
National Park Service
Cultural Landscapes Inventory
2012



Washington Circle
National Mall & Memorial Parks - L'Enfant Plan
Reservations

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Inventory Summary

The Cultural Landscapes Inventory Overview:

CLI General Information:

Purpose and Goals of the CLI

The Cultural Landscapes Inventory (CLI) is an evaluated inventory of all significant landscapes in units of the national park system in which the National Park Service has, or plans to acquire any enforceable legal interest. Landscapes documented through the CLI are those that individually meet criteria set forth in the National Register of Historic Places such as historic sites, historic designed landscapes, and historic vernacular landscapes or those that are contributing elements of properties that meet the criteria. In addition, landscapes that are managed as cultural resources because of law, policy, or decisions reached through the park planning process even though they do not meet the National Register criteria, are also included in the CLI.

The CLI serves three major purposes. First, it provides the means to describe cultural landscapes on an individual or collective basis at the park, regional, or service-wide level. Secondly, it provides a platform to share information about cultural landscapes across programmatic areas and concerns and to integrate related data about these resources into park management. Thirdly, it provides an analytical tool to judge accomplishment and accountability.

The legislative, regulatory, and policy direction for conducting the CLI include:

National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (16 USC 470h-2(a)(1)). Each Federal agency shall establish...a preservation program for the identification, evaluation, and nomination to the National Register of Historic Places...of historic properties...

Executive Order 13287: Preserve America, 2003. Sec. 3(a)...Each agency with real property management responsibilities shall prepare an assessment of the current status of its inventory of historic properties required by section 110(a)(2) of the NHPA...No later than September 30, 2004, each covered agency shall complete a report of the assessment and make it available to the Chairman of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and the Secretary of the Interior... (c) Each agency with real property management responsibilities shall, by September 30, 2005, and every third year thereafter, prepare a report on its progress in identifying... historic properties in its ownership and make the report available to the Council and the Secretary...

The Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Federal Agency Historic Preservation Programs Pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act, 1998. Standard 2: An agency provides for the timely identification and evaluation of historic properties under agency jurisdiction or control and/or subject to effect by agency actions (Sec. 110 (a)(2)(A))

Management Policies 2006. 5.1.3.1 Inventories: The Park Service will (1) maintain and expand the following inventories...about cultural resources in units of the national park system...Cultural Landscape Inventory of historic designed landscapes, historic vernacular landscapes,... and historic sites...

Cultural Resource Management Guideline, 1997, Release No. 5, page 22 issued pursuant to Director's Order #28. As cultural resources are identified and evaluated, they should also be listed in the appropriate Service-wide inventories of cultural resources.

Responding to the Call to Action:

The year 2016 marks the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service. A five-year action plan entitled, “*A Call to Action: Preparing for a Second Century of Stewardship and Engagement*” charts a path toward that second century vision by asking Service employees and partners to commit to concrete actions that advance the agency’s mission. The heart of the plan includes four broad themes supported by specific goals and measurable actions. These themes are: Connecting People to Parks, Advancing the NPS Education Mission, Preserving America’s Special Places, and Enhancing Professional and Organizational Excellence. The Cultural Landscape Inventory relates to three of these themes:

Connect People to Parks. Help communities protect what is special to them, highlight their history, and retain or rebuild their economic and environmental sustainability.

Advance the Education Mission. Strengthen the National Park Service’s role as an educational force based on core American values, historical and scientific scholarship, and unbiased translation of the complexities of the American experience.

Preserve America’s Special Places. Be a leader in extending the benefits of conservation across physical, social, political, and international boundaries in partnership with others.

The national CLI effort directly relates to #3, Preserve America’s Special Places, and specifically to Action #28, “Park Pulse.” Each CLI documents the existing condition of park resources and identifies impacts, threats, and measures to improve condition. This information can be used to improve park priority setting and communicate complex park condition information to the public.

Responding to the Cultural Resources Challenge:

The Cultural Resources Challenge (CRC) is a NPS strategic plan that identifies our most critical priorities. The primary objective is to “*Achieve a standard of excellence for the stewardship of the resources that form the historical and cultural foundations of the nation, commit at all levels to a common set of goals, and articulate a common vision for the next century.*” The CLI contributes to the fulfillment of all five goals of the CRC:

- 1) *Provide leadership support, and advocacy for the stewardship, protection, interpretation, and management of the nation’s heritage through scholarly research, science and effective management;*
- 2) *Recommit to the spirit and letter of the landmark legislation underpinning the NPS*

- 3) Connect all Americans to their heritage resources in a manner that resonates with their lives, legacies, and dreams, and tells the stories that make up America's diverse national identity;*
- 4) Integrate the values of heritage stewardship into major initiatives and issues such as renewable energy, climate change, community assistance and revitalization, and sustainability, while cultivating excellence in science and technical preservation as a foundation for resource protection, management, and rehabilitation; and*
- 5) Attract, support, and retain a highly skilled and diverse workforce, and support the development of leadership and expertise within the National Park Service.*

Scope of the CLI

CLI data is gathered from existing secondary sources found in park libraries, archives and at NPS regional offices and centers, as well as through on-site reconnaissance. The baseline information describes the historical development and significance of the landscape, placing it in the context of the landscape'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 and generates spatial data for Geographic Information Systems (GIS). The CLI also identifies stabilization needs to prevent further deterioration of the landscape and provides data for the Facility Management Software System

Inventory Unit Description:

Washington Circle (Reservation 26) is a 2.19 acre landscape located at the intersection of New Hampshire and Pennsylvania avenues and K and 23rd streets in northwest Washington, DC. The circle is located approximately one mile from the White House. Washington Circle is listed as a contributing feature in the L'Enfant Plan of the City of Washington, D.C. National Register nomination (1997). The Clark Mills' statue of George Washington is included in the American Revolutionary Statuary and Memorials in Washington, D.C. National Register nomination (1978). These nominations do not document all of Washington Circle's landscape features.

This CLI proposes two periods of significance: 1791 to 1792 and 1853 to 1933 and finds Washington Circle is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria B and C. The circle is significant in the areas of landscape architecture, community planning, and art.

The circle is significant for its inclusion in Pierre Charles L'Enfant's 1791 plan for the nation's capital and Andrew Ellicott's 1792 map of the city. The circle is also significant as part of the history of community planning and development of Washington, D.C., beginning with the L'Enfant plan through the implementations of the 1930s landscape design. Washington Circle was the first of L'Enfant's open spaces to be developed when it was improved in the 1850s. The site is significant for, and representative of, the landscape designs of the Commissioner of Public Buildings, the Office of Public Buildings and Grounds, and the Office of Public Buildings and Public Parks; the three agencies responsible for the development and maintenance of the city's public spaces in the 19th century through 1933. These offices created and implemented Washington Circle's three historic designs

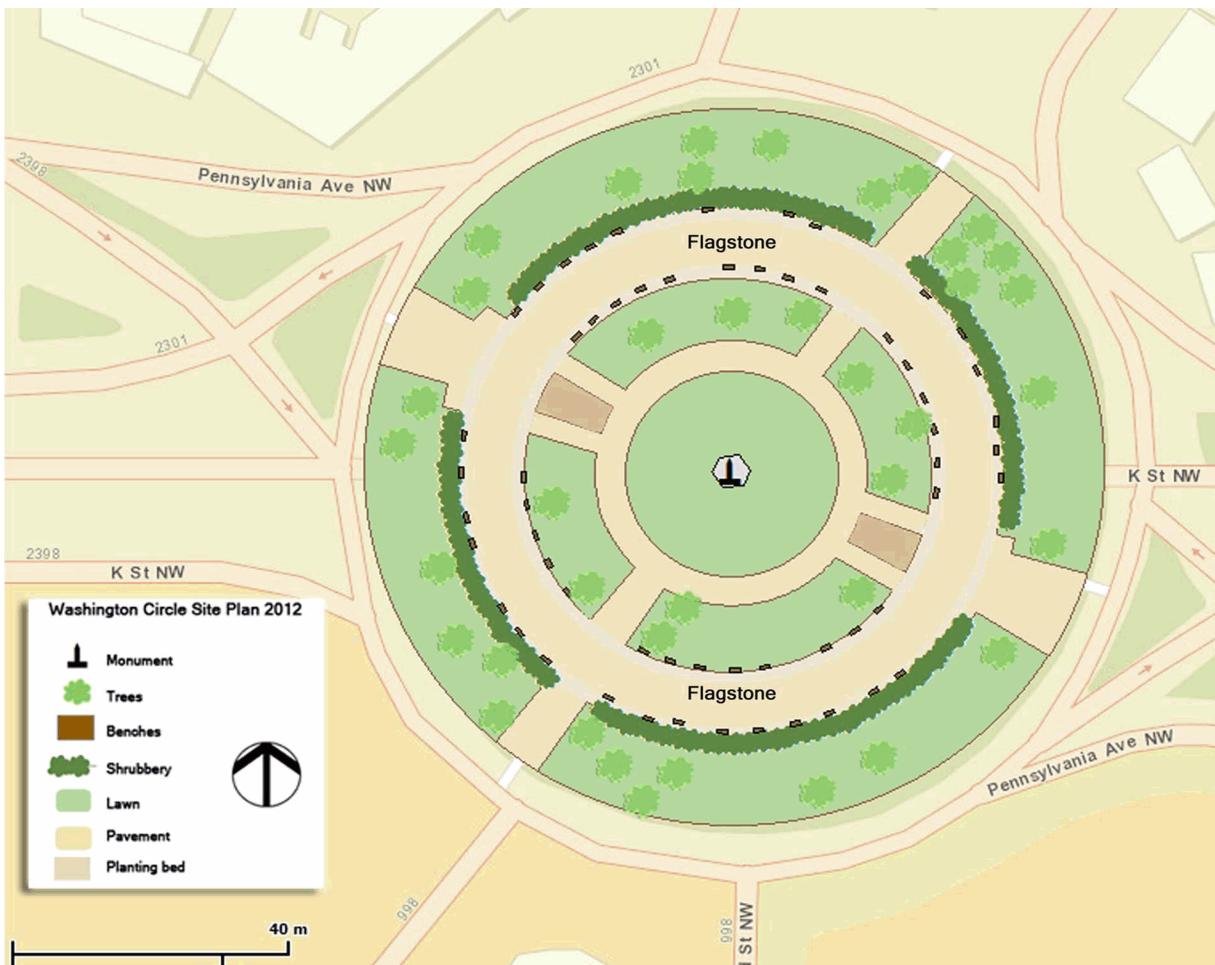
Washington Circle

National Mall & Memorial Parks - L'Enfant Plan Reservations

(1853-1860, 1884-1886, and 1931-1933). Washington Circle is also significant for Clark Mills' (1815-1883) equestrian statue of George Washington, dedicated in 1860. Mills' statue exemplifies the mid-1900s naturalism style for its realistic portrayal of General Washington during the Battle of Princeton.

This CLI finds the Washington Circle cultural landscape retains integrity to the 1853-1933 period of significance. Following the construction of the K Street underpass in the 1960s, much of the historic landscape was lost, but several of the aspects of integrity, including location, setting, workmanship, materials, feeling, and association are still present at the circle. Washington Circle has diminished integrity of design because of the modifications to the historic landscape, but its core elements, which include the statue and the axial and circular walks, remain.

Site Plan



Washington Circle existing conditions 2012 (CLP).

Property Level and CLI Numbers

Inventory Unit Name:	Washington Circle
Property Level:	Component Landscape
CLI Identification Number:	600236
Parent Landscape:	600215

Park Information

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

Concurrence Status

Inventory Status: Complete

Completion Status Explanatory Narrative:

This cultural landscape inventory was researched and written by Frances McMillen, Landscape Historian, Cultural Landscapes Program, National Capital Region. Initial research and the chronology were completed by Jonathan Pliska, Landscape Historian, Cultural Landscapes Program, National Capital Region. Primary and secondary source material from within the National Park Service and local repositories was utilized to complete the inventory. Research and editorial assistance was provided by Maureen Joseph, Regional Historical Landscape Architect; Martha Temkin, Regional Cultural Landscapes Inventory Coordinator; Jennifer Talken-Spaulding, Regional Cultural Anthropologist; and Alice McLarty, Landscape Architect, National Mall and Memorial Parks.

Concurrence Status:

Park Superintendent Concurrence:	Yes
Park Superintendent Date of Concurrence:	08/29/2012
National Register Concurrence:	Eligible -- SHPO Consensus Determination
Date of Concurrence Determination:	09/20/2012

National Register Concurrence Narrative:

The State Historic Preservation Officer for the District of Columbia concurred with the findings of the Washington Circle CLI on 9/20/2012, 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:

Washington Circle

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United States Department of the Interior

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

August 20, 2012
Memorandum:

To: Regional Landscape Architect, National Capital Region
From: Superintendent, National Mall and Memorial Parks
Subject: Statement of Concurrence, Washington Circle Cultural Landscape Inventory

I, Robert Vogel, Superintendent of National Mall and Memorial Parks, concur with the findings of the Cultural Landscape Inventory for Washington Circle including the following specific components:

MANAGEMENT CATEGORY: Must be Preserved and Maintained
CONDITION ASSESSMENT: 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 Landscapes Inventory for Washington Circle is hereby approved and accepted.


Superintendent, National Mall and Memorial Parks

August 29, 2012
Date

Signed concurrence memo, National Mall and Memorial Parks (August 2012).



United States Department of the Interior

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

August 21, 2012

Memorandum

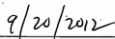
To: Cultural Landscapes Inventory Coordinator, National Capital
Region

From: State Historic Preservation Officer, District of Columbia Historic
Preservation Office

Subject: Statement of Concurrence, Washington Circle Cultural Landscapes
Inventory

I, David Maloney, District of Columbia State Historic Preservation Officer, concur with the findings of the Washington Circle CLI as per Section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, submitted on August 21, 2012.


David Maloney
District of Columbia
State Historic Preservation Officer


Date 9/20/2012

Concurrence memo for FY2012 signed by the District of Columbia SHPO on 9/20/2012.

Geographic Information & Location Map

Inventory Unit Boundary Description:

Washington Circle (U.S. Reservation 26) is located in northwest Washington, DC approximately 1 mile from The White House. Four streets, Pennsylvania and New Hampshire avenues and K and 23rd streets, radiate from the circle.

State and County:

State: DC

County: District of Columbia

Size (Acres): 2.19

Boundary Coordinates:

Source: USGS Map 1:24,000

Type of Point: Point

Latitude: -77.0501464848

Longitude: 38.9030057130

Source: USGS Map 1:24,000

Type of Point: Point

Latitude: -77.0501093095

Longitude: 38.9021143480

Source: USGS Map 1:24,000

Type of Point: Point

Latitude: -77.0495905484

Longitude: 38.9025199120

Source: USGS Map 1:24,000

Type of Point: Point

Latitude: -77.0495905484

Longitude: 38.9025199120

Location Map:



Location map: Washington Circle

Management Information

General Management Information

Management Category: Must be Preserved and Maintained

Management Category Date: 08/29/2012

Management Category Explanatory Narrative:

Washington Circle is listed on the National Register of Historic Places as a contributing feature of the L'Enfant Plan of the City of Washington, DC nomination (1997). Clark Mills' statue of George Washington is listed as a contributing feature in the multiple property nomination: American Revolutionary Statuary and Memorials in Washington, DC (1978).

The management category is Must be Preserved and Maintained because of the circle's listing on the National Register of Historic Places. The management category date is the date the CLI was first approved by the superintendent.

NPS Legal Interest:

Type of Interest: Fee Simple

Public Access:

Type of Access: Unrestricted

Adjacent Lands Information

Do Adjacent Lands Contribute? No

National Register Information

Existing National Register Status

National Register Landscape Documentation:

Entered Inadequately Documented

National Register Explanatory Narrative:

Washington Circle is listed on the National Register as part of the L'Enfant Plan of the City of Washington, DC multiple property nomination (1997). The contributing features of the nomination are eligible under criteria A, B, and C. The areas of significance are community planning and development, landscape architecture, politics and government, and transportation. The period of significance is 1790 to 1942. The statue of George Washington is included in the American Revolutionary Statuary and Memorials in Washington, DC National Register nomination (1978). The areas of significance are military, sculpture, and politics/government. The period of significance selected is 1800 to 1899 and 1900. No 20th century end date is listed in the nomination.

The National Register nominations document some of the site's landscape features, but does not describe and list all contributing characteristics and features.

National Register Eligibility

National Register Concurrence:	Eligible -- SHPO Consensus Determination
Contributing/Individual:	Contributing
National Register Classification:	Multiple Property
Significance Level:	National
Significance Criteria:	B - Associated with lives of persons significant in our past
Significance Criteria:	C - Embodies distinctive construction, work of master, or high artistic values

Period of Significance:

Time Period:	CE 1853 - 1933
Historic Context Theme:	Expressing Cultural Values
Subtheme:	Landscape Architecture
Facet:	Regional Planning
Time Period:	CE 1853 - 1933
Historic Context Theme:	Expressing Cultural Values
Subtheme:	Painting and Sculpture
Facet:	Realism 1850-1926

Area of Significance:

Area of Significance Category:	Community Planning and Deve
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Area of Significance Subcategory:	None
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Area of Significance Category:	Landscape Architecture
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Area of Significance Category:	Art
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Area of Significance Subcategory:	None
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Statement of Significance:

Washington Circle (U.S. Reservation 26) is listed as a contributing feature in the L'Enfant Plan of the City of Washington, D.C. National Register Nomination (1997). Clark Mills' 1860 statue of George Washington is listed as a contributing feature in the American Revolutionary Statuary and Memorials in Washington, DC National Register Nomination (1978).

This CLI proposes two period of significance for Washington Circle: 1791 to 1792 and 1853 to 1933. The earlier dates encompass Pierre Charles L'Enfant's (1755-1825) design of the city of Washington and Andrew Ellicott's (1754-1820) map of Washington. Washington Circle appears on both L'Enfant and Ellicott's plans. The later date range includes the first landscape design of the circle through the implementation of the 1930s design. This CLI finds Washington Circle is eligible for the National Register under Criteria B and C.

Washington Circle is eligible for the National Register under Criterion B for its association with Pierre Charles L'Enfant. Pierre Charles L'Enfant's 1791 plan for the capital consisted of an orthogonal street

plan overlaid with radiating avenues, parks, and vistas (NR 1994: 8:2). The avenues radiated from the locations L'Enfant identified as the President's House and the Congress House (Capitol). Streets extending from the President's House intersected with squares, circles and other public spaces (L'Enfant 1791; NR 1994: 8:8). L'Enfant identified 15 circles and squares on his plan where he proposed commemorative or decorative features, such as columns and obelisks, could be erected (L'Enfant 1791; NR 1994: 8:8). He proposed that these spaces be divided among the states for each to improve (L'Enfant 1791). Washington Circle was not among the 15 sites, but it was the first of the city's circles to be developed when it was improved in the 1850s (Ellicott 1792; NR 1994: 7:7). Washington Circle also appears in Andrew Ellicott's 1792 map, which reproduced and modified L'Enfant's plan.

Washington Circle is eligible under Criterion B for its association with the Commissioner of Public Buildings, the Office of Public Buildings and Grounds, and the Office of Public Buildings and Public Parks. The three agencies designed, improved and maintained many of the public spaces in Washington prior to the National Park Service's management of the capital's reservations and parks. These agencies created and implemented Washington Circle's three historic designs (1853-1860, 1884-1886, and 1931-1933) and maintained the landscape until the 1933 transfer to the park service.

Washington Circle is eligible under Criterion C for the planning and development of Washington, DC. The circle is significant for its inclusion on the L'Enfant plan and for the planning and development of the capital. It is also significant for its association with the development of Washington's parks and public spaces. Washington Circle was the first of the city's traffic circles to be developed as a public park. The circle, along with many other open spaces in the city, was designed, improved and updated to respond to the growth of the city and the needs of its residents from the 1850s through the 1930s.

Under Criterion C, Washington Circle is also significant for Clark Mills' (1815-1883) equestrian statue of George Washington dedicated in 1860. Mills was one of the leaders of the late-nineteenth century naturalism movement in American sculpture (Memorials in Washington, DC National Register Nomination (NR) 2007: 12). As the Memorials in Washington, DC National Register nomination states, artists associated with this movement strove to create works that were as realistic as possible. They "rejected the idealization of form and strove to depict the natural world as accurately as possible" (NR 2007:14). Mills' equestrian statue of George Washington exemplifies this style.

State Register Information

Name: George Washington Statue

Explanatory Narrative:

"Bronze equestrian statue of George Washington, depicted as Commander in Chief of the Continental Army; commissioned by Congress; dedicated 1860; Clark Mills, sculptor, within a L'Enfant Plan reservation."

Chronology & Physical History

Cultural Landscape Type and Use

Cultural Landscape Type: Designed

Current and Historic Use/Function:

Primary Historic Function: Road-Related-Other

Primary Current Use: Road-Related-Other

Other Use/Function

Road-Related-Other

Plaza/Public Space (Square)-Other

Other Type of Use or Function

Both Current And Historic

Both Current And Historic

Current and Historic Names:

Name

Washington Circle (U.S. Reservation 26)

Type of Name

Both Current And Historic

Chronology:

Year	Event	Annotation
CE 1632	Land Transfer	King Charles I grants all of the land comprising the future site of Washington, DC, to George Calvert, Lord Baltimore, and to his heirs and successors (McNeil 1991: 35).
CE 1658	Established	Lord Baltimore creates Charles County, MD, which reaches along the Potomac River ``as high as the settlements extend`` (Gahn 1936: 12). Present-day Washington, DC, including the Washington Circle cultural landscape, falls within this boundary (McNeil 1991: 35).
CE 1664	Platted	``Widow's Mite,`` a 600-acre tract of land west of Rock Creek and north of the Potomac River, is surveyed for John Langworth. The property contains the present-day location of Washington Circle (Gahn 1936: 17; McNeil 1993: 42, 51; Proctor 1930: 13; Williams 1930: 18).
CE 1686	Land Transfer	William Langworth patents the Widow's Mite tract (Barthold 1993: 1; McNeil 1991: 51).

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CE 1693 - 1694	Purchased/Sold	William Langworth dies and his will directs that the Widow's Mite tract be sold. The probable purchaser is John Bowling of St. Mary's County, MD, the next known owner of the property (Gahn 1936: 17-18; Proctor 1930: 13).
CE 1696	Established	Prince George's County, MD, is established from lands formerly contained within Charles County (McNeil 1991: 35).
CE 1711	Purchased/Sold	John Bowling dies. His will stipulates that the Widow's Mite tract be sold for the benefit of his estate (Proctor 1930: 13).
CE 1714	Purchased/Sold	Thomas Fletchall purchases the Widow's Mite tract (McNeil 1991: 37; Proctor 1930: 13).
CE 1717	Land Transfer	Fletchall dies and the Widow's Mite tract is subsequently divided into smaller parcels and passed to various landowners (McNeil 1991: 37, 51; Proctor 1930: 13).
CE 1765	Purchased/Sold	Robert Peter purchases 78.25 acres of the Widow's Mite tract. His land includes the future site of Washington Circle (Barthold 1993: 1; McNeil 1991: 42, 51).
CE 1776	Established	Montgomery County, MD, is established from lands formerly contained within Charles County (McNeil 1991: 35).
CE 1790	Planned	Congress passes the Residence Act, authorizing President Washington to select a location for the new national capital measuring ten square miles or less on the Potomac River. The land contained within the modern-day borders of Washington, DC, is ceded by Prince George's County and Montgomery County, MD (Boyle 2001: 14).

CE 1791	Platted	Ca. March, 1791, Secretary of State Thomas Jefferson sketches a map for a national capital along Tyber Creek. Jefferson selects a small hill overlooking the Potomac River between 23rd and 25th streets, NW, as the site of the ``President`s House.`` This hill is known locally as Camp Hill, a name derived from the remnants of Revolutionary War fortifications. Although his plan is not adopted, Jefferson is the first to offer a design for the future city of Washington, and his proposal would have located the White House on or very near the current site of Washington Circle (Anderson and Anderson 2010: 73; Reys 1991: 16-17).
	Land Transfer	The federal government officially takes possession of the various tracts of land comprising Washington, DC, through signed agreements and deeds of trust with the original proprietors. Among these men is Robert Peter, who conveys the future site of the Washington Circle cultural landscape for use in constructing streets and avenues (Barthold 1993: 1; McNeil 1991: 42, 51).
CE 1791 - 1792	Platted	Washington Circle is first delineated on plans of Washington, DC, by Pierre Charles L'Enfant and Andrew Ellicott. At this time the circle is not named and appears only as a large, loosely-defined open space at the convergence of New Hampshire and Pennsylvania avenues with 23rd and K streets, NW (Anderson and Anderson 2010: 73; Barthold 1993: 1; Ellicott 1792; L'Enfant 1791).
CE 1791 - 1802	Land Transfer	Three city commissioners appointed by President Washington assume jurisdiction over the federal lands within the District of Columbia, including all U.S. Reservations (Dowd 1992: 1).
CE 1791 - 1850	Developed	The Foggy Bottom neighborhood slowly develops as an industrial area and waterfront wharf in the late 18th century and the first half of the 19th century. Because it is located between the White House and Georgetown, the region also features some of the first new roads in the District of Columbia, Pennsylvania Avenue being chief among them (Anderson and Anderson 2010: 73-74; Barthold 1993: 2). Early government records are spotty and often vague, but the as yet unnamed Washington Circle has almost assuredly been integrated into the evolving city streetscape by 1850.

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CE 1802 - 1817	Land Transfer	Responsibility for the U.S. Reservations is transferred from the three commissioners to a Superintendent of Public Buildings, who is also appointed by the president (Dowd 1992: 1).
CE 1817 - 1849	Land Transfer	The office of the Superintendent of Public Buildings is abolished and replaced by a Commissioner of Public Buildings, who takes over management of the U.S. reservations and reports directly to the president (Dowd 1992: 1).
CE 1849 - 1867	Land Transfer	Authority over the office of the Superintendent of Public Buildings is transferred to the newly-created Department of the Interior (Dowd 1992: 1).
CE 1851	Designed	According to the Washington Post, Washington Circle was laid out by surveyor William Forsyth (Looker for Surveyor: Mr. Forsyth Resigns After Serving Half a Century, The Washington Post, 17 August 1897, 10).
CE 1853	Designed	The first landscape plan showing proposed improvements for the still-unnamed Washington Circle is drafted. This design features paths on axis with New Hampshire and Pennsylvania avenues. These improvements are believed to have been carried out shortly after the creation of the plan, sometime in the mid to late-1850s (Barthold 1993: 1, 6; DSC TIC 824_80006).
	Established	On January 25, 1853, Congress appropriates \$50,000 for the erection of a ``colossal equestrian statue of George Washington`` within the public grounds of Washington, DC, in a location to be designated by the president of the United States. Sculptor Clark Mills is commissioned to do the work, and Washington Circle is probably selected as the site for the statue around this time (10 Stats. 153 (1853); Barthold 1993: 2).
	Altered	The first known written references to Washington Circle appear in the government records during an analysis of the cost of paving and otherwise improving Pennsylvania Avenue. One statement indicates that the circle has been enclosed with a wooden fence by this time, but the status of additional landscape features, if any, is unknown (AR 1853: 29, 30).

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CE 1853 - 1854	Paved	The rotary around the still-unnamed Washington Circle is paved for the first time (AR 1854: 601-02).
CE 1854	Planned	Commissioner of Public Buildings Benjamin B. French describes the Washington Circle as ``unfinished and most unsightly`` in his 1854 annual report. French also calls for an appropriation from Congress to enclose it with an iron fence and further improve the site. He appends a drawing of an iron fence and a ``diagram of this circle`` to his report, but published copies omit these documents. The fence in question is probably the standard high iron fence installed throughout the U.S. Reservations in the mid-18th century and the ``diagram`` is most likely the 1853 plan (AR 1854: 602).
	Established	Messrs. More & Gallagher, Philadelphia iron founders, submit an estimate for furnishing the iron fence proposed for Washington Circle. Their estimate stipulates that they are working ``from design No. 72 or 93,`` and includes ``brown stone coping, with gates, posts, and all the necessary fixtures.`` The circumference of the fence will measure 1,009.5 linear feet, at \$8.25 per linear foot, for a total cost of \$8,328.37. There is no known record of More & Gallagher's bid being accepted or rejected (AR 1854: 601-02, 606).
CE 1855	Planted	The new commissioner, John B. Blake, records that Washington Circle is planted ``with trees and shrubbery`` in the fall of 1855. The circle is also presumably sewn with grass seed or sodded around this time. This is the first known planting on the site, but Blake offers no details concerning species composition or arrangement. However, later accounts state that the trees are large, rapid-growing types and that they are thickly planted (AR 1856: 2; AR 1877: 8-9).
CE 1855 - 1856	Damaged	The recently planted trees and shrubs are damaged during the unusually severe winter of 1855-56. Owing to a lack of subsequent appropriations, Comm. Blake is unable to ``make any new additions in the way of ornament, or even have the circle ``properly attended and cultivated.`` As of October 1856, the circle is still enclosed by a fence of ``rough wooden slabs`` (AR 1856: 2-3).

Washington Circle

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CE 1858	Established	With work on the equestrian statue of George Washington progressing, Congress passes legislation authorizing Clark Mills to draw upon the United States for an additional \$6,000 beyond the sum already advanced to him out of the original \$50,000 appropriation (11 Stats. 327 (1858)).
CE 1860	Established	On February 24, 1860, Congress appropriates \$10,000 for the transportation, installation, and dedication of Clark Mills' equestrian statue of George Washington (12 Stats. 114 (1860)).
	Memorialized	Mills' equestrian statue of George Washington is installed atop a pedestal at the center of Washington Circle and dedicated during a ceremony held on February 22, 1860. President Buchanan and members of Congress are in attendance amongst a ``vast concourse of citizens assembled from every part of the Union (AR 1860: 486).
CE 1860 - 1861	Built	Washington Circle is enclosed with a ``firm and elegant iron fence`` (AR 1860: 486; AR 1861: 850).
CE 1861	Platted	A map of Washington Circle, titled ``Of the Circle and its Improvements,`` is made ca. 1861. This map appears to show existing conditions rather than planned improvements and includes the location of the Washington statue at the center of the park and enclosed by a smaller interior circle. Unscreened gravel paths radiate outward from this smaller circle along the lines of New Hampshire and Pennsylvania avenues. A paved perimeter sidewalk rings Washington Circle, along with 1009.52 linear feet of iron railing. Plants, presumably trees and shrubs, line both the internal paths and the perimeter sidewalk. Two trees are also located in the circle's north grass panel. Five gas lamps and two drainage grates are installed along the outer edge of the perimeter sidewalk. Washington Circle is the first such circle within Washington, DC, to be landscaped as a park (DSC TIC 824_80005; AR 1877: 8).
CE 1861 - 1862	Built	Congress charters the Washington and Georgetown Railroad Company and the company lays down track along the centerline of Pennsylvania Avenue. The course of this track includes the rotary around Washington Circle (AR 1862: 3-4).

CE 1861 - 1865	Inhabited	During the Civil War, civic improvements are suspended and many public buildings and grounds in Washington, DC become temporary encampment sites for Union troops. While there is no specific evidence to suggest that Washington Circle was used in this manner, Camp Fry was located on both sides of 23rd Street south of the circle and the site was most likely frequented by the troops stationed there. At the time, the city was still largely undeveloped and the landscaped circle offered, at the least, a rare opportunity for a scenic backdrop (Anderson and Anderson 2010: 76; Barthold 1993: 2; Photos in LOC P&P Digital Collection).
CE 1865	Platted	Charles Mangus creates a lithograph of Washington Circle showing the Washington statue, paths, trees, iron fence, and gates. The drawing features an oblique angle looking south down 23rd Street and is the first representation of this important vista. The origin and function of the small octagonal structure within the circle at the left of the image are unknown, but it may have been a temporary structure somehow related to the Civil War (Mangus 1865, reproduced in Anderson and Anderson 2010: 76).
	Neglected	Although Mangus depicted Washington Circle in an idyllic light, Comm. French notes its depreciated condition in his annual report of 1865. No money has been allocated to maintain the site, and no watchman is employed to look after it. As a result, the circle is routinely invaded by cattle and horses and ``gangs of boys who make all sorts of depredations within the enclosure.'' French notes that he receives complaints almost monthly from citizens living nearby, and likens the site to a public nuisance. He also warns that ``unless some measures are taken to take care of it, [Washington Circle] might as well have been left in the state it was before any improvement was made upon it'' (AR 1865: 7; Barthold 1993: 3).
CE 1867 - 1925	Land Transfer	The office of the Commissioner of Public Buildings is abolished. All responsibilities, including the management of the U.S. Reservations, is assigned to the Chief Engineer of the Army within the War Department. A subordinate, designated as the Officer in Charge of Public Buildings and Grounds, takes over operations and reports to the Chief Engineer (Dowd 1992: 2).

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CE 1867	Land Transfer	Major Nathaniel Michler, the first officer in charge of the Office of Public Buildings and Grounds, records in his initial annual report that the still-unnamed Washington Circle ``presents a most pleasing feature to the gaze.'' He also states that ``comfortable lodges have been built for the watchmen`` in all of the developed public parks. This would include Washington Circle, and although Michler provides no additional details, his statements indicate that the poor conditions described by French in 1865 have been alleviated and the site rehabilitated (AR 1867: 523).
CE 1868 - 1872	Maintained	Due to the ``very limited appropriations`` provided by Congress, the Officer in Charge focuses on the maintenance of the developed public parks of Washington, DC, instead of initiating many new projects. The annual report of 1871 states that the circle on Pennsylvania avenue, at its crossing with New Hampshire avenue, has been kept in very excellent order, though no additional improvements have been made`` (AR 1869: 497; AR 1870: 520; AR 1871: 9758, 978; AR 1872: 11).
CE 1872	Altered	The designation of ``Washington Circle`` is used in a government publication for the first time to describe the circle at the intersection of Pennsylvania and New Hampshire avenues, and 23rd and K streets, NW. The site is hereafter formally known by this name (AR 1872: 13).
	Paved	The sidewalk surrounding Washington Circle is described as a ``brick pavement`` (AR 1872: 23).
CE 1872 - 1873	Maintained	The lawn areas in Washington Circle are fertilized and the iron perimeter fence is painted with two coats of bronze-colored paint (AR 1873: 7, 11).

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CE 1873 - 1874	Altered	The Officer in Charge conducts the following improvements at Washington Circle: the gravel walks are taken up, graded, narrowed, re-laid with screened gravel, and rolled flat; the ground surrounding the Washington Statue is enlarged, regraded, and sodded; brick gutters are laid around the interior circle enclosing the statue and on both sides of the gravel walks, and then connected to a new sewer pipe running out to the main line in New Hampshire Avenue; the 12-inch government water main passing beneath Washington Circle is tapped so as to provide the park with a source of irrigation; portions of the lawns are regraded and sodded; trees are trimmed so that the statue can be viewed more easily; and seats are replaced and fastened to the ground`` (AR 1874: 7).
	Platted	George H. Brown, the Landscape Gardener of the City of Washington, prepares maps depicting the existing conditions at several U.S. Reservations, including Washington Circle. These maps provide the locations for all roadways and walks, ornamental fountains, drinking fountains, drains, and gas and water pipes. Plans are made to add the locations of trees to these maps at a future date. It is unknown whether or not these additions were ever made, and the plan of Washington Circle was not discovered during the course of research for this CLI (AR 1874: 11).
CE 1874 - 1875	Altered	Excess gravel is removed from the walks in Washington Circle and used on the walks of U.S. Reservation 28 at the corner of Pennsylvania Avenue and 21st Street. Ten new settees are installed in Washington Circle, and the old settees repaired and painted with two coats of paint (AR 1875: 5, 11-12).
CE 1875 - 1876	Maintained	The iron perimeter fence enclosing Washington Circle is painted with two coats of paint (AR 1876: 13).

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CE 1877	Neglected	Upon his arrival in Washington, DC, Lt. Colonel Thomas Lincoln Casey, the new Officer in Charge, discovers that ``no marked improvement has been made`` at Washington Circle since 1874, and that the ``reservation is not in the condition its prominence deserves regarding improvement and ornamentation.`` The rubble drains are unserviceable, the lawns are overrun with wild garlic, and the margins and the corners of the gravel walks are worn down from pedestrians trampling on the grass. The trees are large and thickly-planted, and thereby largely obscure the Washington Statue from view. Many of the settees are no longer fastened to the ground and seem unstable. Casey also makes recommendations to correct these deficiencies , install drinking fountains, and plant flower beds (AR 1877: 8-9).
CE 1878 - 1884	Maintained	Despite Casey's poor assessment of Washington Circle and his desire to rehabilitate the site, he and his successor as Officer in Charge, Colonel A. F. Rockwell, are limited to park maintenance due to a lack of available funds. Most reports document generalized work occurring throughout the public parks of Washington, DC, but in 1879, Theodore B. Samo, Assistant Engineer in the Office of the Washington Aqueduct, reports that an estimated 360 gallons of water are used daily at Washington Circle. As no drinking fountains had yet been installed, this water is presumably used to irrigate the lawns. Likewise, in 1880-81, the watchman's lodge is ``overhauled, repaired, and painted`` (AR 1878: 1345; AR 1879: 1877; AR 1880: III, 2355; AR 1881: III, 2713; AR 1882: 2737; AR 1883: 2098; AR 1884: 2352, 2370).
CE 1884	Damaged	Despite the best efforts of Col. Rockwell, the walks in Washington Circle are deemed to be ``in poor condition`` (AR 1884: 2352).

CE 1884 - 1886	Altered	Washington Circle is redeveloped, and its new appearance conforms to the romantic designs typically employed throughout Washington's small parks during the height of the Victorian era in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The most important change concerns the removal of the old gravel walks, and the subsequent creation of a new system of winding, curvilinear gravel walks that forms the basis for all other landscape improvements. This additional work includes the removal of the old iron perimeter fence and the dressing and resetting of the granite boundary coping stones; grading the grounds and laying down soil where needed; sowing the lawns with grass seed and winter rye; removing old and decayed trees; planting a ``large number of ornamental trees and shrubs``; extending the water pipes; installing two sets of combination drinking fountains and ornamental gas lamps, and 22 additional gas lamp posts and lights along the walks; laying down 38 linear feet of new brick gutter and tw
	Platted	The draughtsman employed in the Office of Public Buildings and Grounds prepares a plan of Washington Circle showing many of the improvements carried out in 1884-86. This drawing is probably the park plan that appears in the 1886 annual report, and shows the layout of the new system of walks and provides the locations of the drinking fountains, lamps, water pipes, stop cocks, and sewer drains and traps. The Washington Statue is also present in its familiar location at the center of the circle, but the watchman's lodge and all vegetation are absent from the plan (AR 1885: 2510; Plan of Washington Circle accompanying AR 1886).
CE 1885 - 1886	Maintained	The watchman's lodge in Washington Circle is repaired and painted (AR 1886: 2082).
CE 1887 - 1877	Planted	By this date, the lawns in Washington Circle have been ornamented with ``choice evergreen and deciduous trees and shrubs and interspersed with flower-beds for summer decorative planting of flower and foliated plants`` (AR 1887: 2597).

CE 1887 - 1888	Paved	A new asphalt walkway, measuring 585 feet long by five feet wide, is laid through Washington Circle in line with Pennsylvania Avenue on top of the gravel walk created in 1884-1886. Since at least 1875, the various men serving as Officer in Charge had requested that money be appropriated in order to lay down asphalt walkways over all of the circle's gravel walks, primarily because during the winter months the gravel walks became muddy and treacherous. The poor conditions made it necessary to cover them with wooden planks each fall, an expensive practice that further disfigured the landscape. In poor weather, pedestrians were also prone to eschewing the walks altogether and tramping through the lawns in Washington Circle, thereby damaging the grass. The decision to finally provide funding for a single asphalt walkway seems to have been an attempt to lessen these impacts without access to the funds required to pave over the entire circulation system. As the principal traffic corridor, the
	Maintained	Drinking fountains and flower vases in Washington Circle are painted. When these vases were installed is not known, but they were most likely added in the previous few years (AR 1888: 2779).
	Platted	The draughtsman employed in the office of Public Buildings and Grounds prepares a plan of Washington Circle. This drawing is nearly identical to the map published in the 1886 annual report and contains no additional information concerning the layout of the landscape (DSC TIC 824_80007).
CE 1888	Established	Washington Circle, which had previously been designated as U.S. Reservation 24, is redesignated as U.S. Reservation 26. The site is still classified as such today (DSC TIC 824_80007).
CE 1889 - 1890	Maintained	The watchman's lodge in Washington Circle is painted (AR 1890: 3546).
CE 1891 - 1892	Altered	Worn sections of the gravel walks in Washington Circle are resurfaced, new brick gutters are laid along their borders, six new brick drain traps are built and connected to the main drains, and two new water shut-off valves are installed to service the drinking fountains (AR 1892: 3392, 3395).

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CE 1893 - 1894	Altered	The gravel walks are again repaired, the drainage improved, and a new 41-foot long gutter constructed. The watchman's lodge is also painted (AR 1894: 3280, 3284).
	Planted	One hundred seventy-one new shrubs are planted in Washington, but their precise locations and species composition is not recorded (AR 1894: 3280).
CE 1896 - 1897	Altered	Gas pipe is run to the watchman's lodge in Washington Circle, and brackets are installed so that the building can be lit with gas light. Additionally, ``new connections`` are made to the drinking fountains and 58.76 square yards of asphalt walkway are resurfaced (AR 1897: 4047, 4055).
CE 1897 - 1898	Maintained	Within Washington Circle, 99.75 square yards of asphalt walkway are repaired and resurfaced (AR 1898: 3728).
CE 1898 - 1899	Maintained	The trees in Washington Circle are pruned so that the Pennsylvania Avenue and New Hampshire Avenue vistas are kept open, ensuring that the Washington Statue is visible along these corridors. A photograph accompanying the 1899 annual report shows the view looking north through Washington Circle on New Hampshire Avenue. Apart from a lamp post and drinking fountain, there is an unobstructed line of sight to the statue, flanked on both sides by numerous trees and shrubs (AR 1899: 3832, photo following page 3834).
	Removed	The photograph of the Washington Statue also indicates that the gas lamp posts and lights originally installed on the drinking fountains have been removed by this time (AR 1899: photo following page 3834).

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CE 1899 - 1900	Paved	According to the annual report for the year 1900, an asphalt walkway covering an area of 219 square yards is ``laid on the gravel walk running north and south`` through Washington Circle. This description is problematic, as there was not a walk running north-south through the circle at this time. Most likely, this statement means to say that the gravel walk running in line with New Hampshire Avenue is paved. This addition of a second asphalt walkway to the circle is probably the result of the continued lobbying by the Officer in Charge to replace all gravel walks with asphalt walkways, but several large stretches of gravel walks remain in Washington Circle (AR 1888: 2792; AR 1889: 2853; AR 1890: 3554; AR 1891: 3923-24; AR 1892: 3404; AR 1893: 4339; AR 1894: 3292; AR 1895: 4156; AR 1896: 4002; AR 1900: 5253).
	Altered	A gas radiator is purchased and installed in the Washington Circle watchman's lodge to provide heat. The radiator replaces a coal stove that had been used previously. The interior and exterior of the lodge are also painted (AR 1900: 5253).
	Platted	City Landscape Gardener George H. Brown surveys Washington Circle and compiles a list of the ``native and foreign deciduous and evergreen trees and shrubs`` planted there. This list includes a total of 50 species (29 trees and 21 shrubs) but Brown does not indicate how many specimens of each plant are present or provide their specific locations within the circle (AR 1900: 5286-87).
CE 1901 - 1902	Altered	Within Washington Circle, 680 square yards of asphalt walkway are resurfaced; a new drain is installed; the lawns composted; and the watchman's lodge, drinking fountains, lamp posts and lamps, and plant vases are painted (AR 1902: 2733).
CE 1902 - 1904	Maintained	Twenty-two lamp posts, four lamp bases, four flower vases, and two drinking fountains are painted; and the lawns of Washington Circle are sodded and composted with 30 cartloads of manure (AR 1903: 2542; AR 1904: 3927).

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CE 1903	Damaged	On January 3, 1903, while the park watchman is temporarily away, the gas radiator in the Washington Circle watchman's lodge malfunctions and starts a fire. The building suffers damage to the woodwork, broken windows, and blistered interior paint. All necessary repairs are made immediately (AR 1903: 2542).
CE 1904 - 1905	Altered	The water service in Washington Circle is extended by laying 221.25 feet of new pipe and installing two new hose valves. One hundred nineteen feet of new gutter is also laid, and 742 feet of existing brick gutter and six drain traps are repaired. The exterior of the watchman's lodge is repainted and broken window glass replaced. The gravel walks are coated with 80 cubic yards of fresh gravel, manure is spread on the lawns, and bare and badly worn sections are resodded (AR 1905: 2638).
	Platted	Landscape Gardener George H. Brown conducts a plant survey of Washington Circle, compiles a list of all trees and shrubs planted there, and creates a map showing the locations of all plants on the ground. The list features 49 different species, nearly two-thirds of which are imported foreign types. Of these 49 species, 32 are holdovers from the earlier 1900 list. Most of these names appear verbatim on both lists, but several are listed under different common names, and in a few cases their botanical names also differ but are known taxonomic synonyms (for example white maple (<i>Acer dasycarpum</i>) appears on the 1900 list and silver maple (<i>Acer saccharinum</i>) on the 1905 list, but both are in fact the same tree). Conversely, 18 species present in 1900 were no longer extant in 1905, and 17 new species that did not appear in the 1900 list had been planted in the intervening five years. The fact that such a major change had gone undocumented is unfortunate but unsurprising, as it was then the gen
CE 1905 - 1906	Maintained	Four hundred thirty-nine square yards of sod are laid in Washington Circle to cover bare sections in the lawns (AR 1906: 2130).

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CE 1905 - 1925	Altered	The 15th U.S. Cavalry Band and U.S. Engineer Band play free summer concerts in Dupont Circle. A portable band stand is erected before each event and removed thereafter. Lamps are also provided for the use of the musicians during night concerts. Beginning in 1916, the U.S. Marine Band and several other governmental and nongovernmental bands also participate (AR 1905: 2140; AR 1917: 3712-13; AR 1918: 3790; AR 1919: 3836; AR 1920: 4130; AR 1921: 2067; AR 1922: 2194; AR 1923: 2042; AR 1924: 2030; AR 1925: 1950-51).
CE 1906 - 1907	Maintained	The interior of the Washington Circle watchman's lodge is painted and the window glass refrosted (AR 1907: 2322).
CE 1907 - 1908	Maintained	Twenty-five cartloads of gravel are used to resurface the gravel walks in Washington Circle (AR 1908: 2392).
CE 1910 - 1911	Maintained	Forty-five square yards of asphalt walkway are resurfaced in Washington Circle, and the woodwork in the watchman's lodge is ``thoroughly repaired and painted`` (AR 1911: 2969).
CE 1911	Designed	Landscape Architect George Burnap modifies the existing landscape plan of Washington Circle. His new design is approved by Major Spencer Crosby on January 18, 1911, and features an open grass panel in line with Pennsylvania Avenue east of the Washington Statue. This panel is to be flanked by walkways, and a note on the plan states that a gas light that had had previously interrupted the view toward the statue is to be removed. Although not specifically mentioned on the plan, it also appears that any offending vegetation will also be removed, as well as one of the two drinking fountains (Burnap 1916: 72-73; DSC TIC 824_80008; DSC TIC 824_80009).

	Altered	The new east ``entrance`` to Washington Circle is constructed according to Burnap's plan. Period photographs from his 1916 book <i>Parks: Their Design, Equipment, and Use</i> , show the circle before and after his redesign. The new approach is open and unobstructed, whereas the old arrangement appeared cluttered and congested. In conjunction with this work, the District of Columbia constructs a new eight-inch cement coping around the circle in April of 1911. The total length of this coping measures 975 feet, and it presumably replaces the original 19th-century granite coping. After the new coping is installed, the Office of Public Buildings and Grounds raises the grade of the adjacent ground, covers it with soil, and lays down sod (AR 1911: 1104, 2969; Burnap 1916: 72-73).
	Planted	Forty-three shrubs are planted in Washington Circle in November 1911. Their species composition and locations are not known, but they were not planted in Burnap's new open viewing corridor, as the 1912 annual report states that ``the approach to Washington Circle along the Avenue was rendered more attractive by simplifying the foreground of the statue`` (AR 1912: 3488, 3490).
CE 1911 - 1912	Paved	Within Washington Circle, 181.7 square yards of asphalt are laid along the new walks flanking the open grass panel at the east entrance to the park. The paved walks are clearly visible in the period photograph appearing in Burnap's book (AR 1912: 3490; Burnap 1916: 73; DSC TIC 824_80013).
CE 1912 - 1913	Maintained	Forty-seven square yards of asphalt walkway are repaired (AR 1913: 3213).
	Altered	A comprehensive upgrade to the lighting system of the public grounds of Washington, DC, takes place between April 1912 and September 1913. The point of the project is to provide better lighting at a lower cost. Washington Circle retains 11 of its old gas lights and receives 13 new gas lights. The technical aspects of this upgrade are not discussed in the annual reports, and it is not known what specific advantages the new lights held over the old ones (AR 1912: 3494-95; AR 1913: 3218).

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CE 1914 - 1915	Planted	Forty-five trees and shrubs are planted in Washington Circle, but their species composition and locations are not provided in the annual report (AR 1915: 3714).
CE 1915 - 1916	Built	Two children's sand boxes are constructed in Washington Circle, inclosed with a total of 136 linear feet of cement coping, and surrounded with a gravel walk. A subsequent 1921 landscape plan depicts the sand boxes as half-ovals and locates them west of the Washington Statue in the line of Pennsylvania Avenue (AR 1916: 3583; DSC TIC 824_80013).
	Planted	An evergreen tree is planted in Washington Circle, but its species and precise location is not given. Seventy square yards of sod are also laid in the circle's lawn areas (AR 1916: 3583).
CE 1916	Built	A ca. 1916 photograph in George Burnap's book shows that by this time a low wire fence has been erected along the exterior edge of the open grass panel at the east entrance to Washington Circle. This fence presumably continues around the circle's entire perimeter, but is out of view in the photo. The image also shows what appears to be a post-and-chain fence ringing the circular earthen mound beneath the Washington Statue (Burnap 1916: 73).
CE 1916 - 1917	Maintained	The woodwork and roof of the watchman's lodge in Washington Circle are painted with two coats of paint, and broken window glass is replaced and the windows frosted. Two hundred sixty square yards of asphalt walks are resurfaced (AR 1917: 3703).
	Planted	Six evergreen trees are planted in Washington Circle, but as with the previous plantings their species composition and locations are not known (AR 1917: 3703).
	Altered	Throughout the public grounds of Washington, DC, all old of the old "Boulevard-type" gas lanterns are replaced with "round globes of a newer and better design." This change is made to improve the appearance of the parks and also to provide better light. A ca. 1916 photograph appearing in Burnap's book shows the lights of Washington Circle outfitted with the new round globes (AR 1917: 3707-08; Burnap 1916: 73).

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CE 1918 - 1919	Maintained	The old sand in the children's sand boxes in Washington Circle is replaced with four tons of fresh sand (AR 1919: 3823).
	Planted	Twelve evergreen shrubs, five deciduous shrubs, and 40 perennial plants are planted in Washington Circle. As in previous instances, the types and locations of these new plants are unknown (AR 1919: 3823).
CE 1919 - 1920	Maintained	Twelve evergreen shrubs, five deciduous shrubs, and 40 perennial plants are planted in Washington Circle. As in previous instances, the types and locations of these new plants are unknown (AR 1919: 3823).
	Planted	Ten evergreen shrubs are planted in Washington Circle ``to replace those killed by frost,`` and five ``missing`` evergreen shrubs are replaced. Although the species composition of these plants is once again omitted from the annual report, it is clear that they are in-kind replacements and are presumably planted at or near the locations of the previous specimens (AR 1920: 4115).
CE 1920 - 1921	Damaged	Lt. Colonel C. O. Sherrill, the new Officer in Charge, makes an unflattering assessment of the condition of Washington Circle: The walks are old asphalt and the plantings are old and have become very unsightly and should be replaced.`` Moreover, an expert bronze worker's inspection of the Washington Statue reveals ``numerous holes and open seams`` that allow water to enter the statue, and that the ensuing contraction and expansion of the bronze during the yearly freeze-thaw cycles has done significantly more damage. The most severe defect is located along the neckline of Washington's horse, and ``unless repairs are made within a reasonable time, the head and neck will be severed from the body.`` Sherrill requests \$10,000 to replace the plantings and install new walkways, and an additional \$2,500 to repair the statue. Neither matter is discussed in subsequent annual reports, and it does not seem that his proposal regarding the plantings and walkways was ever funded. However, given that

CE 1921	Platted	Irving W. Payne, the landscape architect that replaced Burnap in the Office of Public Buildings and Grounds, creates an existing conditions map for Washington Circle. This drawing shows the approximate locations of all trees, shrubs, walks, lamps, and other objects. Several trees and shrubs, including Norway spruces, American lindens, silver maples, boxwood, lilacs, a horse chestnut, a red ash, and a Cornelian cherry, occupied the same locations as they had in the 1905 map. However, many of the plants present on the 1905 map do not appear on the 1921 map, most notably the ring of 31 silver maples planted as street trees. New trees and shrubs not included in the 1905 plan also appear on the 1921 plan, and these are presumably the unidentified plants mentioned in the annual reports during the intervening years. The 1921 plan also includes planned removals and relocations of existing vegetation, as well as proposed new plantings of a privet hedge around the mound supporting the Washington
CE 1925	Land Transfer	The office of Public Buildings and Grounds is abolished. The new Office of Public Buildings and Public Parks of the National Capital (OPB & PP) takes over management of the U.S. reservations and the director reports directly to the president (Dowd 1992: 2).
CE 1925 - 1926	Maintained	The sand boxes in Washington Circle are cleaned and refilled and the watchman's lodge is painted (AR 1926: 30, 36).
CE 1928 - 1929	Maintained	The Washington Circle watchman's lodge is painted (AR 1929: 50).
CE 1931	Platted	The OPB & PP conducts a topographic survey and vegetation survey of Washington Circle. The placement of trees is similar to that of 1921, but the number of shrubs has been substantially reduced. There is no sign of the proposed privet hedge, juniper, or pachysandra proposed by Payne in 1921, but a large U-shaped flower bed has been established in the previously open lawn at the east entrance to the park. At the time of the survey in August 1931, this flower bed is planted with geraniums (AR 1931: 34; DSC TIC 824_80014; DSC TIC 824_80015; DSC TIC 824_80016; DSC TIC 824_80017).

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	Memorialized	A wreath is placed at the Washington Statue inside the circle on February 22 in commemoration of George Washington's birthday (AR 1931: 57).
CE 1931 - 1932	Maintained	The OPB & PP conducts surgical operations on many of the mature trees in Washington Circle, which are by this point in poor health. Plans are also made for future work, including additional surgery and cabling and bracing, and a spot plan is drawn up giving the locations of 43 trees within the circle that are in need of treatment. The interior and exterior of the watchman's lodge is painted. Five abandoned drainage catch basins are removed and their outlets sealed (AR 1931: 41-42; DSC TIC 824_80021).
	Altered	Washington Circle is redeveloped. The Victorian system of serpentine gravel walks and asphalt walkways, which had been in place since the mid-1880s, is removed and new concrete walkways are laid out. A total of 1,400 square yards of concrete walks and 218 linear feet of concrete coping are constructed as part of this project. The new circulation system entails the third major landscape design in the site's history, and recalls the first such system created prior to the Civil War. The design has a decidedly classical character and is defined by circular walkways linked by straight-line crosswalks. The first circular walkway, measuring 10 feet wide, surrounds the earthen mound that supports the Washington Statue. Five radial crosswalks branch off from this circular walkway. Four are eight feet wide, extend out to the city sidewalk surrounding the perimeter of Washington Circle, and are located along the centerlines of 23rd Street and New Hampshire Avenue. The fifth is larger at 12 feet w
CE 1932	Designed	Four annual planting beds are designed for Washington Circle. Three are located in the open panel to the east of the statue and the fourth inside the small semi-circular walkway at the far west end (DSC TIC 824_80026).

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CE 1933	Built	An ornamental iron fence is put up around the interior edge of the small circular walkway surrounding the earthen mound that supports the Washington Statue. This fence is four feet-seven inches tall and is mounted atop a five-inch cement coping. An iron gate is installed as part of the fence, and this gate is located to the west of the statue. Floodlights are also installed within the coping to illuminate the statue at night (DSC TIC 824_80019; DSC TIC 824_80020).
	Land Transfer	The OPB & PP is abolished by Executive Order, and on June 10, 1933, its functions and responsibilities pass to the new Office of National Parks, Buildings, and Reservations. The new office also takes possession of all federal property formerly administered by the OPB & PP, including the U.S. reservations (Dowd 1992: 2-3, 77).
CE 1934	Land Transfer	The Office of National Parks, Buildings, and Reservations is redesignated as the National Park Service (NPS). The NPS assumes the functions, responsibilities, and administration of all federal lands formerly managed by the Office of National Parks, Buildings, and Reservations, including the U.S. reservations (Heine 1953: 36).
CE 1944	Platted	The 1932 landscape plan of Washington Circle is updated to show existing trees as of April 27, 1944. Thirty-eight trees remain extant but an additional 18 have been removed since 1932 (DSC TIC 824_80018).

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CE 1945 - 1947	Designed	Plans are drawn up for the extension of a major city water main through Washington Circle and other underground utility changes at the site. According to handwritten notes on one of the drawings, this work will involve the temporary closure of the circle while construction activities are taking place. Specifically, a ``substantial fence`` is to be built by the District of Columbia ``to separate the area of construction from the park areas not to be disturbed.`` Prior to the start of the project, all trees will be protected by tree guards, and those removed during the course of the work subsequently replaced by the DC government. The Washington Statue, the fence around its earthen mound, and all park benches are to be removed, stored off-site, and rest upon completion of the project. The mound will also be reset and all affected lawn areas covered with six inches of topsoil, fertilized, and seeded; all cement walks are to be replaced or re-laid as needed. The sandboxes will be removed a
CE 1959	Platted	An existing conditions survey of Washington Circle reveals that 30 trees are present on site at this time. The old watchman's lodge is also still extant (DSC TIC 824_80033).
CE 1945 - 1947	Designed	Plans are drawn up for the extension of a major city water main through Washington Circle and other underground utility changes at the site. According to handwritten notes on one of the drawings, this work will involve the temporary closure of the circle while construction activities are taking place. Specifically, a ``substantial fence`` is to be built by the District of Columbia ``to separate the area of construction from the park areas not to be disturbed.`` Prior to the start of the project, all trees will be protected by tree guards, and those removed during the course of the work subsequently replaced by the DC government. The Washington Statue, the fence around its earthen mound, and all park benches are to be removed, stored off-site, and rest upon completion of the project. The mound will also be reset and all affected lawn areas covered with six inches of topsoil, fertilized, and seeded; all cement walks are to be replaced or re-laid as needed. The sandboxes will be removed a

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National Mall & Memorial Parks - L'Enfant Plan Reservations

CE 1959	Platted	An existing conditions survey of Washington Circle reveals that 30 trees are present on site at this time. The old watchman's lodge is also still extant (DSC TIC 824_80033).
CE 1959 - 1963	Designed	In response to increasing traffic congestion around Washington Circle, a host of plans are drawn up to bring K Street below the grade of the circle as an underpass. This planning concerns all aspects of the project, from excavation to construction to the restoration of disturbed areas, and continues even after the underpass opens (DSC TIC 824_80031; DSC TIC 824_80038; DSC TIC 824_80039; DSC TIC 824_80040; DSC TIC 824_80042; DSC TIC 824_80043; DSC TIC 824_80044; DSC TIC 824_80045).
CE 1960	Platted	A channelization plan for the K Street underpass reveals that only 28 trees remain in Washington Circle (DSC TIC 824_80042).
CE 1962	Built	The K Street underpass is completed and opens to traffic on November 30, 1962. During the course of its construction the Washington Circle and its landscape features are significantly disturbed. The watchman's lodge is presumably removed by this time or soon thereafter ('Washington Circle Tunnel is Activated 1962: C1).
CE 1963 - 1965	Altered	Washington Circle is redesigned. Pedestrian entrances are located at the avenues and the site is now defined by alternating rings of planted lawns and paved walkways. The innermost walkway and connecting walks are scored concrete paving, while the outer walk is paved in flagstone. Benches are located along both sides of the outer walkway and new drinking fountains, electric lights, and trash receptacles are installed. The existing perimeter curb is also removed and replaced by a new drop-curb with a two-inch reveal. Two flower beds are located to the northwest and southeast of the Washington statue. Nine historic trees remain extant (three American elms, three American lindens, one purple beech, one maple, and one red ash). The new plan calls for the planting of 42 trees (two American beech, four sawtooth oaks, six Japanese zelkovas, 30 crabapples) and 370 Japanese yew shrubs to be maintained as a hedge (DSC TIC 824_80044A; DSC TIC 824_80046; DSC TIC 824_80047; DSC TIC 824_80052).

Washington Circle

National Mall & Memorial Parks - L'Enfant Plan Reservations

CE 1964	Land Transfer	The District of Columbia transfers 9,426.97 square feet of land to the NPS in connection with the repaving of the roadway around Washington Circle. This tract comprises an 8.83 foot-wide ring of street area abutting the circle, and is added to the existing federal acreage of U.S. Reservation 26. The transfer increases the size of Washington Circle to its present 2.19 acres (DSC TIC 824_80051; NCR Land Record No. 469: 1964).
	Planted	The two seasonal flower beds in Washington Circle are planted as follows: smiling queen tulip (spring), pink magic petunia (summer), and Minnehaha cushion mum (fall) (DSC TIC 824_80052).
CE 1965	Planted	Smiling queen tulips and Minnehaha cushion mums are again planted in Washington Circle's two flower beds (DSC TIC 824_80052).
CE 1966	Planted	A total of 2,000 ``Colorado Red`` Alternanthera ``Telanthera`` plants are planted in Washington Circle's two flower beds. They are removed after the first frost (DSC TIC 824_80052).
CE 1967	Planted	A total of 2,500 ``Red Emperor`` fosteriana tulips and 2,500 ``Golden Duchess`` lily-flowered tulips are planted in Washington Circle's two flower beds (Untitled document dated ``Spring '67`` in NCR CLP files, Res. 26: Washington Circle).
CE 1969	Built	A new sprinkler system is installed in Washington Circle (DSC TIC 824_41000).
CE 1970 - 1972	Land Transfer	The NPS grants the District of Columbia easements for the ventilating outlets in Washington Circle installed as part of the construction of the K Street underpass, as well as subsurface rights for the construction, inspection, operation, maintenance and reconstruction of the underground portion of the tunnel structures and related facilities (DSC TIC 824_80055; DSC TIC 824_80056; NCR Land Record No. 687: 1972).
CE 1971	Built	The NPS installs additional floodlights on the earthen mound supporting the Washington Statue for purpose of lighting the statue at night (DSC TIC 824_41015).

Washington Circle

National Mall & Memorial Parks - L'Enfant Plan Reservations

CE 1999 - 2000

Built

The circle was repaved with new blue stone pavement. and setting beds were replaced with new setting beds and blue stone. Benches, trash receptacles, drinking fountains and setting beds were also replaced.

Physical History:

8,000 BC to 1631 AD

Early History

The Washington, DC area has been inhabited by humans for approximately 13,000 years (Bedell et al 2008 Volume 1: 3, 6). Early residents of the Potomac Valley began to establish seasonal fishing sites and camps along the Potomac River in the Archaic Period (c. 8,000 BC to 1,300 BC). Over the course of the Middle Woodland period (c. 200 BC to 900 AD), longer term settlements were established followed by the founding of villages during the Late Woodland Period (c. 900 AD to 1608 AD (Bedell et al 2008 Volume 1: 11-38).

When Europeans began heavily exploring North America in the latter half of the sixteenth century, the tidewater portion of Maryland was home to a number of Algonquian-speaking American Indian groups. With the exception of the tribes of the Patuxent River, the groups were part of the Conoy chiefdom. Their territory extended from “St. Mary’s County, Maryland, at the mouth of the Potomac River, to Washington, D.C., and the falls, possibly including lands on the Virginia side of the Potomac River from opposite Washington to below Mount Vernon” (Potter 1993: 19). Settlements belonging to the Nacotchtank and the Piscataways, two groups among the Conoy chiefdom, were located in or near present day Washington, DC. A Nacotchtank village was located near the confluence of the Anacostia and Potomac Rivers on the site of present day Bolling Air Force Base (Bushong 1990: 12). The Piscataway, the largest and most politically powerful group of the Conoys, settled along the Piscataway Creek where it meets the Potomac River, approximately twenty miles from Washington.

In the late 1990s, an archeological study conducted prior to the commencement of construction project along the Whitehurst Freeway uncovered an American Indian camp west of Washington Circle near the mouth of Rock Creek. One significant find from the study was described as a “spectacular burial” (Berger 2008 Volume I: 6). The burial contained the remains of an adult, likely a 30 to 40 year old woman, who, according to radio carbon testing, was likely buried between 640AD to 790AD. Artifacts buried with the human remains resemble those found in the graves of the Kipp Island phase of central New York, which stretched from the Great Lakes to the Delmarva Peninsula. This is a significant find for archeologists and historians trying to determine when coastal Algonquians migrated to the Chesapeake region from the northwest. As the study states, “this burial...may represent the entry of Algonquin people into the region and therefore date their arrival to around AD 600 to 700” (Berger 2008 Volume I: 8).

Artifacts found at the Whitehurst Freeway site dated to around 1000AD and included at least 11 triangular stone arrowheads, nuts, seeds, and wood charcoal. The site was likely not a farming site, but a temporary camp. A small pit examined included Townsend potsherds, a type used by Coastal Plain Indians between 800 and 1500AD. Two of the potsherds were radiocarbon dated to 885 to 1035AD and 995 to 1205AD. This finding indicates Washington was part of the Coastal Plain culture area throughout the Late Woodland period. The potsherds differentiate the American Indians groups in Washington from peoples of the Piedmont area

who utilized another pottery type. Artifacts dating to the arrival of Europeans in the area were also found and indicate that traditional Indian life continued in Washington after the founding of the Maryland colony (Berger 2008 Volume I:7).

1632 AD to 1850 AD

Land Patents and Hamburg

In 1632, King Charles I granted a royal charter of the land that would become the state of Maryland, and later Washington, DC, to George Calvert, 1st Lord Baltimore, and his heirs. The first land grants issued for property that would be a part of the nation's capital were patented in 1664 and were part of Charles County, Maryland (McNeil 1991: 36). That same year, "The Widow's Mite," a 600-acre parcel of land upon which Washington Circle would be constructed, was surveyed for John Langworth. In 1686, a land patent was issued to Langworth's son, William (McNeil, 36, 42, 51). Other Foggy Bottom land patents included a 150-acre parcel The Vineyard issued in 1696 to William Hutchinson.

The documentation of the development of the Washington Circle area begins with the 1765 purchase of 130 acres of land by German immigrant Jacob Funk. Approximately 90 acres of The Widow's Mite and 35 acres of The Vineyard were included in Jacob Funk's purchase. The property was incorporated as the town of Hamburg, but was also known as Funkstown. According to Suzanne Berry Sherwood, author of a history of Foggy Bottom, the exact location of Hamburg is unclear, but historic maps place it "between present-day 24th and 19th Streets, extending from the Potomac to H Street" (Sherwood 1974, 1-2). Funk's plans for the town included wharves along the Potomac River, at that time accessed at the end of present day 23rd Street, and a market square in the center of the development. Funk subdivided the land into 234 lots, but only a few people other than Funk settled into Hamburg and the town largely existed on paper (Sherwood 1974, 1-2).

Other early Foggy Bottom residents included Robert Peter and James Ligan. Peter, a Georgetown merchant, owned several acres of land in the area. He first acquired The Addition to the Vineyard, located on the east side of Rock Creek near Georgetown, in 1765 (McNeil 1991: 41-42). In 1793, Peter had the land re-surveyed along with other parcels he owned and a new patent, Mexico, was issued 1796 (McNeil 1991: 41). Peter's land included the future site of Washington Circle. In 1797, Robert Peter built six, three-story houses on K Street between 24th and 27th streets for his six sons. James Ligan owned Widow's Mite, a plantation which shared the name of the land tract, located north and east of Robert Peter's Mexico.

In 1790, Congress passed the Residence Act authorizing President Washington to select a site for the new nation's capital. A year later, Washington announced he had chosen a location at the confluence of the Potomac and Eastern Branch rivers (L'Enfant Plan of the City of Washington National Register (NR) nomination, 1994: section 8, page 6). That same year, Mexico, Widow's Mite and Hamburg were incorporated into the city of Washington. These properties, along with all the other land that became part of the new capital, were given in a trust to the federal government (Sherwood 1974: 1; McNeil 1991: 39).

Following the selection of the site for the new capital, Andrew Ellicott conducted a survey of the area and in March 1791, Major Pierre Charles L'Enfant was chosen by President Washington to prepare drawings for the new city. L'Enfant's plan consisted of avenues radiating from the sites he designated for the "Congress house," where the Capitol would be constructed, and the "President's house," as well as other points in Washington. The large avenues intersected with squares and circles interspersed throughout the city. Washington Circle is among the circles included in L'Enfant's design. Thomas Jefferson suggested Camp Hill, a high spot in Foggy Bottom, as a location for the Capitol, but the area was not considered adequate to support the center of government (Knepper 2006: 15).

Public spaces were a significant part of L'Enfant's vision for the city. On his plan he identified 15 open spaces and proposed they be "divided among several States in the Union, for each of them to improve, or subscribe a sum additional to the value of the land for that purpose" (L'Enfant 1791; L'Enfant Plan of the City of Washington National Register Nomination 1994: 8:8, hereafter referred to as NR 1994). L'Enfant proposed that the public spaces include statues and memorials honoring significant individuals (L'Enfant 1791; NR 1994: 8:8).

L'Enfant's plan for Washington included an extensive public space he designated as a "Grand Avenue" about a mile in length and 400 feet wide bordered with gardens. At the end of the avenue, the present day National Mall, L'Enfant designated an area as the location of "Monument A" where an equestrian statue of George Washington would be erected. The statue would be located at a site L'Enfant designated as "Point A" and marked "the precise spot where the east-west axis from the Congress's House met the north-south axis from the President's House" (Savage 2009: 34). The statue was approved by the Continental Congress in 1783, but was never funded (L'Enfant 1791; Savage 2009: 13, 34).

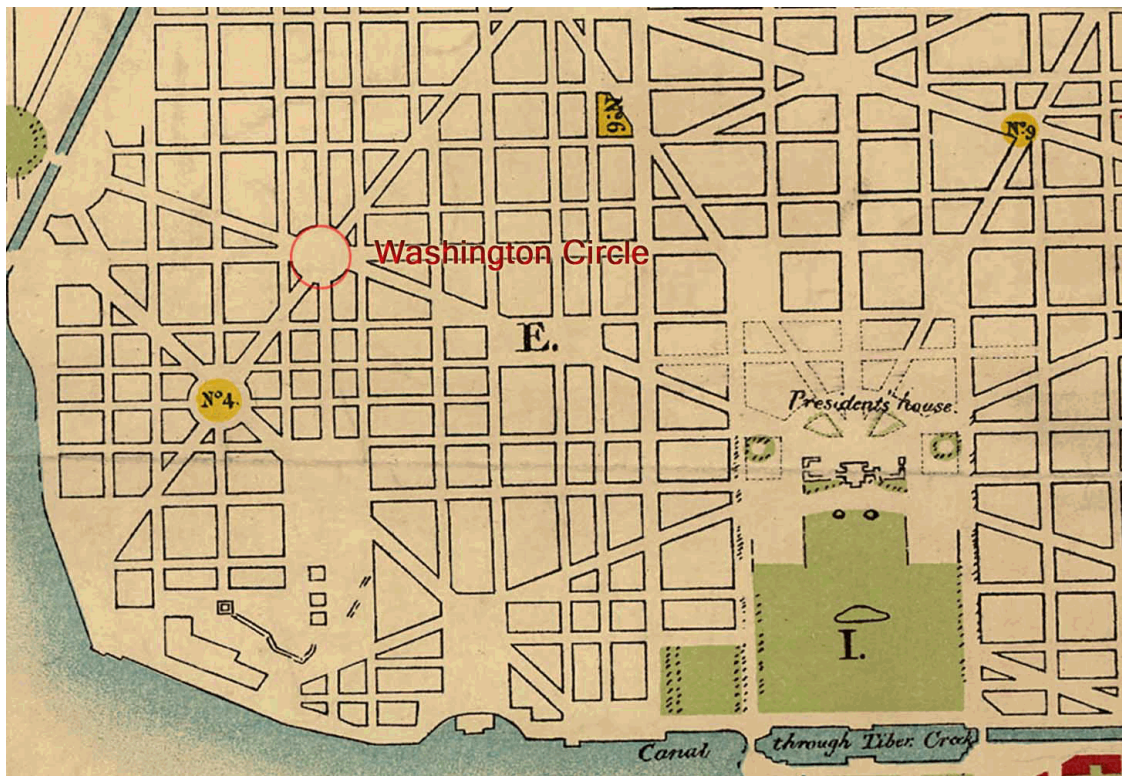
In 1800, the federal government moved to Washington. That year, city surveyor Nicholas King completed a survey of the new capital. King's survey revealed that the neighborhood surrounding the future Washington Circle was thinly populated and included twenty-seven brick or wood frame houses (Sherwood 1974: 2). An early Washington resident recalled that Foggy Bottom occupants in 1800 included "a carpenter, an architect, a pump borer, a stone cutter, a Negro family and a family of German immigrants" (Sherwood 1974: 3). Area residents enjoyed hunting, fishing, and skating along the Potomac and enjoyed picnics in Arlington hosted by George Washington Parke Custis, Martha Washington's grandson through her first marriage (Sherwood 1974: 4; <http://www.nps.gov/arho/historyculture/george-custis>). Foggy Bottom slowly developed during the early nineteenth century, while the areas closer to the President's House and the Capitol grew more quickly and more densely.

Businesses operating in Foggy Bottom during this period included several wharves and warehouses along the Potomac River. Ships weighing a few hundred tons sailed up Rock Creek, which at that time was broader and deeper than it is today. For many years shipping and warehousing were active industries in the area. Other businesses included dry good stores and one of the city's first breweries, which opened in 1796 along the river at B Street (Constitution Avenue) between 21st and 23rd streets. Over the early decades of the nineteenth century additional businesses were established in the neighborhood, including a glass factory

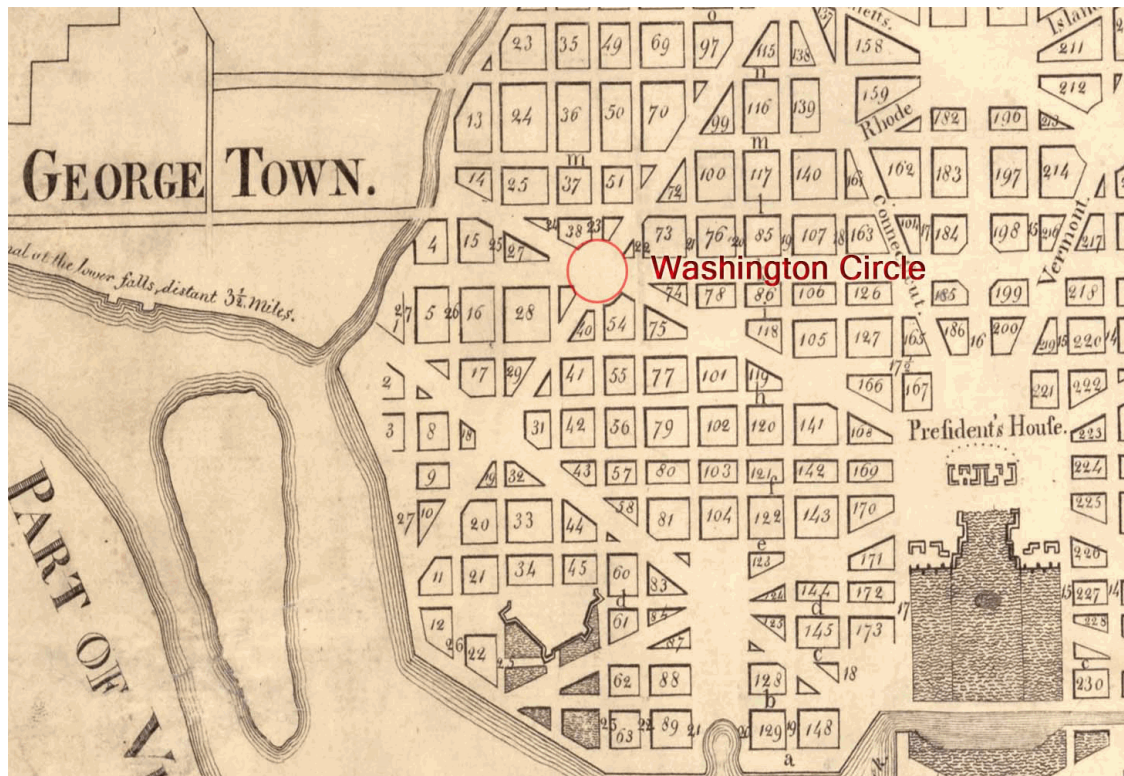
which employed between 100 and 200 men who lived nearby (Sherwood 1974: 4-6).

As the city of Washington grew, the character and population of Foggy Bottom changed. For many years there was a mix of professional, military, and unskilled laborers living in the neighborhood. Over the first decades of the nineteenth century, the number of professionals and the military decreased. People involved in commercial enterprises grew slightly, but the number of unskilled laborers increased greatly. In 1822, they made up 15% of the neighborhood's 40 households; in 1860, 42% of the 175 households were unskilled laborers, indicating the industrial nature of the area (Sherwood 1974:5). The glass house closed by 1833, but lime kilns, breweries, a wood lot, ice house, a shipyard, and the Washington Gas Light Company opened before 1860. The gas light company built a storage facility at New Hampshire and Virginia avenues which attracted a large number of new residents employed by the company. Another new neighborhood resident, the Naval Observatory, opened on Camp Hill, the site Thomas Jefferson suggested for the Capitol, in 1844 (Sherwood 1974: 5-7).

It is likely during this period, when new businesses were opening and industrial development was underway that the area, which was "swampy, boggy land prone to fog," became known as Foggy Bottom, though the origins of the name are unknown. The area around Washington Circle was also called "Round Tops." According to Sherwood, "there was no circle to speak of at that time, only two octagonal cupolas surmounting the roofs of two brick buildings between Pennsylvania Avenue and 23rd Street..." (Sherwood 1974: 7). The origins of Round Tops may not refer to buildings around the circle, but a neighborhood gang. At that time the area was not a safe part of Washington and a local gang, the Round Tops, resided in the neighborhood (Sherwood 1974:7).



Washington Circle identified on L'Enfant plan (Library of Congress).



Washington Circle identified on Ellicott map (Library of Congress).

1851 AD to 1860 AD

Development of the Circle

While Foggy Bottom continued to grow as an industrial and commercial area of the city, plans for improving Washington Circle were being developed. The circle was situated along a major route into the city as residents and merchants traveled between Georgetown and the center of Washington. A formal landscape design for the circle was created by 1853, but may have been developed as early as 1851 by city surveyor William Forsyth. According to a profile of Forsyth, he “laid out” the circle during his first year as a surveyor, which was 1851 (TIC 824_80006, 1853; “Looker for Surveyor,” *The Washington Post*, August 17, 1897, 10). The design features paths on axis with New Hampshire and Pennsylvania avenues which crisscross the site. The walkways meet at a radial path in the center of the circle. The path surrounds the site where the statue of Washington would later be installed.

At the same time the circle was being designed, plans for the erection of an equestrian statue of President Washington in the capital were underway. In January 1853, \$50,000 was appropriated “to enable the President of the United States to employ Clark Mills to erect, at the city of Washington, a colossal equestrian statue of George Washington, at such place on the public grounds in said city, as shall be designated by the President of the United States” (Statutes at Large and Treaties, 32nd Congress, session II...pg. 153. January 25, 1853). The

choice of Clark Mills (ca. 1815-1883) followed shortly after his completion of the equestrian statue of Andrew Jackson located in Lafayette Park. The Jackson statue was dedicated to great acclaim a few weeks before the appropriation for the Washington statue was awarded (Memorials in Washington, DC National Register Nomination, 2007: 13-14, hereafter referred to as NR 2007). During discussions about the Washington statue, a member of Congress praised Mills' statue of Jackson, stating he, "accomplished what has never been achieved by man before" (The Congressional Globe, 32nd Cong., 2nd Sess. 324 (1853)).

It is unclear how soon after Mills was awarded the commission that the site for the statue was chosen. The circle was an appropriately prominent location situated between Georgetown, one of the populous sections of Washington, and The White House. Pennsylvania Avenue was one of the busiest streets in the city and at that time one of the more developed. The 1861 Boschke map illustrates the development of the neighborhood around Washington Circle at the end of the 1850s. The blocks immediately surrounding the circle are thinly populated by buildings, but to the east of the circle, particularly along Pennsylvania Avenue, the area is densely developed (NR 2007: 14; Boschke: 1861).

The creation of Mills' Jackson statue, according to Eve Barsoum, author of the "Memorials in Washington, DC" National Register Nomination, was a historic event (NR 2007:13). Mills was awarded "the first bona fide equestrian commission in the nation" in 1848 (NR 2007:12). As Barsoum explains, "Sovereigns and soldiers on horseback had been an important theme in sculpture since antiquity" (NR 2007:12). The first equestrian statue in the future United States was the work of British sculptor Joseph Wilton. His work, George III (1760), was erected in 1770 in New York. After the reading of the Declaration of Independence in 1776, colonists destroyed the gilded lead statue and turned the pieces into bullets (NR 2007: 12-13). Following the American Revolution, the Continental Congress voted in 1783 to commission a statue of George Washington, but never appropriated money for its creation (Goode 1974: 384). There were several attempts to erect equestrian statues in the early nineteenth century, but none came to fruition. Mills was the first person to complete an equestrian work with his 1852 Andrew Jackson sculpture. Two additional equestrian statues were unveiled in the 1850s: Henry Kirk Brown and Thomas Crawford's statues of George Washington erected in New York City (1855) and Richmond (1858) (NR 2007: 13).

Clark Mills

Clark Mills (ca. 1815-1883) had no formal training in the visual arts. He began his career as a carpenter and after moving to Charleston, South Carolina, he became an ornamental plasterer. In 1835, Mills learned a new method for taking casts of faces which allowed him to make busts cheaply and brought him a good deal of work. He began experimenting with marble and sculpted a bust of John C. Calhoun. Mills' depiction of Calhoun won a gold medal awarded by the Charleston city council and the bust was displayed in Charleston's city hall (NR 2007: 12; Hart 1921: 200).

Mills received many commissions following the success of the Calhoun work, and on a visit to Washington in 1848, he was invited to enter the competition for an equestrian statue of Andrew

Jackson. Despite never having seen an equestrian statue or knowing what President Jackson looked like, according to an 1880 profile of Mills, he was awarded the commission based on the model he submitted (“Clark Mills at Home: How He Came to Make a Horse Which Defied the Critics,” *The Washington Post*, February 7, 1880, 2).

The statue of Jackson was unveiled in 1853 (Hart 1921: 200). Following the dedication, Congress awarded Mills an additional \$20,000 above the \$12,000 fee included in the contract for the work. Shortly after this bonus, Congress appropriated the \$50,000 for the Washington statue. The contract for the Washington statue stipulated that the sculpture should be completed in five years and be the same finish, size, and material as the Jackson statue. According to the contract, Mills was to be given \$10,000 to “erect the necessary buildings, purchase material, and prepare for the execution and erection” of the statue (“Articles of Agreement...” July 28, 1853, copy of contract located in NAMA Washington Circle files). The president had the authority to determine the location of the statue and the size and material of the pedestal. The *Baltimore Sun* noted the prominence and importance of the location, stating it “...should be on some elevated spot where, from every point of the city compass, our countrymen can have an unobstructed view” (“Correspondence of the *Baltimore Sun*,” *The Sun*, Jul 17, 1858, 4).

In discussing the bill authorizing the statue, the 1783 resolution for the original statue was referenced and it was determined that not all of its provisions of the earlier bill were to be carried out. The 1783 act stipulated that a European artist create the statue and President Washington be clothed in Roman dress. According to one member of Congress, “the American people never will consent to have another statue of General Washington erected in the Roman costume” (*The Congressional Globe*, 32nd Cong., 2nd Sess. 324 (1853)). The congressman may have partially been referring to Horatio Greenough’s controversial and unpopular statue of Washington modeled on the statue “Zeus of Olympia,” and dedicated in 1841. The statue was commissioned for the Capitol rotunda in 1832 in commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the president’s birth. Greenough’s Washington is seated, bare-chested and draped in Greek dress. The statue was removed from the rotunda after only two years. It was then displayed at the east front of the Capitol (Kamerer and Nolley 2003; Savage 49-50; “Washington on Display,” <http://uschs.wordpress.com/tag/horatio-greenough/>).

In creating the statue of Washington, Mills used the bust of Washington cast by French sculptor Jean-Antoine Houdon (1741-1828) as his model. The French artist, recommended by then minister to France Thomas Jefferson, had been commissioned by the Commonwealth of Virginia to create a statue for the capitol in Richmond. In 1785, Houdon traveled to Mount Vernon to take measurements in preparation for his sculpture. While there, he made a life-mask of Washington, as well as a terra-cotta bust of the president (Leigh 2011; Kamerer and Nolley 2003). Houdon returned to Paris with a mold of the bust and the life mask, but left the actual bust of Washington behind at Mount Vernon (Leigh 2011). Houdon’s statue of Washington was erected in 1796 and considered the “authoritative likeness of Washington” and copied by many artists through the nineteenth and twentieth centuries (Kamerer and Nolley 2003). From the 1840s to 1910, Virginia authorized “casting campaigns” to replicate the statue (Kamerer and Nolley 2003).

While Mills worked on the statue of President Washington, the circle remained unimproved. In October 1854, Washington Circle was described by the Commissioner of Public Buildings B.B. French as “unfinished and most unsightly...it is hoped an appropriation will be made by Congress to fence and improve it” indicating the design had not been implemented, or at least not completed (HABS DC-688:2). Some improvements followed, as indicated in the commissioner’s 1856 report. “The Circle...was planted last fall with trees and shrubbery,” but, because no appropriation was made that year for additional improvements, he was “unable to make any additions to it in the way of ornament, or even to have it properly attended and cultivated. Its present enclosure is of rough wooden slabs, and was only designed to be temporary. It is worthy of a handsome iron railing, as an enclosure” (AR 1856: 850-851).

Improvements were carried out by 1861 as indicated by the drawing “Of the Circle and its Improvements” which document the vegetation, light fixtures, pavement and the iron railing surrounding the circle. Vegetation lines both sides of the walkways on axis with the avenues. Vegetation is also located beside the paved walkway along the perimeter of the circle (TIC 824_80005, ca. 1860-1861). It is likely some, if not all, of the improvements were in place by the 1860 dedication of the Washington statue.

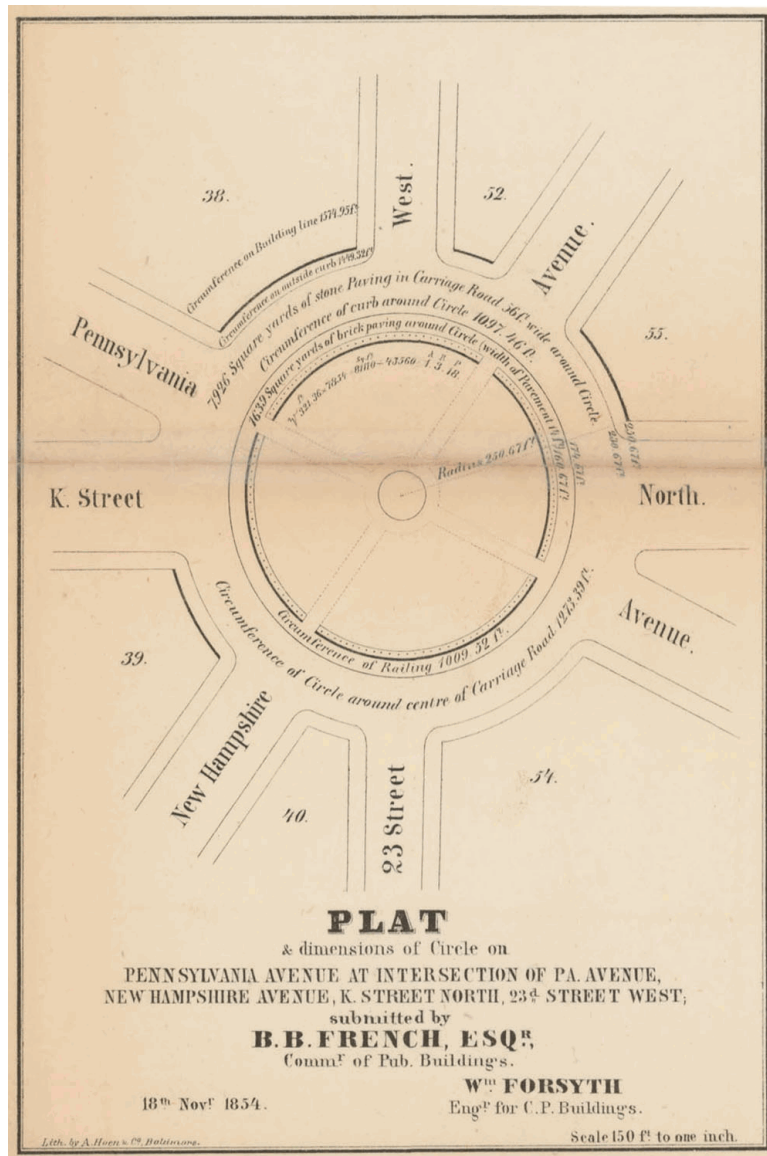
Clark Mills’ statue of Washington was dedicated on the president’s birthday, February 22, 1860. The mayor declared the day a city holiday and members of the military from New York, Maryland and Washington participated in the parade leading to the unveiling (2/22/1860 – copy of The Daily National Intelligencer (DNI) from Washington Circle files at NAMA). President Buchanan and members of his cabinet and congress, the Supreme Court, the mayor of Washington, other city officials, Clark Mills and thousands of onlookers attended the ceremony (DNI, 2/24/1860, copy at NAMA). The ceremony’s orator spoke of the circle as an “appropriate spot, where the Summer sunbeams latest linger, and where the breezes from the blue hills of his own native and beloved Virginia delight to play” (Washington’s Birthday...February 23, 1860, The New York Times). President Buchanan dedicated the statue and addressed the crowd. He was followed by Mills, who explained, “in justice to myself,” that the original design would have been

“Forty feet in height, constructed of marble, and the figures of bronze—the pedestal divided into three stories, to represent the three great epochs in the history of our country. The first story would represent the country as it appeared when first discovered, inhabited by Indians; the second story would represent the dawn of civilization; and the third story the great Revolutionary epoch, Washington’s generals being all represented life-size and in full relief, the whole being surmounted by the equestrian statue of the Father of our Country” (DNI, February 24, 1860, transcribed copy of the article available in NAMA files).

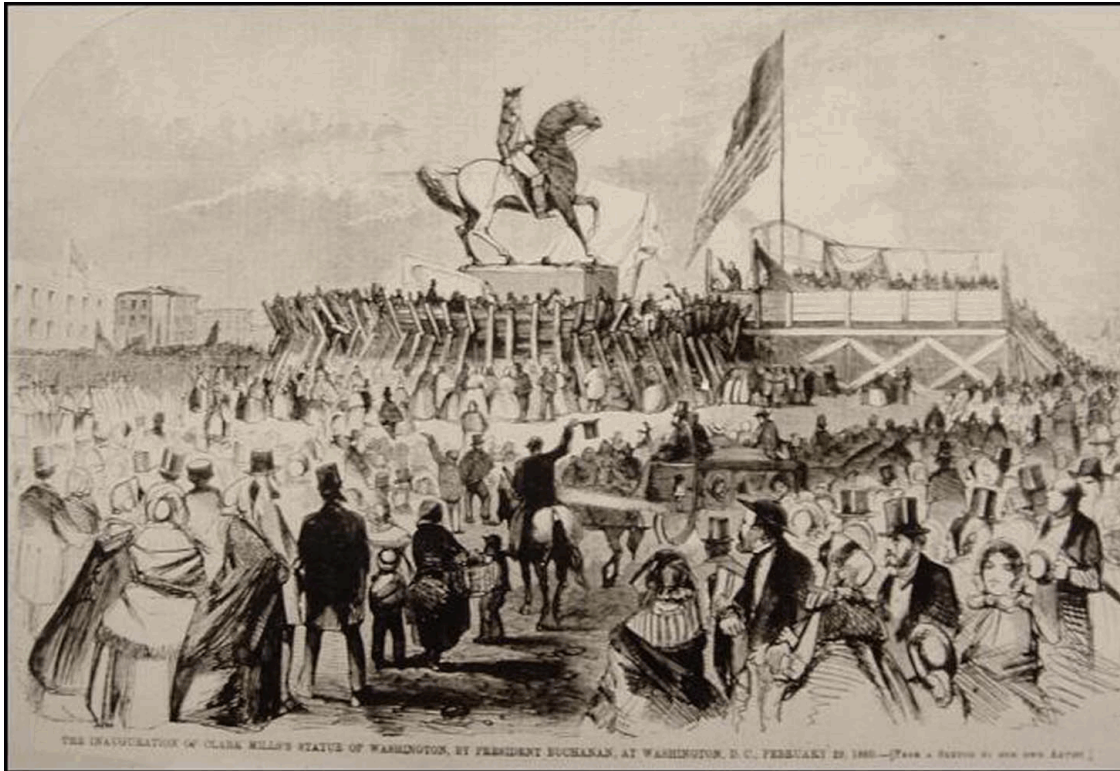
Mills full design was not carried out because the funds appropriated for the statue would not have been sufficient to cover the costs. Mills told the crowd he made a copy of the cast Houdin took of the president’s face and explained that the statue is based on a description of Washington during the Battle of Princeton found in a biography of the first president.

Mills depicted the horse as terrified while Washington has a calm expression as he advances

towards British troops (DNI, February 24, 1860, transcribed copy of the article available in NAMA Washington Circle files). The contrast between Washington and the horse “received much criticism because the calm expression of the Washington appeared incongruous with the terrified look of the horse” (Goode 1974: 384).



1854 plan for Washington Circle (Serial Set:748, Congress: 32-2(1854-1855),S.exdoc.1/18)



Dedication of Washington statue (GWU Special Collections).

1861 AD to 1872 AD

Washington's Infrastructure

Foggy Bottom remained an industrial section of the city following the dedication of the Washington statue. According to Susan Sherwood, “Placing an equestrian statue of George Washington in Washington Circle in 1860 did not improve the area to any great degree...” (Sherwood 1974: 9). But, within a short time, the Civil War would spur new development in the neighborhood.

In 1861, the circle was enclosed with “a firm and elegant iron fence” (AR 1860: 486; AR 1861: 850). This would be the only improvement for several years, as the Civil War began and Foggy Bottom, like much of the city, filled with soldiers, as well as “wagon sheds and corrals for 30,000 horses and mules” (Green 1962: 262). Members of the Invalid Corps (renamed the Veteran Reserve Corps in 1864) occupied Camp Fry established along 23rd Street south of Washington Circle. An 1865 lithograph of the camp shows barracks lining both sides of the street. The illustration also reveals the condition of the south side of Washington Circle. The drawing depicts the fence enclosing the circle, pathways around the statue and on axis with New Hampshire Avenue, and numerous trees and shrubs. A few people are shown strolling through the circle and a horse-drawn streetcar travels along the perimeter (Mangus, “Camp Fry,” HSW/GWU). Streetcar tracks were laid along Pennsylvania Avenue around Washington

Circle in 1862 (AR 1862: 3-4; Bednar 187).

The lithograph depicts Washington Circle in an idyllic light and shows the public enjoying the site. According to the Commissioner of Public Buildings B.B. French, the public did enjoy the circle as did local livestock. French appealed for funding to maintain the circle and prevent it from deteriorating through public use. According to French, the circle was,

“...handsomely enclosed with an iron fence, cultivated at much expense...unless some proper measures are taken to take care of it, it might as well have been left in the state it was before any improvement was made upon it. No money has been appropriated to keep up the improvements upon it or pay a watchman for taking care of it, and the consequence is that it is filled with cattle and horses, and with gangs of boys who make all sorts of depredations within the enclosure. Scarce a month passes that I do not receive numerous complaints from the good citizens residing in that neighborhood of the desecration of ‘the Circle.’ I have endeavored, by placing gates in such order that they could not well be left open, and by giving some official, doing duty in that neighborhood, a supervisory control over it, to remedy the evils complained of, but have failed. Persons will open the gates and fasten them open; boys will enter and make it their play-ground, and cattle and horses either go in of their own accord or are purposely turned in; and what should be a beautifully cultivated spot, and an ornament, is converted into almost a public nuisance. If Congress will make a small appropriation to put the place in complete order, and allow the Commissioner a watchman to take care of it, it can be kept in proper order, and be always, what it was intended to be, a beauty and an honor to the city” (HABS DC-688:3; AR 1865:7).

Based on reports for the few years following French’s plea, it appears no funds were appropriated for the circle. In 1867, Washington Circle apparently was in good condition. According to that year’s report, the circle was not suffering the damage French feared or no note of damage was recorded. “The Circle at the intersection of Pennsylvania and New Hampshire avenues and K street west, also presents a most pleasing feature to the gaze” (AR 1867: 523). That year, watchmen’s lodges were erected in the city’s developed public parks, including Washington Circle, and men were employed to guard against vandalism and other threats to the sites. Also in 1867, the care of the circle, along with the city’s large, small, and irregularly shaped public spaces, was transferred to the newly created Office of Public Buildings and Grounds (OPBG). The new office fell under the management of the War Department and the work of the division was carried out by the Army Corps of Engineers. Major Nathaniel Michler was the first officer in charge of the OPBG and was succeeded by Colonel Orville E. Babcock in 1871 (Scott 2005: 72, 75).

Low appropriations for the parks continued through the early 1870s and additional improvements to Washington Circle, with the exception of an iron fence erected in 1869, were not made (AR 1869: 497; AR 1870: 520; AR 1871: 9758, 978; AR 1872: 11). In the engineers’ 1870 annual report, Major Michler complained over the small appropriations they received for improving and maintaining public spaces. “A less amount is appropriated for the care and improvement of the several hundred acres of Government reservations throughout the city than many private individuals expend toward the adornment of their own domains” (AR 1870: 520).

Through the early 1870s, the OPBG set out to identify and improve Washington's public parks and reservations. In 1872, the office published a location and condition survey of all the city's parks. They aimed to make these "places of sand and mud," into beautiful and inviting spaces (Scott 2005: 75; Gutheim 1977: 86). The OPBG's work on the small parks and reservations included, "grading; planting trees, shrubs and flowers; irrigating; and building walks and roads," and in larger parks they added watchmen's stations and fountains, benches, lamps, and ornamental vases (Scott 2005: 76). In 1871, when Colonel Orville Babcock assumed leadership of the OPBG, "workers in his employ laid forty-six thousand feet of sod, constructed one thousand feet of curbing, ten thousand yards of pavement and walks, and put in four miles of drains" (Scott 2005: 76).

The city underwent a change in leadership not long after the creation of the OPBG which greatly affected Washington's infrastructure and open spaces. In 1871, a territorial government was established and the city's Board of Public Works, led by Alexander "Boss" Shepherd, initiated an extensive infrastructure improvements program.

During Shepherd's tenure, city streets were paved and graded and thousands of trees planted. The improvements followed proposals debated by congress at the end of the Civil War to relocate the capital to the Mississippi or Ohio valleys. Shepherd, a native Washingtonian and friend of President Ulysses Grant, sought to prevent the relocation of the capital and "led local boosters who advocated a more active district government and a building program to make the city handsome and to revitalize it with modern amenities becoming common in other American and European cities" (Scott 2005: 111). The head of the Office of Public Buildings and Grounds, Colonel Orville Babcock, was a personal friend of Shepherd and "the two coordinated their efforts to pave streets and landscape parks in newly developed areas" (HABS DC-688: 3). Babcock, along with General Montgomery Meigs and Frederick Law Olmsted, were appointed to a panel to advise the city's board of public works (Scott 2005: 81). The board "praised Babcock for his 'cordial co-operation with local authorities, his wise counsel, energy, and ability'" (Scott 2005: 77). The 1872 survey and condition assessment of the city's parks described Washington Circle as "inclosed with an iron fence; walks laid out but not very well graveled; surrounded by a brick pavement" (AR 1872: 23; HABS DC-688: 3). The circle was one of nine parks fully improved at the time the survey was conducted (HABS DC-688:3).

In the three years Shepherd led the Board of Public Works, over a hundred miles of streets were paved, sidewalks were built, a sewer system installed, approximately three thousand street lights erected, and the public reservations planted with trees and flowers (Scott 2005: 112). In 1873, Shepherd's "pell-mell pace, ruthless treatment of property owners, and financial juggling brought the territorial government down in a major scandal" (Scott 2005: 113). Shepherd was removed from his position and the territorial government dissolved by Congress. Babcock was implicated in the scandal, but acquitted. His reputation was tarnished and he was later accused of further wrongdoing, but cleared. He remained officer in charge of the Office of Public Buildings and Grounds until 1877 (Scott 2005:75, 81; Gutheim 1977: 86).



Camp Fry, Washington Circle in the foreground (Mangus: 1965. GWU Special Collections).

1873 AD to 1929 AD

Washington Circle

Improvements at Washington Circle between 1873 and 1874 included,

"taking up the gravel walks, grading and narrowing them, and relaying the screened gravel. They were carefully rolled, and now present a smooth and hard surface very pleasant to walk upon. The ground around the statue has been enlarged, re-graded, and sodded. A brick gutter was laid around the circle inclosing the statue and on each side of the walks...the portion of these grounds that was regarded was sodded; the trees were trimmed to open a view of the statue, and the seats replaced and fastened in position" (AR 1874: 7).

Ten new settees were added to the circle by 1875 and older seating was repaired and repainted (AR 1875: 11-12).

Within a couple of years of these enhancements, the circle's condition deteriorated. In 1877, the new officer in charge of public buildings reported that no additional work had been undertaken since 1874 and the "reservation is not in the condition its prominence deserves regarding improvement and ornamentation" (AR 1874: 8). The officer noted that the rubble drains were unserviceable, the lawns overrun with wild garlic, and the margins and the corners of the gravel walks were worn down from pedestrians trampling on the grass. He reported the trees were large and thickly-planted, and thereby largely obscured the Washington Statue from view. Many of the settees were no longer fastened to the ground and seemed unstable. He

suggested several remedies to improve the circle's condition, including removing unsuitable trees wherever they obstruct views of the statue from the approaches to the circle. He further suggested paving the walks, removing the garlic from the grass, installing drinking fountains and planting flower beds (AR 1877: 8-9). Over the next few years, only routine maintenance was undertaken at Washington Circle, though there is some indication that the lawns were irrigated in 1879 based on the amount of water reported to be used that year (AR 1880: 2355).

The population of Foggy Bottom, like the rest of Washington, grew after the Civil War. New hotels and stores opened and the introduction of the streetcar allowed for people to live at a distance from where they worked. Foggy Bottom did not improve in the same manner as the rest of the city. The neighborhood, "which had firmly established itself as a sleepy backwater, lagged far behind other parts of the city as they rushed toward urban refinement" (Sherwood 1974: 11). The neighborhood population was a mix of low-income African Americans and German, Irish, and Italian immigrants. The Germans tended to work for the neighborhood breweries and the Irish at the Washington Gas and Light Company. African-Americans historically had lived in the neighborhood since the city was founded. Foggy Bottom residents lived in the narrow, brick row houses that began to fill the area, or to the rear of city lots in alley dwellings. These brick, two-story houses were built behind other buildings and their entrances faced onto an alley. The poorest residents resided in frame shacks that were not intended for human habitation (Sherwood 12-13).

During the 1870s, the circle, which had always been identified in reports and other documents by its reservation number or the streets intersecting with it, began to be referred to as Washington Circle. It is first identified as Washington Circle in the 1872 annual report of the commissioner of public buildings and grounds and continued to be referred to by that name in subsequent reports and other documents (AR 1872: 13). Unlike the neighborhoods surrounding other circles in the city, such as Logan and Dupont, which became identified with them, the area around Washington Circle continued to be known as Foggy Bottom.

Washington Circle underwent significant change in the 1880s. Early in the decade the walks were described as in poor condition and the circle was "planted thickly with deciduous trees" (AR 1882: 2352). In 1884 and 1885, the circle was improved. The Office of Public Buildings and Grounds reported,

"This circle has been greatly improved during the year; the iron fence has been removed, the granite boundary coping stones dressed and reset; grounds brought to proper grade and surface soiled; new paths laid out, coated with screened gravel, and rolled; lawn surfaces sown down in grass seed and winter rye; water pipes extended and two drinking fountains with large ornamental gas lamps erected; ten lamp-posts were placed in position on the margins of walks" (AR 1885: 2506).

The new pathways were one of the most substantial changes to the circle's landscape. The straight paths on axis with the avenues were replaced by curvilinear walks that incorporated the original paths and remained in line with the surrounding streets. Additional walkways meandered between the pathways in line with the avenues. They bordered large oval lawn

panels towards the outer edge of the circle. Walkways also bordered the lawn panels on the interior of the circle and connected with the circular path surrounding the statue.

Other work on the circle included the removal of old and decayed trees and the OPBG reported, “the park greatly improved in appearance; settees were placed in position, and the circle is now becoming a place of resort for the residents in the vicinity” (AR 1885: 2506). In 1886, improvements continued with “a large number of ornamental trees and shrubs planted,” twelve lamps and several park settees were installed (AR 1886: 2079, 2083-2084). The following year, the walkways “on regular lines of travel” were paved (AR 1887: 2574). This followed several years of requests for appropriations to cover the costs of laying asphalt in Washington’s parks. Along with the circle, only a few other sites were paved that year and a request for funding to pave the remainder of the walkways in the city’s parks was again submitted to congress. Until the paths were paved, wooden planks were laid during the fall and winter in the public spaces throughout the city. In addition, vegetation suffered as a result of the lack of paving when pedestrians resorted to walking on the lawn (AR 1887: 2574, 2590). Washington Circle’s “regular lines of travel” presumably were the trails in line with Pennsylvania and New Hampshire avenues.

Over the next decade, Washington Circle primarily underwent routine maintenance and repairs; trees were trimmed to restore views to the Washington statue from Pennsylvania and New Hampshire avenues and the circle’s drainage was improved (AR 1899: 3832; AR 1892 3392, 3284). For a number of years the circle was described as being “in a highly improved condition, and are encircled by a granite curbing; gravel or asphalt walks on convenient lines of travel are in good condition; gas lamps around and through the park; lawn surfaces planted with choice evergreen and deciduous trees and shrubs and interspersed with flower beds for summer decorative planting of flowering and foliage plants; there is a watchman’s lodge in the park and two drinking fountains” (AR 1887: 2597; AR 1894: 3299). The most significant landscape development during the 1890s was the planting of 171 shrubs in 1893 and 1894, but the variety and location of the shrubs was not identified in annual reports (AR 1894: 3280).

A significant development in the management of Washington Circle and the city’s public spaces occurred in the 1898. That year, Congress placed the jurisdiction of Washington’s parks under the control of the Chief of Engineers and the management of the city’s street parking under the control of the Commissioners of the District of Columbia (Heine 1953: 10). Parking referred not to spaces for cars, but the strip of land between the sidewalk and the property line and along median strips. The city’s parks were defined as “all public spaces laid down as reservations on the map of 1894” which at that time consisted of 301 public spaces in downtown Washington (Heine 1953: 27).

Washington Circle’s “native and foreign deciduous and evergreen trees and shrubs” are identified in the 1900 annual report. Fifty species (29 trees and 21 shrubs) are listed, but the number of each species and the location are not provided (AR 1900: 5286-87). Five years later, another list of the circle’s trees and shrubs is compiled and a map of their location is included in the annual report. Forty-nine species are identified, 32 of which match the earlier vegetation list (AR 1905: 2770, accompanying plan of Washington Circle; HABS DC-688:3-4; DSC TIC 1905

824-80010).

The 1905 map depicts a densely-planted landscape with a ring of 31 silver maples planted around the perimeter of the circle. The overall composition shown on the map is similar to a scene captured in the photograph of Washington Circle published in the 1899 annual report. Given this apparent similarity, individual plants were evidently added, removed, or exchanged, but the overall planting plan for Washington Circle appears to have remained substantially the same (AR 1899: photo following page 3834; AR 1900: 5286-87; AR 1905: 2770, accompanying plan of Washington Circle; HABS DC-688: 3-4; DSC TIC 1905 824-80010).

George Burnap

In 1911, Washington Circle underwent another landscape modification. That year, a new lawn panel was installed at the eastern entrance to the circle between Pennsylvania Avenue and K Street. The modified rectangular panel replaced a walkway, smaller lawn panels, and two lamps. Wide walkways lined the borders of the new lawn panel and seasonal flowers and boxwood were later planted there (Burnap 1916: 73; DSC TIC 1911 824-80008; 1914 824-80014).

The design was created by George Burnap (1885-1938), the landscape architect for the Office of Public Buildings and Grounds between 1910 and 1917. Burnap had a great influence on Washington's public spaces. He designed the first plan for Meridian Hill Park and created designs for Montrose Park, the Tidal Basin and many other landscapes in Washington. In addition to his work in Washington, Burnap designed parks and park systems in Missouri, Virginia, Maryland, Nebraska, New York and South Carolina (HABS DC-532: 14; Birnbaum 2000: 39-43; George Elberton Burnap, The Cultural Landscape Foundation, <http://tclf.org/content/george-burnap>)

George Burnap was also the author of "Parks: Their Design, Equipment and Use," published in 1916. The book was the first volume in a planned four volume series about landscape architecture. In the book, Burnap discussed design options for city squares and open spaces and characterized two types of landscapes, "passing-through" and "passing around" parks. Passing around parks were viewed by "rapidly passing vehicles and hurrying pedestrians" (Barthold 1993: 36). Passing-through parks were located along major pedestrian routes and were designed to get people through them as quickly as possible. Burnap wrote that designs that slow traffic would be "ill received" and passing-through parks "must be designed for absolute accommodation and convenience of traffic, with all other considerations secondary" (Burnap 1916: 78). He allowed for "a certain amount of civic beautification" that would be pleasing to the eye and allow for enjoyment in the middle of the day when people are not rushing to and from work (Burnap 1916: 78-80). Burnap wrote that the passing-through parks should have "direct cross lines, well-proportioned spaces and auxiliary ornamentation" (Burnap 1916: 80). The 1911 alteration of the landscape made Washington Circle more of a passing-through park than it had previously been.

Burnap used his 1911 modification to Washington Circle's landscape as an example in his book

and included illustrations showing the circle prior to the redesign and afterwards. The caption for the landscape prior to the work stated, “a park approach congested and cluttered presents the park in an ignoble light and alienates it from its civic surroundings” (Burnap 1916: 72). The post-redesign caption stated, “a park approach direct and clear, reveals the park in a cordial congenial aspect. It is the handclasp of park and city” (Burnap 1916: 73). The following year, the Office of Public Buildings and Grounds noted that 43 shrubs were planted at the circle and described the design changes. “The approach to Washington Circle along the Avenue was rendered more attractive by simplifying the foreground of the statue” (AR 1912: 3488).

Shortly after the new approach to Washington Circle was built, an institution that would become one of Foggy Bottom’s most influential residents moved to the neighborhood. In 1912, George Washington University’s (GW) college of arts and sciences relocated from downtown Washington to the site of a former industrial school in a residential section of the neighborhood (Anderson 2010: 81). Founded in 1821 as Columbian College, the school was located between 14th and 15th streets north of Florida Avenue. In 1884, the college moved downtown between 14th and 15th and H and I streets (Anderson 2010: 81). After GW’s move, the university quickly began to acquire property in the neighborhood and by 1936 purchased nearly all the historic houses bounded by G, H, 20th, and 21st streets. They constructed numerous buildings and by 1959 had acquired 19 additional properties in the neighborhood (Anderson 2010: 81).

The landscape of Washington Circle remained relatively unchanged between during the teens and 1920s and work at the circle was predominately routine maintenance and the planting of additional trees, shrubs and flowers. The most significant addition to the circle’s vegetation took place in 1915 and between 1918 and 1919. Forty-five trees and shrubs were planted in 1915. Twelve evergreen shrubs, five deciduous shrubs and 40 perennial flowers were planted between 1918 and 1919. Their variety and location of the vegetation planted during this period was not identified in annual reports or drawings.

Additional landscape features during 1910s included the construction of two "sand lots" (sand boxes) adjacent to the Pennsylvania Avenue pathway on the western side of the circle in 1915 (AR 1916:3583). New lights were added in 1913 and again in 1916-1917. During the latter installation, the “boulevard-type” gas lanterns were replaced with “round globes of a newer and better design” (AR 1917: 3707-08). The boulevard style had been used extensively in northwest Washington at the turn of the century and was in place at Washington Circle by 1904 (Noreen 1975: 20; Historic Image Collection, Washingtonia Collection, 1904). The lights were changed again between 1917 and 1932. Photographs reveal that the Newport style lamp and the Washington Globe were in place at Washington Circle (see Small Scale Features and Topography in the Analysis and Evaluation section for photographs of the boulevard, Newport, and Washington Globe style lamps). The Newport may have been the “newer and better design” referred to in annual reports. Shortly after World War I this lamp style was used in many of the city’s circles, parks, and the Smithsonian grounds (Noreen 1975: 20-21; Burnap 1916: 41). A few Washington Globe lamps appear in mid-1920 photographs of the circle.

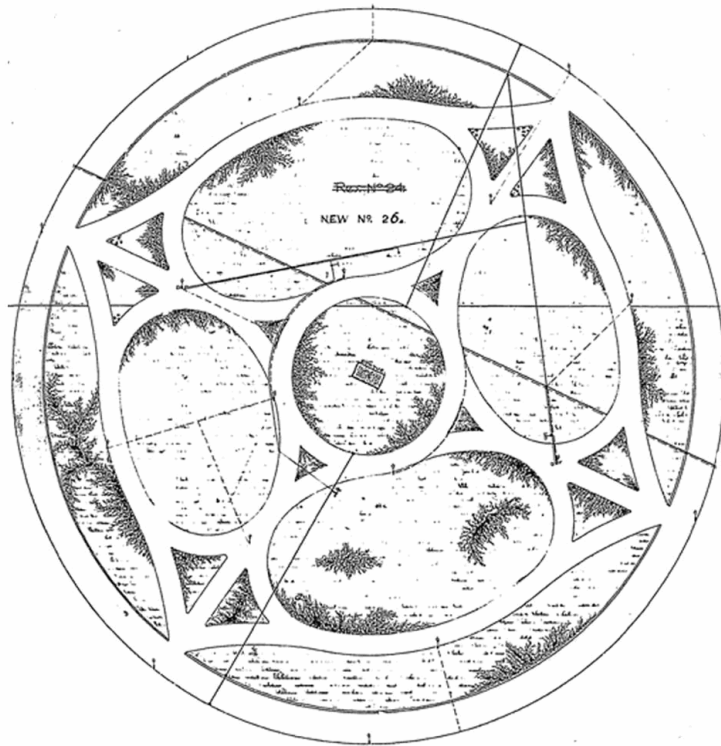
By the early 1920s the condition of Washington Circle had deteriorated according to the Office of Public Buildings and Grounds. The OPBG’s 1921 annual report stated "the walks are old

asphalt and the plantings are old and have become very unsightly and should be replaced. Owing to the location of the circle on one of the principle thoroughfares, it is important that the planting should be renewed and the walks reconstructed" (AR 1921: 2087).

An existing conditions map of the circle created that year shows the approximate locations of all trees, shrubs, walks, lamps, and other landscape features. Several trees and shrubs, including Norway spruce (*Abies excels*), American linden (*Tilia americana*), silver maple (*Acer saccharinum*), boxwood (*Buxus sempervirens*), lilac (*Syringa vulgaris*), horse chestnut (*Aesculus hippocastanum*), red ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*), and Cornelian cherry (*Cornus masculus*), occupied the same locations as they had in the 1905 map. However, many of the plants present on the 1905 map do not appear on the 1921 map, most notably a ring of 31 silver maples (*Acer saccharinum*) planted along the perimeter of the circle. New trees and shrubs not included in the 1905 plan also appear on the 1921 plan, and these are presumably the unidentified plants mentioned in the annual reports during the intervening years. The 1921 plan also includes planned removals and relocations of existing vegetation, as well as proposed new plantings of a privet hedge around the mound supporting the Washington statue and a massing of juniper and pachysandra around the statue itself. Judging by a 1931 plan it appears that some of the proposed changes took place (DSC TIC 1905:824-80010; DSC TIC 1921:824-80013; DSC TIC 1921: 824-80014; DSC TIC 1921: 824-80015; DSC TIC 1931: 824-80017).

Also in 1921, an expert bronze worker's inspection of the Washington statue revealed "numerous holes and open seams" that were allowing water to enter the statue. During the winter months the water would freeze and cause further damage (AR 1921: 2087). The most critical area of the statue in need of repair was located along the neckline of Washington's horse. According to the inspector, "unless repairs are made within a reasonable time, the head and neck will be severed from the body" (AR 1921: 2087).

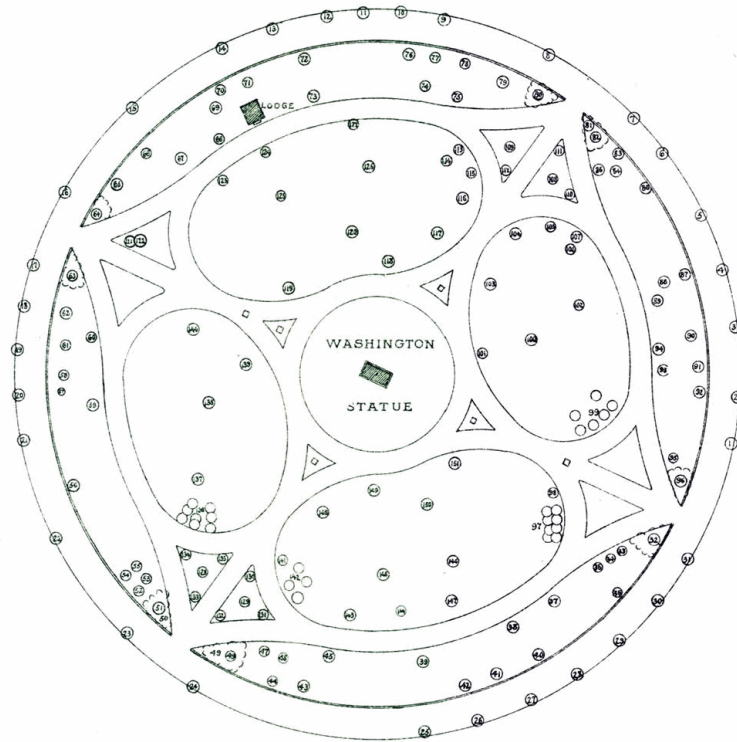
The statue was removed, with some difficulty, in 1923 for repairs. It took workers several days to disengage the statue from the pedestal, and ultimately the removal required melting the anchors holding the sculpture in place. During the week it took to complete the removal, local newspapers reported that members of the city's citizens associations were debating switching Clark Mills' statue of Andrew Jackson in Lafayette Park with the statue of Washington. Several people were in favor of the idea, as was the officer in charge of the OPBG. According to a newspaper article published in 1927, there had been repeated efforts to switch the statues prior to the 1923 discussion. According to the article, President Harding put a stop to the exchange that year ("Washington in Pictures No. 30," *The National Daily*, November 26, 1927, copy located in NAMA Washington Circle files). Further research is necessary to learn more about earlier movements to switch the statues and the extent of the 1923 proposal. During President Franklin D. Roosevelt's administration the idea for switching the statues was revived. Advocates of the switch wanted all of the memorials in Lafayette Park to be related to the Revolutionary War (Bednar 2006: 100).



Washington Circle 1880s plan (DSC TIC 824-80007).



Washington Circle, 1899 (1899 AR)



Washington Circle 1905 plant inventory (DSC TIC 824-80010).



Top: Before Burnap redesign. Bottom: After redesign (Burnap 1916).

1930 AD to 1960 AD

A Passing Through Park

Washington Circle underwent another design change in the 1930s. The new landscape plan was part of city-wide transformation of Washington's circles and squares. During the late 1920s and early 1930s, "formal symmetrical plans gradually replaced densely planted picturesque landscapes, and meandering path systems were torn up and laid along logical lines of traffic" in many of the city's parks (Barthold 1993: 37). In the late 1920s, future National Park Service director Conrad Wirth, then employed as a landscape architect by the National

Capital Park and Planning Commission, conducted a survey of Washington's public reservations. He noted that 57 reservations were in need of upgrades to meet the needs of the times. Wirth reported that Dupont Circle and Stanton Park still had "curved walks and small odd spaces that are of little practical use" and featured flower beds that looked "like puddings or fancy tarts scattered about on the lawn" (Barthold 1993: 37). The redesigned landscapes were in keeping with George Burnap's landscape philosophies and the 1901-1902 McMillan Plan. The plan, along with calling for the extension of Washington's park system and the establishment and maintenance of design standards for the area, called for the replacement of the Andrew Jackson Downing landscape on the National Mall with the more axial landscape envisioned by L'Enfant.

Washington Circle's new layout, completed between 1931 and 1932, included axial walks similar to those of the circle's 1850s landscape design and three circular walkways—one surrounding the Washington statue, another two-thirds of the way toward the perimeter of the circle, and a third around the perimeter. The sandboxes remained in roughly the same location as they were previously, but were changed to a circular design. Other landscape features installed by 1933 included planting beds located in the large lawn panel at the eastern entrance of the circle; an ornamental iron fence and floodlights atop cement coping surrounding the Washington statue; and two drinking fountains to the north and south of the statue (TIC 824_80018; TIC 824_80019; TIC 824_80020). The tool house erected in 1867 remained in the northwest section of the circle.

In addition to a redesign of the circle's landscape, during the 1930s Washington Circle also underwent a management change. In 1933, Washington Circle, as well as all the properties managed by the Office of Public Buildings and Public Parks, was transferred to the newly created Office of National Parks, Buildings, and Reservations. President Roosevelt signed Executive Order 6166 on June 10 and Executive Order 6228 on July 28th, which turned management of national military parks, national cemeteries, and several monuments over to the National Park Service. The president did so as part of a reorganization of the Executive Branch begun by President Hoover shortly before he left office. Through these orders, the Office of Public Buildings and Public Parks was abolished (Heine 1953: 36; Floyd Part II ch. III: 4).

Again, Washington Circle's landscape remained unaltered for several years. Following World War II, the character of Foggy Bottom once again began to change. George Washington University continued to expand. In 1948, the university built a high rise hospital building on the south side of the circle (HABS DC-688:4). The State Department and the World Bank were among the first of several large, and often high profile, organizations that moved to the neighborhood beginning in the mid-1940s. One organization that left the neighborhood was the Washington Gas Light Company. The company started to vacate the neighborhood in the late 1940s and in 1954 the company demolished the large storage tanks that had for years served as a reminder of the neighborhood's industrial history. Following their departure, high-rise apartment buildings for middle and upper income earners began to rise in Foggy Bottom (Anderson and Anderson 2010: 85).

A substantial change to the character of Foggy Bottom was the construction of new freeways

and thoroughfares. With the growth of Washington's population following the war and the expansion of the city's suburbs, traffic control and transportation planning were a major concern. At Washington Circle, automobile traffic increased considerably; in 1950 the streetcar tracks were removed to make way for more cars (Bednar 2006: 188). The circle itself, "became an island within clogged roadways, difficult for a pedestrian to reach and inhospitable to occupy... In order to reduce the traffic around the circular park there was a plan to run Pennsylvania Avenue through it, slicing it in two" (Bednar 2006: 188). Further research is necessary to learn more about the Pennsylvania Avenue plan.

The neighborhood was affected by several highway projects carried out in the 1940s through the 1960s. Some of the projects were completed, including the Whitehurst Freeway (1949), Theodore Roosevelt Bridge (1964), the K Street underpass (1962), and E Street Expressway (1965), but others were unrealized or only partially constructed (Sherwood 1974: 43, 48). The completion of the Whitehurst Freeway, which traveled between Georgetown and K Street west of Washington Circle near Rock Creek, was to be part of a long considered east-west highway traveling across the city (Sherwood 1974: 43). Shortly after the freeway opened there was an increase in traffic around Washington Circle which led to a call for construction of the K Street underpass. Traffic studies conducted in the first few months of the freeway's operation found that there was not an immediate need to build it ("Traffic Count May Decide Underpass," *The Washington Post*, 6 Nov 1949: M17; "Washington Circle," *The Washington Post*, 11 Nov 1949; Lyons, "Untitled Article," *The Washington Post*, 1 Jan 1950: M10).

The unrealized roadway projects ultimately had a greater effect on Foggy Bottom than Washington Circle. Planners in the 1950s, in anticipation of the growth of Washington over the next few decades, proposed a series of highway rings around the center of the city. The first ring was located about a mile from the White House. A section of this road was to travel through Foggy Bottom, and at different stages in the planning process it was routed along 23rd Street or New Hampshire Avenue. The route was later revised and the west leg was to be built between 26th Street and Rock Creek Parkway, west of Washington Circle (Sherwood 1974: 46-47). Only a portion of the inner ring was built, which included the Southeast-Southwest Freeway and part of the west leg of the loop through Foggy Bottom. Nearly ten residential blocks were demolished to make way for the road. The portion completed came to a halt at K Street and was described as "a highway leading to nowhere" for it consisted of an access ramp unattached to a highway (Anderson 2010: 85; Sherwood 1974: 47). The highway rings project was abandoned in the 1960s, with the exception of the Capital Beltway circling Washington, but the access ramp remained standing for many years.



Washington Circle, 1950s. Some social trails visible (Washingtoniana Collection).

1961 AD to 2012 AD

The K Street Underpass Through Today

A transportation project that had a direct effect on Washington Circle was the extension of the Whitehurst Freeway known as the K Street Expressway. The expressway included the K Street underpass beneath Washington Circle (Sherwood 1974: 48).

The K Street underpass was originally to be constructed in the early 1950s, but traffic studies found that there was not an immediate need to build it (Lyons, untitled article "The Washington Post," 1 Jan 1950: M10). When constructed in the early 1960s, the project followed the construction of underpasses at three other city circles, Thomas, Dupont, and Scott. The Thomas Circle underpass opened in 1940 ("Underpass to Open on March 14," The Washington Post, 2 Mar 1940: 2). Construction of the Washington Circle underpass started in 1960 and was completed in 1962.

During the construction, the statue of Washington was removed and a number of trees were encased in protective wooden boxes. An open construction trench on axis with K Street crossed the center of the circle. Cars, building materials and construction related equipment filled the areas to the north and south of the trench ("When Circle is Completed, Washington will be There," The Washington Post, 21 Apr 1962: C1; Tolson to Commissioners, July 17,

1960, NCR Reservations Files). At the time of the construction NPS documented 28 trees on the circle. Eleven trees were selected for removal and the remaining trees were to be “boxed with a solid wooden fence at least 6’ high, substantially constructed” (Tolson to Commissioners, July 17, 1960, NCR Reservations Files). The Washington statue was reinstalled in July 1962 and the underpass opened to the public on November 30, 1962 (“Washington Circle Gets Back its Famous Symbol,” The Washington Post, 20 Jul 1962: B2; “Washington Circle Tunnel is Activated,” 1 De” 1962: C1).

Following the construction of the underpass, Washington Circle was redesigned, but the project was not undertaken immediately. In August 1963, nearly a year after the completion of the construction, The Washington Post reported “Washington Circle...has been looking like a slum all summer” (“Washington Circle Gets a Post Inspired Facelift,” The Washington Post, August 15, 1963). The paper continued, “...nearby residents weren’t too interested in the drawings of pedestrian walkways, flagstone paving, drinking fountains and an almost endless variety of trees, all of which is supposed to be a reality next spring. They’ll settle for the neatly manicured lawns and the benches that were there before the Circle was torn up to build the underpass,” (“Washington Circle Gets a Post Inspired Facelift,” The Washington Post August 15, 1963). The National Park Service cleaned up the circle by mowing overgrown grass, removing litter and debris. It would be a little longer before the new design was implemented.

Almost two years after The Washington Post’s report on the condition of the circle, the redesign was completed. The newspaper published a favorable review of the circle’s landscape. “There are spacious pedestrian walks, park benches, shade trees and green grass in Washington Circle again to replace the wilderness of weeds and rocks that was there less than two years ago...A blight enveloped the Circle while the K Street underpass was being built...the National Park Service...added foliage and park accessories to give the area the beauty it had before the construction project began” (“Beauty Returns to Washington Circle,” The Washington Post, May 27, 1965).

The new design simplified the landscape. The number of walkways was reduced from five on axis with the roads radiating from the circle to two. The number of circular walks was reduced from three to two. One of these walkways surrounded the statue and was separated from the other walkway by six lawn panels. The circular walk at the center was widened and paved with flagstone creating a plaza. The 23rd Street pathways were removed and the circulation pattern returned to the four radial paths extending from New Hampshire and Pennsylvania avenues which intersected with the circular walkways. These paths were paved in scored concrete (TIC 1963: 824-83044A). The 1962 plan remains in place today and has undergone little alteration since its construction.

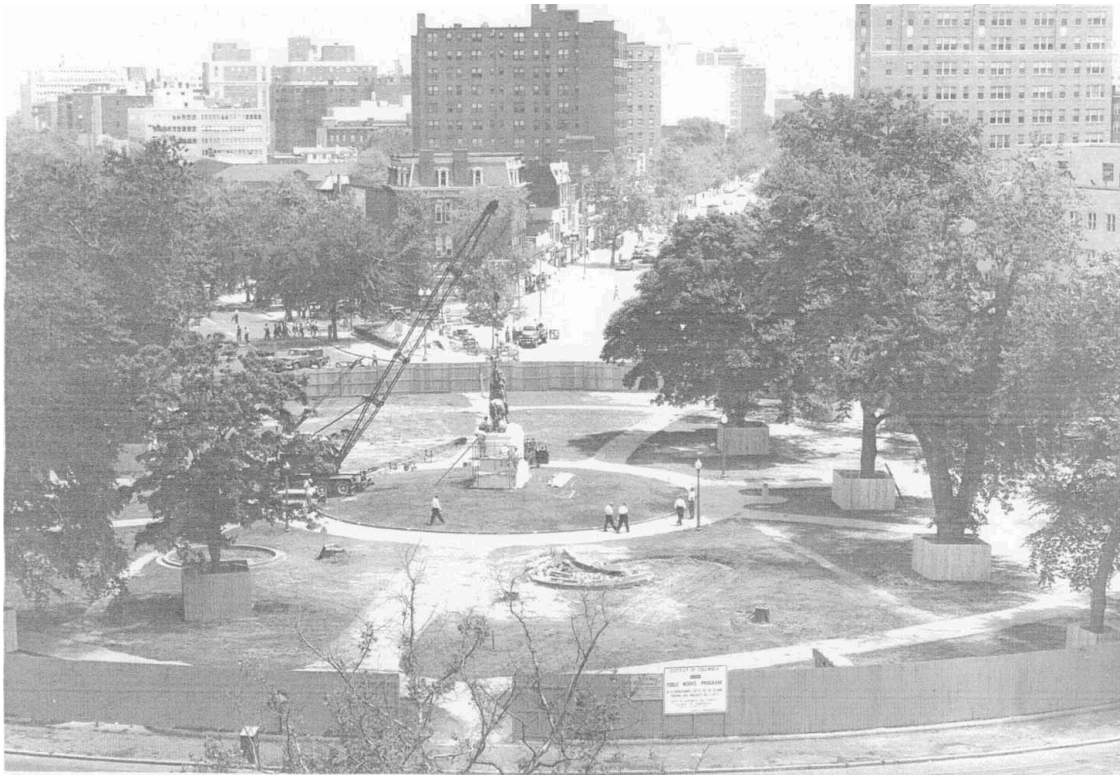
Beginning in 2007, the National Park Service and the District of Columbia Department of Transportation (DDOT) have been in discussions over modifying the pedestrian circulation around Washington Circle. They have recently agreed upon a design. In the fall of 2012, DDOT plans to reconfigure the crosswalks, pathways, traffic islands and signals surrounding the circle to make them safer for pedestrians. The project will include, “removal of two radial sidewalks within the park along the New Hampshire Avenue axis which lead to unsafe and or

Washington Circle

National Mall & Memorial Parks - L'Enfant Plan Reservations

inaccessible street crossings; replacement of these walkways so that they match new crosswalks to the west and east of New Hampshire Avenue on the south side and to the east of New Hampshire Avenue on the north side; placement of a new radial sidewalk, offset from 23rd Street, that address the need for north-south pedestrian traffic and match the new crosswalk” (Vogel to Maloney, February 7, 2012, copy found in NAMA Washington Circle files). According to the plan, sightlines from the circle will not be impacted by the alignment. The new pathways aligned with 23rd Street are in keeping with earlier designs of the circle. The 1932 redesign of the circle included radial paths on axis with 23rd Street and New Hampshire Avenue (TIC 1932:824-80018). These pathways remained in place until the redesign of the circle in the 1960s.

The DDOT project will also include new post and chain fencing around the perimeter of the circle to keep pedestrians from crossing at points other than crosswalks. The National Mall and Memorial Parks plans to replace the post and chain fencing around the Washington statue with fencing similar in style to the iron fencing found at the circle during the 1930s.



Washington statue removal, 1961 (Washingtoniana Collection).



K Street underpass construction, c. 1961 (Washingtoniana Collection).

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Washington Circle following redesign, c. 1965 (Washingtoniana Collection).

Analysis & Evaluation of Integrity

Analysis and Evaluation of Integrity Narrative Summary:

Analysis and Evaluation Summary

INTRODUCTION

This section provides an evaluation of the physical integrity of the cultural landscape of Washington Circle, U.S. Reservation 26, by comparing landscape characteristics and features present during the period of significance (1791-1792, 1853-1933) with current conditions. Landscape characteristics are the tangible and intangible aspects of a landscape that allow visitors to understand its cultural value. Collectively, they express the historic character and integrity of a landscape. Landscape characteristics give a property cultural importance and uniqueness. Each characteristic or feature is classified as contributing or non-contributing to the site's overall historic significance.

Landscape characteristics comprise landscape features. Landscape features are classified as contributing if they were present during the property's period of significance. Non-contributing features (those that were not present during the historical period) may be considered "compatible" when they fit within the physical context of the historic period and attempt to match the character of contributing elements in a way that is sensitive to the construction techniques, organizational methods, or design strategies of the historic period. Incompatible features are those that are not harmonious with the quality of the cultural landscape and, through their existence, can lessen the historic character of a property. For those features that are listed as undetermined, further primary research, which is outside the scope of this CLI, is necessary to determine the feature's origination date. Landscape characteristics and features, individually and as a whole, express the integrity and historic character of the landscape and contribute to the property's historic significance.

LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISTICS

Contributing landscape characteristics identified for Washington Circle are buildings and structures, circulation, land use, small-scale features, spatial organization, topography, vegetation, and views and vistas. This section also includes an evaluation of the property's integrity in accordance with National Register criteria. Historic integrity, as defined by the National Register, is the authenticity of a property's identity, evidenced by the survival of physical characteristics that existed during the site's historic period.

The National Register recognizes seven aspects of integrity: location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. Several or all of these aspects must be present for a site to retain historic integrity. To be listed on the National Register a property not only must be shown to have significance under one of the four criteria, but must also retain integrity.

LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISTICS AND FEATURES

The Washington statue remains in its historic location and is the circle's only structure and the one of

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the landscape's most significant features. Washington Circle has integrity of buildings and structures.

Although the circulation pattern of Washington Circle has been altered several times since it was first improved in the 1850s, the landscape has retained the radial and circular pathways, its primary circulation features, throughout its history. Because of this retention, the landscape retains integrity of circulation.

Washington Circle, like the squares and other circles included in L'Enfant's plan for the city, were designed to link several city streets and to serve as public spaces where fountains or monuments to important figures could be erected. The circle continues to be used both as a feature in the city's street plan, a public park, and a memorial location. Washington Circle has integrity of land use.

Washington Circle has several small scale features, but only the Washington Globe light fixtures date to the period of significance. The Washington Circle cultural landscape has limited integrity of small scale features.

The spatial organization of the site is similar to its arrangement during the period of significance. The site's shape, the streets radiating off the circle and views still determine the arrangement of the landscape features. The George Washington statue still retains its role as the focal point in the center of the circle. The circulation system has been redesigned and modified throughout the course of its history, but the central pathways have remained in roughly the same location since the circle was first improved in the 1850s. Washington Circle has integrity of spatial organization.

Washington Circle retains the same features that characterized its topography during the period of significance. The statue of George Washington sits on an earthen mound that is a slightly higher elevation than the rest of the site, as it was during the period of significance. The topography retains integrity to the historic period.

Only two varieties of trees currently found at Washington Circle were present during the historic period, but the density of the trees, particularly along the western perimeter is similar to the density at the circle during the 1930s. Many of these trees are young, so the heavy tree canopy present during the period of significance is absent in this section of the circle, but it is found in other parts of the landscape. Lawn panels and flower beds, vegetative features present throughout the circle's history, are currently found at the site. Washington Circle has limited integrity because only a few of the vegetative features dating to the period of significance are extant.

Washington Circle's views and vistas retain integrity to the period of significance. Drivers and pedestrians using the circle and surrounding streets have largely unobstructed views of the circle and the Washington statue. Views from the circle down the surrounding streets remain in place from the period of significance.

The Seven Aspects of Integrity

1. Location is the place where the historic property was constructed. Washington Circle, (Reservation 26), retains its original location at the intersection of Pennsylvania and New Hampshire avenues, and K and 23rd streets, NW.
2. Design is the composition of elements that create the form, plan, space, structure, and style of a cultural landscape or historic property. Washington Circle was reconstructed in the 1960s, but the landscape retains the core elements of its historic design, which include the Washington statue, the axial and circular pathways, the Washington statue, and the lawn panels. The width of the outer circular walkway is larger than during the period of significance and the shape and size of the lawn panels has been modified. Because of these changes Washington Circle's integrity of design is limited.
3. Setting is the physical environment of a cultural landscape or historic property. Since the circle was developed in the 1850s, the neighborhood surrounding Washington Circle has been a mix of commercial, residential, industrial, and institutional structures. The industrial element is no longer extant, but the neighborhood remains a mixed residential and commercial area that is also home to a major university and government agencies. Most of the historic buildings surrounding Washington Circle are non-extant, but a few late nineteenth to early twentieth century houses remain. The historic buildings on the circle were replaced by office buildings, commercial structures, and George Washington University Hospital, but the mix of residences and businesses fits with the historic makeup of the area. Washington Circle has integrity of setting.
4. Materials are the physical elements of a particular period, including the construction materials, paving, plants, and other landscape features. Washington Circle has integrity of materials. Materials remaining from the period of significance include the statue of George Washington and its pedestal, the scored concrete walks and some vegetation, including turf, American elm and American beech trees.
5. Workmanship is the physical evidence of the crafts of a particular period. A high level of workmanship is still extant and visible in Clark Mills' statue of George Washington. The pedestal and bronze sculpture exhibit the style and construction techniques of the period in which they were created.
6. Feeling is the ability of a historic property to evoke the aesthetic or historic sense of the past period of time. The full tree canopy that characterized the park during the period of significance is only partially intact. However, recent tree planting will recreate the shady enclave of the historic era after some time. The circle's current design continues to be what George Burnap termed a "passing-through" park, as it was during the 1930s. The circulation consists of straight paths aligned with the surrounding streets offering pedestrians a direct passage through the landscape.
7. Association is the direct link between an important historic event or person and a historic property. Washington Circle retains its significance for its association with the L'Enfant Plan and the development of Washington's public spaces.

After evaluating Washington Circle's landscape features and characteristics within the context of the

seven aspects of integrity established by the National Register, this CLI finds that the landscape has diminished integrity of design, but Washington Circle retains integrity of location, setting, workmanship, materials, feeling, and association.

Aspects of Integrity:	Association
	Location
	Design
	Setting
	Materials
	Workmanship
	Feeling

Landscape Characteristic:

Buildings and Structures

Historic

The circle's major structure, Clark Mills' statue of George Washington, was erected in 1860. The bronze equestrian statue is mounted atop a white marble pedestal. The depiction of Washington is based on an account of the Battle of Princeton found in a biography of the first president (Goode 1974: 384; "Washington's Birthday..." The New York Times, 23 Feb. 1860). Washington has a calm expression as he advances towards British troops while his horse appears terrified.

During the nineteenth century two structures were erected on Washington Circle. Civil War era photographs and an 1865 lithograph of the circle reveal an irregularly shaped structure in the southeast corner of the site (Mangus, "Camp Fry," Library of Congress; Washington, District of Columbia. Company C, 10th U.S. Veteran Reserve Corps, at Washington Circle, Library of Congress). Further research is necessary to determine the purpose of the building and the length of time it stood on the circle. In 1867, a watchman's lodge was erected in the northwest section of Washington Circle. Information on the design of the building was not provided in annual reports of the agencies managing the circle. The building is referred to as a tool house or lodge in drawings from 1905 through 1960 (1905: 824-80010; 1921: 824-80013; 1931: 824-80017; 1932: 824-80018; 1960: 824-80038). The lodge appears in a 1920s-early 1930s photograph of the circle. It is a single story, single room structure with a hipped roof with projecting eaves (Photograph located in NCR Reservation files; AR 1931: 54). Presumably this is the 1867 building. Annual reports note repairs made over time, but do not indicate whether the building was ever reconstructed. It is difficult to determine when the lodge was removed. No structure is apparent on the circle in aerial photographs from 1947 and 1949, but the quality of the later picture makes it difficult to confirm the presence or absence of the building. Heavy vegetation on the circle, documented by aerial photographs taken in 1951 and 1960, blocks the section where the structure was located. If the structure was standing as late as 1960, as suggested by drawings created that year, it is likely the lodge was removed when the circle was

redesigned following the construction of the K Street underpass in 1962.

Current

The Washington statue is the only structure on Washington Circle. The statue and pedestal have not been modified since they were erected in 1860, with the exception of several replacement swords added to the sculpture. At least four replacement swords had been installed by 1985 (Chief, Division of Resource Management, NCP-Central to Superintendent, National Capital Parks-Central, March 29, 1985, copy located in NAMA Washington Circle files). Twice the statue has been removed from its pedestal. In 1923 it was taken down for repairs and in 1960 the statue and pedestal were removed during the construction of the K Street underpass, but returned to their original location.

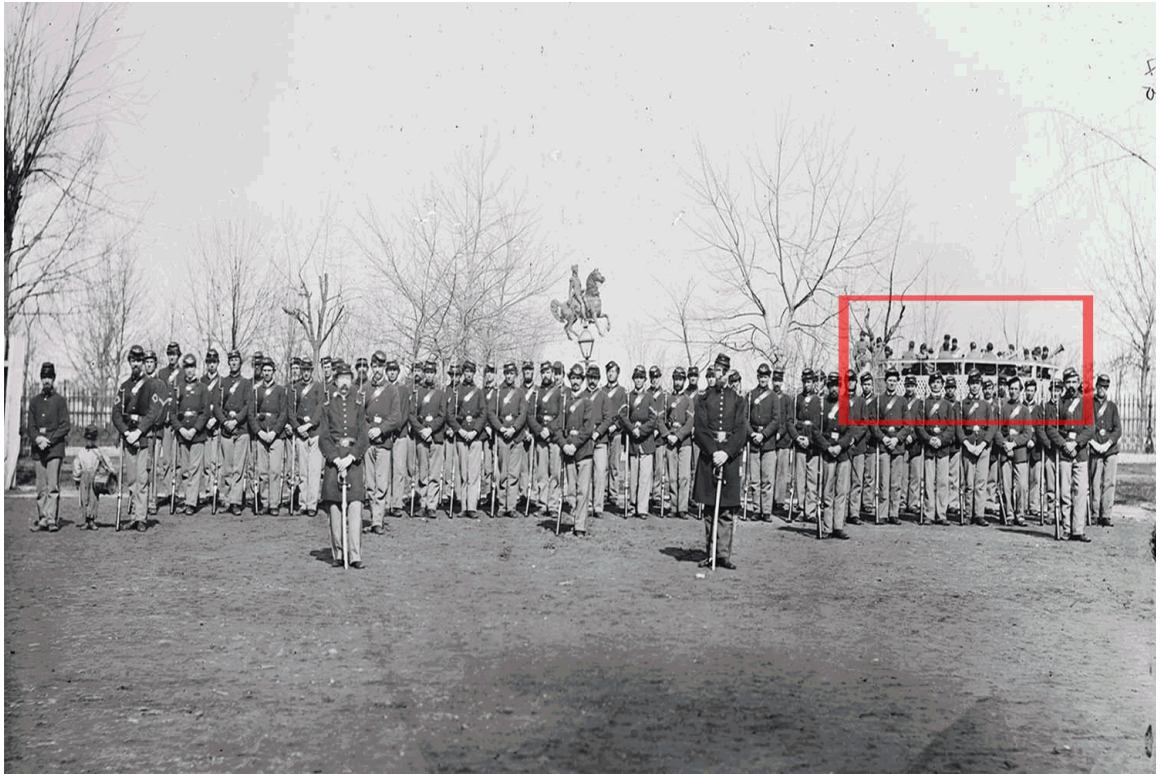
Evaluation

Washington Circle's buildings and structures retain integrity.

Character-defining Features:

Feature:	Washington statue
Feature Identification Number:	154825
Type of Feature Contribution:	Contributing
IDLCS Number:	100068
LCS Structure Name:	Washington (George) Circle - Statue - Res. 26
LCS Structure Number:	02610001

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Camp Fry with Civil War-era building visible (Library of Congress).



Watchman's lodge or tool house (NCR Reservation Files, Res. 26).

Circulation

Historic

When Washington Circle was designed in the 1850s, the circulation pattern consisted of a northeast-southeast running walkway on axis with New Hampshire Avenue and a northwest-southwest walkway on axis with Pennsylvania Avenue. The paths intersected with a walkway encircling the site where the statue of Washington would later be installed. An additional walkway was located along the perimeter of the circle (TIC c. 1860-1861: 824-80005). Washington Circle is depicted in the foreground of a 1860s lithograph of Camp Fry, the Civil War encampment located south of the circle on 23rd Street. Only a portion of the circle is visible, but walkways are laid out as they appear in the plans from the period (Charles Mangus, *Camp Fry, Washington, DC, 1865*, reproduced in Anderson and Anderson 2010:76 and Passonneau 2004: 54). The accuracy of the drawing is unknown, but the pathways closely resemble the site plan from that time (TIC c. 1860-1861: 824-80005).

In 1884, Washington Circle was redesigned and the circulation system expanded. The walkways crossing the circle and on axis with the avenues remained, but were modified to fit in with new curvilinear pathways that surrounded large ovular and small triangular lawn panels found at both the New Hampshire and Pennsylvania avenue entrances to the circle. The walkways on axis with the avenues were paved in asphalt in 1887, but the pathways bordering the outer edges of the ovular panels remained gravel. This circulation system was modified in 1911 when a rectangular lawn panel was installed at the eastern Pennsylvania Avenue entrance. Walkways flanked either side of the panel. It is unclear what material was used to pave the perimeter walkway until 1921 when brick was identified on a drawing of the circle completed that year (TIC 1921: 824-80013).

In 1931 and 1932, the circle was redesigned and the Victorian character of the site was replaced with a layout somewhat reminiscent of its 1850s design. The curving lines of the circle's pathways were straightened and a more direct pathway system installed. The ovular and triangular lawn panels were removed. A continuous circular walkway was created from modifying pathways that had previously bordered the outside of the ovular lawn panels. An additional crosswalk on axis with 23rd Street was also constructed (TIC 1932: 824-80018).

In 1963, following the construction of the K Street underpass, Washington Circle was redesigned. The pathway at the perimeter of the circle was removed. The new pattern consisted of four radial pathways and two concentric circular walks. The 23rd Street pathways were removed and the circulation pattern returned to paths crossing the circle at New Hampshire and Pennsylvania avenues. One of the circular walks surrounded the Washington statue, as one had historically, and the other walk was located towards the outside of the circle. The outer circle was wider than previous circular walks. This pathway was paved in flagstone. The radial walks and the circular walk around the statue were scored concrete (TIC 1963: 824-83044A).

Current

The circulation system established in the 1960s remains. The 1" bluestone paving was replaced by 2" bluestone in 1999, but the configuration of the pathways and the scored concrete were not altered. Significant social trails cross the circle at several points.

Evaluation

Although the circulation pattern of Washington Circle has been altered several times since it was first improved in the 1850s, the landscape has retained its primary circulation features, the radial and circular pathways, throughout its history. With the exception of the flagstone pathway, most of the circle's walks are scored concrete, which was used during the period of significance. Because of the retention of the primary circulation features, the Washington Circle cultural landscape has integrity of circulation.

Character-defining Features:

Feature: Outer circular walkway

Feature Identification Number: 154839

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

LCS Structure Name: Washington (George) Circle - Pathway - Res. 26

LCS Structure Number: 02610000

Feature: Circular walk around Washington Statue

Feature Identification Number: 154841

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 46726

LCS Structure Name: Washington (George) Circle - Pathway - Res. 26

LCS Structure Number: 02610000

Feature: Pennsylvania Avenue walkway

Feature Identification Number: 154843

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: New Hampshire Avenue walk

Feature Identification Number: 154845

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Flagstone and scored concrete paving (CLP 2012).



Social trails on the southeast (top) and northeast (bottom) sections of the circle (CLP 2012).

Land Use

Historic

The circles and squares on Pierre Charles L'Enfant's plan for Washington served both a utilitarian and commemorative purpose. They functioned as part of the city's transportation and circulation system by guiding traffic from one street to another, and L'Enfant proposed they include statues and memorials honoring significant individuals (L'Enfant 1791; NR 1994: 8:8). L'Enfant identified 15 circles and squares on his plan where commemorative or decorative features, such as columns, statues or obelisks, could be erected (L'Enfant 1791; NR 1994: 8:8). He proposed that these spaces could be divided among the states for each of them to improve (L'Enfant 1791). Washington Circle was not among the 15 sites, but it was the first of the

city's circles to be improved. When the site was developed in the 1850s, and with the installation of the Washington statue in 1860, the circle functioned according to L'Enfant's plan as both a part of the city's circulation system and a place to honor a significant person.

Since its development in the 1850s, Washington Circle has also functioned as a public park enjoyed by neighborhood and city residents.

Current

Washington Circle continues its historic function as a link in the city's circulation system, a memorial site, and a public park.

Evaluation

Washington Circle's retains integrity of land use.

Character-defining Features:

Feature: Traffic circle

Feature Identification Number: 155047

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Monument/memorial site

Feature Identification Number: 155049

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Public park

Feature Identification Number: 155051

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Small Scale Features

Historic

Small scale features during the historic period included fencing, water fountains, street lamps, benches and sand lots (sand boxes). The earliest records of the circle's improvements note it was enclosed with a wooden fence, but the status of additional landscape features, if any, is unknown (AR 1853: 29, 30). In 1860-1861, the wooden fence was replaced by a "firm and elegant iron fence" (AR 1860: 486; AR 1861: 850). The iron fence, two grates and six gas lamps are the only small scale features documented in existing conditions drawings created between 1855 and 1861 (DSC TIC 1861: 824-80005). The lamps were located along the perimeter of the circle at the beginning of each walkway and at 23rd Street (DSC TIC 824-80005). Presumably, seating had been one of the improvements made to the circle, but it is not until 1874 that it is mentioned in written documentation of the site. That year ten settees were installed (AR 1875: 5).

The iron fence around the circle's perimeter was removed during the 1884 to 1886 redesign. In addition, new settees, "two drinking fountains with large ornamental gas lamps," and 22 additional gas lamp posts and lights along the walks were installed (AR 1885: 2506; AR 1886: 2079, 2083-84). By 1887, flower vases had been added to the circle (AR 1888: 2779).

Several of the circle's gas light fixtures were replaced between 1912 and 1913 and again in 1917 (AR 1912: 3494-95; AR 1913: 3218). That year the "boulevard-type" gas lanterns were replaced with "round globes of a newer and better design" (AR 1917: 3707-08; Burnap 1916: 73). The boulevard style had been used extensively in northwest Washington at the turn of the century and was in place at Washington Circle by 1904 (Noreen 1975: 20; Historic Image Collection, Washingtonia Collection, 1904). The lights were changed again between 1917 and 1932. Photographs reveal that the Newport style lamp and the Washington Globe were in place at Washington Circle. The Newport may have been the "newer and better design" referred to in annual reports. Shortly after World War I this lamp style was used in many of the city's circles, parks, and the Smithsonian grounds (Noreen 1975: 20-21; Burnap 1916: 41). A few Washington Globe lamps appear in photographs from the mid-1920. Also during this time, photographs illustrate the circle had wood slat benches (Burnap 1916: 41).

Washington Circle underwent an extensive redesign completed by 1933. Drinking fountains and sand lots were the only small scale features identified in drawings of the circle following the changes to the landscape. The sand lots, originally installed between 1915 and 1916, remained in the western section of the circle flanking the Pennsylvania Avenue walkway. Presumably, it was at this time that Washington Globe lights replaced the Newport lamps at Washington Circle, but further research is necessary to determine the date. Correspondence states that the thirteen gas lamps located on the circle in 1932 were to be replaced by electric lights (F.B. Butler to Washington Gas Light Company, April 22, 1932, Washington Circle, file 1460, FRC). Four electric powered "rippled glass globes" were ordered to replace the gas-powered lamps at the circle (F.B. Butler to PEPCO, April 25, 1932, Washington Circle, file 1460, FRC).

Also in 1932, floodlights were included in a design for the coping and fencing to surround the Washington statue (DSC TIC 824-80019). Correspondence from November and December 1932 indicates powering the floodlights with electricity was delayed for budgetary reasons (F.B. Butler to PEPCO, December 16, 1932, Washington Circle, file 1460, FRC). Further research is necessary to determine if the flood lights were included in the final design. In 1933, an ornamental iron fence was erected along the interior edge of the small circular walkway surrounding the earthen mound supporting the Washington statue. The fence was four feet-seven inches tall and mounted atop a five-inch cement coping. An iron gate was located to the west of the statue (DSC TIC 824-80020).

The circle was redesigned again in 1963 following the construction of the K Street underpass. With the new design, tulip trashcans were added and concrete and wood-slat benches were installed on either side of the outer walkway. The Washington Globe lamps were replaced by a contemporary design. The fixtures were a simple metal post with a flat metal disk shade. The

sand lots were not rebuilt following the reconstruction.

In 1999, the benches, drinking fountains, and trashcans were replaced. The 64 concrete and wood slat benches at the circle were replaced with a split iron and wood-slat model. Twenty tulip trashcans were replaced with an equal number of new receptacles.

Current

Small scale features presently found at Washington Circle include benches, post and chain fencing, chain-link fencing, benches, water fountains, trash receptacles, regulatory signs, and Washington Globe light fixtures. The extant light fixtures consist of the globe and the seat which holds the globe atop the light pole. The poles are not Washington Globe style. Further research is necessary to determine the style of the pole and when the lamps installed in the 1960s were replaced by Washington Globes.

Evaluation

The Washington Globe light fixtures are the only small scale features on the circle that were present during the period of significance. Even though the Washington Globes have a different style of pole, the most evocative feature of the historic light, the globe, is present and contributes to the historic character of the site. Because only a few small scale features are present on Washington Circle, the landscape has limited integrity of small scale features.

Character-defining Features:

Feature:	Washington Globe lights
Feature Identification Number:	154985
Type of Feature Contribution:	Contributing
Feature:	Benches
Feature Identification Number:	154987
Type of Feature Contribution:	Non contributing – compatible
Feature:	Post and chain fence
Feature Identification Number:	154989
Type of Feature Contribution:	Non contributing – compatible
Feature:	Chain link fence
Feature Identification Number:	154991
Type of Feature Contribution:	Non contributing – compatible
Feature:	Regulatory signs
Feature Identification Number:	154993

Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing – compatible

Feature: Trash receptacles

Feature Identification Number: 154995

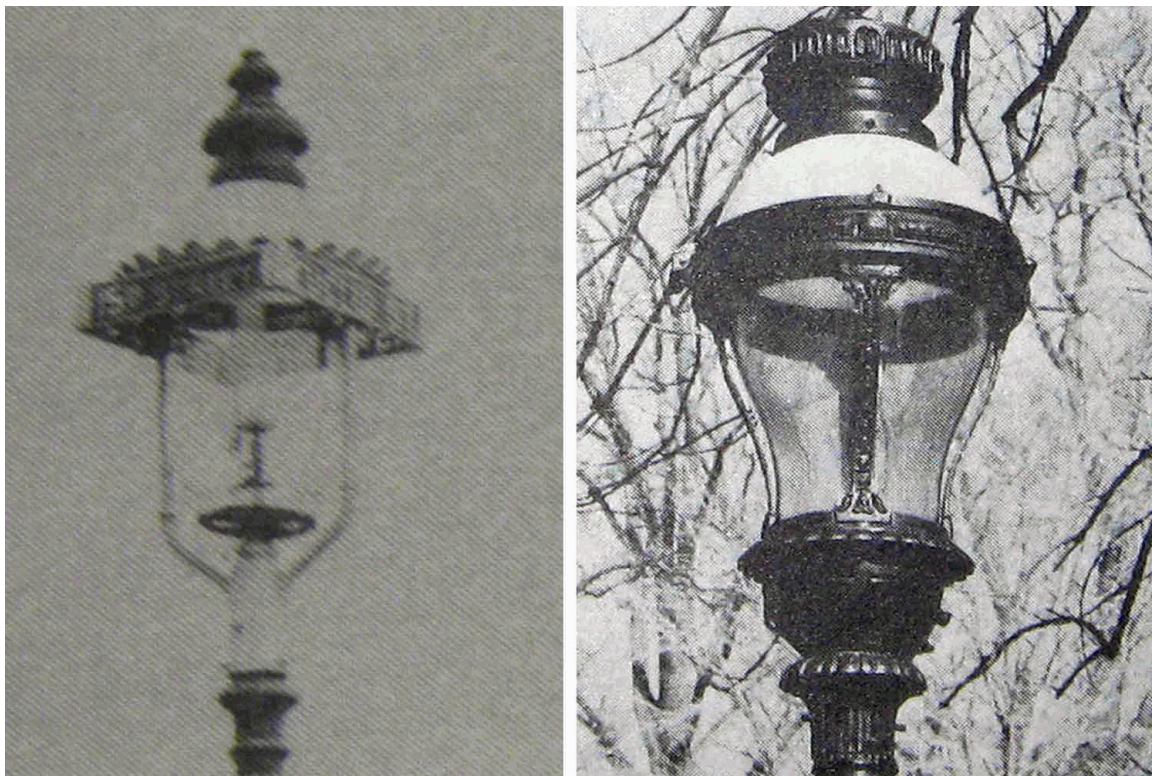
Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing – compatible

Feature: Water fountains

Feature Identification Number: 155037

Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing – compatible

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Boulevard (right) and Newport (left) light fixtures (Noreen 1975:21).



Washington Globe (CLP 2012).

Spatial Organization

Historic

The spatial organization of Washington Circle was determined by the shape of the landscape itself and the circle's relationship with the streets radiating from it. The location of the circle's landscape features, including the pathways, vegetation and the placement of the Washington statue, were also determined by access to the roads intersecting with the circle. Views to the circle and the Washington statue from surrounding streets, and views from Washington Circle towards the surrounding streets, also influenced the three historic landscape designs of Washington Circle.

Current

The 1960s redesign of the circle maintained the spatial organization of the previous designs and remains in place today.

Evaluation

Though the design of the circle has changed since the period of significance, the current design maintains the spatial organization present during the historic period.

Topography

Historic

The historic topography of Washington Circle consisted of a level landscape with a rise in elevation at the mound of earth supporting the George Washington statue. Two 1931 drawings note the rise in elevation from 69 feet at the outer edge of the mound to 72 feet above sea level at the statue's base (DSC TIC 1931: 824-80016, 824-80017). The elevation along the perimeter of the circle ranges from 65 feet to 68 feet above sea level (DSC TIC 1931: 824-80016). In a 1904 photograph of the circle the mound of earth is noticeably higher than it appears in later documentation (Martin Luther King Memorial Library, Washingtoniana Collection, Historic Image Collection). This indicates that some re-grading took place and may have occurred during the 1931-1932 redesign of the circle when its layout was greatly altered and new concrete walkways were installed. Correspondence related to the construction of the K Street underpass specified that prior to reinstallation of the statue the grade would be "specified or approved" by the park service (Tolson to Board of Commissioners, June 17, 1960, NCR Reservation Files and Washington Circle, file 1460, FRC). A 1963 topographic drawing of Washington Circle indicates the topography had not significantly changed as a result of the K Street underpass construction (TIC 1963: 824-80054). The lowest point along the perimeter of the circle measured 65 feet above sea level and the highest point was recorded as 68 feet. The base of the Washington statue measured 71 feet above sea level.

Current

The topography has not been altered since the period of significance.

Evaluation

The minor change in the elevation of the earthen mound upon which the Washington statue sits does not diminish the historic character of the feature or its integrity.

Character-defining Features:

Feature:	Earthen mound supporting statue
Feature Identification Number:	154847
Type of Feature Contribution:	Contributing

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Early 20th century view showing elevation of earthen mound. Note presence of Boulevard-style lamp (Washingtoniana Collection).



Present day view showing change in elevation (CLP 2012).

Vegetation

Historic

The earliest documentation of the vegetation improvements to the circle dates to 1855. The Commissioner of Public Building's 1856 annual report noted, "The Circle...was planted last fall with trees and shrubbery..." (1856 AR: 850-851). A c. 1861 drawing for Washington Circle, "Of the Circle and its Improvements," reveals that trees lined either side of the pathways crossing the circle, as well as along the sidewalk around the perimeter (TIC 824_80005, ca. 1860-1861). In addition, two trees were found in the north grass panel.

Civil War era photographs of soldiers at Camp Fry, located along 23rd Street south of the circle, reveal several trees within the circle, but their number and variety cannot be determined (Company C, 10th U.S. Veteran Reserve Corps, at Washington Circle; Company F, U.S. Veteran Reserve Corps at Washington Circle, Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division). A Civil War lithograph of Camp Fry with Washington Circle in the foreground shows trees along the fence enclosing the circle at its edge (Charles Mangus, Camp Fry, Washington, DC, 1865, George Washington University Special Collections; reproduced in Anderson and Anderson 2010:76; see history section 1861-1872). Lawn panels are located between walkways and numerous trees are scattered throughout the site. The accuracy of the lithograph's depiction of Washington Circle cannot be fully verified, but the c. 1861 drawing shows trees around the perimeter of the circle similar to those represented in the 1860s

illustration. The description of the circle in 1865 as “cultivated at much expense” adds support to the accuracy of the lithograph for it reveals a cultivated and maintained landscape (HABS DC-688, 1993, 3).

At the end of the 1870s, the circle was described as thickly planted with trees considered “unsuitable to the present idea of shrubbery ornamentation” (1877 Chief of Engineers AR Appendix KK, 9). The trees were blocking the view of the statue and it was suggested that trees “of a character not adapted to small grounds should be removed, wherever they now obstruct views of the statue from the approaches” (1877 AR Appendix KK, 9). The report also described the lawns as overrun with wild garlic (1877 AR Appendix KK, 9).

In the early 1880s, it appears the tree and shrubbery on Washington Circle remained in the same condition described the previous decade. Annual reports noted the circle was “thickly planted with deciduous trees” (1884 AR Appendix SS, 2352). Presumably the 1884-1885 redesign of the circle thinned out some of the vegetation. The straight paths traveling across the circle were replaced with curvilinear walks and ovular lawn panels. Grass panels were also located on the outer perimeter of the circle and triangular panels were found at the entrance of each of the four walkways into the circle. Old and decaying trees were removed (1884 AR Appendix SS, 2352; 1885 AR Appendix VV, 2506). By 1887, the circle’s lawn was “planted with choice evergreen and deciduous trees and shrubs and interspersed with flower beds for summer decorative planting of flowering and foliage plants” (1887 Chief of Engineers AR Appendix WW, 2597). Reports through the early 1890s reported that the condition remained as described in 1887. A view across the circle from New Hampshire Avenue captured in an 1899 photograph shows the vegetation continued to be lush with a variety of trees and shrubs (AR 1899: photo following page 3834).

The 1900 annual report included a list of the 50 species (21 shrubs and 29 trees) planted at the circle, but did not provide the number of each species. Another list and a map showing the location of the circle’s shrubs and trees created in 1904 was published in the 1905 annual report.

The 1905 list features 49 different species. Of these 49 species, 32 are holdovers from the earlier 1900 list. Conversely, 18 species present in 1900 were no longer extant in 1905, and 17 new species that did not appear in the 1900 list had been planted in the intervening five years. The 1905 map depicts a densely-planted landscape, with a ring of 31 silver maples planted around the perimeter of the circle. (AR 1900: 5286-87; AR 1905: 2770, accompanying plan of Washington Circle; Barthold 1993: 3-4; TIC 1911: 824_80010).

The landscape was modified in 1911 with the introduction of a large “open turf panel” (TIC 1911: 824-80009) at the eastern entrance of the circle. It was later planted with seasonal flowers, English yew or boxwood (TIC 1921: 824-80014; TIC 1931: 824-80017). The triangular panels at that entrance were removed and reduced the size of the ovular panels to the north and south of the new section of lawn. Two small triangular grass panels with flower beds were

installed to either side of the new panel.

No further modifications of the circle were made until the landscape was redesigned in 1932, though in the 1920s some vegetation was removed or relocated to another part of the circle. A drawing from 1921 indicates which trees, shrubs and seasonal flowers should be replaced, removed or relocated. Based on a 1931 plan of the circle it appears some of the changes took place (TIC 1921: 824-80014; TIC 1931: 824-80017). During 1931-1932, the circle was again redesigned. The curvilinear paths and oval lawn panels were replaced by axial walks and more angular grass panels, some of which contained seasonal flower beds. Vegetation remained full through that period and many of the trees and shrubs survived the changes, but some were lost with the installation of new walkways, lawn panels, or due to other factors (TIC 1931: 824-80017; TIC 1932: 824-80018). A 1933 drawing documented 43 trees and shrubs on the circle (TIC 1960 824-80021).

By the 1960s, the lush landscape documented in the 1930s had lost some of its vegetation. In 1960, twenty-eight trees and shrubs were extant on the circle (TIC 1960: 824-80038; TIC 1960: 824-80039). The park service identified seventeen trees to save prior to the construction of the K Street underpass (TIC 1960: 824-80039; Tolson to Board of Commissioners, June 17, 1960, Washington Circle, file 1460, FRC). The eleven removed included American elm (2), white linden (2), hard maple (1), red oak(1), horse chestnut (1), soft maple(1), elm (1), scotch elm (1), and linden (1) (TIC 1960: 824-80038, 824-80039). The remaining trees were to be “boxed with a solid wooden fence at least 6’ high, substantially constructed” to protect them during construction (Tolson to Commissioners, July 17, 1960, NCR Reservations Files; Martin Luther King Memorial Library, Washingtoniana Collection, The Washington Star Collection, negative #013418, #013420, July 21, 1960). Based on photographs and drawings of the circle following the completion of construction in 1962, it appears only a few of the protected trees remained following the construction (Martin Luther King Memorial Library, Washingtoniana Collection, The Washington Star Collection, negative #013419, October 30, 1966). A 1963 planting plan identified eight existing trees, which included American elm (*Ulmus Americana*) (3), American linden (2), and one each of the following: red ash, hard maple, and purple beech (TIC 1963: 824-80047).

Unlike previous planting plans for Washington Circle, the 1963 design called for a small variety of trees and shrubs, which included American beech (2), sawtooth oak (4), Japanese zelkova (6), almey crabapple (15), eley crabapple (7), zumi crabapple (8) and Japanese yew (370) (TIC 1963: 824-80047). The heaviest concentrations of trees were around the perimeter of the circle. A smaller number of trees were located on the lawn panels surrounding the statue. The Japanese yew lined the interior of the lawn panels at the perimeter of the circle (TIC 1963: 824-80047).

Current

There are currently 41 trees and shrubs on Washington Circle. The landscape is a mixture of

young and mature trees. Portions of the site are shaded by a heavy tree canopy. Only two varieties of the circle's trees, American beech (*Fagus grandifolia*) and American elm (*Ulmus Americana*) were present during the period of significance. American elm was first documented in the 1900 list of trees and shrubs at Washington Circle. Two of the American elms date to the historic period. Both trees are located on the north side of the circle and appear in the same location as two American elms documented on drawings from the 1930s and post-underpass construction drawings from the 1960s (TIC 1931: 824-80017; TIC 1932: 824-80018; TIC 1960: 824-80038; TIC 1963: 824-80047). Other vegetation includes the Japanese yew hedge, lawn, and seasonal flowers located at the base of the Washington statue and the lawn panel on the eastern and western sides of the circle. The large lawn panels along the perimeter of the circle, at the eastern entrance, and around the Washington statue are similar to those during the historic period.

Evaluation

Although there are only two varieties of trees currently found at Washington Circle that were present during the historic period, the density of the trees, particularly along the southwestern perimeter is similar to the density at the circle during the 1930s. Many of these trees are young, so the heavy tree canopy present during the period of significance is absent in this section of the circle, but it is found in other parts of the site. The lawn panels and flower beds, vegetative features since the period of significance, are located throughout the site. Washington Circle has limited integrity because the landscape has only a small amount of vegetative features dating to the period of significance.

Character-defining Features:

Feature:	American beech (<i>Fagus grandifolia</i>)
Feature Identification Number:	154997
Type of Feature Contribution:	Contributing
Feature:	American elm (<i>Ulmus Americana</i>)
Feature Identification Number:	154999
Type of Feature Contribution:	Contributing
Feature:	Lawn panels
Feature Identification Number:	155001
Type of Feature Contribution:	Contributing
Feature:	Tree canopy
Feature Identification Number:	155041
Type of Feature Contribution:	Contributing

Feature:	Japanese zelkova (<i>Zelkova serrata</i>)
Feature Identification Number:	155005
Type of Feature Contribution:	Non contributing – compatible
Feature:	Chinese zelkova (<i>Zelkova sinica</i>)
Feature Identification Number:	155003
Type of Feature Contribution:	Non contributing – compatible
Feature:	Crabapple (<i>Malus</i>)
Feature Identification Number:	155007
Type of Feature Contribution:	Non contributing – compatible
Feature:	Dutch elm (<i>Ulmus hollandica</i>)
Feature Identification Number:	155009
Type of Feature Contribution:	Non contributing – compatible
Feature:	Japanese yew (<i>Taxus cuspidata</i>)
Feature Identification Number:	155013
Type of Feature Contribution:	Non contributing – compatible
Feature:	Sawtooth oak (<i>Quercus acutissima</i>)
Feature Identification Number:	155011
Type of Feature Contribution:	Non contributing – compatible
Feature:	Little leaf linden (<i>Tilia cordata</i>)
Feature Identification Number:	155045
Type of Feature Contribution:	Non contributing – compatible

Views and Vistas**Historic**

Views were a central feature in Washington Circle's three historic designs. The Washington statue, located on a rise in the center of the circle, serves as the site's focal point and interior and exterior views are directed towards the sculpture. Although the circulation system underwent several changes over the course of the circle's history, views were always a dominant consideration in its design. The configuration of the circle's walkways, located on axis with the streets entering the circle, served to draw attention to the Washington statue. The pathways also directed a visitor's gaze to exterior views along the corresponding streets. The Washington statue was sited looking to the east along Pennsylvania Avenue towards the White

House and the Capitol. In 1911, the eastern entrance of the circle was redesigned to open up the view to the statue and along Pennsylvania Avenue. Light fixtures were removed and a wide lawn panel with walkways on either side replaced the single pathway that was there previously. The alteration created an open vista to and from the circle.

Current

The Washington statue remains the circle's focal point and is visible from the surrounding streets. Present day views from Washington Circle include views towards Dupont Circle (New Hampshire Avenue to the north), the Kennedy Center (New Hampshire Avenue to the south), Lincoln Memorial (23rd Street to the south), the Old Post Office (Pennsylvania Avenue to the east), and Georgetown (Pennsylvania Avenue to the west).

Evaluation

The views along the streets radiating from Washington Circle have changed since the period of significance as the city and neighborhood have evolved, but the view remains an urban cityscape as it was historically. The Washington Circle cultural landscape retains integrity for views and vistas.

Character-defining Features:

Feature: Views of the circle from nearby streets

Feature Identification Number: 154891

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Views of the surrounding avenues and streets from the circle

Feature Identification Number: 154895

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: View of the George Washington statue from within the circle

Feature Identification Number: 154893

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Views to the circle from Pennsylvania Avenue (CLP 2012).

Condition

Condition Assessment and Impacts

Condition Assessment: Good

Assessment Date: 08/29/2012

Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:

The Condition Assessment Date refers to the date the park superintendent concurred with the findings of this CLI. This determination takes into account both the landscape and the buildings situated therein. In order to maintain the condition of the property as good the park should compete the following:

Impacts

Type of Impact: Soil Compaction

External or Internal: Internal

Impact Description: There are a number of extensive social trails on Washington Circle that have caused soil compaction.

Type of Impact: Other

External or Internal: External

Impact Description: In the fall of 2012, DDOT plans to reconfigure the crosswalks, pathways, traffic islands and signals surrounding the circle to make them safer for pedestrians. The project will include, "removal of two radial sidewalks within the park along the New Hampshire Avenue axis which lead to unsafe and or inaccessible street crossings; replacement of these walkways so that they match new crosswalks to the west and east of New Hampshire Avenue on the south side and to the east of New Hampshire Avenue on the north side; placement of a new radial sidewalk, offset from 23rd Street, that address the need for north-south pedestrian traffic and match the new crosswalk" (Vogel to Maloney, February 7, 2012, copy found in NAMA Washington Circle files). According to the plan, sightlines from the circle will not be impacted by the alignment.

The new pathways will be aligned with 23rd Street and are in keeping with earlier designs of the circle. The 1931-1933 redesign of the circle included radial paths on axis with 23rd Street and New Hampshire Avenue (TIC 1932:824-80018). These pathways remained in place until the redesign of the circle

in the 1960s.

Type of Impact:	Exposure To Elements
External or Internal:	External
Impact Description:	There is some staining and discoloration on the Washington statue pedestal due to weather and environmental factors.

Treatment

Treatment

Approved Treatment: Undetermined

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