularity of suburban living, this neighborhood began to decline in the 1930s. (HABS 1992: 4)

In 1925, Congress created an independent Office of the Director of Public Buildings and Public Parks of the National Capital. This position lasted less than ten years. In 1933 responsibility for the care of all federal reservations was transferred to the Department of the Interior, Office of National Parks, Buildings and Reservations, which soon became part of the National Park Service. (Olszewski 1968: 2-3)



Design for Granolithic Pavement Entrance to Lincoln Park,"1910. This plan was implemented in 1911. (TIC file 80008; CLP digital photofile, final LP CLI images/granolithic)"



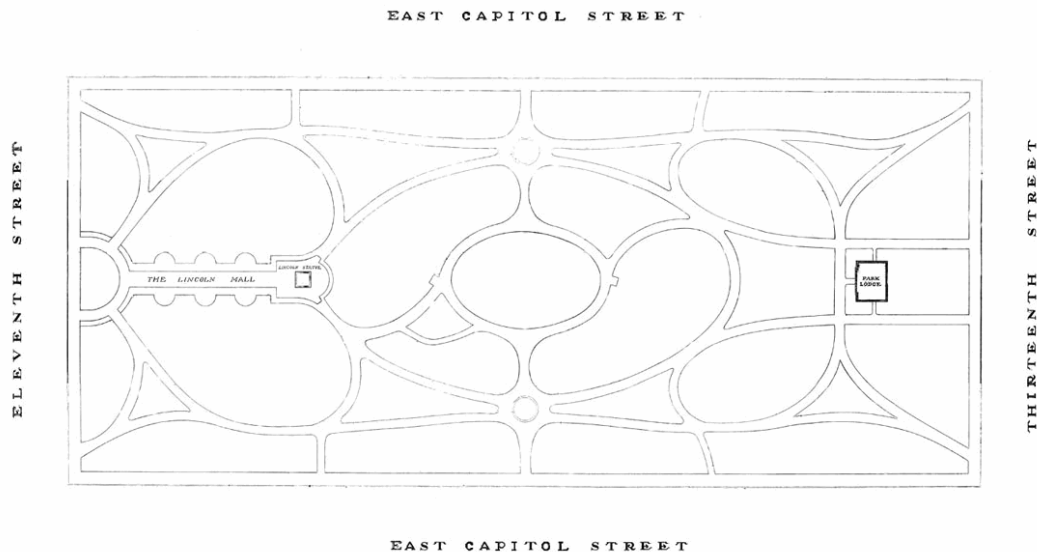
Planting Plan - Oval Perennial Flower Garden - Lincoln Park Mall,"1911. This was implemented in 1911 as part of the George Burnap design. (TIC file 80007; CLP digital photofile, final LP CLI images/planting plan garden 1911)"



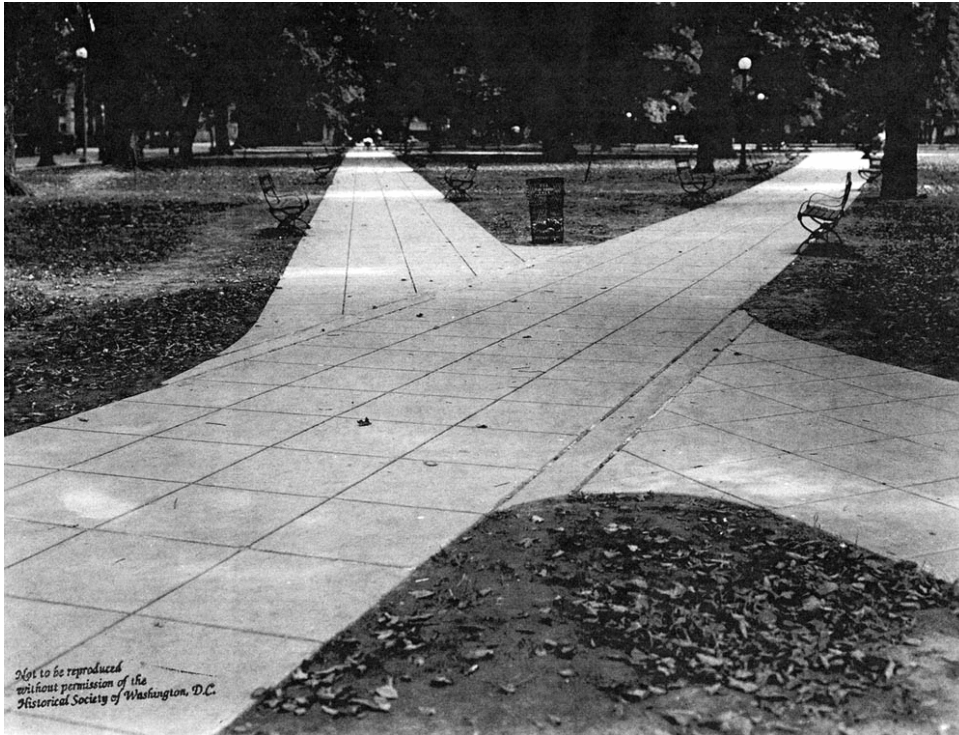
Monument to Abraham Lincoln," 1915. Note the planting scheme installed in 1911, decorative paving, gas lamps, and trimmed ornamental trees. (courtesy of the Washington, D.C. Public Library, Washingtoniana Division; 1915 photo of Burnap garden)



The second park lodge in an undated photo, possibly from the late 1960s. (reproduced from Olszewski; CLP digital photofile, final LP CLI images/2nd park lodge)



Revised Lighting Plan," July 6, 1929. The Lincoln Mall"area and the east entrance have been reconfigured. (TIC file 80013; CLP digital photofile, final LP CLI images)



Reconstructed walks in Lincoln Park; view shows movable single-seat settees and openwork wire trash receptacle. October 13, 1931. (courtesy of the Historical Society of Washington, D.C. file no. 11425A; CLP digital photofile, final images/new walks)

1934-1969: Rehabilitation by the National Park Service

In 1934, a year after the National Park Service assumed control over Lincoln Park, a WPA grant provided funds to carry out the rehabilitation project planned in 1931. The curvilinear walks were replaced by a more formal, geometric plan, influenced by the 1901 City Beautiful plan developed by the McMillan, Commission in their efforts to return the National Mall to the fundamental principles of the L'Enfant Plan. A major goal of the McMillan Plan had been the strengthening of the east-west axis linking the Capitol, the Washington Monument, and the proposed site of the Lincoln Memorial, and the of north-south axis of Sixteenth Street aligning the White House and the proposed site for a new memorial on the Tidal Basin. While the National Mall was its primary focus, the McMillan Plan also sought to strengthen the axis along East Capitol Street, between the Capitol and the Anacostia River, of which Lincoln Park was the center and focal point.

New concrete walks were built to provide direct routes from the surrounding streets to the various attractions within Lincoln Park. (HABS 1992: 4) Both the west promenade and the east entrance remained relatively unchanged. Benches were repaired and two sandboxes were installed. (Olszewski 1968: 34) Nearly 140 trees were replaced or given surgery. A 1934 NPS report noted that Lincoln Park had many of the oldest trees in Washington, with native species predominating over exotic varieties (two-thirds of the plants were American in origin).

Lincoln Park

National Capital Parks-East - Capitol Hill Parks

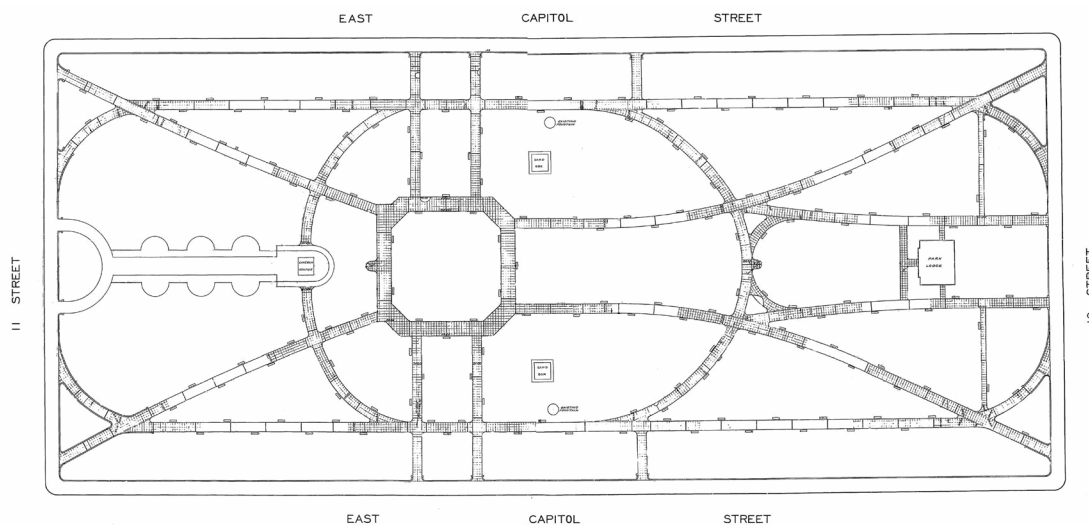
The park included many large willow oaks.

After the 1934 rehabilitation, few changes were made to Lincoln Park until the 1970s. It became a popular location for religious gatherings, including summer services and children's bible classes. During World War II, twenty-three churches of different denominations sponsored services in Lincoln Park. (Olszewski 1968: 42) Severe hurricanes in the 1950s and 1960s damaged or destroyed trees in the park. (Olszewski 1968: 37)

Lincoln Park has long symbolized freedom, primarily because of the presence of the Emancipation Monument. Because of this association, the park was chosen as the venue for local Civil Rights rallies in the 1960s. (HABS 1992: 4)

The neighborhood surrounding Lincoln Park has contributed to local African American history and the larger social history of Washington. In its early years, the neighborhood had been an enclave of both professionals and immigrants. By the 1970s, the neighborhood had become racially and economically segregated, with Lincoln Park and East Capitol Street acting as a dividing line. To the north stood housing, mostly rental units, occupied by young black families, while to the south were rowhouses owned by middle-income whites. Lincoln Park, however, provided a central gathering space for all residents. (Boyle 1988)

Administrative changes affected the downtown parks in the 1960s. In 1962, the National Capital Parks became "Region Six" within the National Park Service. It was later renamed the "National Capital Region," and in 1965, the National Capital Region was divided into five park areas, each headed by a Superintendent. Lincoln Park fell under the jurisdiction of the "East National Capital" division, renamed "National Capital Parks – East" in 1968. It remains under the management of National Capital Parks – East today. (Olszewski 1968: 3-4)



"Lincoln Park Walks, Grading & Blocking Plan," 1932 (implemented in 1934). (TIC file 80017; CLP digital photofile, final LP CLI images/1932 plan)

1969-1974: Hilyard Robinson and the Mary McLeod Bethune Memorial

In 1960, Congress approved a proposal put forward by the National Council of Negro Women (NCNW) to build a monument to its founder, the acclaimed African American leader Mary McLeod Bethune, in Lincoln Park (Public Law 86-484). The NCNW anticipated that the memorial would be dedicated in 1963 on the 100th anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation. However, because of the NCNW's extensive involvement in the Civil Rights campaign, the organization did not have the funds to build it for another decade. (Morris 1999: 14; National Capital Region files) Construction may also have been delayed because of the NCNW's desire to include a meeting room within the base of the monument, a feature opposed by the NPS.

Bethune, daughter of slaves, founded the NCNW in 1935, after having serving more than three decades as an educator and activist. She was the first African American woman to serve on presidential commissions and conferences addressing children's issues, positions she held in the administrations of four different presidents, Coolidge, Hoover, FDR, and Truman. (NCNW website March 3, 2004)

In preparation for the new statue, the National Park Service undertook a major rehabilitation of Lincoln Park in the 1960s. Plans were started as early as 1962, work began in 1969. The NCNW and its president Dorothy Height, Bethune's friend and protégé, hired architect David R. Byrd of the Washington firm Byrd & Bryant. Byrd, in turn, retained Hilyard Robinson, a well-known African American architect, as a design consultant. After Byrd abandoned his practice and left Washington in 1966, Robinson became primary architect for the project, retained by the NPS. (Robinson Papers, Howard University)

Hilyard Robinson enjoyed a long and successful career in Washington, his native city. He contributed to the advancement of African American architects through a career teaching at the Howard University School of Architecture. Until his retirement in the 1970s, Robinson remained one of the city's most successful black architects. He was appointed Consulting Architect for the National Capital Advisory Commission for the Selection of Sites for Slum Clearance, and was charged with planning and designing Negro housing projects for Subsistence Homesteads at the Department of the Interior. Robinson was influenced by European urban planning, Modernist architecture, and post-war housing design. Other projects include the Langston Terrace apartments, various buildings at Howard University, and the Ralph Bunche house (1941). (Quinn 2003) The Lincoln Park rehabilitation project was one of his last major works.

Many of Robinson's early schemes included the creation of diagonal walkways from the corners to the center, and the insertion of a winding walk between the central plaza and the perimeter walkway. He also continued the use of the main promenade.

The final design was somewhat simpler. A rectilinear walk layout had as its main feature a sunken central plaza between the two statues. Two new entrances were created on the north and south sides. The old park lodge was removed and two small play areas were built north

and south of the plaza, where the 1934 sandboxes had been located. (Morris 1999: 14) Only the west and east entrances remained in the same locations as in previous designs.

Symbolic meaning underlay much of the redesign. The central plaza was sunk to keep the taller Bethune Memorial from overpowering the earlier monument to Lincoln, which was left at ground level. (Morris 1999: 14) The Emancipation Monument was rotated 180 degrees so that it would face east, towards the Bethune memorial, because it was believed that Abraham Lincoln would not have turned his back on an African American woman. This created a direct relationship between the two statues. At the same time, the Emancipation Monument was shifted east to place it at its "true focal point . . . the focus of the vista from every street that approaches the park" (Robinson Papers, Box 44).

In a June 1973 letter to the NCNW, Robinson stated that "only a limited and fragmented scope of execution of construction in Lincoln Park went forward" (Robinson Papers). He noted that the perimeter walks, diagonal walks, new tree plantings, and built-in, specially designed benches were all unexecuted elements of his original design. He criticized the quality of construction, mentioning the "inadequate workmanship on exposed aggregate technique" (Robinson Papers).

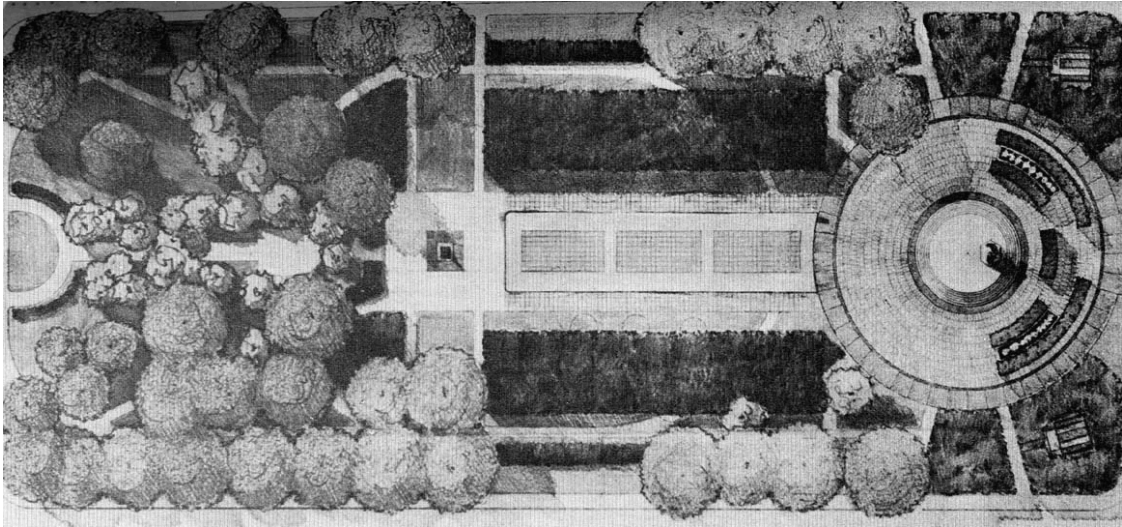
Though much of the reconstruction was complete by 1971, the Bethune memorial was not dedicated for another three years. In 1973 and 1974, the National Park Service installed new site furnishings, including benches and planters. (TIC Files 1974)

The Mary McLeod Bethune memorial was the first memorial to an African American individual to be built on public land in Washington, D.C. (the only African American previously depicted in sculpture in the city was the freed slave in the Emancipation Monument). In addition, the sculpture was the first portrait statue of an American woman to be built on a public site in the city. (Morris 1999: 15; Barsoum 2004) The final cost was \$400,000, and it was dedicated on Bethune's birthday, July 10, 1974, before a crowd of 18,000. (LCS)

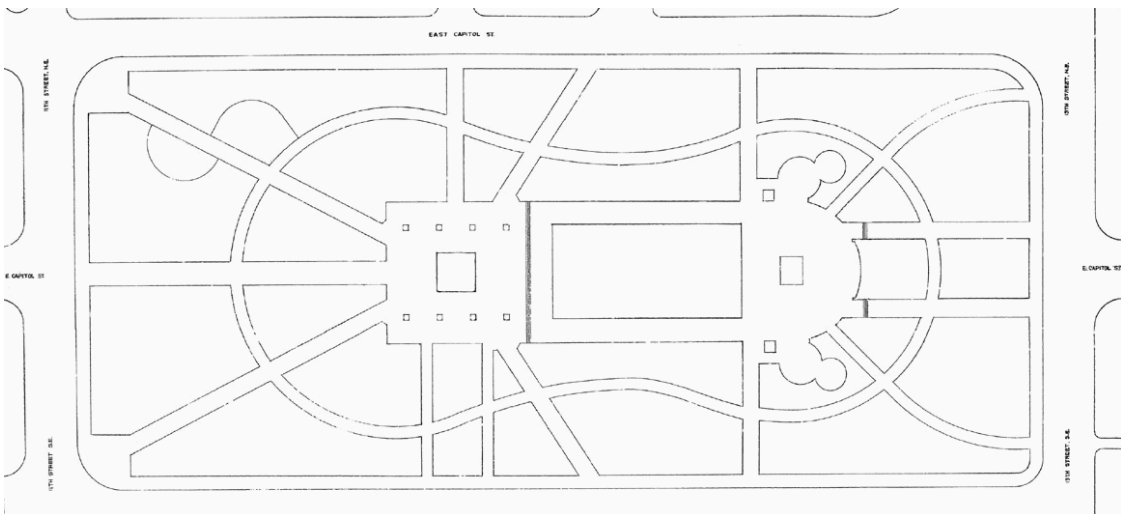
The design, by sculptor Robert Berks, was approved by the National Capital Planning Commission, the Department of the Interior, and the Commission of Fine Arts. Its location opposite the Emancipation Monument was deemed appropriate because the two memorials were "mutually supportive . . . with their common themes of struggle and accomplishment" as said in a statement issued by the Joint Committee on Landmarks of the National Capital ("The Mary McLeod Bethune Memorial," June 18, 1974, Land Use Coordination Files, NCR). This statement also noted: "the installation of the Mary McLeod Bethune Memorial in Lincoln Park will enhance the visual quality and the memorial character of this major element of the L'Enfant Plan".

Additional improvements to complete Lincoln Park were included in a \$1 million Downtown Parks for the Bicentennial Program, undertaken to improve parks throughout the city for the 1976 Bicentennial. At that time a decision not to construct curvilinear or diagonal walks, or curvilinear areas along the northwest diagonal walk, because the proposed walks – especially the curvilinear ones – were not necessary for circulation, and would have required that existing trees be removed. The Lincoln Park plan was revised accordingly, and the work constructed

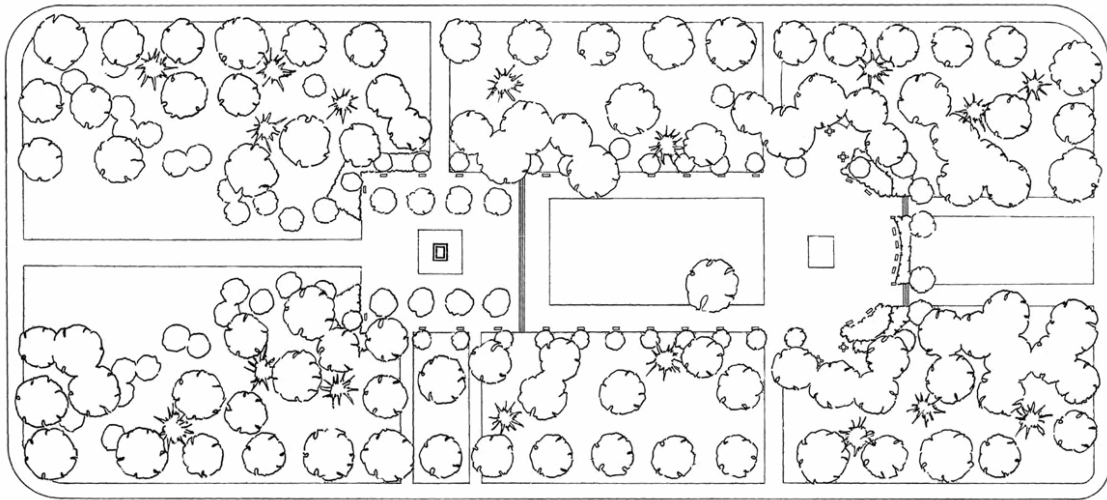
for the Bicentennial was considered the completed park. The two play areas were installed at that time, along with the existing benches, planters, and plantings.



Preliminary site plan for the Bethune Memorial...as prepared by Hilyard R. Robinson, Consulting Architect, December 1962. "(from Olszewski; CLP digital photofile, final LP CLI images/Robinson prelim plan Dec 1962)"



Reconstruction of Lincoln Park, "November 21, 1968. This earlier plan included diagonal entrances and a winding walk around the central plaza. (TIC file 41000; CLP digital photofile, final LP CLI images/recon plan 1968)"



Lincoln Park, "June 1973. This drawing, prepared for the dedication of the Bethune Memorial, shows the walk layout as implemented in 1971 and the location of the two memorials. (TIC file 80046; CLP digital photofile, final/plan showing recon 1973)"



View of Lincoln Park from the east, looking west at the Bethune statue with the Emancipation statue and the U.S. Capitol Dome in the background, "1992. (from HABS report, photo by John McWilliams; CLP digital photofile, final/view Bethune Mon 1992)."

1974-2009: Contemporary Use and Recent Alterations

Lincoln Park continues to serve as a neighborhood park. It has become popular as a “dog park,” and one of its main problems has been unleashed dogs coming into conflict with children, and waste from the dogs that has not properly removed.

By the late 1980s, the two small play areas constructed in the 1970s had deteriorated. The NPS worked with the Friends of Lincoln Park to develop rehabilitation plans. By the end of 1989, the Friends group had raised \$11,000 towards this work. The National Park Service contributed another \$7,000, and purchased and installed play equipment. (General file for Lincoln Park – National Capital Parks-East [NCP-E])

The park has also become popular with runners, with the result that a dirt path has been worn just inside the quarter-round curbing that surrounds the perimeter. In 1989, a “Request for Professional Services” was issued to study the possibility of formalizing this jogging path, but it was agreed that it would be less visually intrusive to retain and perhaps mulch it rather than pave it. (General file for Lincoln Park – NCP-E)

In 1992, the National Park Service installed new lighting throughout the park. Replicas of the single-globe Washington Standard or Millet lamp post were installed, primarily along the central plaza and the walkways leading into the park. In addition, four tall spotlights were installed to light the plaza and statues, and provide increased security. (TIC Files 1990)

From the time the Emancipation Monument was dedicated in 1876 until the mid-twentieth century, it had been traditional to hold an Emancipation Day ceremony at the monument in Lincoln Park. This custom was revived in 1994. (General file for Lincoln Park – NCP-E) The National Association of Negro Women continues to hold an annual celebration of Mary McLeod Bethune’s birthday in July.

In 2001, the south play area was rehabilitated. New playground equipment was installed, along with a new fence, for a cost of \$135,000. The north play area was similarly rehabilitated in 2003 for \$110,000, a cost which included eight new benches for the plaza. In 2004, the community friends group helped to purchase a new modified hoop-and-dart fence for this play area, to match the one around the south area. New community bulletin boards and storage cabinets were also installed at this time.

From 2004 to 2005 the existing 1970s benches and trash receptacles throughout the park were replaced to match the ones installed around the Bethune Memorial and play areas in 2003. The entire park was also outfitted with new, more classical urn-shaped planters starting in 2003, while the east end of the plaza was repaved and partially recurbed to improve drainage and pedestrian safety in 2008. The park currently has plans to repave the remainder of the plaza in 2010. Maintenance and removal of hazardous trees has been ongoing, and often includes replanting in kind for those cases where pre-existing trees are lost. Due to the park’s intensive use by both dogs and humans, turf maintenance and replanting follows a continuous cycle that employs a rotation of temporary wooden fencing throughout the grounds. The twenty-eight

Lincoln Park

National Capital Parks-East - Capitol Hill Parks

Washington Standard lights, Emancipation Monument and the Bethune Memorial are annually maintained with washing, wax touch-ups, and repairs as needed.



Lincoln Park, seen from west, showing the contemporary walk along historic Lincoln Mall route, mature deciduous trees, and historic police call box on the sidewalk. Emancipation Monument is just visible in distance. (final/view of park from SW 3)

Analysis & Evaluation of Integrity

Analysis and Evaluation of Integrity Narrative Summary:

Lincoln Park is a level, rectangular park of seven acres, located one mile due east of the U.S. Capitol, exactly halfway between the Capitol and the Anacostia River. Situated on a plateau that extends east from Capitol Hill and sharing the same elevation as the Capitol, the park is bounded on the north and south by East Capitol Street, on the east by 11th Street N.E. and S.E., and on the west by 13th Street N.E. and S.E. The east-west centerline of the reservation forms part of the boundary between the northeast and southeast quadrants of the city.

This cultural landscape contains features, including walk systems, plantings, site furniture and sculpture, that illustrate changing theories and fashions in landscape design over the last 130 years. The park as it exists today is mostly the result of National Park Service work conducted in 1934 and 1969-1974.

Lincoln Park is bilaterally symmetrical along its east-west axis, continuing the axis of East Capitol Street as it runs from the west entrance to the Emancipation Monument, through the central plaza to the Bethune Memorial, and finally to the eastern entrance. A major cross-axis follows the line of 12th Street through the west end of the park, in line with the Emancipation Monument. A second north-south cross-axis is in line with the Bethune Memorial, but is not aligned with the street grid. This symmetry affects the dominant spatial character of the park, and is emphasized by the regular geometry of the circulation and, especially, the large sunken plaza in the center.

The park's main features are its two memorials, the Emancipation Monument (1876) and the Mary McLeod Bethune Memorial (1974), which both illustrate themes of African American freedom and progress. The Emancipation Monument, by sculptor Thomas Ball, is composed of a life-size figure of Lincoln extending his left hand over a kneeling African American man. The president's right hand holds a copy of the Emancipation Proclamation on a small pedestal adorned with symbolic classical ornamentation. The former slave is depicted as rising, gazing ahead into the distance, with broken shackles on his wrists. The figures stand on a classical granite pedestal bearing bronze dedicatory plaques on the front and rear. On the plinth directly beneath the figures is the single word "Emancipation." Lincoln is rendered in a realistic manner; the slave, though an idealized figure, is based upon an actual individual, Alexander Archer, the last slave to have been captured in Missouri under the Fugitive Slave Act.

Though it formerly faced west toward the Capitol, in 1974 the Emancipation Monument was rotated 180 degrees to look toward the Mary McLeod Bethune Memorial, placed at the east end of a new sunken rectangular plaza. The Bethune Memorial is a three-figure bronze sculptural group, designed by sculptor Robert Berks, depicting a monumental seventeen-feet-high figure of the famed educator handing a scroll representing the legacy of her life's work to a young boy and girl. The memorial thus continues and expands upon the theme of the Lincoln statue: the extension of basic human rights and liberties through political and social actions, and their transmission through written documents. The elderly Bethune with her cane and the two children are portrayed on a heroic scale, executed in

Berks's characteristic roughhewn style, with its broken, animated surfaces.

The plaza was sunk about two feet below grade so that the large figure of Bethune would not overshadow the earlier, smaller statue of Lincoln. East of the Emancipation group, three broad concrete steps lead down to the sunken court, the center of which is occupied by a large, rectangular grass panel. Simple retaining walls lined with benches and planters extend along the plaza's north and south sides. A semicircular retaining wall at the east end curves behind the Bethune group.

The park's vegetation consists mostly of open lawns planted with mature deciduous trees. Most trees stand as individual specimens or in small groups, though some are arranged in lines, notably the American elms around the park's perimeter and the star magnolias flanking the north and south sides of the sunken court. There are also several evergreen trees. Barberry shrubs were planted around the base of the Emancipation Monument shortly before 2003, while junipers grow with some ornamental flowers in planters along the sunken plaza.

While some of the park's small-scale features still date from the 1970s redesign by architect Hilyard Robinson, many of them have been replaced since 2003. The wooden-slat seats and cylindrical trash receptacles, built using recycled wood, were installed throughout the park in 2003 and afterwards. Likewise, the urn-shaped planters found around the grounds today were put in at this time, replacing the pre-existing cylindrical fiberglass ones. A number of other additions were made between 2001 and 2003, including Washington Standard or Millet light posts, which is a modern replication of the 1913 Millet design, handicap accessible drinking fountains, and steel playground equipment for both north and south play areas. One older feature that still remains is the cast-concrete Art Deco drinking fountain standing in the northwest quadrant of the park, which is shaped into a tiered, tapering octagonal post. The park has been bordered by high concrete curbing since about 1905, though the full extent of the remaining historic curbs of this kind is yet to be determined.

Most of the park's small-scale features date from the 1970s redesign by architect Hilyard Robinson, and include simple, blocky benches composed of concrete supports and heavy wooden slat seats and backs; and cylindrical wood-slat trash receptacles supported on single steel posts. An older feature is the cast-concrete Art Deco drinking fountain at the northwest, in the shape of a tiered, tapering octagonal post. The park has been bordered by high concrete curbing since about 1905, though extant curbing is probably of more recent vintage. Between 2001 and 2003, additions were made to the site furnishings, including cylindrical fiberglass planters; planters in the shape of classical urns, placed east of the Bethune Memorial; Washington Standard or Millet light posts, a modern replication of the 1913 Millet design; handicap accessible drinking fountains; and steel playground equipment.

By far the most important vista from the park is the view along its east-west axis, extending down East Capitol Street to the U.S. Capitol one mile to the west. Placement of the Emancipation Monument near the west end of the park emphasized this view. Further emphasis was formerly given by the paved, densely planted promenade leading to the statue from the west, a 1911 design by landscape architect George Burnap. Another important vista extends northwest from the park up Massachusetts Avenue to Stanton Park. Shifting of the Emancipation statue to the north-south 12th

Street axis in the 1970s defined yet another vista, and the statue's rotation to face east towards the Bethune Memorial established the park's dominant internal views. Important reciprocal views exist between the park and the surrounding structures, most of which are late 19th-century rowhouses.

Lincoln Park retains only partial integrity to its second Period of Significance, 1867-1934. Seven characteristics are used to determine the integrity of National Register properties: location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, association, and feeling. Not all of these qualities apply as clearly to landscapes as they do to buildings. Consideration of other, more physical characteristics – those most commonly used in evaluating landscapes – reveals that, at Lincoln Park, vegetation, views, and land use retain a high level of historic integrity, while circulation, buildings and structures, and small-scale features have been greatly altered and retain only partial significance.

The following discussion of integrity is framed according to five of the National Register integrity characteristics – location, setting, design, association, and feeling. It is based on a comparison between the contemporary landscape and its historic character within the Periods of Significance (1791, 1867-1934).

Lincoln Park retains a high degree of integrity with regard to location and setting. It remains in the same location as shown on the L'Enfant Plan. The setting is largely intact, as the park is still surrounded mostly by three-story, red-brick and granite Victorian rowhouses.

Lincoln Park's design is determined primarily by its circulation system and its vegetation. The circulation retains some features that were integral to the 1934 National Park Service redesign, a geometric, formal, City Beautiful plan that was influenced by the visionary plan of the 1901 McMillan Commission and landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr.'s subsequent work on the National Mall. The Lincoln Park design focused on the location of the Emancipation Monument, sited towards the western edge of the park facing the U.S. Capitol. The main entrance to the park was from this end, in line with East Capitol Street, and included the 1911 promenade by George Burnap, with its ornate paving and lush plantings emphasizing the importance of the axis. The 1934 plan retained from earlier periods the scattered specimen trees and formal boundary plantings of American elms. Many of the park's current trees date to the second Period of Significance.

Alterations were made to the landscape in 1969-1974 following plans by architect Hilyard Robinson. The alignment of the paved walks are largely those shown in Robinson's plans, though a curvilinear walk and entrances from the four corners of the park (features which had existed historically) were never constructed. The 1911 promenade was greatly simplified so that it is now simply a wide, paved walkway with no bordering plantings or other features, except for recently installed light posts.

Certain other aspects of the design retain integrity. The main feature determining spatial organization is the east-west axis through the center of the park, an extension of the East Capitol Street axis; this also forms a dominant view corridor. The asymmetrical groups of trees to north and south, bounded in turn by lines of elms along the perimeter sidewalks, help to emphasize the center axis. Robinson's design, with the addition of the large, open, sunken plaza, altered this organization somewhat but did not

fundamentally change it. The addition of the Mary McLeod Bethune Memorial and the rotation of the Emancipation Monument to face it, while it altered the relation of the Lincoln statue to the Capitol, could also be seen to have strengthened the central axis.

The feeling conveyed to park visitors – the experience of Lincoln Park as a serene neighborhood park – was changed by the 1970s redesign from a picturesque landscape for sitting and resting to a formal, albeit more open, park. Changes in use – for more active public recreation, such as running, dog walking, and playing in the children’s play areas – have also resulted in a different experience for visitors.

The associative qualities of Lincoln Park remain intact, and have even, to some extent (particularly regarding memorial use), been strengthened by recent changes. However, the park’s dual uses as memorial site and as neighborhood park were altered by the 1970s reconstruction. Historically, the two uses had been physically integrated. The current landscape creates a separation between the stark memorial space of the central plaza area, and the shaded, landscaped outer areas most often used by the neighboring community.

Landscape Characteristic:

Land Use

Though first designated for park use in the L’Enfant Plan of 1791, formal improvement of Lincoln Park did not begin until 1866. Development of the District of Columbia began in the northwest quadrant, delaying enhancement of public areas on Capitol Hill until the mid-nineteenth century. Until then, the Lincoln Park site was used as a dump. During the Civil War, the temporary Union hospital known as Lincoln Hospital stood here, serving the nearby Washington Navy Yard and the Marine Barracks. (HABS 1992: 2) Congress formally designated the site a park in 1866, at the request of the neighborhood. Improvements such as walks, plantings, and seating areas were implemented between 1869 and 1875. (HABS 1992: 2-3)

The park was initially used by the growing Capitol Hill community for such passive activities as strolling and sitting. More active use began with the construction of sandboxes in the early 1900s, rebuilt in 1934 and replaced in the 1970s by the two play areas near the Bethune Monument. Over the years, attempts have been made to introduce other active recreation facilities, such as playing fields, but these changes have been resisted by the community. Today, the park is primarily used by the neighborhood for strolling, jogging, sunbathing, picnicking, and sitting, as well as for children’s play. In the 1980s, Lincoln Park began to be used as a “dog park,” still a popular use today.

Lincoln Park became a memorial site in 1866, when Congress named the park after the recently assassinated president. A statue honoring him, the Emancipation Monument, was erected in 1874. The presence of the monument made Lincoln Park a popular tourist attraction until 1922, when it was supplanted by the Lincoln Memorial. In 1974, a second memorial, honoring African American leader Mary McLeod Bethune, was dedicated in the park, further strengthening the association of the site with commemoration and African American history.

This association continues with annual celebrations celebrating the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation and Bethune's birthday. Such uses are consistent with L'Enfant's desire that the city's public reservations should feature statues and memorials honoring great citizens. (National Register Nomination for the L'Enfant Plan)

Lincoln Park provides a community gathering space for other occasions. Since its inception, the park has been a favored venue for religious ceremonies and meetings, band concerts, and, in the 1960s, Civil Rights freedom rallies. (HABS 1992: 4). Other community uses have included Easter egg hunts, children's bible classes, and annual tours during Black History Month.

Spatial Organization

Lincoln Park is bilaterally symmetrical along its east-west axis, continuing the axis of East Capitol Street as it runs from the west entrance to the Emancipation Monument, and continuing through the central plaza to the Bethune Memorial, and finally to the eastern entrance. A major cross-axis follows the line of 12th Street through the west end of the park, in line with the Emancipation Monument. A second cross-axis to the east is aligned with the Bethune Memorial but not with the street grid. This symmetry affects the dominant spatial character of the park, and is emphasized by the regular geometry of the circulation system.

The east-west axis was present in the two earlier designs of the 1870s and 1934, though less emphasized. The large sunken plaza, the Bethune monument, and the reorientation of the Emancipation Monument to correspond to the Bethune statue – elements resulting from Hilyard Robinson's design of the 1960s and 1970s – to a large extent created the spatial character visible today.

Prior to the 1970s reconstruction, the east-west axis was most distinct along the walk leading from the west entrance to the Emancipation Monument. In plan view, it was continued through the park as a grass panel to the lodge, situated in a location at the east corresponding to that of the Emancipation Monument. Because of the curving configuration of the park walks, however, this axis would not have been readily apparent to visitors.

The north-south cross-axis through Lincoln Park continues the line of 12th Street – specifically, its sidewalks: parallel concrete walks lead into the park from both north and south in line with the 12 Street sidewalks, leading to the Emancipation Monument. This secondary axis was created by the shifting of the Emancipation Monument to the west in the 1970s. Previously, though the cross-axial walks had been in line with 12th Street, the Emancipation Monument stood slightly to the east.

Today, the central open area dominates the park's spatial organization. This space, consisting of the paved concrete plazas around the Emancipation Monument and the Bethune Memorial, as well as the grass panel lying between the two statues, was created as part of the 1970s redesign. The first design of Lincoln Park from the 1870s had a raised, oval mound in its center. The winding walk system, and the prominence of the Emancipation Monument at the west, kept the mound from being perceived as a focal point. In the second design, completed in

1934, the mound was eliminated and the central portion of the park became more formalized. The arrangement of walks created a central open space in line with 12th Street and an informal central lawn between the Emancipation Monument and the park lodge. In neither design did the central space form the primary focus. The dominant feature, rather, was the Emancipation Monument, whose prominence was reinforced by the promenade to the west and the view of the U.S. Capitol.

Though both earlier designs included curvilinear walks, the organization was bilaterally symmetrical. The curving walks created smaller grassy areas instead of the large lawns now formed between the orthogonal system of walks. Other elements support the overall symmetry, such as the location of the two play areas north and south of the Bethune Memorial (occupying similar sites to the earlier pair of sandboxes).

Circulation

A proposed plan for the park of 1855, prepared by the Office of the Commissioner of Public Buildings, featured a rectangular walk a short distance inside the perimeter, with spur walks leading to it from the four corners of the block. A walk on the east-west axis and a second walk on a north-south cross-axis both led to a small, circular walk in the park's center. It is not known whether this 1855 plan was ever implemented.

It is also unclear whether a plan of 1876 was ever constructed as depicted, though it formed the basis for the park's design as it existed from the 1870s until 1934. This plan showed two pairs of oval walks at east and west flanking two concentric oval walks in the center; all were surrounded and linked by curving walks. Entrances were located at each corner and the mid-points of the north and south sides. Two fountains were placed along the central north-south cross axis where it intersected with the larger of the two central ovals. The layout was bilaterally symmetrical, except for the placement of a lodge southwest of the central oval. All walks were graveled.

The succeeding plan, perhaps first illustrated in a plan dated 1885, used this layout, but in a stretched, elongated form, so that the basic underlying symmetry was not readily apparent. Features like the lodge and fountains occupied similar positions. A central oval, oriented east-west, was surrounded by a larger oval, in turn surrounded by a walk near the park's perimeter. This perimeter walk was in the shape of an irregular rectangle, with curving sides. Entrances led into the park from the corners and from the north and south mid-points. Curving walks linked the three circling walks and formed irregular oval-shaped areas or small triangles, all planted with grass. Two curving walks from the west merged and led towards the Emancipation Monument, which was set in a somewhat amorphous triangular walk intersection rather than a defined plaza. No walks led into the park from the east along this central axis. In its curving walks this plan, and its 1876 iteration, showed the clear influence of Andrew Jackson Downing's picturesque designs of the 1850s for the National Mall and Lafayette Park.

This remained the park's circulation design for about fifty years. The first major change came in 1911 with the installation of George Burnap's promenade, called "The Lincoln Mall," as a new axial approach to Emancipation Monument from the west. The paving was composed of

concrete known as “granolithic,” which included a fine granite aggregate. The polychrome paving had a pattern of longitudinal stripes flanking a center design of alternating large and small diamonds. The mall began at a semicircular entrance walk from 11th St. on the East Capitol Street axis, circled around a planting bed, and then became a broad, decoratively paved walk leading directly to the statue, now occupying a defined square plaza. On either side of the promenade were three semicircular lawn areas, with benches, surrounded by densely planted flower beds and backed by hedges.

For the first time, direct entrance into the park was provided from the east, with the creation of two new parallel walks. Between them was placed the new park lodge, its location generally corresponding to the site of the Emancipation Monument though set relatively closer to the park’s edge. Three entrances lead into the park from both the north and south sides.

The changes to the walk system resulted in changes to the configuration of the east and west pairs of oval lawn areas, altering them to a teardrop shape, wider at one end and tapering toward the other. Most walks were paved in concrete, with only about a quarter remaining as graveled walks. (Olszewski 1968: 20)

A far more radical reconfiguration was undertaken by the National Park Service in 1934 using WPA funds (the plans were begun in 1931). The Downing-influenced layout of picturesque curving walks was regularized and geometrized, retaining only the faintest indication of its original appearance. A major goal of the plan was the provision of direct routes from surrounding streets to features within the park. North and south entrances, therefore, were aligned with streets. (HABS 1992: 4) A large central oval intersected with a rectangular perimeter walk, which itself had curved east and west ends. A pair of long, curving entrance walks joined the northwest and northeast corners and the southwest and southeast corners. These led to a central square walk, located west of the park’s center, in line with the axis of 12th Street. Paired parallel walks led to this squared walk from north and south, and one additional walk led in from the south. Burnap’s mall remained, and some other ancillary walks were added.

Between 1969 and 1974, in conjunction with the construction of the Mary McLeod Bethune Memorial, the National Park Service thoroughly redesigned Lincoln Park, following plans developed by architect Hilyard Robinson. The regular geometry of Robinson’s design follows principles of Modernist architecture, the implementation of an abstracted, geometrical pattern that disregards the historical circulation system. At the west, a twenty-foot walkway leads from East Capitol Street to a square paved plaza, in the center of which stands the Emancipation Monument. From the north side of this plaza, a single fifteen-foot-wide walk leads to 12th Street, and from the south side, two parallel ten-foot-wide walks lead to 12th Street. On the east side of the plaza, three broad steps descend to a plaza sunk two feet below grade, in the center of which is a rectangular grass panel. The Bethune Memorial is located at the semi-circular eastern end of the sunken plaza, flanked on the northeast and southeast by two circular play areas. Two additional fifteen-foot-wide walks lead north and south from the

eastern end of the grass panel to the sidewalks, but these are not aligned with the street grid.

All walks in Lincoln Park are paved with an exposed aggregate concrete. Surrounding the park are brick sidewalks, installed in 1889 and maintained by the D.C. government. (Olszewski 1968: 13)

Lincoln Park also contains a number of informal “social paths” that have been worn across the lawns. Some follow older path locations that are discernible on a 1999 aerial photograph. The newest path is a jogging path, located just inside the quarter-round curb along the inner edge of the brick sidewalk around the park. This path does not follow any historic alignment. A diagonal path leading from the southwest corner of the park, in line with North Carolina Avenue, follows an older route and is still heavily used as an entrance into the park.

The only remaining traces of the 1934 circulation design remain are the alignment of the main walkway from the west, the two parallel walks in line with 12th Street from the south, and the two parallel walks along the eastern axis. The Robinson design remains intact today, but is too recent to be considered a contributing feature. The circulation system, therefore, has low integrity.

Character-defining Features:

Feature: Eastern entrance, western entrance, and southern entrance in line with 12th Street (features dating to earlier layouts)

Feature Identification Number: 101497

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Social trails which are traces of the 1870s and 1934 circulation system

Feature Identification Number: 101500

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Feature: Perimeter sidewalk (District of Columbia jurisdiction)

Feature Identification Number: 101499

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Sunken plaza and all other paved areas of the Hilyard Robinson design

Feature Identification Number: 101501

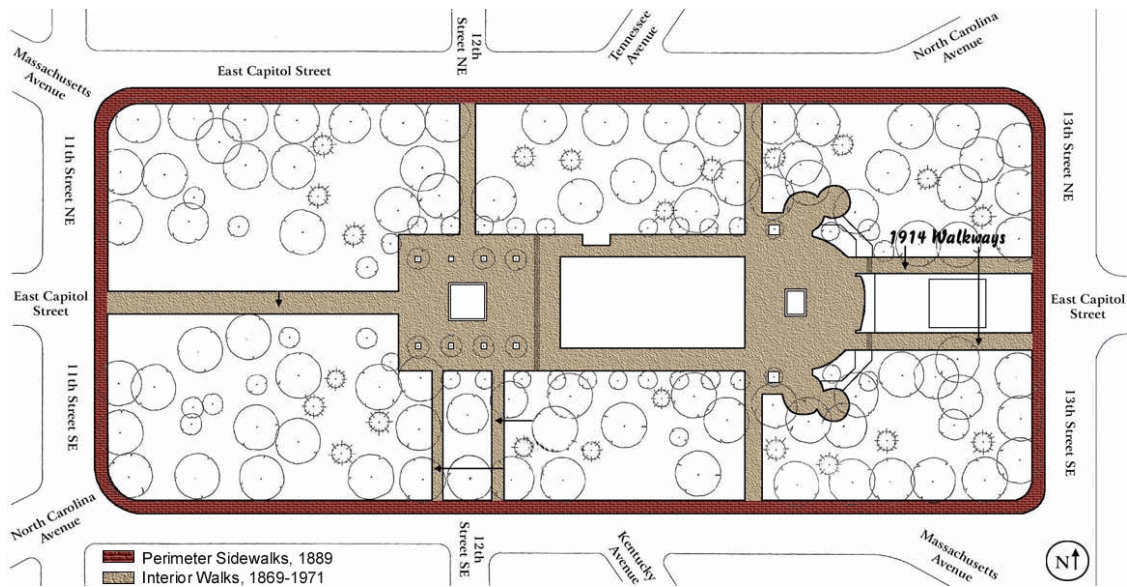
Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Feature: Perimeter jogging path

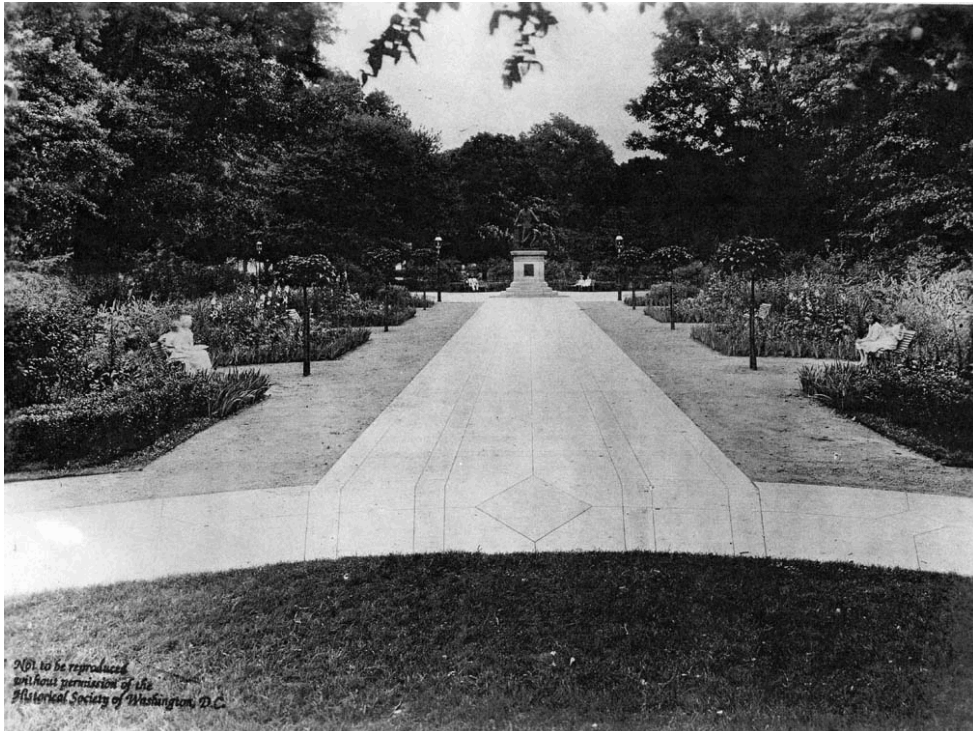
Feature Identification Number: 101498

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Lincoln Park circulation, 2003. (Prepared by Stephanie Ryberg, CLP digital file, final LP CLI images/revise walks)



The Lincoln Park mall with its decorative paving as it appeared in October 1931. (courtesy of the Historical Society of Washington, D.C., #11425B; CLP digital photofile, final LP CLI images/Burnap Mall 1931)



The Lincoln Park Mall as it appeared in June 2003. (CLP digital file, final LP CLI images/Burnap Mall 2003)



Perimeter brick sidewalks are maintained by the District of Columbia. (CLP digital file, final LP CLI images/brick sidewalks c. 2003)



This aerial photograph of Lincoln Park from 1999 shows traces of historic walks along the south and southwest. (courtesy NCR GIS Office; CLP digital photofile, final LP CLI images/aerial of Lincoln Park 1999)



A social trail still more or less follows the alignment of the 1930s NPS walk that ran from the park's SW corner to the Emancipation Monument. (CLP digital photofile, final LP CLI images/social trail along N. Carolina Ave. axis looking E)

Buildings And Structures

Statues

Emancipation Monument

The oldest feature in Lincoln Park is the twelve-feet-high bronze statue of Abraham Lincoln extending his hand over a kneeling slave, known as the “Emancipation Monument.” The monument stands on the east-west centerline of the park, in line with East Capitol Street and in the center of the 12th Street cross-axis. American sculptor Thomas Ball created the statue at his studio in Italy.

The monument depicts the standing president wearing his customary frock coat. His right hand holds an unscrolled copy of the Emancipation Proclamation on a pedestal, while his left hand is extended above a freed slave, who kneels in front of him. Though not a portrait statue, the slave was modeled after Archer Alexander, the last person captured under the Fugitive Slave Law. (Goode 1974: 86) The emancipated slave extends his right wrist, displaying broken shackles; behind him are emblems of slavery, including a whipping post and broken chains. (Goode 1974: 86)

The group stands on an octagonal twelve-feet-high pedestal made of granite, with alternating

wide and narrow faces. The single word “Emancipation” is written in raised capital letters on the front of the plinth. Bronze tablets on the front and rear recount the history of the monument’s donation to Congress (see Supplemental Information). The pedestal was designed under the direction of General Orville E. Babcock, Engineer Officer for the Office of Public Buildings and Grounds from 1871-77, and was executed by the Bodwell Granite Company. (Olszewski 1968: 28)

The pedestal on which Lincoln rests the Emancipation Proclamation, also an irregular octagon, bears ornamentation symbolizing the Union. Fasces – bundled rods around an ax, a conventional Roman symbol of authority – articulate the corners. Thirteen stars circling the base represent the original thirteen colonies, and the thirty-six stars in the frieze stand for the number of states at the time of Lincoln’s assassination. A bas-relief of George Washington and a Union shield ornament the left and right front faces, respectively, while the two rear faces are blank.

When first erected, the monument was placed in line with East Capitol Street, slightly to the west of a raised mound on the axis of 12th Street. (The mound had been intended to support some future memorial column.) The statue faced west towards the Capitol. This was the second monument built in Washington in honor of Lincoln, after the 1868 statue by Lot Flannery at the D.C. Courthouse, and the first to be placed in a city park. Often referred to as the “Freedmen’s Memorial,” it drew many visitors wishing to pay homage to the late president. This tradition continued until 1922, when Henry Bacon’s Lincoln Memorial in West Potomac Park was dedicated. (Morris 1999: 12-13)

No changes were made to the siting or design until 1974, when the statue was rotated 180 degrees to face east towards the new Mary McLeod Bethune Memorial, and at the same time shifted slightly east to stand in line with 12th Street. In the 1990s, thorny barberry shrubs were installed around the base in an effort to keep people from climbing on the statue.

Mary McLeod Bethune Memorial

A memorial to the African American educator, leader, and activist, Mary McLeod Bethune, was dedicated in Lincoln Park in 1974. The daughter of former slaves, Bethune was the founder of the National Council of Negro Women and of Bethune-Cookman College in Florida, and the former director of Negro affairs for the National Youth Administration in the Franklin D. Roosevelt administration. Designed by sculptor Robert Berks, the group of three figures occupies a location near the eastern end of the park, corresponding to the site of the Emancipation Monument along the East Capitol Street axis. The plaza in which the Bethune monument stands was sunken so that the newer, larger monument would not overpower the figure of Lincoln.

The Bethune Memorial was the first memorial erected to an African American individual on public land in Washington; the only previous African American depicted in sculpture in the city

was Archer Alexander, who served as the model for the representative slave in the Emancipation Monument. In addition, the Bethune Memorial is the first portrait statue dedicated to an American woman on public land in Washington. (Goode 1974: 87-88; Barsoum 2004)

Berks's other prominent works in Washington include busts of Abraham Lincoln at Ford's Theater, John F. Kennedy at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, and Robert F. Kennedy at the Robert F. Kennedy Stadium, as well as the sprawling figure of Albert Einstein in front of the National Academy of Sciences on Constitution Avenue. His design for the Bethune Memorial was approved by the National Capital Planning Commission, the Commission of Fine Arts, and the Department of the Interior. The cost was \$400,000.

The bronze statue depicts a seventeen-feet-high figure of the elderly Mrs. Bethune handing a scroll representing her legacy to two young African American children, an eight-year-old girl and an eleven-year-old boy. Bethune supports herself with her trademark cane, a gift from FDR. The three monumental figures are rendered in Berks's customary coarse impasto. The roughly modeled, broken surfaces were meant to impart a sense of life and movement to the bronze figures.

The hexagonal granite pedestal supports a plain hexagonal base made of concrete. The front of the pedestal bears a bronze plaque and the words "Let her work praise her." In addition, bronze plaques bearing quotations from Bethune's works form a frieze around the base (see Supplemental Information).

Lincoln Park was chosen as the site for the Bethune Memorial primarily because of the presence there of the Emancipation Monument, since it was felt the two statues shared themes of "struggle and accomplishment" (Joint Committee on Landmarks of the National Capital, June 18, 1974, Land Use Coordination Files, NCR). The monuments complement each other, and the Bethune Memorial extends the symbolism embodied in the earlier work. Lincoln holds the proclamation scroll and extends his hand over the kneeling slave, conveying the gift of freedom to African American slaves. Bethune extends her hand bearing a scroll representing her life's work on behalf of African Americans, particularly children, conveying the gifts of education, dignity, and responsibility enumerated in the frieze quotations. At this time, the Bethune statue is non-contributing since it is less than fifty years old.

Character-defining Features:

Feature:	Emancipation Monument
Feature Identification Number:	101495
Type of Feature Contribution:	Contributing
IDLCS Number:	00074
LCS Structure Name:	Lincoln Park; Emancipation Monument
LCS Structure Number:	121-01

Feature: Mary McLeod Bethune Monument

Feature Identification Number: 101496

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

IDLCS Number: 06433

LCS Structure Name: Mary McLeod Bethune Memorial-Lincoln Park

LCS Structure Number: 121-02

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



The Emancipation Monument from the northeast, June 2003. (CLP digital file, final LP CLI images/Emancipation Monument 2003)



The Mary McLeod Bethune Memorial from the northwest, June 2003. (CLP digital file, final LP CLI images/Bethune Memorial 2003)

Small Scale Features

Most of the small-scale features in Lincoln Park do not contribute to its significance, having been installed since the 1970s. The remaining significant historic features are the concrete curbs and the sole concrete drinking fountain.

Fences and Curbing

Historically, Lincoln Park was surrounded by a wooden paling fence, installed in 1871 and removed three years later. Beginning in the 1980s, such fences were placed around many of the downtown reservations to prevent livestock from wandering freely, but whether this its purpose at Lincoln Park is not known. Under the Office of Public Buildings and Grounds, the wooden fences were removed in the 1870s and replaced with either high, gated iron fences or low iron post-and-chain fencing; the latter was used at Lincoln Park. The posts were shaped like short, squat Roman fasces (bundled rods, a conventional classical symbol of authority) with molded bases and caps. This fencing was removed in the 1890s, under a Congressional mandate to make the reservations more open. In 1905, ten-inch-high quarter-round concrete curbs, or “coping,” were built around the grass panels of reservations to provide a more finished appearance. The ground behind the curbs was raised and sodded. (1905 Annual Report) At Lincoln Park, the curbing surrounded all perimeter edges of the grass panels and returned for a short distance along the walks, terminating at the ends with short, pyramidal capped blocks. This type of curbing still exists at Lincoln Park. Even though most or all of the concrete has

probably been replaced over the years, it has retained its historic appearance and is therefore considered a contributing small-scale feature.

The only existing fences in Lincoln Park are those that enclose the two play areas. The south play area is surrounded with a cast-iron hoop-and-dart fence that was installed during its 2000 renovation, while the same type of fence has surrounded the north play area since 2004.

Drinking Fountains

Since 1874, Lincoln Park has always had at least two drinking fountains. The first pair were a combination drinking fountain–gas lamp, a type of structure used in many of the downtown parks. The tall, richly ornamented base, apparently made of molded brick, had a lion’s head from which projected a drinking spout. This brick base supported an elaborately molded iron post surmounted by a large glass lamp containing a gas fixture. Probably two such combination fixtures were installed in Lincoln Park in the 1870s. (Olszewski 1968: 14)

Prior to the 1974 redesign, the drinking fountains were typically located along the main east-west axis, just east of the original Emancipation Monument site and just west of the second park lodge. Today, a single cast-concrete drinking fountain remains in the northwest quadrant, in the middle of a lawn. This fountain is of a simple Art Deco type used in the National Capital Parks since the 1930s, with a tiered, tapered, unornamented octagonal post. It has a concrete step for children. The same type appears in a 1965 photograph of the park, though in a different location.

There are two modern drinking fountains in the park, one in each of the play areas. Both are steel and handicap accessible, and were installed beginning in 2003.

Lighting

Throughout its history, a variety of light post styles have been used in Lincoln Park. Historic photographs suggest the different types of lights formerly used in the park, though details of lamp and post are not always clear. However, the most common gas lamp in the city was a square lantern with a glazed roof (the glazed roof allowed light to shine on the upper stories of buildings). These lanterns were supported on one of two types of poles: a simple, fluted, classically inspired post on a tall pedestal, and the grape and ivy post, with bud-like forms at the post’s base and capital and scrolling vines with grape clusters ornamenting the post itself. (The square lantern and the grape and ivy post were both common features in Philadelphia.) Such gas lamps stood along principal streets, including Connecticut Avenue between Dupont Circle and Farragut Square.

The first lighting in Lincoln Park, installed in 1874, included twenty-seven gaslights located along the major walkways. Square gas lamps were used in Lincoln Park, presumably on one of the two common types of post. They would have been placed along important paths, at least.

In Washington, as in other American cities, electric arc lights (in which a filament was suspended between two wires) began to be installed in the 1890s. The newer system existed alongside the older gas lights for many years. Electric arc lamps were introduced in Lincoln Park in 1897. To provide additional brightness, eight more high-powered arc lights were installed in 1910.

A 1907 photo of the Emancipation Monument from the southwest shows a light post shaped like a crook, that terminated in a large openwork scroll. Hanging from the scroll was a pendant electric fixture. This light stood at the east end of the Lincoln Mall, near the statue. Similar types of lights were common in New York City, and are referred to as “Bishop’s Crooks.” Another variety of lamp, the “Boulevard,” is also visible in this photograph, composed of an oblong light fixture topped by a metal cap surrounded by a “collar” of upraised triangles. A pair of Boulevard lights also appear in a 1915 image, flanking the west entrance to the Lincoln Mall. Boulevard lights were gas fixtures that incorporated the Welsbach mantle, a device in which a material, such as asbestos, was soaked with gas and shone with an incandescent light several times brighter than that cast by the standard gas lamp.

In 1923, a commission developed lighting standards for the city. The standards specified varying post heights and brightness levels for different functional areas; parks were to have posts sixteen- to eighteen-feet tall with lights casting between twenty-five and fifty lumens of illumination. Artist Francis Millet, an original member of the commission, designed the light post, known as the “Washington Standard” (sometimes called the Millet light). The fluted classical posts have flared, molded bases and capitals, supporting a single urn-shaped lamp known as the Washington Globe. An early version of Millet’s post began to be used in city parks as early as 1912. (LCS – Washington Light Standards 2002)

It is not known if the Washington Standard was used historically in Lincoln Park. What is known is that fourteen 100-candlepower lights were installed in Lincoln Park in 1929. By 1931, these lights had been removed and replaced with eighteen 250-candlepower lights. (Olszewski 1968: 15; LCS – Washington Light Standards, 2002) Photographs of the Lincoln Park walk system dating from 1931 show electric lights with translucent glass globes on fluted classical posts, the most common type of electric arc light fixture used in Washington before general adoption of the Washington Standard.

Research undertaken for this inventory has not uncovered any photographs of Lincoln Park from the years between 1931 and 1969. It is therefore not known whether Lincoln Park had Washington Standard lights in these years. In 1969, a new system of lighting was installed throughout Lincoln Park that used the “Style King” type of light post, one of the type of modern lights popularly referred to as “mushroom” lights after their projecting caps.

During the 1970s reconstruction, mercury vapor lights were installed throughout the park. By the mid-1980s, the park was illuminated by a combination of Luminaire Westinghouse

“Promenade” and Luminaire McGraw Edison “Style King” light posts. These fixtures were seventeen-feet five-inches tall. (TIC Map #80050 1985)

New lamp posts, reproductions of the historic Washington Standard (D.C. Standard 14N, meaning they stand fourteen-feet high) – were installed in Lincoln Park in 1992 in an effort to restore the park’s historic appearance and to reduce crime. However, as was stated above, no historic photos dating before the 1960s have been found documenting the use of the Washington Standard light in Lincoln Park, so the historical accuracy of these lights cannot be verified at this time. The modern Washington Globes are made of Lexan, a thermoplastic resin, rather than the traditional glass; they contain incandescent lights and are topped with flat metal finials. The twenty-eight fixtures in the park are located mostly along the central plaza, with additional lights along the various entrance walks. The light posts are included on the List of Classified Structures.

Lincoln Park also has four tall floodlights. Plain steel posts support horizontal bars carrying four lights each. These light posts are located near the four corners of the central green, along the edges of the sunken plaza. Two sets of lights are focused on the Bethune Memorial and two on the Emancipation Monument. While illuminating the memorials, these floodlights also may have been installed to reduce crime.

Benches

Throughout the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, a variety of park benches were used in Lincoln Park. New benches, or “settees,” were purchased almost yearly for all downtown parks; often several hundred were bought at one time. Presumably all benches bought in the same year were of the same style. Older benches were often repaired and returned to the parks.

At least three types of benches are visible in photos of Lincoln Park dating from before the 1930s rehabilitation. All had metal, probably cast-iron, frames and wood-slat backs and seats. The earliest type appears to have been a single, movable seat, consisting of a metal frame with arms that formed a continuous loop and crossed beneath the seat in an “x”. Another type was a double bench that had a slight bend to the two-slat back and notably heavy joints connecting the struts beneath the seat. A third kind had a continuous wood-slat back and seat shaped in a gentle S-curve. The first two types appear to have been placed along most of the walks, while the third was used along the Lincoln Mall by the 1930s.

During the National Park Service redesign of the 1930s, a new type of bench was installed, a type still commonly used throughout the National Capital Region today. Designed to seat two or three people, these benches have no arms. Cast-iron structures support wood-slat backs and seats that are slightly curved. Curved braces connect the legs from side to side and front to back, and terminate in small scrolls. As many as 152 benches of these benches formerly lined Lincoln Park’s walks.

In 1974, after the Robinson redesign, the National Park Service installed new benches (style #836). These armless seats had a simple steel frames that supported heavy wooden backs and seats. Between 2004 and 2005, they were replaced by new benches of a similar style and made from recycled wood. These have heavily scrolled iron frames painted black, slats that are slotted rather than bolted to the frame, armrests on either end and a central division formed by a third armrest. Twenty-three benches of this kind line the sides of the sunken plaza, while ten more line the Emancipation Monument plaza at the east end of the park.

Both north and south play areas are equipped with several benches of this kind, in addition to a number of green enameled iron tables and chairs that are immovable and have a simple, blocky design and thin back slats. These were installed in the south play area in 2000, and in the north play area in 2003.

There are no benches lining the other walks in the park, even the historic promenade leading from East Capitol Street to the Emancipation Monument.

Planters

Historically, Lincoln Park contained numerous planting beds for the display of flowers and shrubs. As part of Bicentennial improvements, the National Park Service selected and installed white, cylindrical fiberglass planters along the main plaza spaces (style #P01-5). Thirty-three of these planters stood between benches until 2003, when they began to be replaced with the more classical, urn-shaped planters found here today. Decorated with a basket-pattern bas-relief and formerly planted with seasonal floral displays, these features are now used to house junipers and some ornamental flowers.

Trash Receptacles

Eighteen trash receptacles are located within the park. The great majority of these are broad cylinders formed by slats of recycled wood. Painted brown, they contain steel cans with swing lids and are supported at the base by a single center post. Several of the trash receptacles in and around the two play areas are of a different type. Though they are also cylinders of roughly the same size as others in the park, these cans are contained by steel slats painted black and do not have lids.

Playground Equipment

The two circular play areas southeast and northeast of the Bethune Memorial were first built as part of the 1970s redesign. They were located on the sites of sandboxes installed during the NPS rehabilitation in 1934.

Cast-iron fencing surrounds the play areas on their west sides, while on the east, vertical wood

timbers form rustic retaining walls. New play equipment was installed in both areas in the late 1980s, and then again more recently: the south play area was given new equipment in 2000 and the north area in 2003. This rehabilitation included not only replacement of the equipment but also installation of new benches, fencing, and a rubberlike ground surface resembling concrete.

Retaining Wall

A two-foot-high retaining wall made of exposed-aggregate concrete surrounds the central sunken plaza. The plaza was sunk below grade so that the monumental group of three figures comprising the Bethune Memorial would not overpower the Emancipation Monument.

Other Features

Other features within the park include two metal electric service boxes, located on the south side of the sunken plaza; regulatory signs; and a two-sided wood bulletin board used for various postings, on the north side of the sunken plaza. A historic police and fire call box is located on the sidewalk along the west side of the park.

Character-defining Features:

Feature: Washington Standard, or Millet, lights

Feature Identification Number: 101512

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Feature: Concrete curbing ("coping")

Feature Identification Number: 101503

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Retaining wall

Feature Identification Number: 101510

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Feature: Floodlights

Feature Identification Number: 101507

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Feature: Benches

Feature Identification Number: 101502

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Feature: Planters

Feature Identification Number: 101508

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Feature: Trash receptacles

Feature Identification Number: 101511

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Feature: Drinking fountains (metal)

Feature Identification Number: 101505

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Feature: Playground Equipment

Feature Identification Number: 101509

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Feature: Electric service boxes

Feature Identification Number: 101506

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Feature: Drinking fountain (concrete)

Feature Identification Number: 101504

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



*Historic cast-concrete drinking fountain in northwest quadrant of the park, June 2003.
(CLP digital file, final LP CLI images/concrete drinking ftn)*



A typical bench in the sunken plaza at Lincoln Park. Note also the concrete retaining wall, the fiberglass planters, and the mechanical boxes. June 2003. (CLP digital file, final LP CLI images/plaza planters and bench)



South play area, with new equipment installed in 2000; June 2003. (CLP digital file, final LP CLI images/south play area)



Floodlights at Lincoln Park, June 2003. (CLP digital file, final LP CLI images/floodlights)



East entrance into park, on line with East Capitol Street. A variety of features are visible, including curbs, a trash receptacle, signs, and the recently installed Washington Standard light posts. (CLP digital photofile, final images/east entrance)

Vegetation

Since it was first developed, the major vegetative features of Lincoln Park have been lawns and deciduous trees. Other plantings have included evergreen trees, shrub massings, and floral displays. Over the years, trees and plantings have sometimes been replaced, often because of damage caused by hurricanes and other major storms. (Olszewski 1968: 37) Grass panels have been of varied geometric shapes, altering with changes to the circulation system. A large grass panel occupies the center of the 1970s sunken plaza.

Trees Before 1932

Little information is available concerning the arrangement of trees in Lincoln Park before 1932. Many trees and shrubs were planted between 1869 and 1871, and an additional 161 trees were planted in 1876. In 1886, George E. Brown, public gardener for the city's parks, compiled a list of all trees and shrubs then growing in the park, counting a total of 322 deciduous and evergreen trees of thirty-eight varieties. Two-hundred thirty-one were deciduous trees of twenty-eight varieties, among them sixty-one maples (seven varieties), forty-seven elms (two varieties), and thirty-eight oaks (seven varieties). The park's ninety-one evergreen trees included a preponderance of arbor vitae – twenty nine – along with nineteen junipers and eighteen hollies. Though the park had only twenty-four deciduous and evergreen shrubs, among them viburnum, weigela, and boxwood, these included eleven separate varieties. (Olszewski 17-18)

Two severe storms late in the nineteenth century damaged dozens of Lincoln Park's trees. A hurricane in 1869 damaged many "silver" poplars (probably *Populus alba*), silver maples, and ashes. A blizzard in 1888 injured thirty-eight trees – most of them evergreens – so severely they had to be removed and replaced.

In 1905, Lincoln Park still had a large variety of tree species. American elms (*Ulmus americana*) had been planted in lines along the perimeter, defining the park's edge. Other trees were loosely scattered or clustered across the open lawns, including such deciduous species as buckeye (*Aesculus glabra*), black ash (*Fraxinus nigra*), and sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*). Evergreens, including white pine (*Pinus strobus*), spruce (perhaps the popular Norway spruce, *Picea abies*), and hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*), were grouped together by species, with white pines near the lodge at the eastern end of the park, spruces also at the east, and hemlocks in the northwest central section. Southern magnolias (*Magnolia grandiflora*) had been planted at the west end.

A couple of maps depict tree locations in the early 1930s, including a "Spot Plan for Tree Surgery Work," showing the plan of 1931 (TIC 810/80023), and a topography plan dated September 1932 (80047). The "Spot Plan" shows lines of American elms running along the north, south, and east sides. The walk layout precluded a similar row along the west side, but a

pair of trees in the semicircular garden plot at this entrance framed the visual axis down the Lincoln mall. Otherwise, trees were scattered randomly across the grass panels. In some cases trees stood at walk intersections, but not consistently. For the most part, the tree layout had no overall symmetry in either number or pattern. The topography plan of 1932 shows smaller numbers of elms and other trees as well. The semicircular lawn seating areas had been eliminated from the Lincoln mall, replaced by an oval garden, arranged longitudinally east to west. The mall was now lined by somewhat irregular lines of Southern magnolias.

Trees After 1932 and Today

A planting plan developed for Lincoln Park is dated Spring 1943. Presumably, this plan was implemented essentially as shown in TIC 810/80029. The plan shows the 1932 plan somewhat regularized and filled out. Elms were spaced more regularly around the entire perimeter. New trees appear to have been planted in a symmetrical, rectilinear pattern throughout the park, following the main walks – including new walks (see Circulation) –and emphasizing the east-west axis. Additional Southern magnolias been added to the Lincoln mall garden. Of the other trees, many had been retained while others were added, but they were still arranged in asymmetrical clusters scattered across the grass panels.

A tree inventory of July 1958 (80032) shows that about six Japanese pagoda trees had been planted in the park, including a pair framing the east entrance. Some gaps had appeared in the perimeter line of elms. Most of the magnolias had been replaced by crabapples (variety “Hopa”) in 1959. A planting plan dated September 11, 1957 (NCP 32-33) shows crabapples rising from osmanthus hedges along the mall, as well as abelia shrubs. A pair of lindens just west of the Emancipation Monument framed the view of the statue from the east. A brick edging had been built along Burnap’s patterned “granolithic” concrete walk.

Drastic changes to the park’s planting were made as a result of Hilyard Robinson’s redesign of the 1970s, and the construction of the Bethune plaza and the central sunken court (Extended Preliminary Site Plan, 32-37, dated Jan. 16, 1968, 810/80037A; many other iterations of the Robinson plan exist in NPS files). An existing planting plan of July 1984 shows the results of the Robinson reconstruction. Zelkovas (*Zelkova serrata*) had been used to fill gaps in the lines of elms (zelkovas began to be substituted for elms in Washington during the 1970s because of fears concerning Dutch elm disease). A line of Japanese pagoda trees ran along the park’s east side, and other pagoda trees were scattered throughout. Star magnolias (*Magnolia stellata*) lined the north and south sides of the sunken plaza. Among the most dramatic changes was the elimination of the Lincoln mall garden, and its replacement by a plain, broad concrete walk. Crabapples of the Matthew variety were disposed in an irregular V-shape to either side of the mall, the two arms extending out from the Emancipation Monument towards the northwest and southwest corners. All of the Southern magnolias which had formerly lined the mall had, of course, been removed.

Overall, the park had a geometric framework composed of lines of trees along the major walks

and the central plaza complex. Within this framework, there were still loose groupings of trees scattered across the grass panels – a remnant of the original planting scheme.

Today, this framework still exists at Lincoln Park. The park is lined almost entirely with American elms and Japanese zelkovas. Since resistant cultivars of American elm have been introduced, the substitute planting of zelkovas in parks of the National Capital Region has been discontinued; however, so many zelkovas were planted in Lincoln Park between 1970 and the late 1990s that now, of the twenty-nine trees growing along the park's border, nineteen are zelkovas.

Oaks are among the most common species in the park, though fewer grow there today than between 1920 and 1950. Varieties include willow oaks (*Quercus phellos*), pin oaks (*Quercus palustris*), and a single sawtooth oak (*Quercus acutissima*). One Norway maple (*Acer platanoides*) and two red maples (*Acer rubrum*) grow in the park; between 1920 and 1950, the park had anywhere from thirteen to twenty-eight maples of various kinds. A large willow oak that once stood to the north of the central plaza died and was removed in 2000. The planting of a new tree of this kind in the same area is currently planned for the end of fiscal year 2009 (NACE Tree Planting List, 2009).

A single paulownia (*Paulownia tomentosa*), dating to at least 1932, is located just south of the Emancipation Monument, between the pair of parallel walks. These walks were retained during the 1970s redesign to preserve this particular tree, while the northern pair of walks was replaced by a single walkway since this change did not disturb any historic plantings. Two clusters of three Spanish chestnut trees (*Castanea sativa*), making a total of six, are located near the eastern edge of the park. These first appear on a 1932 planting plan, which shows a cluster of five on the north side of the eastern entrance (north of the park lodge) and three on the south side. Two of these eight trees were removed in July of 2003, and have since been replaced with two littleleaf linden trees (*Tilia cordata*). In a deviation from the usual procedure, the Spanish chestnuts were not replaced in kind due to complaints from the public about the large, spiny chestnuts shed by the trees in abundance during late summer and fall. Twelve additional littleleaf lindens are scattered throughout Lincoln Park, two of which may date to 1932 or earlier. The planting of two new trees of this species, in addition to six star magnolias, is planned for the end of fiscal year 2009 (NACE Tree Planting List, 2009).

Evergreen tree species include fourteen American hollies (*Ilex opaca*) and eight deodar cedars (*Cedrus deodora*). The planting of a single American holly is planned for the end of fiscal year 2009, in addition to 100 Japanese hollies (*Ilex crenata*) to be planted as a hedge surrounding the two play areas (NACE Tree Planting List, 2009). Since the 1920s the park has generally had at least three or four American hollies, which have historically been used to replace Canadian hemlocks due to that species' susceptibility to urban air pollution. One of these older hollies still remains. The deodar cedars first appear on a 1984 planting plan.

Twenty-five pink star magnolias (*Magnolia stellata rosea*), installed during the 1970s

reconstruction, line the north and south sides of the sunken central plaza. The planting of six additional trees of this species is planned for the end of fiscal year 2009 (NACE Tree Planting List, 2009). Eight Washington hawthorns (*Crataegus phaenopyrum*) were planted in 1971, in two lines of four north and south of the Emancipation Monument. One of the hawthorns to the north was removed in 2003. Eight Matthews crabapples (*Malus* “Matthews”) are located in the western section of the park, the remnants of a planting of twenty-three in the 1970s. They were grouped informally near the old diagonal walks that led into the park from the corners.

The following list of deciduous and evergreen trees within the park was compiled in 2003 and is based on field identification and the 1984 plan of existing vegetation:

Acer platanoides (Norway maple) – 1
Acer rubrum (red maple) – 2
Castanea sativa (Spanish chestnut) – 6
Cedrus deodora (deodar cedar) – 8
Crataegus phaenopyrum (Washington hawthorn) – 7
Fagus sylvatica (European beech) – 2
Ilex opaca (American holly) – 14
Magnolia stellata rosea (pink star magnolia) – 25
Malus “matthews” (Matthews crabapple) – 8
Quercus acutissima (sawtooth oak) – 1
Quercus palustris (pin oak) – 5
Quercus phellos (willow oak) – 13
Paulownia tomentosa (royal paulownia) – 1
Sophora japonica (Japanese pagodatree) – 15
Tilia cordata (littleleaf linden) – 12
Ulmus americana (American elm) – 10
Zelkova serrata (Japanese zelkova) – 19

Shrubs and Flowers before 1932

As early as 1884, Lincoln Park was planted with shrubs and beds of flowers. In 1888, six circular flower beds were planted on the lawns. The floral displays included spring bulbs, summer flowers, and fall chrysanthemums. (Olszewski 1968: 13-14)

In 1911, landscape architect George Burnap designed a formal garden to line the new promenade to the Emancipation Monument on the west side of Lincoln Park (TIC 810-80007). The existing circular flower beds were removed. The new garden was arranged around six seating areas, three on each side, intended to be graveled but apparently always planted with lawn. Each area had a bench, and centered in front, just off the walk, was a single ornamental tree, clipped into a rounded shape. The beds were densely planted with perennials – Burnap’s plan lists plants ranging from dianthus, aquilegia, and Japanese anemone to hollyhock and

delphinium – and were surrounded by hedges. (See 1915 photo, Washingtoniana Division, Martin Luther King Jr. Library, and 11425B, 10-31-1931, Washington Historical Society)

By 1932, the semicircular lawn areas had been eliminated and the Lincoln mall garden reshaped as an oval, oriented east-west, with the promenade passing longitudinally through its center. Plantings included 148 large shrubs, 221 hedge plants, 4,560 perennials, and 475 irises of seven varieties. (1911 Annual Report) The promenade garden continued to be planted, albeit in a simpler fashion, until it was removed in 1971.

Shrubs and Flowers Today

Only a few types of shrubs are found within the park today, including two species of barberry and one juniper. During the mid-1990s, William Penn barberry (*Berberis x gladwynensis* “William Penn”) was planted around the base of the Emancipation Monument, forming a dense and thorny barrier to prevent people from climbing on the pedestal. The planting of a total of 55 additional barberry bushes (*Berberis juliana*) is planned for the end of fiscal year 2009, to help thicken the barrier around the monument. A flagstone walk still leads through the shrubs to the statue on its east side, providing access to the inscription. Another variety of Wintergreen Barberry is located on the east sides of the two play areas. The planters lining the sunken plaza contain a single variety of juniper, installed in place of the seasonal flowers used formerly because of the junipers’ easier maintenance. A single floral bed for seasonal display is located near the eastern end of the park, between the two walks leading from East Capitol Street.

Character-defining Features:

Feature: Perimeter planting of American elms

Feature Identification Number: 101519

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Scattered oak and maple trees of various species

Feature Identification Number: 101623

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Paulownia south of the Emancipation Monument

Feature Identification Number: 101518

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Cluster of chestnut trees in the eastern portion of the park

Feature Identification Number: 101514

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Scattered littleleaf linden trees

Lincoln Park

National Capital Parks-East - Capitol Hill Parks

Feature Identification Number: 101622

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Scattered American holly trees

Feature Identification Number: 101620

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Star magnolias lining the central, sunken plaza

Feature Identification Number: 101624

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Feature: Washington hawthorn trees surrounding the Emancipation Monument

Feature Identification Number: 101625

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Feature: Matthew crabapples in the western portion of the park

Feature Identification Number: 101517

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Feature: Flower bed

Feature Identification Number: 101515

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Feature: Scattered deodar cedar trees (though conifers have historically been found in the park)

Feature Identification Number: 101621

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Feature: Barberry shrubs of various species (at the base of the Emancipation Monument and to the rear of the playgrounds)

Feature Identification Number: 101513

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Feature: Juniper shrubs in concrete planters

Feature Identification Number: 101516

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



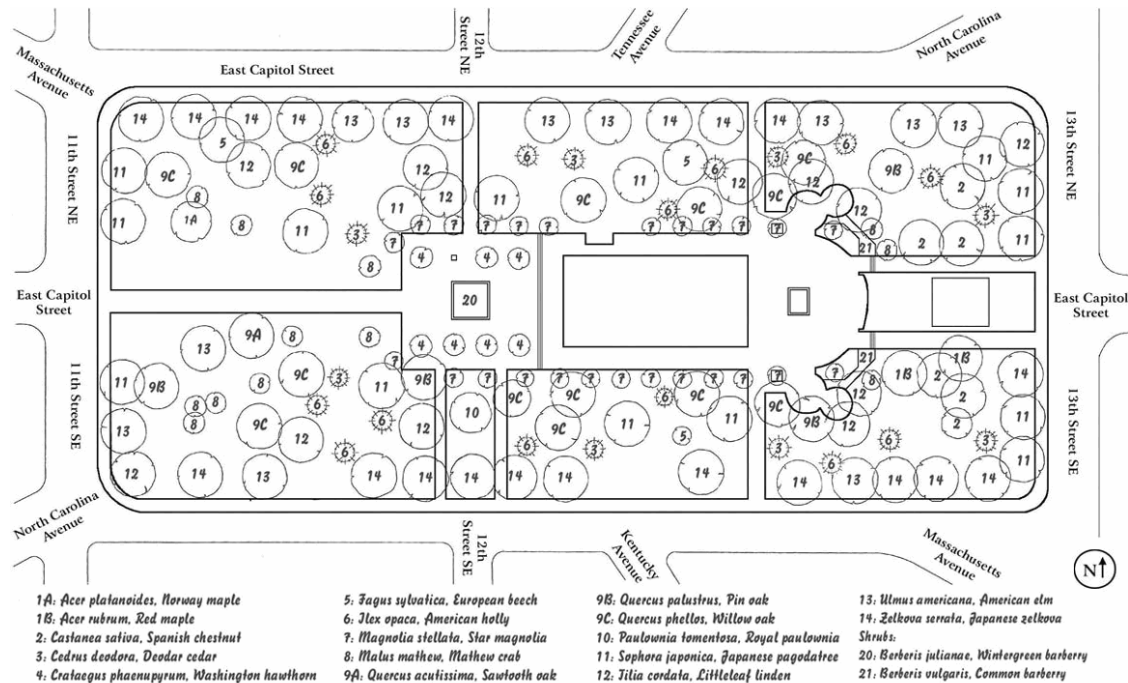
This view from the SW, corner of East Capitol St. and North Carolina Ave., shows a number of the historic deciduous trees remaining in the park. (CLP digital photofile, final LP CLI images/view of park from SW)



Flower bed in the eastern portion of the park, July 2003. (CLP digital file, final LP CLI images/east flower bed 2003)



Star magnolias lining the sunken plaza, July 2003. (CLP digital file, final LP CLI images/star magnolias 2003)



*Existing vegetation, comparison of 1984 existing planting and July 2003 field survey.
 (Prepared by Stephanie Ryberg; CLP digital file, final LP CLI images/existing veg 1884 and 2003)*

Views And Vistas

Since its first development, the main approach into Lincoln Park has been from the west, on axis with East Capitol Street. Placement of the Emancipation Monument at the west end of the park emphasized this view. It was further accentuated in 1911 by the new decoratively paved Lincoln Mall and the densely planted floral beds and hedges of the George Burnap landscape design. The 1934 redevelopment by the National Park Service highlighted additional views of the Emancipation Monument with the building of diagonal walks leading to the statue's plaza from the northwest and southwest corners of the park. Another major view was from the east, past the rear of the Emancipation Monument to the U.S. Capitol a mile away.

Several important historic external views, from the edge of the park down major avenues, retain integrity: west to the U.S. Capitol down East Capitol Street, east down East Capitol Street, northwest to Stanton Park along Massachusetts Avenue, and southwest down North Carolina Avenue. Internal views along these diagonal axes were apparent when walks were present, between 1934 and the 1970s. Views from Tennessee Avenue and Kentucky Avenue to the park are also significant. Important reciprocal views remain between the park and the surrounding rowhouses and sidewalks.

The 1970s rehabilitation altered some of the historic views, but preserved (though in altered

form) two significant views into the park. The view from the west following the route of the historic promenade still exists, even though the ornamental landscaping and paving has been removed and the Emancipation Monument has been turned to face east. The view from the east towards the Capitol also remains. Formerly, this view had included the park lodge, the sparsely planted central lawn, and the rear of the Emancipation Monument. Today, the view is still free of dense plantings, and includes the rear of the Bethune Memorial and the front of the Emancipation Monument.

The 1970s redesign created two new significant views into the park. Because the Emancipation Monument was shifted to the east, the park entrances from north and south in line with 12th Street now provide views of the sides of the monument and the central plaza. The redesign eliminated the diagonal walks and those views.

Within the park, the most important view is that between the Emancipation Monument and the Bethune Memorial, created in 1974 when the Bethune Memorial was installed and the Emancipation Monument was rotated 180 degrees to face it. Because the immediate neighborhood has not greatly changed since the late nineteenth century, the reciprocal views between the park and its surroundings streets are still largely intact and retain integrity.

Character-defining Features:

Feature: Reciprocal east-west view between park boundary along axis of East Capitol Street

Feature Identification Number: 101630

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Exterior view northwest from corner of Lincoln Park along Massachusetts Avenue towards Stanton Park, and reciprocal view

Feature Identification Number: 101628

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: View southwest from corner of park down North Carolina Avenue, and reciprocal view

Feature Identification Number: 101638

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: View southeast from corner of park down Massachusetts Avenue, and reciprocal view

Feature Identification Number: 101637

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: View northeast from corner of park up North Carolina Avenue, and reciprocal

view

Feature Identification Number: 101634

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Reciprocal views between Lincoln Park and the immediately surrounding streets and structures

Feature Identification Number: 101631

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: View east (from west entrance) along the alignment of the historic Lincoln Mall toward the Emancipation Monument

Feature Identification Number: 101632

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: View west (from east entrance) past the back of the Bethune Memorial and across the central lawn

Feature Identification Number: 101640

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: View north towards the Emancipation Monument, along 12th Street axis, from the south entrance to the park

Feature Identification Number: 101633

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Interior east-west view between the Emancipation Monument and the Mary McLeod Bethune Memorial

Feature Identification Number: 101629

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Feature: View south towards the Emancipation Monument, along 12th Street axis from the north entrance to the park

Feature Identification Number: 101636

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Feature: Diagonal view from southwest corner to Emancipation Monument along the alignment of former walk

Feature Identification Number: 101627

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Feature: Diagonal view from northwest corner to Emancipation Monument along the alignment of the former walk

Feature Identification Number: 101626

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Feature: View northwest from Kentucky Avenue to park

Feature Identification Number: 101635

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: View southwest from Tennessee Avenue to park

Feature Identification Number: 101639

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:

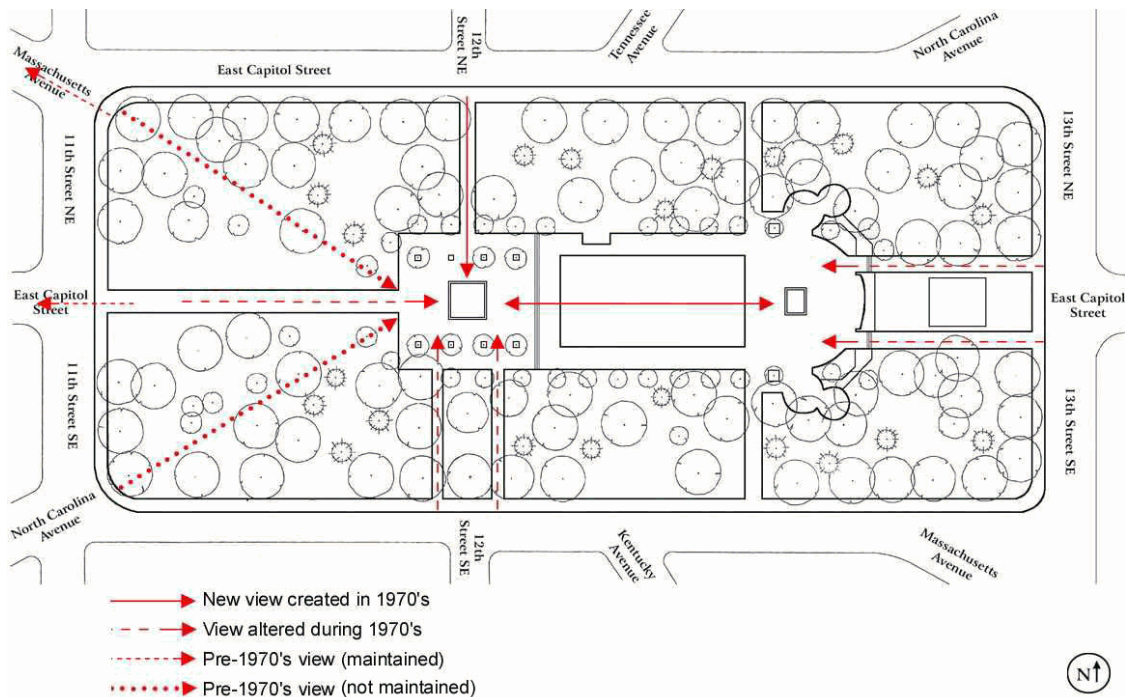


Diagram of significant views into and from Lincoln Park. (Prepared by Stephanie Ryberg, CLP digital file, final LP CLI images/views diagram)



View from the east into Lincoln Park, June 2003. (CLP digital file, final LP CLI images/view from east 2003)



In summer, trees obscure the view of the U.S. Capitol, one mile distant down East Capitol St., but the arching branches create a dramatic tunnel of green. (CLP digital photofile, final LP CLI images/East Capitol St., looking due west)

Cultural Traditions

From the dedication of the Emancipation Monument in 1876, Lincoln Park has been associated with the commemoration of the achievements and progress of African Americans. The memorial was entirely paid for with funds raised by freed slaves. After the dedication, the park became a tourist destination for people wishing to pay homage to President Lincoln. Annual services are still held in Lincoln Park to celebrate the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation. Because of the park's significance as a symbol of freedom, during the 1960s many Civil Rights rallies were held there. (HABS 1992: 4)

Also in the 1960s, the National Council of Negro Women (NCNW) received authorization to erect a memorial to its founder, Mary McLeod Bethune. Lincoln Park was chosen as the site since it was felt that the Emancipation Monument and Bethune Memorial both represented themes of struggle and accomplishment. The Bethune Memorial was to have been dedicated in 1963 on the 100th anniversary of the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation. However, dedication was delayed until 1974 because of the National Council of Negro Women's commitment of funds and attention to Civil Rights activities (Morris 1999: 14; and perhaps because of their desire to have a meeting room included within the monument's base).

The Bethune Memorial was the first monument honoring an African American to be erected on public land in Washington, D.C. Since its dedication, members of the NCNW have gathered yearly at the park for ceremonies commemorating Bethune's birthday on July 10. Sponsored by the National Park Service and coordinated by the NCNW, the ceremony includes speakers, entertainment, and other events. An annual Black History tour of Washington, D.C., held every February during Black History Month, includes Lincoln Park on its itinerary, and tells the stories represented by its two monuments.

The surrounding Capitol Hill neighborhood was long a mecca for immigrant populations and professionals. From its initial development in the 1800s through today, the park has stood as a symbol of the integration of the neighborhood. In the early 1990s, festivals were held in Lincoln Park to celebrate the unity and diversity of the Capitol Hill neighborhood.

The park has also long served as a community gathering space. Religious gatherings and band concerts have been held here since its establishment. During World War II, twenty-three churches of various denominations held services in the park. This custom continued throughout the 1940s and '50s, with religious services and children's bible classes being conducted in Lincoln Park. (Olszewski 1968: 42-43)

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Mary McLeod Bethune memorial celebration, July 2003. (CLP digital file final LP CLI images/Bethune celebration 2003)

Condition

Condition Assessment and Impacts

Condition Assessment: Fair

Assessment Date: 09/26/2003

Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:

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

Condition Assessment: Good

Assessment Date: 09/04/2009

Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:

Site visits and meetings with park staff in 2009 informed a condition reassessment for this Cultural Landscape Inventory. Accordingly, updates were made to certain details of the Management Information, Chronology and Physical History, Analysis and Evaluation, Condition, and Treatment chapters of this document.

The improper drainage impact listed in 2003 as existing along the walk between East Capitol Street and the Emancipation Monument is no longer an issue thanks to a more recent repaving of this area. Plans currently exist to repave the remainder of the plaza in 2010.

Similarly, the planting practices listed as an impact in 2003 are not currently an issue since the barberry shrubs surrounding the Emancipation Monument are pruned regularly and no longer obscure the inscription on the west side of its base. These plantings continue to create a thorny barrier between the park visitor and the monument that helps discourage attention from dogs and vandals.

Impacts

Type of Impact: Improper Drainage

External or Internal: Internal

Impact Description: The National Park Service plans to repave the central and western portions of the plaza in 2010, an effort which aims to resolve any issues of improper drainage and uneven walks (2009).

Improper drainage along the park walkways has caused some portions of the walks to crack and settle unevenly. Water collects and the paving is damaged in the location where the monument formerly stood. In addition, some areas along the

central, sunken plaza also hold standing water and have cracked pavement (2003).

Type of Impact:

Visitation

External or Internal:

Internal

Impact Description:

Ongoing park maintenance currently helps to minimize the impact of heavy visitation. Lincoln Park remains a popular spot for recreation, social functions and dog walking (2009).

Heavy visitation and inappropriate behavior has led to deterioration of landscape elements. Some of the greatest impacts come from the use of the central lawn for active recreation and the high level of use by dogs and associated activities (2003).

Type of Impact:

Microclimate

External or Internal:

Internal

Impact Description:

Grass has difficulty growing where the tree canopy is dense (2009; 2003).

Type of Impact:

Removal/Replacement

External or Internal:

Internal

Impact Description:

The eastern entrance to the park still remains less prominent than it did historically. However, since 2003 several trees have been planted along this path in a spaced out arrangement that now helps to distinguish it from the other walks (2009).

Over time, the walkway connecting East Capitol Street to the Emancipation Monument has suffered from continual removal (with no replacement) of its distinctive features. This path was the most prominent park entrance and had been uniquely landscaped since 1911. There are no plantings lining the pathway and it retains no prominence over the other entryways (2003).

Type of Impact:

Removal/Replacement

External or Internal:

Internal

Impact Description:

The park remains altered from its historic condition due to the gradual removal of historic features without replacement, or the replacement of these features with non-historic ones (2009).

The loss of historic features in their original locations has caused the degradation of the park's atmosphere. Historically, the park included benches lining most of the walks – the entrance walks from the east and west, and the southern entrance in line with 12 Street. Today, seating is only provided within the central plaza, and few of the benches offer shaded seating (2003).

The removal of various small-scale features and their replacement with non-historically accurate elements has led to continued degradation of features in the park. This includes the installation of Washington Light Standard replica lights in the 1990s (there is no documentation of them in the park until the 1960s) and the new benches within the play areas (2003).

Type of Impact:

Removal/Replacement

External or Internal:

Internal

Impact Description:

In recent years an effort has been made to replace historically significant trees in kind, as their age and deteriorating condition calls for their removal. For example, the planting of a new willow oak is currently planned for the area north of the sunken plaza, to replace the large tree of this kind that died there in 2000 (2009).

The removal of historically significant trees has resulted in the continued degradation of the park. A large willow oak died and was removed in 2000 from the north side of the sunken plaza. When the park was redesigned in the 1970s, the retaining wall along the northern edge of the plaza was built out into the plaza specifically to preserve this tree. A tree in this location would have provided shade to the central plaza. The tree has not been replaced. Two large Spanish chestnut trees were removed in 2003 from the northeast quadrant of the park (just north of the eastern entrance and east of the north play area). These trees were part of a grouping of eight Spanish chestnut trees that had grown in the park since the 1930s. The trees have not been replaced (2003).

Type of Impact:

Soil Compaction

External or Internal:

Internal

Impact Description:

The heavy use of this park, particularly in the central panel of the plaza, has led to severe soil compaction and the loss of herbaceous vegetation in some areas. The dirt path worn around

the entire perimeter of the park, as well as the various social paths within it, are further evidence of this impact (2009).

Stabilization Costs

Landscape Stabilization Cost: 220,591.02

Cost Date: 07/16/2002

Level of Estimate: C - Similar Facilities

Cost Estimator: Regional Office

Landscape Stabilization Cost Explanatory Description:

The LCS Structure Stabilization Cost was calculated from the LCS reports for the Emancipation Monument, the Bethune Memorial and the Washington Standard light fixtures. Both the Emancipation Monument and the Bethune Memorial have an annual cost of \$1000 for washing and wax touch-up, as needed. In addition, the Washington Standard lights have an estimated annual treatment cost of \$150. There are twenty-eight of these lamps in the park, resulting in a total cost of \$4,200 annually for maintenance.

The Landscape Stabilization Cost is an estimate of the cost to correct problems within the park due to deferred maintenance. This estimate includes tree pruning, replacement of the non-handicap accessible drinking fountain in the northwest quadrant, replacement of damaged portions of the sidewalks, replacement of seventeen trash receptacles and six benches, and the north playground. The figure was provided by Jim Warfield of the maintenance department for the National Capital Parks-East. The figure may need adjustment as the park does not wish to replace only the damaged portions of the sidewalk. To ensure that the sidewalks are all of the same material and style, the park will probably replace all of the sidewalks, and thus increase this estimate.

Treatment

Treatment

Approved Treatment: Undetermined

Approved Treatment Document Explanatory Narrative:

The park currently has three rehabilitation, stabilization or preservation projects in PMIS that could work to improve the condition of the cultural landscape at Lincoln Park. Important to note is that although these projects address aspects of the landscape and are currently under various stages of review and completion, PMIS files do not constitute approved landscape treatment documents.

PMIS 76305 – Turf Restoration in Lincoln, Stanton and Marion Parks - \$95,928.40. This project involves the restoration of 75,000 square feet of turf in Lincoln Park, using organic soil conditioner and sod. It has been region-approved and is slated for completion in 2013.

PMIS 76338 – Clean and Point Statues at Lincoln and Stanton Park - \$28,121.60. This project includes the cleaning and pointing of the statues in Lincoln Park, in order to provide preventative maintenance. It has been region-reviewed and is slated for completion in fiscal year 2012.

PMIS 144291 – Replace Concrete Walks on the East Side of Lincoln Park - \$872,382.37. This project involves the removal and in-kind replacement of 33,715 square feet of exposed aggregate walks and curbing on the east half of Lincoln Park, to provide a smoother, safer walking surface for park visitors. It has been region-reviewed and is slated for completion by fiscal year 2010.

Approved Treatment Completed: No

Approved Treatment Costs

Cost Estimator: Park/FMSS

Bibliography and Supplemental Information

Bibliography

Citation Title: Abraham Lincoln, A Sad Anniversary. Statue of the Martyred President

Year of Publication: 1876

Citation Publisher: Washington Evening Star

Source Name: Other

Citation Type: Narrative

Citation Location: National Capital Parks-East files

Citation Author: Boyle, Patrick

Citation Title: Lincoln Park Life Blossoms Amid Yet Another Revolution

Year of Publication: 1988

Citation Publisher: Washington Times

Source Name: Other

Citation Type: Narrative

Citation Location: Lincoln Park vertical file, Washington, D.C. Public Library, Washingtoniana Division

Citation Author: Goode, James M.

Citation Title: The Outdoor Sculpture of Washington, D.C.: A Comprehensive Historical Guide

Year of Publication: 1974

Citation Publisher: Smithsonian Institution Press

Source Name: Other

Citation Author: Heine, Cornelius W.

Citation Title: A History of National Capital Parks

Year of Publication: 1953

Citation Publisher: National Park Service

Source Name: Other

Citation Type: Narrative

Citation Location: NCRO Library

Citation Title: Hilyard Robinson Papers, Box 44
Source Name: Other
Citation Type: Narrative
Citation Location: Moorland-Springarn Research Center, Howard University

Citation Author: Morris, Stephen A.
Citation Title: Lincoln Park: Evolution of a Landscape
Year of Publication: 1999
Citation Publisher: National Park Service
Source Name: Other
Citation Number: Vol. XXII No. 9
Citation Type: Both Graphic And Narrative
Citation Location: CRM Volume XXII Number 9

Citation Author: Nickels, Marilyn W.
Citation Title: Emancipation Statue, Lincoln Park
Year of Publication: 1990
Citation Publisher: National Park Service
Source Name: Other
Citation Number: Vol. XIII No. 1
Citation Type: Narrative
Citation Location: CRM Volume XIII Number 1

Citation Author: O'Connor, Candace
Citation Title: The Story Behind a Statue
Year of Publication: 1989
Citation Publisher: Washington Post
Source Name: Other
Citation Type: Narrative
Citation Location: National Capital Parks-East files

Citation Author:	Parks, Marilyn and Stevens, David B.
Citation Title:	Visitor Use Patterns, A Project Use Study in Lincoln Park
Year of Publication:	1981
Source Name:	CRBIB
Citation Number:	450389
Citation Type:	Both Graphic And Narrative
Citation Location:	NCRO Library
Citation Author:	Quinn, Kelly
Citation Title:	A Consideration of Hilyard Robinson's Modern Washington (DRAFT)
Year of Publication:	2003
Citation Publisher:	unpublished paper
Source Name:	Other
Citation Type:	Narrative
Citation Location:	Department of American Studies, University of Maryland, College Park
Citation Author:	Reasons, George and Patrick, Sam
Citation Title:	D.C. Statue Honors Slave-Hero
Year of Publication:	1972
Citation Publisher:	Washington Star
Source Name:	Other
Citation Type:	Narrative
Citation Location:	National Capital Parks-East files
Citation Title:	Washington Light Standards
Year of Publication:	2002
Source Name:	Other
Citation Type:	Both Graphic And Narrative
Citation Location:	List of Classified Structures

Citation Author: John H. Small, Jr.
Citation Title: "Some Small Parks in Washington, D.C.: Evolution in Path Systems"
Year of Publication: 1910
Citation Publisher: Landscape Architecture
Source Name: Other
Citation Number: vol. 9, Oct. 1910
Citation Type: Both Graphic And Narrative
Citation Location: CLP files

Citation Author: Elizabeth Barthold
Citation Title: HABS documentation for Lincoln Park
Year of Publication: 1993
Citation Publisher: National Park Service
Source Name: HABS
Citation Number: DC-677
Citation Type: Both Graphic And Narrative
Citation Location: Library of Congress

Citation Title: Lincoln Park: Emancipation Monument
Year of Publication: 2002
Source Name: Other
Citation Number: 121-01
Citation Type: Both Graphic And Narrative
Citation Location: List of Classified Structures

Citation Title: Lincoln Park: Mary McLeod Bethune Memorial
Year of Publication: 2002
Source Name: Other
Citation Number: 121-02
Citation Type: Both Graphic And Narrative
Citation Location: List of Classified Structures

Citation Author: Gary Scott
Citation Title: Civil War Generals and Monuments in Washington, D.C.
Year of Publication: 1977
Source Name: Other
Citation Type: Both Graphic And Narrative
Citation Location: National Register of Historic Places; copy in CLP files

Citation Author: Eve Barsoum
Citation Title: Memorials in Washington, D.C., draft National Register nomination
Year of Publication: 2004
Source Name: Other
Citation Type: Both Graphic And Narrative
Citation Location: copy in CLP office files

Citation Author: Sara Amy Leach and Elizabeth Barthold
Citation Title: L'Enfant Plan of the City of Washington, District of Columbia
Year of Publication: 1997
Source Name: Other
Citation Type: Both Graphic And Narrative
Citation Location: National Register of Historic Places; copy in CLP office files

Citation Author: Walt Whitman

Citation Title: Specimen Days, from Complete Poetry and Collected Prose, ed. Justin Kaplan

Year of Publication: 1982

Citation Publisher: Library of America

Source Name: Library Of Congress/Dewey Decimal

Citation Type: Narrative

Citation Location: complete text of Specimen Days is reproduced on etext.lib.virginia.edu, website visited on March 11, 2004

Citation Title: Annual Reports of the Commissioner of Public Buildings and of Chief Engineer, Office of Public Buildings and Grounds and Office of Public Buildings and Public Parks.

Year of Publication: 1818

Citation Publisher: U.S. government

Source Name: Library Of Congress/Dewey Decimal

Citation Type: Both Graphic And Narrative

Citation Location: These annual reports were put out by the successive chief administrators of the federal parks and reservations from 1818 to 1931. Original copies are in the office of the Regional Historian, National Capital Region, and in the Dept. of Interior library.

Supplemental Information

Title: Emancipation Monument inscriptions

Description: (front)

Freedom's Memorial

In grateful memory of Abraham Lincoln this monument was erected by the Western Sanitary Commission of Saint Louis Mo: With Funds Contributed Solely by emancipated citizens of the United States declared free by his proclamation January 1st A.D. 1863 The first contribution of five dollars was made by Charlotte Scott a freed woman of Virginia being her first earnings in freedom and consecrated by her suggestion and request on the day she heard of President Lincoln's death to build a monument to his memory

(rear)

And upon this act sincerely believed to be an act of justice warranted by the Constitution upon military necessity I invoke the considered judgement of mankind and the gracious favor of almighty God A. Lincoln, Emancipation Proclamation Jany. 1. 1863. Western Sanitary Commission James E. Yeatman President C.S. Greeley Treas. Geo. Partridge Dr. J.B. Johnson Wm. C. Eliot

Title: Mary McLeod Bethune Memorial inscriptions

Description: I leave you love. I leave you hope. I leave you the challenge of developing confidence in one another. I leave you a thirst for education. I leave you a respect for the use of power. I leave you faith. I leave you racial dignity. I leave you a desire to live harmoniously with your fellow men. I leave you, finally, a responsibility to our young people.