
National Park Service
Cultural Landscapes Inventory
2010



Theodore Roosevelt Island
Theodore Roosevelt Island

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Inventory Summary

The Cultural Landscapes Inventory Overview:

CLI General Information:

Purpose and Goals of the CLI

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

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

Scope of the CLI

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

treatment guidelines for the cultural landscape.

Inventory Unit Description:

Much of the following summary, and narrative information throughout the CLI, has been extracted from the 2001 National Register of Historic Places Nomination for Theodore Roosevelt Island authored by Kay Fanning PhD. Another source used throughout this document is the 2008 Theodore Roosevelt Island Historic American Landscapes Survey study authored primarily by Jonathan Pliska (HALS DC-12). Quotation marks and notations will be used to indicate the origin of the extracted material. Theodore Roosevelt Island may be referred to throughout this document as “Roosevelt Island,” “TRI” and “TR Island.”

Theodore Roosevelt Island National Memorial is an island that is situated in the Potomac River between Georgetown in Washington, D.C. and the unincorporated area of Arlington County known as Rosslyn, Virginia.

“Theodore Roosevelt Island is located at the fall line in the Potomac River, where the rocky Piedmont Plateau meets the sandy soils of the Coastal Plain. The river flows to either side of the island in two channels. The narrower channel on the west or Virginia side is known as the ‘Little River’ while the channel on the east or Georgetown side is known as the ‘Georgetown Channel.’ The island is an outcropping of micaceous schist which has served as a base for the steady accumulation of sedimentary soils. Over the last 200 years, soil deposits from the river have increased the island's size by about 20 acres, from 70 to its current size of approximately 90 acres. The island has two high points, both about 44' above sea level, one to the north and the other to the south. Along the east side, a peninsula extends from the northeast corner and runs south. The peninsula is composed of both a swamp and a marsh area; the swamp is composed of somewhat higher and drier land, and the marsh is subject to the tidal flow of the river. Through the center of the marsh runs a narrow tidal inlet.

South of the main island and separated from it by a narrow channel of water is a smaller island of about 1.5 acres, known variously as ‘Little Island,’ ‘South Island,’ or ‘Swan Island.’ Little Island, which can be reached only by boat, is included within the legal boundaries of Theodore Roosevelt Island. Roosevelt Island's location at the fall line - the furthest reach of tidal ocean waters in the river, where falls and rapids create an impediment to navigation - has given it great ecological diversity.

Historically, the island has been a natural passage across the river and a locus of commercial and transportation activity. The island encompasses a large number of ecological zones (11 by one count [from NR sect 7 page 21: Lindsey K. Thomas, *Geomorphology and Vegetation of Theodore Roosevelt Island*, Scientific Report No. 2, Nov. 19, 1963, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, National Park Service, National Capital Region, p. 51. Thomas wrote several other reports on the natural resources of TRI: "Experimental Design for Management and Eradication of Exotic Plants (*Hedera Helix* and *Lonicera Japonica*) on Theodore [sic] Island, D.C." (15 February 1977), *The Impact of Three Exotic Plant Species on a Potomac Island* (U.S. Dept. of the Interior, NPS Scientific Monograph Series No. 13, 1980), and *Periodicity and Anthesis on Theodore Roosevelt Island for the Year 1962-1963* (National Park Service, National Capital Region, Scientific Report No. 1, July 23, 1963]) the most important of these are upland forest, swamp, and tidal marsh. It is home to a wide variety of birds, mammals, reptiles, and amphibians and many fish swim and migrate in its waters.” (Fanning 2001: sect 7 p 1)

“Archeological evidence shows that the island was in use by Native American tribes from prehistory until the early eighteenth century. Furthermore, the island’s alternate name of Analostan likely originated through an association with the Necostin (Anacostian) Indians. In 1717, Revolutionary Patriot George Mason IV, author of the Virginia Bill of Rights, acquired the island and established a ferry there in 1748. His son, John Mason, developed the island as a plantation estate and built a causeway connecting with the Virginia coast and a large Classical Revival-style mansion, also named Analostan. The alternate historical name of Mason’s Island stems from the Mason family’s ownership of the site. Later, during the Civil War, Union forces occupied Theodore Roosevelt Island, and in the summer of 1863 it quartered the 1st United States Colored Troops, an African American regiment composed of free blacks and escaped slaves. From May 1864 to June 1865, a freedmen’s refugee [The term refugee was historically a general term used to describe displaced peoples. With the 1949 agreements of the Geneva Convention and the Refugee Act of 1980, the language has changed. In modern times the term “refugee” refers to those who cross international borders to seek safety and shelter.] camp occupied much of the island, including the Mason mansion.

Following a long period of transient ownership, short-term tenancy, and disuse, the Roosevelt Memorial Association (RMA) purchased the island in 1931 as a national memorial to the former president. The following year the RMA gave the island to the federal government, but maintained planting and development rights. From 1932-47 the RMA retained renowned landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr. to replant the island as a planned wilderness ‘to be preserved as nearly as possible as in its natural state.’ ” “...the planting plan, carried out by Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) workers, ‘represents one of the most complete expressions of Olmsted’s ideals on scenic preservation, through his attempt to recreate the island’s presumed former appearance so that it could continue its natural evolution to a stable, ‘climax’ forest.’

Finally, [Eric] Gugler’s plaza and [Paul]anship’s Theodore Roosevelt sculpture represent a distinct step in the development of presidential memorials within Washington, D.C.” (Pliska 2008: 3, 4).

“Roosevelt Island is part of the George Washington Memorial Parkway, a national parkway of over 7,000 acres created between 1928 and 1965 to protect the natural, historic, and scenic resources along the Potomac River.” “...the parkway extends almost 40 miles along the river, from Mount Vernon to Great Falls, where the remains of Washington’s Potowmack Canal can still be found. While the majority of the parkway lies in Virginia, it also includes lands in Maryland and both Columbia and Roosevelt Islands in the District of Columbia.” (Fanning 2001: sect 7 p 2)

According to the existing National Register Nomination, The periods of significance for Theodore Roosevelt Island are 1749-1833, 1861-1865 and 1931-present. It is noted for its significance in the areas of art and architecture, conservation, entertainment and recreation, military, city planning, politics and government, social history and transportation. The CLI agrees with the areas of significance but proposes the following changes. That the first period of significance, 1749-1833 be expanded to include 1748, the year in which Mason’s Ferry was established and that the third period of significance, 1931-present, end in 1967, the year in which the memorial was dedicated.

According to the National Register, Theodore Roosevelt Island qualifies for significance under National Register Criterion A, C and D, and Criteria Consideration F.

Under Criterion A (associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history), Theodore Roosevelt Island is significant for serving as an important transportation link between Georgetown and Northern Virginia, first, with Mason's Ferry in 1748. In 1807, a causeway was established across the Little River to the Virginia Shore. The island served as a center for Union troop activities during the Civil War era, and, from May 1864 to June 1865, a freedmen's refugee camp occupied much of the island.

Under Criterion C (significant for physical design or construction, including such elements as architecture, landscape architecture, engineering, and artwork), Theodore Roosevelt Island is significant for its association with famed landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr., and his associate Henry V. Hubbard, who created a representative native woodland on the island. The island was also one of the final components completed under the guidelines of the 1901 McMillen Plan. Under Criterion C, the property is also significant for its association with architect Eric Gugler and sculptor Paul Manship.

Under Criterion D (that may have yielded, or may be likely to yield information important in prehistory or history), the property is significant for existing and potential archeological information deriving from its Native American use, colonial-era use and from use during the Civil War era as both a training ground for troops and as a refugee camp.

Under Criteria Consideration F (a property primarily commemorative in intent if design, age, tradition, or symbolic value has invested it with its own exceptional significance), the primary architectural structure of the memorial plaza, and commemorative nature of the entire island meets this standard.

A more in-depth investigation into the significance of the property under the guidelines of the National Register Criteria can be found in the National Register Information section of the CLI.

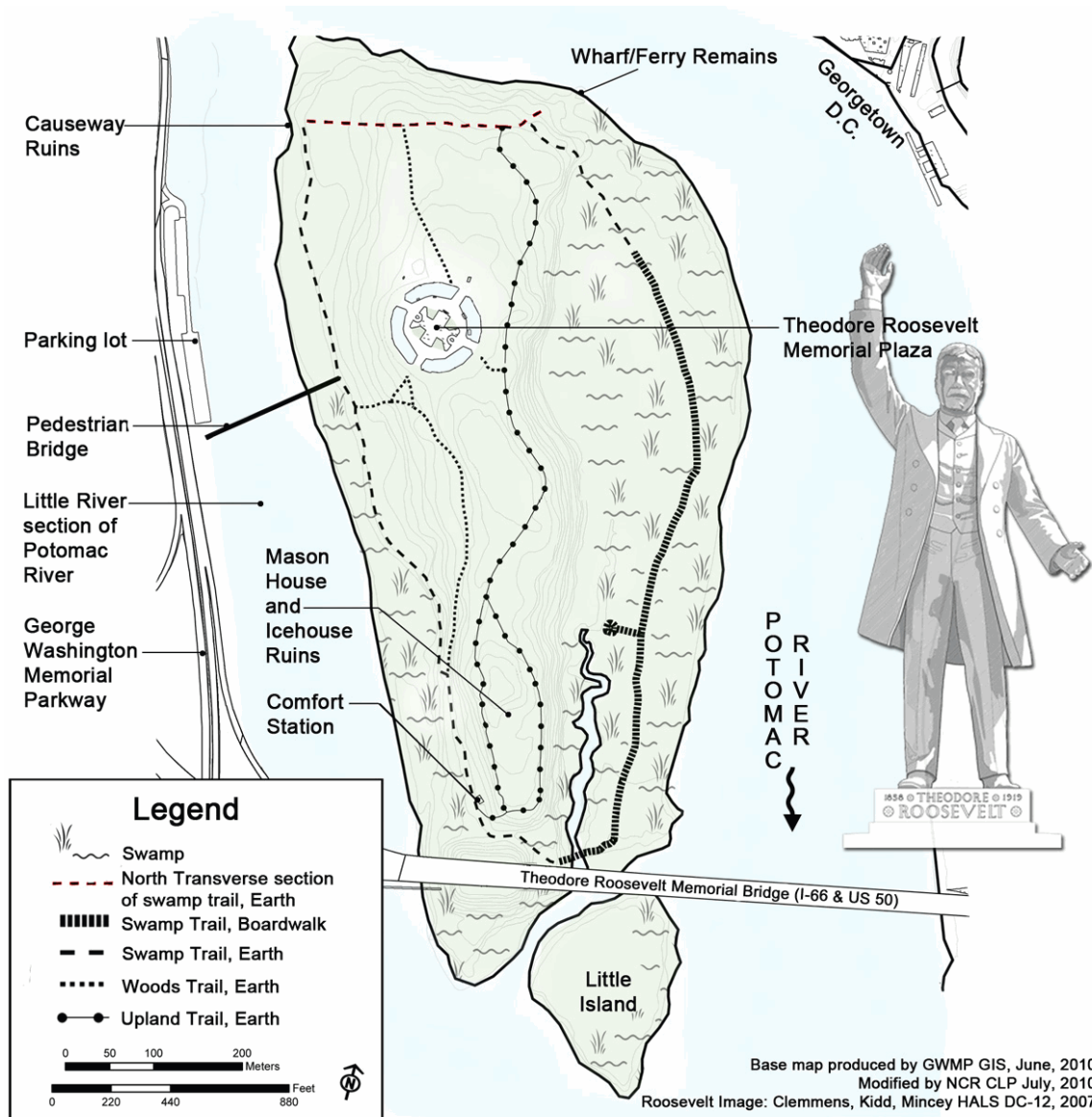
Contributing landscape characteristics identified for the property include: circulation, buildings and structures, vegetation, land use, topography, constructed water features, views and archeology. Existing features date primarily to the 1931-1967 period of significance and generally retain integrity in all seven aspects recognized by the National Register. Details of integrity and both contributing and non-contributing characteristics and features can be found in the Analysis and Evaluation section of the CLI.

Overall, Theodore Roosevelt Island is in fair condition (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 landscape characteristics will cause the inventory unit to degrade to a poor). It retains integrity for the periods of significance 1748-1833, 1861-1865 and 1931-1967.

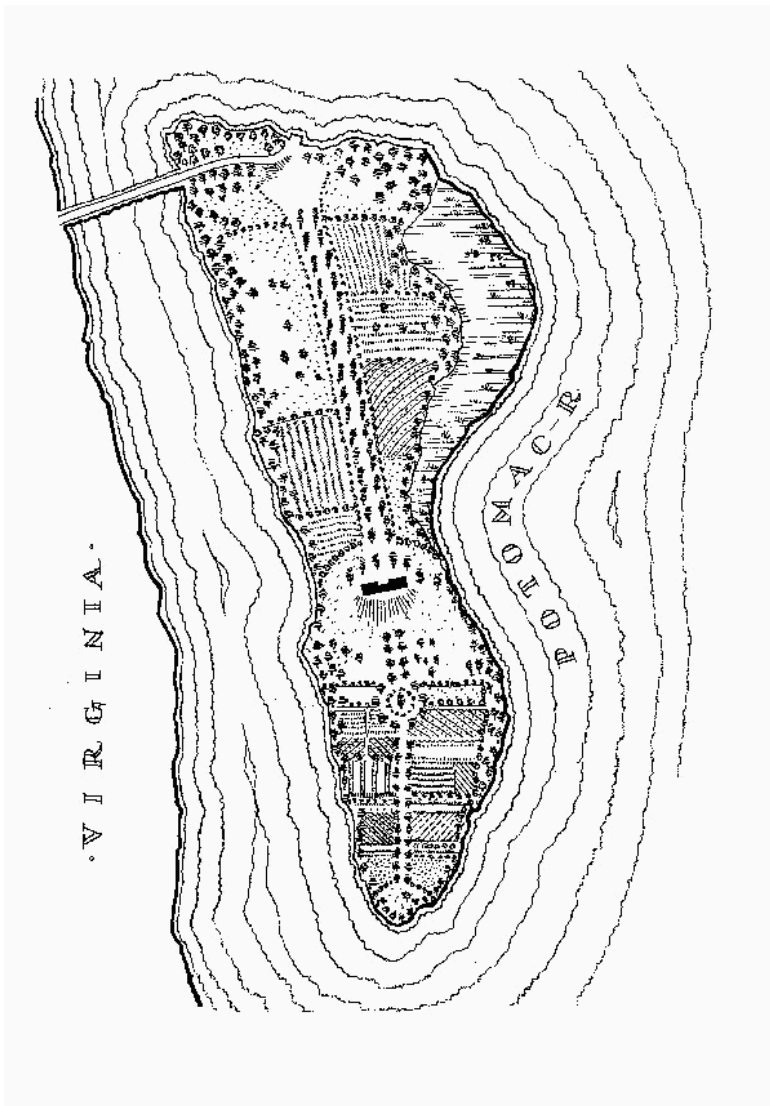
A 2010 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) is planned for the site. The project focuses on repair and rebuilding of the infrastructure, bottom and sides of the moat, piping, motor and water level sensors in the fountains and some stonework repair and repointing around the memorial plaza. The result will be part of the process in upgrading the site condition from fair to good.

In addition, the spread of non-native vegetation including English ivy (*Hedera helix*), Japanese honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*), fig buttercup (*Ranunculus ficaria*) and the groundcover known as creeping myrtle, periwinkle or, more commonly, vinca (*Vinca minor*), among others impacts the condition of the island vegetation planned by Frederick Law Olmsted Jr. This is despite the fact that Olmsted himself approved the use of English ivy and vinca in his planting plan. Continuous management of exotic species is necessary to prevent a loss of the integrity of vegetation on the island.

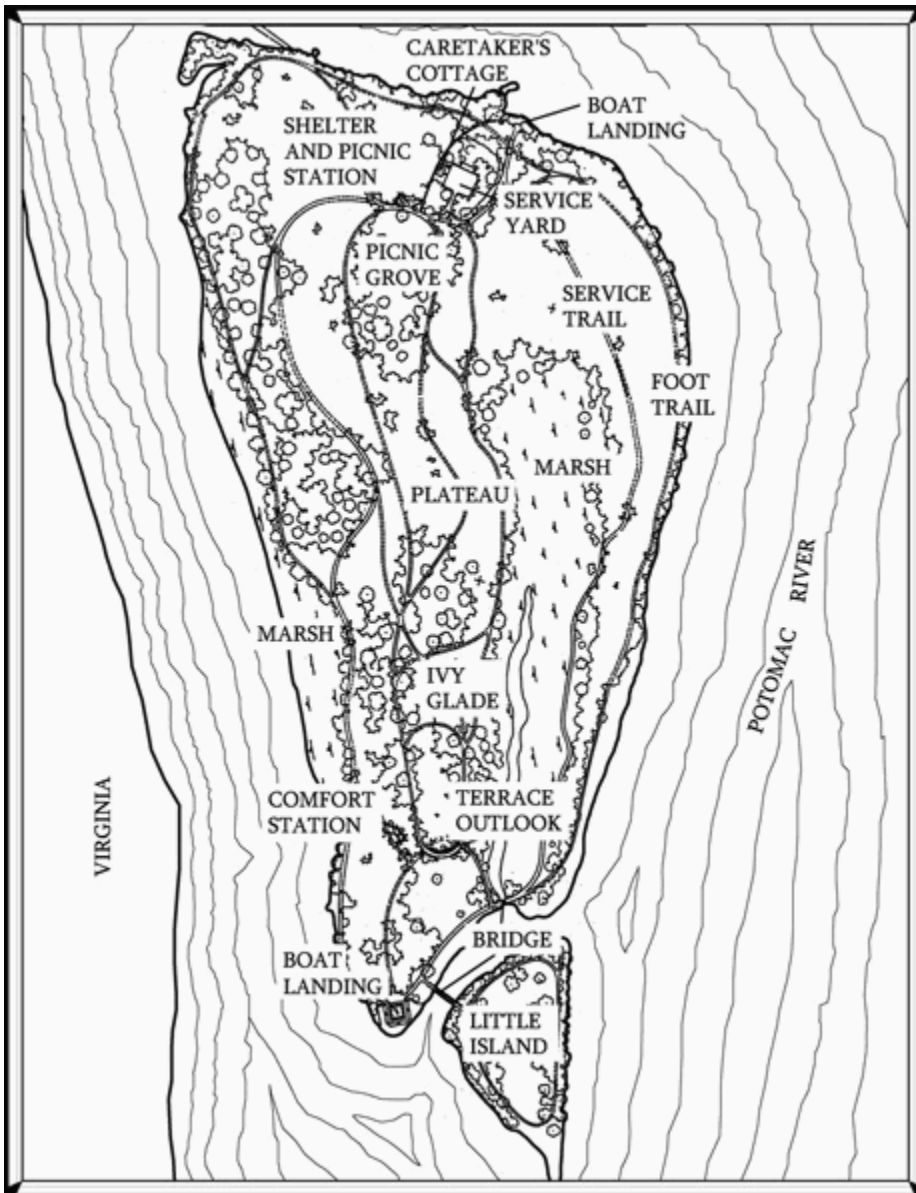
Site Plan



Theodore Roosevelt Island National Memorial existing conditions site plan (NCR CLP 2010).



This 1818 map illustrates the Mason-era causeway, ferry landing, swamp land, mansion, and associated landscape. (Image reproduced from "A Map of the City of Washington" by Robert King 1818:Source NPS HALS DC-12 2007 delineated by Clemmens, Kidd, Mincey).



Frederick Law Olmsted Jr.'s vision for the island included a caretaker's cottage, a boat landing, a terrace outlook and a bridged connection to Little Island (DC-12 sheet 2/14).

Property Level and CLI Numbers

Inventory Unit Name:	Theodore Roosevelt Island
Property Level:	Landscape
CLI Identification Number:	600061
Parent Landscape:	600061

Park Information

Park Name and Alpha Code:	Theodore Roosevelt Island -TRIS
Park Organization Code:	3336
Park Administrative Unit:	George Washington Memorial Parkway

Concurrence Status

Inventory Status: Complete

Completion Status Explanatory Narrative:

The Theodore Roosevelt Island Cultural Landscape Inventory was written by Saylor Moss, Historical Landscape Architect with the Cultural Landscapes Program (CLP) of the National Capital Region (NCR). The CLI represents the documentation of the landscape of Theodore Roosevelt Island. Both primary and secondary sources were consulted, and resources from both within and outside of the National Park Service were utilized.

The following people provided valuable insight during the inventory process: Maureen Joseph, Regional Historical Landscape Architect, NCR CLP; Martha Temkin, NCR CLI/LCS Coordinator; Kay Fanning Ph.D, author of the 2001 National Register Nomination, Primary author of the Historic American Landscapes Survey report on Theodore Roosevelt Island, Jonathan Pliska NCR CLP, Historian; Deana Poss, Historical Landscape Architect, NCR CLP; Frances McMillen, Landscape Historian NCR CLP; Ben Helwig, GIS Specialist-Acting Park Ranger, GWMP; Matt Virta, Cultural Resource Manager, GWMP; Kate Barrett, Landscape Architect, GWMP, Erik Oberg Natural Resource Management Specialist, GWMP.

The photograph on the cover of this report was taken from the roof of the House of Sweden (Swedish Embassy) in Georgetown in 2010 by Saylor Moss, NCR CLP Historical Landscape Architect.

Concurrence Status:

Park Superintendent Concurrence:	Yes
Park Superintendent Date of Concurrence:	09/24/2010
National Register Concurrence:	Eligible -- SHPO Consensus Determination
Date of Concurrence Determination:	09/16/2010

National Register Concurrence Narrative:

The Historic Preservation Officer for the District of Columbia concurred with the findings of the Theodore Roosevelt Island CLI on 9/16/2010, 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:

Theodore Roosevelt Island
Theodore Roosevelt Island



United States Department of the Interior

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

August 12, 2010

Memorandum

To: Cultural Landscapes Inventory Coordinator, National Capital
Region

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

Subject: Statement of Concurrence, Theodore Roosevelt Island Cultural
Landscapes Inventory

I, David Maloney, District of Columbia State Historic Preservation Officer, concur with the findings of the Theodore Roosevelt Island CLI as per Section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, submitted on August 12, 2010.

David Maloney
District of Columbia
State Historic Preservation Officer

9/16/2010
Date

Letter of concurrence from the DC HPO's office, dated 9/16/2010



United States Department of the Interior

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

August 12, 2010

Memorandum:

To: Regional Landscape Architect, National Capital Region
From: Superintendent, George Washington Memorial Parkway
Subject: Statement of Concurrence, Theodore Roosevelt Island Cultural Landscape Inventory

I, Dottie P. Marshall, Superintendent of George Washington Memorial Parkway, concur with the findings of the Cultural Landscape Inventory for Theodore Roosevelt Island, including the following specific components:

MANAGEMENT CATEGORY: MUST BE PRESERVED AND MAINTAINED

CONDITION ASSESSMENT: FAIR

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

Fair: indicates the inventory unit shows clear evidence of minor 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 Theodore Roosevelt Island is hereby approved and accepted.


Dottie P. Marshall


Date

Concurrence memo signed by the GWMP Superintendent on 9/24/2010

Geographic Information & Location Map

Inventory Unit Boundary Description:

Theodore Roosevelt Island, also known as Reservation 560, encompasses approximately 90 acres (According to the first endnote in section 7, page 21 of the National Register Nomination of 2001, Theodore Roosevelt Island is recorded as being 88.34 acres in the official land transfer conveying both islands from the Roosevelt Memorial Association to the Office of Public Buildings and Public Parks of the National Capital...see U.S. Grant, III, Director, Office of Public Buildings and Public Parks of the

Theodore Roosevelt Island

Theodore Roosevelt Island

National Capital, Land Transfer Order No. 13,2 March 1933 [Reservation file #560, Land Resources Program Center, National Capital Region, National Park Service]).

The following boundary description has been extracted from the 2001 Theodore Roosevelt Island National Register Nomination.

“The boundaries of the nominated property include all the land historically and currently known as Analostan, Mason's, or Roosevelt Island and all the accretions thereto to the mean low water; also including Little Island to the southeast. There are a few exceptions: the boundaries shall include the ruins of the historic Mason's Causeway, which extends from the northwest shore of the island underwater to the Virginia shore; the remnants of wooden wharves and scows on the north shore; and two clusters of ruined scows which likely remain underwater at the northwestern corner of the island, and off the eastern shore, directly across from the mouth of Rock Creek. These scows are shown on the series of topographic maps prepared by Public Buildings and Public Parks of the National Capital for the Roosevelt Memorial Association in the early 1930s.

Boundary Justification

The mean low water mark was used by War Department engineers when drawing up the topographic survey of Roosevelt Island in 1932. It is also used by the George Washington Memorial Parkway as the boundary for their other park properties along the Potomac River.

The ruins of the causeway, wharves, and scows shall be included because of their association with the important colonial and early American road which crossed the northern end of the island.” (Fanning 2001: sect 10 p 101)

State and County:

State: DC

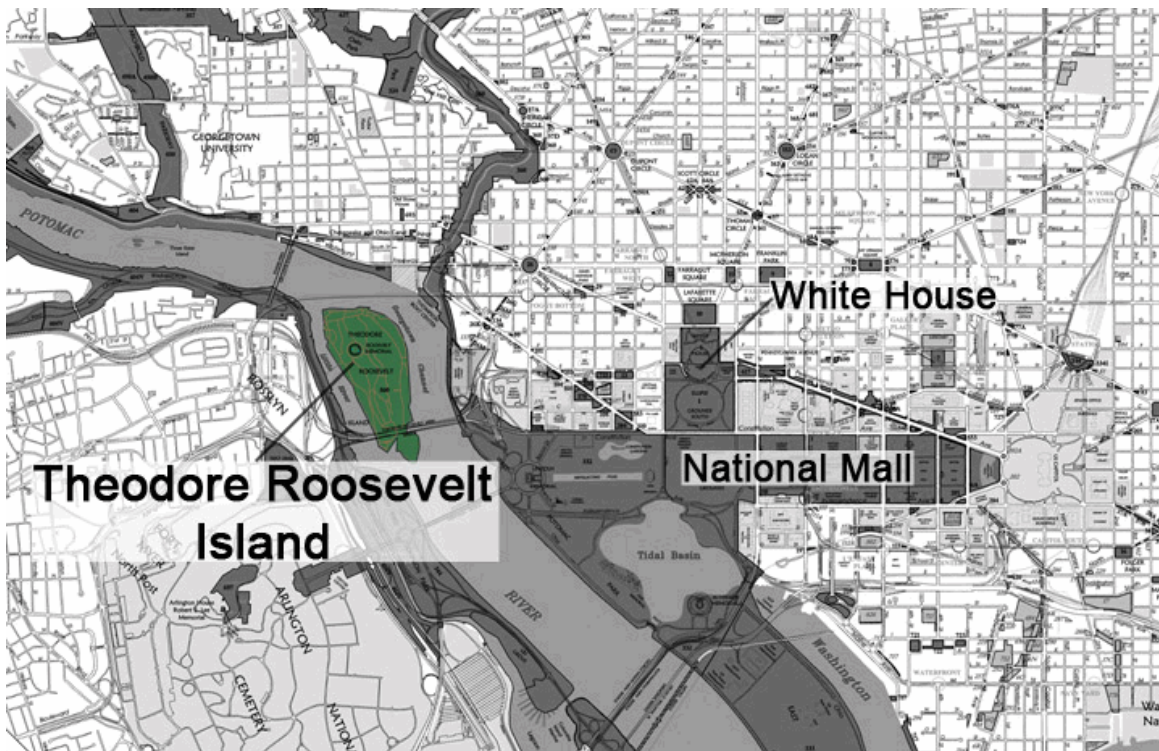
County: District of Columbia

Size (Acres): 88.50

Boundary UTMS:

Source:	USGS Map 1:100,000
Type of Point:	Point
Datum:	NAD 83
UTM Zone:	18
UTM Easting:	320,835
UTM Northing:	4,307,584
Source:	USGS Map 1:100,000
Type of Point:	Point
Datum:	NAD 83
UTM Zone:	18
UTM Easting:	321,283
UTM Northing:	4,307,574
Source:	USGS Map 1:100,000
Type of Point:	Point
Datum:	NAD 83
UTM Zone:	18
UTM Easting:	321,394
UTM Northing:	4,306,637
Source:	USGS Map 1:100,000
Type of Point:	Point
Datum:	NAD 83
UTM Zone:	18
UTM Easting:	321,210
UTM Northing:	4,306,696

Location Map:



Theodore Roosevelt Island National Memorial is an island in the Potomac River located between Washington, D. C. and Arlington County, Virginia (NPS 869, 80,462).

Management Information

General Management Information

Management Category: Must be Preserved and Maintained

Management Category Date: 09/24/2010

Agreements, Legal Interest, and Access

Management Agreement:

Type of Agreement:

NPS Legal Interest:

Type of Interest: Fee Simple

Public Access:

Type of Access: Unrestricted

Adjacent Lands Information

Do Adjacent Lands Contribute? No

Adjacent Lands Description:

The Potomac River is adjacent to Theodore Roosevelt Island on all sides. On the Virginia side of the river there is a parking lot accessible by car from the north bound lanes of the George Washington Memorial Parkway (GWMP). It can also be accessed via the GWMP section of the Potomac Heritage Trail, an 850 mile network of existing and planned trails between the mouth of the Potomac River and the Allegheny Highlands managed by the National Park Service. The parking lot was constructed in conjunction with the building of the memorial plaza in the mid 1960s, and rebuilt in 1993-1994 as part of a GWMP road improvements project (Pliska 2008: 125). The pedestrian bridge was not built until 1979.

National Register Information

Existing NRIS Information:

Other Names: Theodore Roosevelt Island

Primary Certification Date: 01/16/2001

Significance Criteria: A - Associated with events significant to broad patterns of our history

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

Significance Criteria: D - Has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important to prehistory or history

Criteria Considerations: F -- A commemorative property

Period of Significance:

Time Period:	AD 1749 - 1833
Historic Context Theme:	Transforming the Environment
Subtheme:	Other Transforming the Environment
Facet:	Other Transforming the Environment
Time Period:	AD 1861 - 1865
Historic Context Theme:	Shaping the Political Landscape
Subtheme:	The Civil War
Facet:	The Industrial North
Time Period:	AD 1861 - 1865
Historic Context Theme:	Creating Social Institutions and Movements
Subtheme:	Social and Humanitarian Movements
Facet:	Emergency Aid And Health Care
Time Period:	AD 1931 - 2010
Historic Context Theme:	Transforming the Environment
Subtheme:	Other Transforming the Environment
Facet:	Other Transforming the Environment
Time Period:	AD 1931 - 2010
Historic Context Theme:	Expressing Cultural Values
Subtheme:	Landscape Architecture
Facet:	Modern Landscape Design And Site Planning

Area of Significance:

Area of Significance Category:	Architecture
Area of Significance Subcategory:	None
Area of Significance Category:	Art
Area of Significance Category:	Conservation
Area of Significance Category:	Entertainment - Recreation
Area of Significance Category:	Military
Area of Significance Category:	Other
Area of Significance Category:	Politics - Government
Area of Significance Category:	Social History
Area of Significance Category:	Transportation

Statement of Significance:

Portions of this section have been directly extracted from the National Register nomination. Quotation marks and citations will be used to indicate the extracted material.

The approximately 90 acre Theodore Roosevelt Island is located in the Potomac River between Georgetown, Washington, D.C., and the unincorporated section of Arlington County, Virginia known as Rosslyn. According to the comprehensive listing on the National Register of Historic Places, the periods of significance for the site are 1749-1833, 1861-1865 and 1931-present.

For the purposes of this document, the CLI proposes the periods of significance as follows:

1748-1833 The first known European settlers on the island were the Mason family of Virginia who arrived in 1717. In 1748 Mason's Ferry was established on the island and served as a vital link in transportation as one of three Ferries in the area. Mason's Ferry specifically, was the main connection between Georgetown (which was part of Maryland until the passage of the Residence Act in 1790) and Virginia. It was also a vital link between the region and the Ohio River Valley. No bridge connected Maryland and Virginia until 1809 when Long Bridge was built roughly a mile south of the island. In 1807 the Georgetown Common Council authorized a publicly funded causeway to be built atop a dam which connected the island's northwest corner to the Virginia shore. Prior to this, private charters were used to traverse this route. The causeway landed on the island where a short road led users to the ferry landing (Pliska 2008: 11). After three generations of ownership by the Mason family, the bank foreclosed on the island and the Mason family left in 1833.

1861-1865 In 1861, amidst the onset of the Civil War, Union troops occupied the island. They remained in differential capacities until March of 1864. Notably, from May to September of 1863 the island housed the camp of the 1st United States Colored Troops (USCT), an infantry regiment of free men and "contraband" (a term used at the time to describe escaped slaves), who were trained and sent to fight primarily in Virginia and the Carolinas. In May of 1864 the island became a temporary refugee camp for the influx of recently freed slaves and other black people arriving in the area. New arrivals were housed in vacant military barracks and other structures, and were instructed to make do with limited supplies. Over time, many people died while at the camp due to a lack of basic supplies, disease and overcrowding. It is possible that archeological investigations of the island would uncover remains that date to this period of time. The refugee camp was disbanded in June of 1865 and remaining residents of the island were relocated.

1931-1967 In 1931 the Roosevelt Memorial Association (RMA) (renamed the Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Association, or TRMA in 1953) purchased the island for just over \$364,000. Previously, the island belonged to the Washington Gas Light Company, who, for seventeen years, had owned but never developed the site. The site was a likely choice as it was in the process of being condemned by the Justice Department for integration into the park system of Washington. The RMA was formed shortly after Roosevelt's death in 1919 and chartered by Congress in 1920. Their goal was to secure a location for the erection of a national memorial dedicated to Roosevelt that would rival that of Washington and Lincoln. A week after the sale of the island became public, the RMA announced the changing of the name to "Roosevelt Island." Less than one year later President Herbert Hoover changed the name to Theodore Roosevelt Island (Pliska 2008: 48). In May of 1932 the House of Representatives approved the government's acceptance of the island as a memorial. The RMA announced that landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted Jr. and architect John Russell Pope would prepare island development studies (Fanning 2001: sect 8 p 45-47). Pope's position seems to be largely as an advisor and he died in 1937, long before the completion of the project. Olmsted Jr. and his colleague Henry Hubbard, who worked for Olmsted's firm, was a student of Olmsted's at Harvard and subsequently a professor there and was the first person to earn a degree in landscape architecture, are the two people who are regularly associated with the TR Island design.

Landscape Architect Frederick Law Olmsted Jr. was son of the son of Frederick Law Olmsted, the

Theodore Roosevelt Island

developer of the American school of landscape design. Olmsted Jr. was also a member of the McMillan Commission (1901-1902), which led the development of Washington, D.C. and its surrounds in the most substantial manner since the 1791 L'Enfant Plan.

On Roosevelt Island, Olmsted Jr. and his colleagues honored the wishes of the government to keep the island in a “wild state” (Pliska 2008: 67). They utilized the methods that both Olmsted Jr.’s father and the National Park Service promoted; the preservation and creation of “natural” or “scenic” beauty and the use of native plants and rustic structures. The Olmsted Brothers firm of Brookline Massachusetts was directly involved with the establishment a native climax forest on Roosevelt Island over a period of fifteen years. Olmsted Jr.’s vision for the site imagined visual connections to surrounding memorials, the feeling of sanctuary, the lack of vehicular traffic, a singular access point via a pedestrian bridge, natural topography, meandering paths and an architectural memorial which would serve as a unifying point on the island. The men of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), and others, were put to work clearing the island of most of its vegetation, followed by planting and transplanting. As per Olmsted Jr.’s specifications, paths were constructed across the island and the Mason house ruins were treated in a way which would not damage surrounding trees, and would de-emphasize the artificial terraces created during the Mason era.

In 1953 the National Park Service began ferry service to the island. A ferry departed from Wisconsin Avenue and K Street in Georgetown and arrived on the historic ferry landing site on the north end of the island. Visitors could participate in walks where they could learn about the natural and cultural history of the island, seek out wildlife or simply enjoy the the island. A comfort station was built in 1955 and the island was officially dedicated to Roosevelt in 1958, the centennial year of Roosevelt’s birth. In 1954 the TRMA invited architect Eric Gugler to prepare plans for the memorial. Along with sculptor Paul Manship, Gugler originally planned a giant armillary sphere which would have stood in the center of a reflecting pool on a raised court surrounded by twelve large granite panels inscribed with Roosevelt’s quotations. The plan was ridiculed by the public and Roosevelt’s own daughter (Pliska 2008: 91). It was eventually altered and constructed in the mid 1960s to reflect its current configuration. The memorial was dedicated by President Lyndon B. Johnson on October 27, 1967, Roosevelt’s 109th birthday.

The property is significant under three of the National Register’s standards for evaluating the significance of properties; A, C and D. It is also found to qualify for significance under Criteria Consideration F.

Under Criterion A, the property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

“Theodore Roosevelt Island played a significant role in the colonial and early federal period of Georgetown and Washington, D.C. It served as a major link in an important transportation route from the time Mason’s Ferry was established in 1748, the only colonial route directly connecting Georgetown with Northern Virginia. From the 1790s, the local civic and business leader John Mason developed what was perhaps the largest and most elaborate estate to be found within the city’s boundaries, and added

Theodore Roosevelt Island

Theodore Roosevelt Island

Mason's Causeway across the Little River to the Virginia shore in 1807. Remnants of the historic road, causeway, ferry wharves, and Mason's estate still exist.

The island was also the location for a variety of Union Army activities during the Civil War, most importantly the site of the barracks and training grounds of the 1st United States Colored Troops, an African American regiment. White troops also were stationed there, and the historic road served as a transportation route for the movement of Union troops.

The site has at least two important African American components. During John Mason's tenure, his estate was almost certainly run by slave labor. In the early days of the Civil War, an employment depot for escaped slaves or 'contraband' was established on the island; then, in 1863, the 1st United States Colored Troops were quartered and trained there. The 1st USCT was the black regular Army regiment for the District of Columbia; there are today very few sites remaining in the country with any USCT connection.

The island is also important as the national presidential memorial commemorating Theodore Roosevelt, emphasizing his role as a leader in national conservation policy. Both the island itself, developed by the landscape architecture firm of Olmsted Brothers as a representative native woodland, and the architectural monument located on its northern part constitute the Theodore Roosevelt Memorial today. Theodore Roosevelt Island is unique among presidential memorials in its commemoration of a specific area of presidential achievement and in its development primarily as a living landscape memorial, an attempt to recreate a remnant of a primeval, climax forest." (Fanning 2001: sect 8 p 29)

Additionally, the association between the site's use as a refugee camp and the post-Civil War migration of blacks from the south is the third important African-American component to the site.

Under Criterion C, the property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

"Theodore Roosevelt Island is significant as a cultural landscape design of famed landscape architect, Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr., and of his influential associate, Henry V. Hubbard. It is an integral part and one of the final portions completed of the plan for the comprehensive development of a regional park system of Washington which was produced by the 1901-1902 Senate Park Commission (popularly known as the McMillan Commission and the McMillan Plan; Olmsted was the landscape architect member of the commission). It is an important addition to the landscape setting of the Mall. It represents one of the most complete expressions of Olmsted's ideals on scenic preservation, through his attempt to recreate the island's presumed former appearance so that it could continue its natural evolution to a stable, 'climax' forest.

The memorial plaza on the island is also important as a collaborative work of architect Eric Gugler and sculptor Paul Manship. It represents their development of a modern idiom of an established type of presidential memorial, and forms a link between such standard Beaux-Arts monuments as the Lincoln

Memorial and contemporary memorial designs such as the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial” (NR sect 8 p 29, 30). “Architect John Russell Pope (who had won the RMA's 1925 competition for a national memorial to TR [sic] on the Tidal Basin) was also part of the team, though his role seems to have been largely advisory. Pope died in 1937 while engaged on the design of the Jefferson Memorial.” (Fanning 2001: sect 7 pg 22)

Under Criterion D, the island is a property that has yielded or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

“With the exception of the marsh and swamp, the island possesses the likelihood of having a significant number of archeological sites, from centuries of prehistoric Native American use; colonial and early American transportation use (road, causeway, and ruined wharves and scows), ranging from 1748 through c. 1867; the Mason house and estate landscape, from 1792-1833; and African American sites, including slave sites from the Mason era and the site of the 1st USCT camp from the Civil War.” (Fanning 2001: sect 8 p 30, 31)

Additionally, there may be archeological information from the period of time between May of 1864 and July 1865 when the island was utilized as a refugee camp where displaced former slaves and other black people lived while they were looking for work and trying to survive in new environs.

Criteria Consideration F represents “a property primarily commemorative in intent if design, age, tradition, or symbolic value has invested it with its own historical significance.”

“Theodore Roosevelt Island meets the standard posed by Criteria Consideration F. Though the entire island and its landscape form a memorial to Theodore Roosevelt, as does the primary structure on the island, the Theodore Roosevelt Memorial plaza (1960-1967), the design, tradition, and symbolic value of both elements, and the age of the landscape (established c. 1935), invest them with significance.” (Fanning 2001: sect 8 p 31)

Chronology & Physical History

Cultural Landscape Type and Use

Cultural Landscape Type: Designed

Other Use/Function

Agriculture/Subsistence-Other

Landing (Wharf, Dock)

Estate Landscape

Military Facility (Post)

Other-No Other Category Exists

Outdoor Recreation

Monument (Marker, Plaque)

Forest

Other Type of Use or Function

Historic

Historic

Historic

Historic

Historic

Historic

Current

Current

Current and Historic Names:**Name**

Analostan Island

My Lord's Island

Barbadoes

Mason's Island

Theodore Roosevelt Island

Type of Name

Historic

Historic

Historic

Historic

Current

Chronology:

Year	Event	Annotation
AD 1620 - 1639	Explored	English Captain Henry Fleet gives an account of Necostin Indians in the area. Later, historians identify the Necostin People, who were part of the Powhatan confederacy, as living on or near the island (Pliska 2008: 4).
AD 1632	Land Transfer	'The English Crown (King Charles I) grants Cecilius Calvert, Second Lord Baltimore, a land patent for much of the colony of Maryland. The island is referred to as 'My Lord's Island' (Pliska 2008: 5).
AD 1680 - 1682	Land Transfer	'On 21 July 1680, Charles Calvert, Third Lord Baltimore, and inheritor of the land in 1675 upon the Second Lord Baltimore's death, granted the island to Captain Randolph Brandt of Charles County, Maryland, as payment for protecting colonists from hostile Indians...Brandt, an emigrant from Barbados [sic] in the West Indies, also referred to the island as Barbadoes.' (Pliska 2008: 5)

AD 1711	Explored	Swiss explorer Baron Christoph von Graffenried travels through the Potomac valley and notes that the island is made of rock with good soil and that Indians live there. At that time the island is notated on maps as Anacostien Island (Pliska 2008: 4).
AD 1717 - 1833	Inhabited	The island was owned by the Mason family of Virginia. It was purchased for £35 sterling from Margaret and Francis Hammersley, the daughter and son-in-law of the previous owner, Captain Randolph Brandt (Fanning 2001: sect 7 pg 2).
AD 1792 - 1833	Inhabited	John Mason had a small plantation estate on the island with crops, livestock and gardens. He lived in a large neoclassical mansion with many outbuildings in a landscaped setting. To the north of the house were open parklands and cultivated fields. To its south were gardens and terraced lawns. A summer house, an open-air structure, existed on the island as well. 'A large crescent-shaped marshy swamp dominated the northeast coast, stretching inland and as far south as the tree line immediately north of the mansion. Cultivation was clearly impossible here; plantation fields ended abruptly all along the irregular edge. Mason also maintained a forested edge around the island's perimeter, including the interior edge of the swamp. These trees, remnants of the native woodland, provided a means of concealing the estate from ferry traffic and ships on the Potomac. This screen was only broken immediately east of the mansion, to afford a view across the river to Washington (Pliska 2008: 13).'
AD 1807	Built	Mason's Causeway was built from the northwest corner of the island to the Virginia shore. This route linked DC and Maryland to Virginia for over 100 years (Fanning 2001: sect 7 pg 2).
AD 1809	Built	'...Long Bridge was constructed approximately one mile south of the island. Attached to a thick cable anchored at both ends, small boats carried passengers, wagons, livestock, and crops across the Potomac for over 150 years' (Pliska 2008: 6).

AD 1811	Planted	During David Bailie Warden's 1811 visit to Analostan Island, he recalls seeing cotton and maize. Warden also recalled that Mason owned five rams and ten ewes. In addition, Warden mentions several plants and animals that he saw on his island visit. Among those were the following: 'oak (Quercus), walnut (Juglans), mulberry (Morus), poplar (Populus), locust (Gleditsia and Robinia), ash (Fraxinus), willow (Salix), the papaw (Anona triloba) and spindle tree (Orchidocarpum triloba).' 'White oak (Quercus alba), with one notable specimen near the summer-house attaining a one-foot trunk diameter.' 'A species of eglantine' thirty feet in length and three inches in diameter supported by a tree near the causeway.' 'Poison oak (Rhus toxicodendron), Virginia jessamine (Rhus vernixe), several species of milkweeds (Asclepias), redbud (Cercis Canadensis), and sassafras tree (Laurus sassafras) were located at various points around the island.' (Pliska 2008: 14)
AD 1818	Planted	'In 1818, city surveyor Robert King published a map of the city of Washington that included a detailed depiction of the island at that time, some twenty years into Mason's development of the landscape. The majority of the site was taken up by carefully laid-out fields of neatly planted, ordered rows of crops, roughly divided between the smaller, private grounds south of the house, and the larger, more public grounds to the north. The kitchen garden, located to the south, consisted of several acres of land planted with 'culinary vegetables.' In addition to the kitchen outbuildings, slave quarters and workshops were also located south of the house, with at least some reported along 'the island's walled eastern shoreline.' Cotton, maize, and possibly other crops were planted in the large area north of the house.' (Pliska 2008: 9)

AD 1828	Established	Anne Newport Royall is often regarded as the first professional woman journalist in the United States. She traveled extensively and briefly visited John Mason and his family on the island...Both Warden and Royall traveled across the causeway to reach the island. As with most visitors, they approached the mansion from the north, via a formal, tree-lined allee. The orchards were located here, and Warden noted that the 'blossoms of the cherry, apple, and peach trees, of the hawthorn and aromatic shrubs, filled the air with their fragrance (Pliska 2008: 12).' Royall also mentions flowers shrubs, grapes and rare plants from all over the world as being part of the a garden adjacent to the mansion (Pliska 2008: 12).
AD 1829 - 1833	Land Transfer	Beginning in 1825, Mason sustained a series of economic losses due to poor business decisions and land speculation, taking out a total of \$28,560 in promissory notes in that year alone. Mason executed this deed of trust, recorded 31 March 1826, as a means of securing the necessary capital to cover the notes. Richard Smith...acted as the bank's agent in accepting the deed of trust. Continued economic failures caused Mason to take out a second deed of trust on 29 November 1829. In addition to the island and its mansion house, the Bank of the United States also held much of Mason's considerable Virginia land holdings under deed of trust as collateral against the money owed. Unable to repay their debts, John and Anna Maria Mason defaulted on their deeds of trust in 1833. For the sum of \$5, they signed a deed transferring ownership of the island to the Bank of the United States on 26 April. The transaction was recorded on 18 June 1833.' (Pliska 2008: p 62, 63)
AD 1834	Built	A grandstand was built to hold 6,000-7,000 people who came to the island to watch a balloon ascension. The grandstand did not fill as spectators lined nearby river banks and other promontories to avoid 50 cent admission fee (Pliska 2008: 15).
AD 1838	Land Transfer	Richard Smith was given the island in trust. He held the property for twelve tenants (Pliska 2008: 15).

Theodore Roosevelt Island
Theodore Roosevelt Island

AD 1842	Land Transfer	John Carter, a tenant of Richard Smith purchases the island from the bank for \$8,600 and uses the land for commercial cultivation. Alexander Garden supplied workers to cultivate fields and lived on-site. `This venture consisted of 400 peach trees, 150 rose bushes, and varying numbers of asparagus, carrots, parsley, and rhubarb plants (Pliska 2008: 15).`
AD 1851 - 1867		Former D.C. mayor William A. Bradley purchases the island for \$2,571.50. Bradley dies in 1867 but the island remained the property of his estate under the trusteeship of his friends and family until 1913. Under his ownership, Bradley `developed a portion of the island as a resort destination, and built a dancing saloon, known from later reports to have adjoined the mansion. He also constructed two wharves, one on the north coast and the other on the east side of the island (Pliska 2008:, 15).` Bradley let out the property for short-term recreational activities including company picnics, a jousting competition, feasts, dances and athletic competitions (Fanning 2001: sect 7 pg 3). Former D.C. mayor William A. Bradley purchases the island for \$2,571.50. Bradley dies in 1867 but the island remained the property of his estate under the trusteeship of his friends and family until 1913. Under his ownership, Bradley `developed a portion of the island as a resort destination, and built a dancing saloon, known from later reports to have adjoined the mansion. He also constructed two wharves, one on the north coast and the other on the east side of the island (Pliska 2008:, 15).` Bradley let out the property for short-term recreational activities including company picnics, a jousting competition, feasts, dances and athletic competitions (Fanning 2001: sect 7 pg 3).
AD 1852	Damaged	Damage from flooding drops the value of the island \$6,000 (Pliska 2008: 15).
AD 1861 - 1864	Military Operation	Union troops occupy Mason`s Island in differential capacities from May 1861 until March of 1864. A ca. 1865 photograph depicts a small complex of buildings and one long, largely windowless structure, most likely a warehouse, in the vicinity of the old Mason ferry house (Pliska 2008: 16).

AD 1863	Military Operation	The island was used as a training camp for the 1st United States Colored Troops, an infantry regiment of African American soldiers and white officers from May to July. 'While encamped on the island, most soldiers of the 1st USCT were housed in typical military barracks: long, narrow, lightweight balloon-frame structures. The regiment's officers likely inhabited the Mason mansion and surviving outbuildings...' (Pliska 2008: 18).
	Land Transfer	Jacob Powers who leased a portion of the island from Bradley lost his lease in the spring of 1863 when he failed to pay rent. Powers intended on earning money by managing the property as a resort and commercial garden. The presence of the Army prevented this from happening (Fanning 2001: sect 7 pg 3).
AD 1863 - 1864	Military Operation	Beginning in August of 1863 white troops occupied Mason's Island until the spring of 1864 (Pliska 2008: 21).
AD 1864	Inhabited	1st Lieutenant Kilburn Knox reported on the condition of the camp. 'The camp contained seven barracks, all comfortable and in good repair. Six measured 100' long x 20' wide, while the seventh was about 150' long x 30' wide, the same dimensions as the hospital building. Another building functioned as the camp's commissary depot, presumably operated by an employee of the Quartermaster Department whom Knox identified as 'Commissary of Subsistence for the Camp.' Six smaller buildings housed 'offices, guard rooms, and etc.,' with at least one likely servicing the camp clerk, also an employee of the Quartermaster Department. 'All these buildings,' Knox continued, 'were built as Barracks for the use of Colored troops.' He noted the camp was 'about to erect another building,' to be used as a school room and meeting house, and that after the onset of winter the freedmen could fill the island's 'fine, large' icehouse (Pliska 2008: 28,29).' Knox's report did not include all island structures.

	Colonized	In May of 1864 the island was used as a temporary refugee camp for African Americans arriving in D.C. As the population grew to nearly 1,200 people by July, Poor conditions on the island led to disease, starvation and overcrowding in 1864. The conditions were reported to have improved before its disbandment in June of 1865. Improvements are credited in part to the Association of Friends and other benevolent groups who provided for the freedmen's physical, educational, and spiritual needs and Sojourner Truth who offered encouragement to the residents of the island. The Federal government recharged their efforts to supply food, clothing and job opportunities to freedmen. There is much controversy regarding this matter (Pliska 2008: 21,32).
	Built	A hospital was built on the island. Despite its existence, many freedmen died. 118 in August alone (Pliska 2008: 27). '...a Sunday school had been set up in William A. Bradley's former dancing saloon, described...as a piazza 'on the one side' of the Mason mansion (Pliska 2008: 27).'
AD 1865	Built	A temporary pontoon bridge was built across the river from Georgetown to the northern end of Mason's Island to lessen the impact of departing Civil War soldier traffic on the existing Aqueduct bridge. It was disassembled in around June of 1865 (Pliska 2008: 36).
	Land Transfer	Mason's Island was returned to William A. Bradley on June 29th 1865 after it had been used as a training camp and a freedmen's camp. After four years of occupation by thousands of people the landscape was altered. Soldiers had dismantled some retaining walls, using the stone to construct boat landings (Pliska 2008:, 37, 38).
AD 1867	Land Transfer	After Bradley's death in 1867, the island was divided into four parts and divided among his family members (Pliska 2008: 29).
AD 1877	Damaged	After being damaged by a freshet, The causeway succumbed to disrepair. It was possible for people to walk carefully to the island on the span but the causeway was not repaired (Pliska 2008: 40).

AD 1889 - 1892	Developed	The Island was leased by the Columbian Athletic Club. They constructed a club house, ball fields, tennis courts, a running track, shooting ranges and a grandstand. The club also operated a ferry between the foot of 32nd street in Georgetown and the north shore of the island. Theodore Roosevelt, then a young civil service commissioner in the Harrison administration was a member of the club (Fanning 2001: sect 7 pg 3).
AD 1890	Built	At some point in the 1890s, the Analostan Boat club leased the island and built a boathouse in an unknown location (Fanning 2001: sect 7 pg 3).
AD 1891	Destroyed	The Columbian Athletic Club clubhouse burned to the ground in May (Pliska 2008: 41).
AD 1896	Maintained	`An 1896 Washington Post article briefly recounts that `it [the island] was known as `Robey's Resort,' which was a small-sized Eldorado," and "became the haunt of disreputable characters.` This `resort` was apparently present on the island illegally, as the Bradley heirs `refused to lease it to the proprietor,` presumably due to its sordid reputation.` (Pliska 2008: 39)
AD 1898	Damaged	During the Spanish-American War, tests of high explosives were undertaken on the island by professors with the permission of the island's owners and the District commissioners. The fact that permission was granted for this type of activity may indicate that there was no other human activity on the island at this time. According to the Pliska 2008: report, DC-12, Experimentation with explosives led to the `striking decline` of what remained of the Mason mansion (Pliska 2008: 43).
AD 1900 - 1901	Land Transfer	In October of 1900, `District Supreme Court Justice Job Barnard appointed receivers to manage the island, pay taxes, and collect any rents. This decision stemmed from the inability of the Bradley heirs to pay back their outstanding debt, and terminated their control over the property.... On 18 October 1900, Justice Barnard also ruled that unless `a certain mortgage indebtedness` was paid by this date he would foreclose on the island and appoint trustees to secure the sale of the property. This indebtedness was not fulfilled, and the trustees took over on or around the specified date` (Pliska 2008: p 64).

AD 1902	Established	A journalist for the Washington Times reported: 'The interior aspects of Analostan is desolate in the extreme' he went on to mention that the Mason house ruins were 'hidden in the dense growth of trees which has overrun the island.' The reporter goes on to describe the existence of dilapidated structures over grown with moss and ivy (Fanning 2001: sect 7 pg 3).
AD 1907	Established	The Washington Post reported that the island was dismal, desolate and overgrown. The article went on to reference an area that was likely the former athletic field (Fanning 2001: sect 7 pg 3).
AD 1909	Land Transfer	'The American Colonization Society, which owned one-tenth of the island by virtue of the Bradleys' debt, and Maria G. Dewey, the last surviving heir to the property, conveyed the island to the Analostan Improvement Company through the court appointed trustees and company intermediary William E. Davis. The purchase price was \$100,000.' (Pliska 2008: 65)
AD 1913 - 1914	Land Transfer	The Washington Gas Light Company purchased the island for \$77,000 with the intention of using the island to house industrial structures. No plants or facilities were ever built while the company owned the island (Fanning 2001: sect 7 pg 3).
AD 1913	Established	A journalist for the Sunday Star reported that the island was overgrown with vegetation which varied according to where it was found. It was also reported that a caretaker and his family lived on the island. 'highland... covered with trees and bushes' and 'deep carpets of honeysuckle.' The swamp was a 'thick mass' of grasses and cattails through which a 'feeble brook trickled]. Clearings which had formerly been lawns were filled with sunflowers, and the impression was of 'a bit of English parkland on a haunted estate.' The island was inhabited by a 'caretaker and his family' living in a home or shack standing in a clearing of about 1/2 acre; this dwelling, he wrote, was 'known to nearly every one in Washington.' From Thomas R. HeFanning 2001:y, 'Evidence of Old Splendor on Analostan Island, 'Sunday Star November 1, 1931 (Fanning 2001: sect 7 pg 4).

AD 1931 - 1932		The Roosevelt Memorial Association, renamed the Theodore Roosevelt Association, or TRA, in 1953, purchased the island in 1931 for just over \$364,000 (Pliska 2008: 48, 67).
AD 1932 - 1933	Established	On 21 May 1932, Congress officially renamed the island Roosevelt Island, and less than a year later President Herbert Hoover changed the name to Theodore Roosevelt Island. The property was incorporated into the NPS system by Public Law 72-146 (47 Stat.163) Enabling legislation gave Theodore Roosevelt Association authority to approve or disapprove any 'general plan for the development of the island,' and further, 'that so long as the Association remains in existence, no development could be executed without the Associations consent. Same act stipulates that the NCPPC be authorized to approve or disapprove all proposed 'means of access' and any 'monument or memorial' recommended by the Theodore Roosevelt Association. Also, CFA was authorized to approve or disapprove any plans for development of the island (1986 Statement for management TR Island in folder TRI NPS Management CLP files).
AD 1932 - 1947	Established	The Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Association hired and then retained the landscape architecture firm of Olmsted brothers and architect John Russell Pope to prepare development plans for the island (Fanning 2001: sect 7 pg 4).
AD 1934 - 1937	Altered	Under the direction of Frederick Law Olmsted Jr., young men from the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) cleared the island of most non-native vegetation, including most remnants of John Mason's plantings. Approximately 20,000 native hardwood trees and shrubs were planted in their place. A total of over 35,000 plants were added to or transplanted on the island at this time. Olmsted envisioned mature native forest communities for the island (Fanning 2001: sect 7 pg 4).
AD 1936	Excavated	A team from the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) excavated and recorded the remains of the Mason mansion before they were removed or altered under the direction of Olmsted Jr (Fanning 2001: sect 7 pg 4).

	Explored	NPS architect with no archeological training, as part of HABS survey was given 12 weeks to explore site of Mason's house. Recovered artifacts were buried within foundation of the house (Fanning 2001: Continuation sheet Appendix A Page 116).
AD 1939 - 1945	Military Operation	Island is utilized to train FBI and OSS agents, along with other government agencies (Fanning 2001: sect 7 pg 4).
	Built	A pontoon bridge crossing over the island was built from DC to Virginia (Fanning 2001: sect 7 pg 4).
AD 1945	Designed	A General Plan establishing a native woodland memorializing Roosevelt's achievements in conservation policy was completed by the Olmsted office. The plan would also pay respect to the forests of the Potomac River valley with the planting of native trees and shrubs and the protection of mature trees on the island (Fanning 2001: sect 7 pg 4).
AD 1950 - 1969	Built	Sometime during the 1950s or 1960s a pedestrian bridge was built across Little River (Fanning 2001: sect 7 pg 4).
AD 1954	Established	Beginning of the NPS ferry service that takes visitors to and from the island (Fanning 2001: sect 7 pg 4).
AD 1955	Built	A comfort station was built on the island (Pliska 2008: 87).
AD 1958	Established	Official dedication of Roosevelt Island on the centennial year of Roosevelt's birth (Fanning 2001: sect 7 pg 5).
AD 1961	Designed	In 1961 plans for the memorial were approved. Originally the plan, designed by architect Eric Gugler and sculptor Paul Manship, called for a large armillary sphere on the 'Outlook Terrace' on the south end of the island. The public expressed dislike for the design idea so the design was changed to a large paved plaza, bronze statue, fountains, inscribed tablets and a moat. The memorial was relocated towards the north end of the island to avoid interference with the bridge (Fanning 2001: sect 7 pg 4).
AD 1962	Excavated	Amateur archeological excavation undertaken (Fanning 2001: Continuation sheet Appendix A Page 116).

AD 1964	Built	The Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Bridge was built over the southern tip of the island. It opened on June 23, 1964 (Pliska 2008: 49).
AD 1963 - 1966	Built	On 24 June 1963, the NPS awarded the Baldi & Sons the contract for the Theodore Roosevelt Memorial. Their contract included 'all work on the site except that on the statue.' This also included the first round of construction on the parking lot on the Virginia shore....In addition to actually installing the memorial, much of the preparatory construction work was conducted on site, including cutting the granite blocks for the surface of the plaza. Workers, supplies, and materials arrived via a temporary construction causeway connecting the island with the Virginia coast. Most facets of the memorial, including the underlying granite slabs and moat, were also completed in sections and numbered, 'to be put together like a jigsaw puzzle.' Although work progressed steadily, the project experienced considerable delays, due in large part to alterations to the fountains and concerns over the height of their spray. Baldi & Sons did not complete construction until fall 1966.' (Pliska 2008: 59)
AD 1967	Established	'The Theodore Roosevelt statue arrived on the island on 6 May 1966, but remained enclosed in a wooden crate, save the upraised right hand, until the memorial's dedication on 27 October 1967.' (Pliska 2008: p 60)
	Excavated	Two prehistoric sites excavated on the island give proof or a significant Native American presence on the island (Pliska 2008: 5).
	Excavated	Excavations were carried out on TR Island between May 20 and July 16. Report, printed in 1974, gives inadequate description of work and site boundaries. Report is not considered a good resource (Fanning 2001: Continuation sheet Appendix A Page 116).
	Established	Theodore Roosevelt Island was listed on the National Register of Historic Places.
AD 1979	Built	A pedestrian bridge is built from a parking lot on the Virginia shore to the island (Pliska 2008: 49).

Theodore Roosevelt Island
Theodore Roosevelt Island

AD 1999	Planned	A National Register update was commissioned by the National Capital Region of the National Park Service in February 1999 (Fanning 2001: sect 7 pg 2).
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Physical History:

For a comprehensive history of the landscape of Theodore Roosevelt Island National Memorial please refer to the 2001 National Register nomination or the 2008 Historic American Landscapes Survey (DC-12). Both are available on line. The following is a historical summary that has been extracted from the National Register Nomination.

“Historically, Theodore Roosevelt Island has been referred to by many names: My Lord's Island, Barbadoes, Analostan (also rendered as Anacostien or Annalostan), and Mason's Island, reflecting its many changes in ownership over the more than 300 years since its discovery by Europeans. Never a part of Virginia, the island remained within the boundaries of Maryland until the founding of the District of Columbia in 1791.

Through the 18th century, the Potomac River valley was a meeting place for different Native American tribes, where members of the Five Nation Iroquois and other groups conducted trade with Algonquian-speaking peoples of the Potomac Valley. Numerous fishing and farming villages lined the river from below Great Falls to its mouth.

There is no evidence of European occupation of the island before John Mason (son of George Mason of Gunston Hall, author of the Virginia Bill of Rights) built a large house there sometime in the 1790s (though some structure may have been built earlier in connection with Mason's Ferry, established in 1748). Native American occupation before the 18th century is almost certain, but only a small amount of substandard archeological survey work has been conducted in the past and none since the early 1970s. Evidence - including pottery sherds, fire-cracked rock, projectile points, and stone flakes - has been found suggesting intensive and long-term prehistoric use. Colonial and/or early American artifacts have also been found.

From 1717 to 1833, the island was owned by the illustrious Mason family of Virginia. Because of its location at the fall line, the island provided a natural crossing point over the river. It served as a terminus for a ferry, known as Mason's Ferry, from 1748 until about 1867.⁹ The ferry ran from the Maryland side of the river (where Georgetown was established in 1751); the wharf was probably located near the beginning of the old Rock Creek Road, or the foot of High or 32nd Street, while, on the island, there were probably one or more landings on the north shore. In 1807, during the ownership of John Mason, a dam carrying a road or causeway, known as Mason's Causeway, was built from the northwest corner of the island across the Little River to the Virginia shore. A road on the island connected ferry landings and causeway. This passage served as a major route between Maryland, the District, and Northern Virginia for over a century.

From about 1792 to 1833, John Mason developed the island as a small plantation estate, raising crops, grazing livestock, and creating extensive gardens. He probably relied on slave labor to build, farm, and maintain his estate. He built a large neoclassical mansion surrounded by many outbuildings within a landscaped setting; north of the house spread open parklands and cultivated fields, and to its south were terraced lawns and gardens.

John Mason lost the island in a bank foreclosure in 1833. It was then leased or purchased by a

succession of people, at least one of whom cultivated commercial gardens there. The island was also a popular local resort. In 1851, former D. C. mayor William A. Bradley bought the island. Bradley died in 1867 and the island remained the property of his estate until 1913.

During the Civil War, Union forces occupied Mason's Island and used it for number of purposes, most importantly, from May to September 1863, as a training camp for the 1st United States Colored Troops (1st USCT), an infantry regiment of African American soldiers. The Union Army ran a ferry and a pontoon bridge from Georgetown to the northern shore of the island. The camp was organized along the historic road which connected the ferry landings with the causeway. The Army destroyed some of Mason's stone retaining walls, using the stone to build boat landings.

Following the war, the island was used for a wide variety of generally short-term recreational purposes. Much of the vegetation probably grew unchecked. A few new structures were built, though none has survived. Earlier structures and landscape features deteriorated. An amphitheater was built for people to watch balloon ascensions. The Great Falls Ice Company may have built icehouses on the island, for storing ice cut in the Little River. From 1889-1892, the Columbian Athletic Club leased the island, building ball fields, tennis courts, a running track, and a grandstand, probably to the north. In the 1890s, the Analostan Boat Club leased the island and constructed a boathouse, though its location is not known.

In 1902, a journalist for the Washington Times reported that 'the interior aspect of Analostan is desolate in the extreme,' with the ruins of the Mason house 'hidden in the dense growth of trees which has overrun the island.' Since the causeway was 'partially destroyed,' the island could be reached only by boat. The reporter found the ruin of a 'small, roofless structure, picturesque in its decay, its dilapidated walls overgrown with moss and ivy.' He identified as 'slave quarters' a building which had been inhabited by 'divers natives of Georgetown,' most recently a 'notorious river character' who was still in residence. A photograph, identified as the 'Old Slave Quarters,' depicted a roofless structure of four or five bays. Another photo showed a three-bay building.

In 1907, the Washington Post recorded a 'scene of dismal desolation,' with the ruins of the Mason house, 'stone and brick barns and stables,' smokehouses, and slave quarters standing amidst dense undergrowth. The article referred to a 'large level open space of more than two acres surrounded by splendid trees,' probably the former athletic field to the north (now the site of the Theodore Roosevelt monument).

In 1913, the Washington Gas Light Company purchased the island from William Bradley's heirs as a site for the future construction of gas tanks and other industrial structures. In October 1931, the Roosevelt Memorial Association (RMA; later called the Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Association, or TRMA) purchased the island, then popularly known as 'Analostan Island,' offering it to the federal government later that month to be used as a memorial to Theodore Roosevelt. In November, a reporter for the Sunday Star paid a visit to the island, and found the 'highland... covered with trees and bushes' and 'deep carpets of honeysuckle.' The swamp was a 'thick mass' of grasses and cattails through which a 'feeble brook trickle[d].'

Clearings which had formerly been lawns were filled with sunflowers, and the impression was of 'a bit of English parkland on a haunted estate.' The island was inhabited by a 'caretaker and his family' living in a home or shack standing in a clearing of about 1/2 acre; this dwelling, he wrote, was 'known to nearly every one in Washington.'

The deed conveying the island from the TRMA to the United States is dated October 27, 1932; the official land transfer is dated March 2, 1933. At first the island came under the jurisdiction of the Office of Public Buildings and Public Parks of the National Capital, which in August 1933 was transferred to the National Park Service under the name 'National Capital Parks.' The Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Association retained planning responsibility for development of the island memorial, and in May 1932 it hired the landscape architecture firm of Olmsted Brothers, along with architect John Russell Pope, to prepare plans for development.

Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr., assumed primary responsibility for the creation of the plan. He envisioned the island landscape slowly developing over the decades and centuries into a native 'climax' forest. From 1934 to 1937, Olmsted directed young men from the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) in the work of clearing the island of most non-native vegetation, including most remnants of John Mason's plantings, and the subsequent planting of about 20,000 native hardwood trees and shrubs. Olmsted paid regular visits to Washington through the early 1940s to consult with NPS officials and others and to inspect completed work (other members of the Olmsted firm also reviewed work). In 1936, a team from the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) excavated and recorded the remains of the John Mason mansion before they were removed (the excavation work was performed by the CCC). In the 1930s, the Olmsted office developed a preliminary general plan for the island along with planting and work plans to guide the CCC work. Their General Plan was completed in 1945.

The overall goal of the Olmsted Brothers plan was the establishment of a native woodland which would memorialize Theodore Roosevelt for his achievements as a leader in conservation policy, and also commemorate the primeval forests of the Potomac River valley. The plan called for the preservation of mature hardwood trees and the addition of thousands of additional mostly native trees and shrubs, along with some groundcover and herbaceous plants.

The Olmsted design included plans for new structures within the forest, including a terraced hillside at the south end of the plateau which would have served as a platform to view the Lincoln Memorial and other monumental structures to the south, and also as a potential platform for some future commemorative structure. Plans for this Outlook Plateau (also called the 'Outlook Terrace') were abandoned in the 1950s after the decision was made to build a new highway bridge over the southern tip of the island. The monument to Roosevelt, however, was built. Initial plans called for an enormous armillary sphere, designed by architect Eric Gugler and sculptor Paul Manship, to be built on the Outlook Plateau. After widespread public ridicule, Gugler and Manship changed the design to a large paved plaza featuring a bronze statue of Roosevelt, inscribed tablets, fountains, and a moat. The site was moved to the northern end of the island, far removed from the bridge. The design was approved in 1961 and the structure completed in 1967.

During World War II, the island was used for training purposes by various government agencies, including the OSS; the FBI trained agents there after the war. Also during the war, the War Department built a pontoon bridge between Georgetown and Virginia which passed over the island. Though the island was open to the public from the late 1930s, NPS ferry service began only in 1954; before then, visitors presumably arrived by private craft or perhaps by taking the old causeway from the Virginia shore to the north end of the island [more research will be needed to determine if the NPS ferry service stopped with the installation of the pedestrian bridge and if more than one ferry was used to reach the island]. A pedestrian causeway was built across the middle of Little River, probably in the 1950s or 1960s. Roosevelt Island was officially dedicated in 1958, during the centennial year of TR's birth.

For over 50 years, the NPS has managed the woodland planted in accordance with the directives laid down by Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr., and Olmsted Brothers as a native forest. Few, if any, additions have been made to the vegetation, other than the plantings around the monument from the 1960s, and new, naturally occurring growth. The Olmsted planting plans stated that a few plants remaining from the Mason landscape should be retained, particularly English ivy (*Hedera helix*). Retaining the ivy has posed more of a problem than anticipated, and there is today an active program of ivy abatement conducted by the GWMP natural resources staff with volunteer help. Recently, abatement efforts have been concentrated on keeping ivy out of trees, so that it cannot seed, and controlling its growth in two specific areas: at the end of the pedestrian bridge and along the southeast slope.

Theodore Roosevelt Island lies within the boundaries of the George Washington Memorial Parkway (GWMP) unit of the National Capital Region of the NPS. Because they are located in the Potomac River, both Roosevelt Island and Columbia Island to its south are the only District of Columbia properties within the GWMP. A pedestrian footbridge (completed in 1979) leads to the island from a parking lot on the Virginia shore.” (Fanning 2001: sect 7 pages 2-5)

At the time of the 2001 National Register Nomination, information about the use of the island between May 1864 and June 1865 as a temporary refugee camp serving the influx of blacks arriving in Washington, D.C. was not available and is therefore not mentioned in the preceding historical summary. A more comprehensive report of this even can be found in the 2008 HALS report (DC-12).

Analysis & Evaluation of Integrity

Analysis and Evaluation of Integrity Narrative Summary:

This section provides an evaluation of the physical integrity of the Theodore Roosevelt Island cultural landscape by comparing landscape characteristics and features present during the periods of significance (1748-1833, 1861-1865 and 1931-1967) 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 comprise the property's uniqueness. Each characteristic or feature is classified as contributing or non-contributing to the site's overall historic significance.

Landscape characteristics are comprised of 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.

Contributing landscape characteristics identified for the property, with the exception of archeology, date back to the 1931-1967 period of significance. Those include: circulation, buildings and structures, vegetation, land use, topography, views and constructed water features. Archeological features include all of the periods of significance as well as pre history.

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 traditionally recognizes a property's integrity through seven aspects or qualities: location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. Several or all of these aspects must be present for a site to retain historic integrity. In varying degrees, all seven aspects are represented on the site. The following section titled "Aspects of Integrity" will examine how these qualities are applied to Theodore Roosevelt Island.

Aspects of Integrity

Location is the place where the historic property was constructed or the place where the historic event took place. Integrity of location refers to whether the property has been moved or relocated since its

construction. Theodore Roosevelt Island has integrity of location. Although natural and human forces have led to changes in the size of the island, the location of the island has remained constant.

Design is the composition of elements that constitute the form, plan, space, structure, and style of a property. The island has integrity of design relating to the 1931-1967 period of significance. This is evident in the design intent of both the living environment and the built memorial, which are still readily discernable

Setting is the physical environment of a historic property that illustrates the character of the place. Integrity of setting remains when the surroundings have not been subjected to radical change. “The setting to the west, along the Virginia shore, had some commercial development in the 1930s, which has since been removed for the George Washington Memorial Parkway; the setting to the east has been changed, with new park, commercial, and residential development along the Georgetown shore. The setting has been compromised by the construction of the Theodore Roosevelt Bridge and by now being in the flight path of planes departing from and arriving at National Airport.” (Fanning 2001: sect 8 page 30)

Materials are the physical elements of a particular period, including construction materials, paving, plants and other landscape features. Integrity of materials determines whether or not an authentic historic resource still exists. The original species that Olmsted used to create the character of vegetation on the island, and the materials used to build the monument still exist today. Integrity of material on site exists and relates to the 1931-1967 period of significance.

Workmanship is the physical evidence of the crafts of a particular culture or people during any given period of history. The vegetation on the island primarily derives from the Olmsted planting plan and the workmanship that went into the construction of the plaza is still extant in the modern landscape.

Feeling is the quality that a historic property has in evoking the aesthetic or historic sense of a past period of time. Although it is itself intangible, feeling is dependent upon the significant physical characteristics that convey a property's historic qualities. “The island possesses the atmosphere of a primeval native woodland, mysterious, wild, and remote (Fanning 2001 sect 8 page 30).” The feeling of grandeur, used to express significance on a Presidential scale, is evident upon entering the plaza area and it is unlike the feeling of wildness that can be felt upon the rest of the island.

Association is the direct link between a property and the event or person for which the property is significant. The site maintains its association with Theodore Roosevelt as the conservationist president, a theme promoted through an active interpretive program and the architectural monument (Fanning 2001 sect 8 page 30).” Through interpretation of features extant in the landscape today, visitors are able to connect the island with the Mason family, the role that the island played in 18th and 19th century transportation, and Frederick Law Olmsted Jr.

Conclusion

After evaluating the landscape features and characteristics within the context of the seven aspects of

integrity established by the National Register, this CLI finds that despite alterations and additions to the property since the period of significance, the landscape of Theodore Roosevelt Island retains integrity in all seven aspects from the periods of significance.

Aspects of Integrity:	Location
	Design
	Setting
	Materials
	Workmanship
	Feeling
	Association

Landscape Characteristic:

Circulation

The landscape characteristic “circulation” includes the spaces, features and materials that historically constituted systems of movement, and still exist today

HISTORIC

Prior to the forty-year occupation of John Mason in 1792, knowledge of pre historic development on the island is limited. John Mason was the third member of the Mason family to own the island that had been primarily associated with Mason’s Ferry (established 1748), an important transportation corridor where goods traveling to and from Virginia and the Ohio Valley, and points in between, crossed the Potomac. Construction of the causeway on the northwest side of the island (1807-1877) led to the establishment of one of the first known circulation features on site which was a fairly short but wide path that led from the causeway to the Mason’s Ferry landing near the center of the north side of the island.

During the Mason era, an allee, or formal path edged with trees, led directly from the ferry landing to the Mason mansion. The landscape of the island during the Mason era incorporated pleasure gardens, agricultural fields, kitchen gardens, lawns and pastures, slave quarters, stables, an icehouse and workshops. There were certainly paths and walkways connecting these spaces. Research at the present time contends that none of these are known to be extant on the landscape today; however, further research and study may prove otherwise.

During the Civil War era, the island was used to train and house troops, and then later as a refugee camp for black people who left the south after the Civil War. Many temporary structures housed and supported the men and activities during this era. There have been no maps found at this time that detail the primary circulation patterns on the island at this time.

After a long period of transient occupation following the Civil War era, significant alterations to circulation occurred under the direction and firm of Frederick Law Olmsted Jr. Olmsted was

hired by the Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Association (TRMA) to prepare studies for the development of the island in 1932. Olmsted envisioned the island as a sanctuary to honor Roosevelt's legacy of conservation and love of the outdoors. In an outline of projected improvement work by the CCC, Olmsted stated "in general the ultimate appearance of the foot-trails and bridle paths is intended to resemble much more nearly that of foot-worn forest trails, somewhat irregular in width and alignment and surface, than that of the formal paths usual in urban parks" (Pliska 2008: 107, quoting Frederick Law Olmsted Jr.'s Theodore Roosevelt Island: Outline of Projected Improvement Work by the CCC). Olmsted intended to build well-drained paths with firm foundations in harmony with the existing topography. He also wanted to exclude vehicular traffic and build only one bridge for pedestrian traffic to the island. Between the fall of 1935 and March of 1936, a number of the main trails and bridle paths were constructed as per Olmsted's plans.

Between the late 1930s and early 1950s work on the island was stalled. During that time federal agencies are rumored to have trained troops on the island. The War Department constructed a road along the north end of the island and a temporary pontoon bridge (removed in 1945) connected the island to both Georgetown and Virginia.

In 1947 the NPS agreed to retain Olmsted's firm and go ahead with his plans but the lack of federal money for the project stalled progress once again. When appropriations were finally made in FY 1955, a temporary causeway for construction vehicle access was built on the north side of the island where the old causeway once crossed the Potomac (Fanning 2001: sect 8 p 55).

Meanwhile, plans were underway for a bridge across the Potomac. After much consideration, and despite the fact that it conflicted with Olmsted's plans to provide a clear view of other memorials in the vicinity, an agreement was reached, and the six-lane Theodore Roosevelt Bridge was opened to traffic in June of 1964.

Changes on the island necessitated alterations to Olmsted's plan. Due to several factors; the installation of the bridge, the choice to locate the memorial on the north end of the island, and the removal of the causeway, some of Olmsted's plans for trails were changed during the 1950s and 1960s. Overall the plan was simplified, the memorial was moved further north on the island, and alterations to the Olmsted trails were made to accommodate for the plaza.

A simple pedestrian bridge, which could support emergency and maintenance vehicle traffic, was built from the Virginia shore to the island in 1979. "The bridge is a seven prestressed concrete structure resting on reinforced concrete piers and abutments. Wing walls are stone faced. Six reinforced concrete single piers are 3' in diameter and support twin prestressed girders. The overall length is 491' with a maximum span of 72'. The concrete dock is 12.3' wide. Timber handrails were specified." (HAER: 3)

Between 1996 and 1998, a boardwalk made of recycled materials was constructed through the

swamp area. It follows the alignment of a previous path with the exception of where new spurs lead to swamp overlooks and wide landings support benches along the way.

EXISTING

Today the main trails on the island reflect a simplified version of the Olmsted plan of the 1930s with alterations that were made during the 1950s and 1960s to accommodate for the Theodore Roosevelt Bridge and the memorial plaza. Resources available at this time make it impossible to confirm whether or not the existing trails are in the exact same alignment as the Olmsted trails were. Many non-contributing social trails have been created over time by both visitors and the park and many have been widened over time where visitors walk along the path edges to avoid mud. The park refers to the main trails as the Woods, Upland and Swamp Trails. In general, these trails are similarly aligned, and in some areas, exactly aligned with Olmsted's paths and are considered to be contributing resources.

Among the known extant circulation features from the Mason era are: part of the east-west portion of the Swamp Trail on the north side of the island referred to in the National Register and the List of Classified Structures as the "North Transverse Trail" (historic path between causeway and Mason's Ferry), and the remnants of the historic causeway on the northwest corner of the island.

EVALUATION

The extant contributing circulation features such as the main trails and the causeway remnants convey the integrity of the Olmsted plan and the history of the island as an important center of transportation during the period of significance.

Character-defining Features:

Feature: Woods Trail

Feature Identification Number: 143428

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 235054

LCS Structure Name: Theodore Roosevelt Island, Woods Trail

LCS Structure Number: 26822

Feature: Upland Trail

Feature Identification Number: 143430

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 235188

LCS Structure Name: Theodore Roosevelt Island, Upland Trail

LCS Structure Number: 26822

Theodore Roosevelt Island

Theodore Roosevelt Island

Feature: Swamp Trail

Feature Identification Number: 143432

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 235148

LCS Structure Name: Theodore Roosevelt Island, Swamp Trail

LCS Structure Number: 26822

Feature: North Transverse Trail

Feature Identification Number: 143434

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 234836

LCS Structure Name: Theodore Roosevelt Island, North Transverse Trail

LCS Structure Number: 26822

Feature: Remnants of Causeway

Feature Identification Number: 143438

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 235004

LCS Structure Name: Theodore Roosevelt Island, Causeway Remnants

LCS Structure Number: 26822

Feature: Theodore Roosevelt Bridge

Feature Identification Number: 143440

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Pedestrian Bridge

Feature Identification Number: 143442

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Social Trails

Feature Identification Number: 143446

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Boardwalk materials

Feature Identification Number: 143448

Type of Feature Contribution:

Non Contributing

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



In the late 1990s a boardwalk of recycled materials was built along the same path as the historic Swamp Trail, a contributing feature on the island (NCR CLP 2010).

Buildings and Structures

The landscape characteristic “buildings and structures includes structures that were present during the historic period and still exist today.

HISTORIC

No structures “... are known to have been built before John Mason commenced his farming activities [on the island], though it is possible that there might have been some structure built in connection with the ferry. At least one ferryhouse stood in the 19th century, probably on the northeast shore, above a prominent spit of rocks; there is today a distinct depression in the ground here and perhaps some foundations remain.

The focal point of Mason's plantation was his mansion, a neoclassical structure possibly designed by architect George Hadfield. The “Descriptive Data of the Mason House” section of the 1936 HABS project, suggests that possible architects of the Mason house may also have included Dr. William Thornton, James Hoban, and Pierce Purcell [HABS, 7]. Around this were grouped various outbuildings, most of which had disappeared by the 1930s. Numerous documents and maps refer to three Mason outbuildings, which survived into the 20th century

and were located a short distance northwest of house, on the brow of the slope leading down to Little River; these included an icehouse, a storage house, and a building which may have been slave quarters. A few accounts from the early nineteenth century also refer to other small outbuildings located to the south of the Mason house, probably connected with slave activities. A summerhouse stood in the gardens directly south of the house.

Some new construction occurred after Mason left. The house was still used as a dwelling. There was extensive construction on the island during the Civil War, primarily along the road across the north end, where more than 20 frame structures were built, including barracks and a hospital. The Union Army reused many of the Mason structures. In the later 19th century, the Mason house may have been adapted for use as a dancehall and clubhouse. There are no visible remains of these activities.

In the 1930s, topographic maps prepared for the Olmsted project note a 'rock wharf' located about midway down the western shore, above the Little River, and a small dwelling, surrounded by a few smaller outbuildings at the north end. The authors of the HABS 'Report' refer to an old graveyard as being located near this dwelling. There are no visible remains of dwelling or graveyard; if the graveyard did, in fact, exist, it would possess potential archeological significance.

Olmsted decided to retain remnants of the Mason house ruins. He planned for several new structures, most importantly the Outlook Plateau; bridges over the Little River and the channel separating Roosevelt and Columbia Islands; a new causeway; a shelter and restroom structure at the north, perhaps incorporating the old dwelling; a restroom near the Outlook Plateau; and a shelter and new ferry landing at the south end. These utilitarian structures were meant 'to be inconspicuous, built not to last forever but rather for the greatest practicable length of economic life in relation to their cost....' The sole building to have been completed according to the original Olmsted scheme is the small comfort station built in 1955 at the southern end of the plateau." (Fanning 2001: sect 7 pg 8, 9)

"The comfort station designed by architect Charles R. Wait, constructed at the southern end of the upland plateau in 1955, is the only building constructed on the island in accordance with the Olmsted Brothers landscape plan. This small, one story, wood frame building contains men's and women's restrooms and is covered with clapboards beneath a hipped roof clad in asphalt shingles. Ventilation louvers are housed within small gabled outcroppings along the ends of the roof plane." (Pliska 2008: 128)

The memorial was originally planned to be installed on the southern portion of the island on an overlook near the remains of the Mason house that Olmsted considered a significant open space with views to the surrounding features of Washington, D.C. After the construction of the Theodore Roosevelt Bridge, the memorial site was repositioned to the northern end of the island, "on an existing field or clearing (Fanning 2001: sect 7 page 14)", where it exists today. The island and memorial serve as a living memorial that would pay respect to Roosevelt as an

outdoorsman and conservationist. Its plaza was designed by New York architect Eric Gugler (1889-1974) who is also known for reconstructing and enlarging the West Wing of the White House in 1934. The Roosevelt sculpture was the work of American sculptor Paul Manship (1885-1966), whose large body of work includes the Prometheus Fountain (1934) at New York's Rockefeller Center.

“As constructed, it [the memorial] comprises a large, elliptical plaza, measuring approximately 240' x 260', encircled by a water-filled moat spanned by two footbridges. The plaza is composed of gray granite paving blocks set within a grid formed by lengths of lighter gray granite. The principal axis is arranged approximately north to south; the secondary axis runs east to west perpendicular to the principal axis. Two large, round granite pools are located along this cross axis at the east and west ends of the plaza. At the center of each pool stands a large, elliptical granite fountain basin supported by four structural steel columns, each of which is surrounded by a painted metal sphere designed to simulate stone. Each sphere also bears a bas-relief of the presidential seal. Three low, curved steps descend around the fountains to the surrounding gravel walk.

Paul Manship's bronze Theodore Roosevelt statue measures 19'-10" tall (21'-6" with bronze base) and functions as the focal point of the memorial, arranged along the principal north-south axis at the north end of the plaza. Raised upon a molded granite plinth in front of an approximately 30' x 17' granite stele, the president is dressed in contemporary attire....” (Pliska 2008: 126, 127)

“Separated from the plaza by the gravel walk, the 39'-11" wide moat is bisected by the principal axis, providing entrances to the memorial from the north and south. The moats, surrounded by low granite walls, were meant to act as reflecting pools, and were probably intended to be read as a single water feature. The two footbridges are heavy-styled and strikingly simple, reached on either end by steeply angled steps, paved with granite blocks arranged in various fan patterns. Each also bears a pair of heavy granite guard walls, which rise slightly as the bridge crowns, before descending and terminating in plinths. The bridges lead to an unpaved circumferential trail comprising the memorial's outside edge. Four granite monoliths are located to the north, along the moat's interior edge, and are inscribed with quotations from Roosevelt's speeches and writings on “Nature,” “Manhood,” “Youth,” and “The State.” Each measures approximately 21'-5" x 10' and is set on a molded base, which in turn rests on a plain, rectilinear block. The monoliths themselves are simple slabs with square edges and no moldings.” (Pliska 2008: 127, 128)

A considerable yet non-contributing structure on the island is the six-lane, 2,400 foot long Theodore Roosevelt Bridge that opened in 1964. The parts of the bridge that actually connect with the island are its stone piers that support its steel girders and shallow arches. Although it was constructed during the 1931-1967 period of significance, it was not part of any design plan of the time.

EXISTING

Extant buildings and structures on the site include the 1955 era comfort station, still in working order, and the A-frame ranger station and the larger shed-roof storage building, both built in the 1980s. There is also the pedestrian footbridge and the Theodore Roosevelt bridge piers. The plaza and memorial statue are also extant.

“The bronze statue appears physically sound, but shows considerable oxidation. Inscriptions on the monoliths have begun to fade slightly, although all characters remain clearly legible. The moat contains numerous cracks, which have led to leaks in the past. The current concrete patch jobs, while largely successful at holding back the water, are nonetheless visually obtrusive... As the moat is not aerated, the water does not circulate, allowing for the growth of algal blooms and bacterial colonies. Moreover, in several places the fountains’ paint has eroded, as water continuously runs over the sides of the basins and across the underlying supports. Consequently, the presidential bas-reliefs are largely obscured. Many of the plaza’s small granite paving blocks are also chipped, cracked, or uneven, with the interstitial spaces between them widening. Lastly, the growth of the willow oaks over the past forty years has dramatically increased the number of leaves falling within the plaza.” (Pliska 2008: 128) The current ARRA project will correct many of these problems. It is focused on repair and rebuilding of the infrastructure, bottom and sides of the moat, piping, motor and water level sensors in the fountains and some stonework repair and repointing around the memorial.

“The ruins of some historic structures are known to remain: the foundations of the Mason house and the Mason icehouse, and the remnants of the Mason causeway. The foundations of other structures may still remain: the ferry house on the eastern shore, other outbuildings north and south of the Mason house, and the stone wharf on the western shore” (Fanning 2001: sect 7 pg 8, 9) Further archeological investigations may shed some light on the existence of these structures. On the north shore of the island, the ruins of at least four wooden wharves, and the ruins of a boat or scow (a large flat-bottomed boat with broad square ends usually used for the transport of bulk materials) are reported to have been found. Despite the fact that the ruins of the scow on the north side of the island are listed in the Verbal Boundary Description of the National Register nomination, and can be seen in a 1941 map (854-80041), confirmation will be needed in order for them to be listed as a contributing feature in this report. A conversation with GWMP Cultural Resource Manager, Matt Virta on July, 15, 2010 confirms the existence of at least one scow ruin on the east side of the island.

EVALUATION

Contributing features such as the Mason-era ruins, the comfort station and the features that comprise the Theodore Roosevelt Memorial reflect their respective periods of significance contribute to the historic character of buildings and structures on the site.

Character-defining Features:

Feature:	Theodore Roosevelt Memorial 'Youth'
Feature Identification Number:	143414
Type of Feature Contribution:	Contributing

Theodore Roosevelt Island
Theodore Roosevelt Island

IDLCS Number: 233513
LCS Structure Name: Theodore Roosevelt Memorial, "Youth" Stele
LCS Structure Number: TR-1
Feature: Theodore Roosevelt Memorial
Feature Identification Number: 143410
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing
IDLCS Number: 5180
LCS Structure Name: Theodore Roosevelt Memorial
LCS Structure Number: TRI-1
Feature: Theodore Roosevelt Memorial, "Manhood"
Feature Identification Number: 143412
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing
IDLCS Number: 233498
LCS Structure Name: Theodore Roosevelt Memorial, "Manhood" Stele
LCS Structure Number: TR-1
Feature: Theodore Roosevelt Memorial, Benches
Feature Identification Number: 143416
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing
IDLCS Number: 233773
LCS Structure Name: Theodore Roosevelt Memorial, Benches
LCS Structure Number: TR-1
Feature: Theodore Roosevelt Memorial, ne pool
Feature Identification Number: 143418
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing
IDLCS Number: 233744
LCS Structure Name: Theodore Roosevelt Memorial, Northeast Pool
LCS Structure Number: TR-1
Feature: Theodore Roosevelt Memorial, sw pool
Feature Identification Number: 143420

Theodore Roosevelt Island

Theodore Roosevelt Island

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing
IDLCS Number: 233759
LCS Structure Name: Theodore Roosevelt Memorial, Southwest Pool
LCS Structure Number: TR-1

Feature: Theodore Roosevelt Memorial-Plaza

Feature Identification Number: 143424

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 5181

LCS Structure Name: Theodore Roosevelt Memorial-Plaza

LCS Structure Number: TRI-2

Feature: Theodore Roosevelt Memorial, "The State"

Feature Identification Number: 143460

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 233311

LCS Structure Name: Theodore Roosevelt Memorial, "The State" Stele

LCS Structure Number: TR-1

Feature: Theodore Roosevelt Island ne bridge

Feature Identification Number: 143470

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 233699

LCS Structure Name: Theodore Roosevelt Island, Northeast Bridge

LCS Structure Number: TR-1

Feature: Theodore Roosevelt Island ne fountain

Feature Identification Number: 143506

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 233685

LCS Structure Name: Theodore Roosevelt Island, Northeast Fountain

LCS Structure Number: TR-1

Feature: Theodore Roosevelt Island sw bridge

Theodore Roosevelt Island

Theodore Roosevelt Island

Feature Identification Number: 143510
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing
IDLCS Number: 233728
LCS Structure Name: Theodore Roosevelt Island, Southwest Bridge
LCS Structure Number: TR-1

Feature: Theodore Roosevelt Island sw fountain
Feature Identification Number: 143512
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing
IDLCS Number: 233672
LCS Structure Name: Theodore Roosevelt Island, Southwest Fountain
LCS Structure Number: TR-1

Feature: Mason Ice house ruins
Feature Identification Number: 143516
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing
IDLCS Number: 45317
LCS Structure Name: Theodore Roosevelt Island, Mason's Ice House
LCS Structure Number: TRI-3

Feature: Mason House Ruins
Feature Identification Number: 143518
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Wharf ruins on north shore
Feature Identification Number: 143532
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Ruin of boat or scow east side in water
Feature Identification Number: 143534
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Small A-frame ranger station
Feature Identification Number: 143536
Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Shed-roof storage building

Feature Identification Number: 143538

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Pedestrian footbridge

Feature Identification Number: 143540

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Theodore Roosevelt Bridge and structures

Feature Identification Number: 143542

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Theodore Roosevelt Memorial 'Nature'

Feature Identification Number: 144305

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 233473

LCS Structure Name: Theodore Roosevelt Memorial, "Nature" Stele

LCS Structure Number: TR-1

Feature: Chain link fencing

Feature Identification Number: 143544

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



The pedestrian bridge, built in 1979, provides access to the island from the Virginia shore. Since it was built outside of the period of significance, it is considered a non-contributing resource (NCR CLP 2010).



The 19'-10" tall Theodore Roosevelt by Paul Manship is the focal point of the memorial plaza designed by New York architect Eric Gugler and dedicated by President Lyndon B. Johnson on October 27, 1967 (NCR CLP 2010).



Including the bronze base, the tip of Paul Manship's Roosevelt statue statue is 21' 6" off of the ground. (NCR CLP 2010).

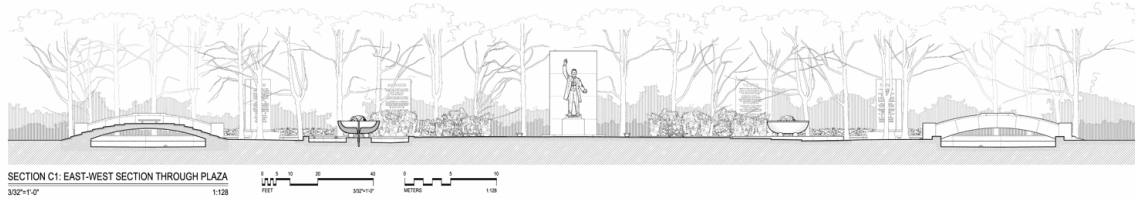


The comfort station was built in 1955. It contributes to the integrity of buildings and structures on the site (NCR CLP 2010).

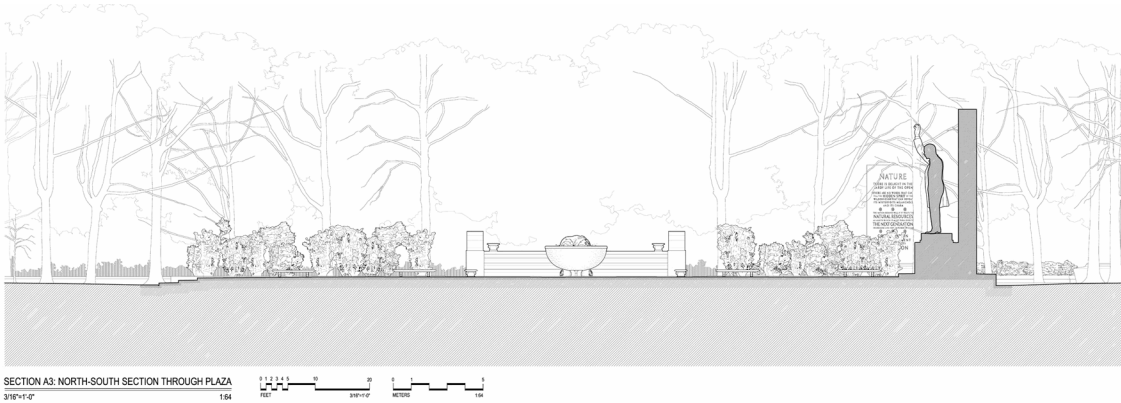


Theodore Roosevelt Island

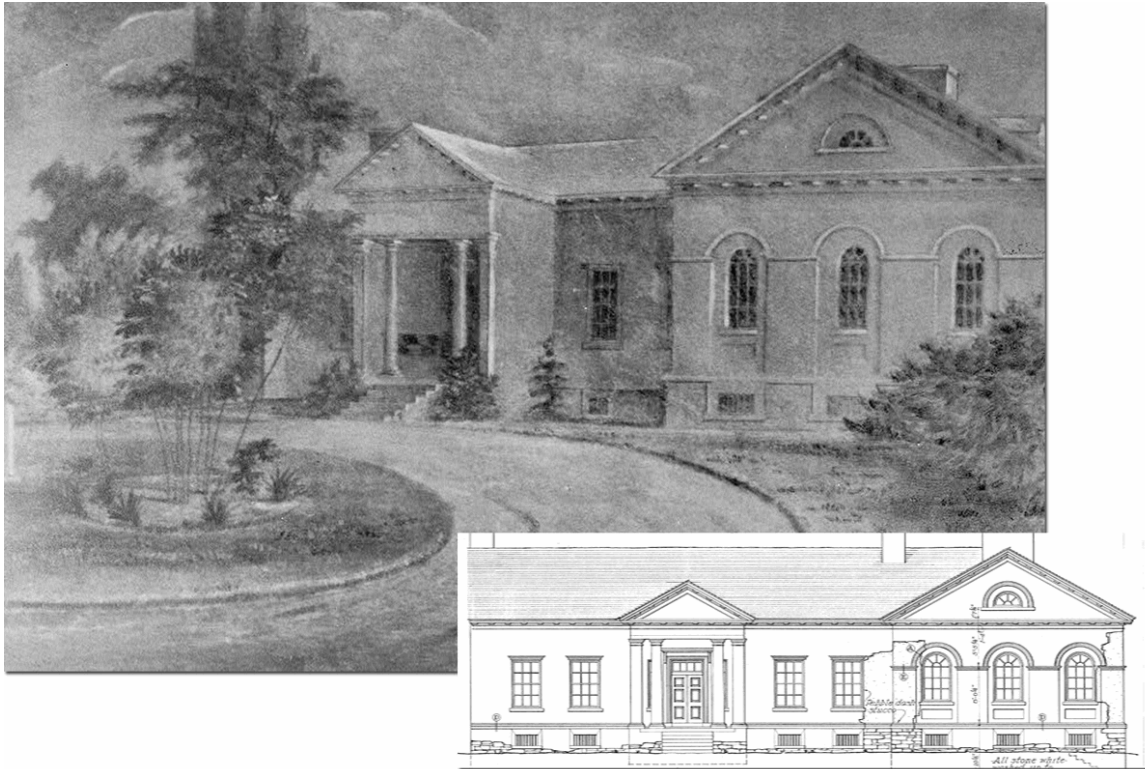
The concrete seen here was once part of a causeway that led from the Virginia shore to the island. The materials seen here do not derive from the Mason era causeway. At least three causeways were built here over time (NCR CLP).



An east-west section drawing of the memorial plaza (NPS, Historic American Landscapes Survey DC-12, 7/14, Delineated by Meghan Clemmens, Anne E.Kidd, Cal J. Mincey, 2007).



A north south section drawing of the memorial plaza (NPS, Historic American Landscapes Survey DC 12, 6/14, Delineated by Meghan Clemmens, Anne E.Kidd, Cal J. Mincey, 2007).



Painting by unknown artist of the north side of John Mason's house in the 1820s, HABS line drawing of the house (Mason house line drawing DC-28 sheet 4/16, photograph of sketch loaned by Mrs Cooper Davison Aug 27, 1936, DC-28).

Small Scale Features

HISTORIC

It is certain that over the course of many years of development and use as a dwelling, a center of transportation, military and refugee activities and recreation, that there have been many small-scale features on the island. Among these may have been fences, horse hitches, lamp posts and a variety of other functional and/or aesthetic elements that people brought to or built on the island.

EXISTING

Only a few small-scale features are extant on the site today. All, with the exception of the sections of low rough-faced stone retaining walls and the benches in the memorial plaza, are non-contributing. Among those non-contributing features are: benches outside of the plaza area, three water fountains, a bulletin board, sewer manhole covers, various signs, and (up to) 18 waysides.

“Along the western and southern shores of the island are two visible sections of low rough-faced stone retaining walls. They may date from the Mason era, but could also be the result of the Olmsted work (An article concerning the anticipated CCC work mentions the plan of building "several small seawalls" to keep water off the island; "Roosevelt Island to Become

Park," Washington Star 6 February 1934.). These walls are heavily overgrown with vegetation, much of it poison ivy, and they have not been carefully examined nor their extent identified.” (Fanning 2001: sect 7 pg 9)

EVALUATION

Small-scale features from the period of significance are limited to two visible sections of low rough-faced stone retaining walls and the benches within the memorial plaza. It is certain that the retaining walls date to the period of significance and more research will be needed to determine if the walls derive from the Mason or Olmsted era.

Character-defining Features:

Feature: Two low stone retaining walls

Feature Identification Number: 143546

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Benches in memorial plaza

Feature Identification Number: 143702

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 233773

LCS Structure Name: Theodore Roosevelt Memorial, Benches

LCS Structure Number: TR-1

Feature: Benches outside of plaza

Feature Identification Number: 143548

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Drinking fountains

Feature Identification Number: 143550

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Bulletin Board

Feature Identification Number: 143552

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Signage

Feature Identification Number: 143554

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Sewer manhole covers

Feature Identification Number: 143556

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



With the exception of the sections of low rough-faced stone retaining walls, all small-scale features on site are considered non-contributing (NCR CLP 2010).

Vegetation

The landscape characteristic “vegetation” represents historic indigenous or introduced treed, shrubs, vines, ground covers and herbaceous materials still existing today.

HISTORIC

Among some of the known vegetation types and features on the island during the occupation of John Mason were those found in pleasure gardens, agricultural fields and pastures, kitchen gardens, private gardens, a tree-lined allee, a circular parterre and lawn areas among others. Mason’s estate served as a pleasure grounds and was described by a woman who visited in 1828 as “the most enchanting spot I ever beheld (Pliska 2008: 11).” Surrounding the island, Mason maintained a buffer of trees broken to the east of the mansion affording a view across the river (Pliska 2008: 13). Mason, like many men of similar means during the era experimented with agricultural endeavors. He raised sheep for wool and experimented with cotton.

“By 1796, John Mason had engaged the talented English gardener David Hepburn in the task of designing and tending Analostan’s plantings” (Pliska 2008: 50). “In 1804, Hepburn, along with John Gardiner, who is said to have been ‘a person of skill and experience in horticulture,’ authored *The American Gardener*, one of the first books to be written on the subject in the United States, and which specifically focused on the region around Washington” (Pliska 2008: 51).

A series of tenant farmers cultivated the island after Mason left, and, for a few years, the site was known as a pleasurable destination where the public would enjoy picnics and pleasure parties. Without maintenance, these vegetation features disappeared from the landscape soon after Mason and his family left the island.

Vegetation during the Civil War and refugee era was sparse and untended. It was not a focus of improvements until the 1930s when the Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Association hired the Olmsted Brothers firm to create a pallet of vegetation for the memorial island.

Restoration of natural landscape

“The woodland which covers much of the island, and the vegetation in the marsh, is a direct result of the plan developed by Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr., and the Olmsted Brothers firm in the 1930s and carried out with CCC labor. Olmsted’s primary goal for the island was the creation of a climax forest as a living memorial to Theodore Roosevelt. In June 1935, he prepared a general statement outlining his proposal for vegetation:

‘Broadly speaking, the purposes of the planting now proposed are these: first, to fill in with young trees of large-growing forest species appropriate to the locality, the numerous spaces, some small and some very large, between the existing remnants of old woodland and among and under the scattered trees which have sprung up as volunteers in the old clearings between these woodlands since the abandonment of cultivation on the Island during the 19th Century; second, to add flowering dogwoods and other small-growing native forest trees for enrichment and diversification; third, in limited areas, to add forest undergrowth shrubs where desirable for obtaining the appearance of intricacy characteristic of natural forests in this region and for limiting the sweep of views in undesirable directions. To avoid an appearance of artificial monotony for many years to come it is proposed to plant trees of various sizes, some as large as are ordinarily used in street tree planting, the rest of smaller and cheaper sizes.” (Fanning 2001: sect 7 page 10, and quoting Frederick Law Olmsted Jr.’s “Outline of the projected improvement work of the CCC for the period ending March 31, 1936, in pursuance of the general plan set forth in the report of May, 1934...” [15 June 1935]; Olmsted Papers, Manuscript Division, LC.).”

“The previous year, in May 1934, Olmsted had identified the dominant large trees he felt were necessary for a such a forest: tulip poplar (*Liriodendron tulipifera*), several kinds of oaks, both white and black (*Quercus* sp.), plane trees (*Platanus* sp.), river birches (*Betula nigra*), sweet gums (*Liquidambar styraciflua*), maples (*Acer* sp.), ashes (*Fraxinus* sp.), hickories (*Carya* sp.),

elms (*Ulmus* sp.), and evergreen magnolia (*Magnolia grandiflora*). He noted other "worthy existing trees" which should be preserved, including two kinds of mulberry (*Morus* sp.), Osage orange (*Maclura pomifera*), and hackberry (*Celtis* sp.), as well as all trees of "any considerable size" and smaller specimens if they seemed promising. Secondary trees to be added or removed included sassafras (*Sassafras albidum*), persimmon (*Diospyros virginiana*), locusts (*Robinia* sp.), dogwood (*Cornus* sp.), redbud (*Cercis canadensis*), and such evergreen conifers as pines (*Pinus* sp.), red cedars (*Juniperus virginiana*), and hemlocks (*Tsuga* sp.).

Olmsted recommended keeping most grapevines (*Vitis* sp.), trumpet vines (*Campsis radicans*), English ivy (*Hedera helix*), periwinkle (*Vinca minor*), certain shrubs (such as viburnum, [*Viburnum* sp.]), and "in general any woody plants not known to be on the 'black list.' He recommended planting 'trumpet-vine and Bignonia capriolata against certain trees...' and suggested creating experimental plots to try and reestablish 'smaller and more delicate native forest ground-cover plants' (he called the plots 'Forest Improvement Plantations')." (Fanning 2001: sect 7 pg 10)

"The CCC were directed to remove 'coarse herbaceous weeds and grasses' and all 'fallen deadwood,' and to attempt the 'complete eradication' of certain weeds: blackberry (*Rubus* sp.), sumac (*Rhus* sp.), Joe Pye weed (*Eupatorium* sp.), poison ivy (*Rhus radicans*), and Japanese honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*), among others (however, 'islands' of honeysuckle may have been retained). The result was a woodland composed mostly of hardwoods with evergreens in some areas. Certain areas were to receive more detailed plantings, a greater variety or quantity of trees, shrubs, groundcover, and/or herbaceous plants, to highlight and increase the visual interest of notable features, such as rock formations and the edges of trails. These included an ivy glade north of the Mason house and a grove of hemlock trees in the south part of the plateau. Bald cypress trees (*Taxodium distichum*) were added to the marsh in two lots planted between 1934 and 1937. Plants were both purchased and 'collected' from the wild. No planting plan for the southern end of the island was prepared in the early 1930s, as it was felt to be more a complicated area that should await further study.

Only a limited amount of planting work was ever done after this. Lack of maintenance allowed Japanese honeysuckle and other weeds to become reestablished. The NPS resumed regular maintenance in the late 1940s or early 1950s. Some landscaping was done in the 1960s in connection with the new monument: boxwood (*Buxus* sp.) was planted on the plaza, and willow oak (*Quercus phellos*) and some other trees were grown around its perimeter." (Fanning 2001: sect 7 pg 10, 11)

EXISTING

Roosevelt Island vegetation is characterized by dense primarily deciduous woods, riparian areas and swamp. Formal plantings of boxwood and English ivy are integrated into the memorial plaza, and willow oaks (*Quercus phellos*) are planted on the inner and outer edges of the large moats. With the exception of the plaza plantings, island vegetation has chiefly developed as a result of the Olmsted planting plan implemented by the CCC in the 1930s.

Roosevelt Island is not a true native forest. On the island today there is exotic vegetation, both prescribed by the Olmsted plan, and that appeared over time by other means (e.g. birds, wind drift, vehicles, shoes etc...). Some of these exotics are trees, which are generally not considered as invasive as a number of perennials and vines found climbing trees, covering shrubs and creating a dense ground cover on the site. Some of the most persistent exotic vines and perennials on the site include English ivy (*Hedera helix*), periwinkle (*Vinca minor*) Japanese honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*) and fig buttercup (*Ranunculus ficaria*). The park identifies and treats English ivy, honeysuckle and vinca using “cut and paint” treatments. During the appropriate seasons, these plants are pruned, and approved herbicides are painted on the remaining stumps to kill them. Some plants, such as the aggressive fig buttercup, have a narrow herbicide treatment window and are difficult to control without damaging nearby desirable plants. Under the Early Detection Rapid Response program, new invasive plants are identified and monitored by the park. The proliferation of invasive exotics on the island is hindering the growth and slowing down or altogether stopping the succession of the native vegetation.

EVALUATION

The Theodore Roosevelt Island vegetation reflects 1931-1967 period of significance and specifically the naturalistic environment planned by the Olmsted Brothers firm, and implemented by the CCC in the 1930s. Over time, exotic vegetation has become more prominent in the landscape and continuous management of exotic species is necessary to prevent a loss of the integrity of vegetation on the island. Overall, vegetation features on site reflect the historic Olmsted planting plan, lending integrity to this landscape characteristic.

Character-defining Features:

Feature:	Plants associated with Olmsted Jr. plan
Feature Identification Number:	143558
Type of Feature Contribution:	Contributing
Feature:	Plants associated with original plaza pl
Feature Identification Number:	143560
Type of Feature Contribution:	Contributing

Land Use

The landscape characteristic “land use” is the historic organization, form and shape of the landscape in response to land use that still exists today.

HISTORIC

During the period of significance between 1748 and 1833 the island was an important transportation center. It served as the terminus for Mason’s Ferry, one of the primary routes between Georgetown and Virginia. It also was an endpoint for a causeway that led across the Potomac River from Virginia. The land supported a residence for the family of John Mason

who used the land to maintain a small plantation estate where livestock, crops and gardens, fields and open parkland could be found. Visitors to the island appreciated the property for its natural qualities and as a place to get away from the urban environment.

Between 1861 and 1865 land use on the island was related to the Civil War. Both white and “colored” Union troops were trained for battle on the site. From May of 1864 until June of 1865, the island was a temporary refugee camp for blacks arriving in Washington, D.C.

In 1931 The Roosevelt Memorial Association purchased the island and began the steps that would lead towards the use of the site as a memorial that would honor President Theodore Roosevelt. The firm of prominent landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted Jr. was hired to create a landscape that would pay respect to Roosevelt’s legacy as a conservationist and outdoorsman. The island, as it had been in the past, would be a place where people could get away from the city. Beginning in 1954, visitors rode ferrys to the island and enjoyed ranger-led activities where they learned about the natural and cultural history of the island. People continued to use the site in this manner and by October of 1967 the statue and plaza that compose the presidential memorial was dedicated.

EXISTING

Historic land use including farming, transportation, military activities and use relating to refugee camps no longer exist. Theodore Roosevelt Island continues to serve as a presidential memorial and as a site where people can experience a natural setting surrounded by an urban background.

EVALUATION

The island remains a presidential memorial in a naturalistic landscape that retains a considerable amount of integrity to its original planting plan. Modern Theodore Roosevelt Island contributes to the integrity of the land use of the 1931-1967 period of significance.

Character-defining Features:

Feature: Use of site as a presidential memorial

Feature Identification Number: 143562

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Use of site to experience nature

Feature Identification Number: 143564

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Transportation was once a primary land use on site. This photograph is titled "Washington, D.C. Guards at Ferry Landing on Mason's Island Examining a Pass." 1862-1865 photograph by George N. Barnard (Library of Congress, Prints & Photographs Division).



"Washington, D.C. Georgetown Ferry-boat Carrying Wagons, and Aqueduct Bridge Beyond, from Rocks on Mason's Island," photograph c. 1862-1865 by George N. Barnard (Library of Congress, Prints & Photographs Division).

Topography

The landscape characteristic "topography" is defined by the three-dimensional configuration of the landscape surface characterized by features and orientation and still exists today.

HISTORIC

"The addition of some twenty acres of alluvial soil to Theodore Roosevelt Island during the past 200 years constitutes the most significant alteration to the island's topography. Most of the accumulation has taken place along the island's east side, as the moderately slow movement of the Potomac River has allowed deposits to build up, while the faster moving Little River has had the opposite effect, scouring a deeper channel between the island and the Virginia coast. The swamp, already part of the island's landscape during the Mason era, has been greatly enlarged through this action, changing from a relatively small feature confined to the northeast coastline, to a much larger expanse dominating the entire east side of the island through the formation of the peninsula. Likewise, Little Island also appears to have been built up through this gradual siltation, emerging above the waterline in the late nineteenth century. Evidence suggests that all of Theodore Roosevelt Island may have been formed in this manner. During his 1811 visit David Bailie Warden noted:

'Annalostan Island is evidently of modern formation. In searching for water, a mass of trees was discovered at the depth of fifteen feet. General Mason instructed a workman (Brian Duffy) to cut through them. After having removed several of dimensions, he threw aside his axe, swearing by J---s 'that he now met huge ones with their tops upwards.' In other places, water was found at the depth of twenty-five or thirty feet. The highest eminence, on which the house stands, is fifty feet above the level of the river. The common tide rises to the height of three feet.'

That such large trees were discovered at a depth of 15' suggests that they had once been growing on the surface and slowly buried as soil accumulated and the island gradually rose over a period of hundreds, if not thousands, of years. At present, the island has two high points, both 44' above sea level, one located on the north plateau and the other on the south at the former site of the Mason mansion. The elevation descends from these two points outward to the island's perimeter, meeting the water with sandy beaches in some locations and ending several feet above the waterline in others. These conditions generally correspond with Warden's description, which he provided only as an estimation of the island's topography and not precise measurements of specific features.

Olmsted undertook very few alterations to the island's grade, preferring to maintain the existing conditions wherever visitor use would allow. The present conditions are therefore largely a combination of the island's natural topography, and whatever alterations John Mason may have accomplished in creating his plantations and pleasure gardens. Olmsted, however, expressed considerable concern over the treatment of the island's banks below high tide level, as this detail was 'of much potential influence for good or for bad upon the ultimate landscape character of the island shore.' He concluded that where these margins were taken up with rocky deposits, such as on the north edge of the island, there was not a serious problem. Elsewhere, however, the receding tide exposed bare mud flats, 'distinctly unpleasant accompaniments of the otherwise lovely views across the [Little and Potomac] rivers from a pathway under the shore trees.' While Olmsted advocated periodically dredging out the flats to below the low-water mark, he rejected the possibility of erecting a rigid retaining wall around the island. Although this procedure, previously completed at the nearby Potomac Park, would have prevented the buildup of sediments, Olmsted feared that it 'would be distressingly out of character with the picturesque and irregular naturalness of the forest margin.' Instead, he planned on utilizing irregular rocks of relatively large size to prevent this accumulation, while simulating the appearance of a natural rocky shore. Olmsted hoped to experiment with this plan once sufficient funding was made available, but the money was never delivered. Consequently, no major shoreline treatment has ever been carried out on Theodore Roosevelt Island, and the mud flats remain." (Pliska 2008:114-115)

EXISTING

Until the construction of the Theodore Roosevelt Bridge, Topography on the island was primarily a result of natural forces and Olmsted's plan. The most recent changes in topography

occurred with bridge construction.

EVALUATION

Overall, Topography on the island dates back to the 1931-1967 period of significance, under the Olmsted plan, with the exception of slight changes made during the construction of the Theodore Roosevelt Bridge and the pedestrian bridge. Topography on Roosevelt Island does have integrity to the period of significance.

Character-defining Features:

Feature: Topography dating back to Olmsted

Feature Identification Number: 143568

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Topography resulting from TR Bridge

Feature Identification Number: 143570

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Views and Vistas

The landscape characteristic “views and vistas” include features that historically created or allowed either natural or controlled ranges of vision and still exist today.

HISTORIC

During the historic periods there were most certainly broad views to and from the island. During the Mason era, and as with many estates of the day, some parts of the island were agricultural and some reflected artistic and scenic aspects lending it both commercial and picturesque qualities. “Mason also maintained a forested edge around the island’s perimeter, including the interior edge of the swamp. These trees, remnants of the native woodland, provided a means of concealing the estate from ferry traffic and ships on the Potomac. This screen was only broken immediately east of the mansion, to afford a view across the river to Washington...” (Pliska 2008: 13).

Mason’s house was built on a circular mound on a high point on the island thus allowing for views in the direction of Georgetown and towards the Capitol building and White House.

Later, during the Civil War era, much of the island was denuded of vegetation, leaving the landscape open to views to and from the surrounding landscape of Virginia and Washington, D. C. During this era the island served utilitarian purposes such as troop training grounds and as a refugee camp, and it was not necessarily noted for its scenic qualities.

During the memorial era the subject of views was of some interest to Olmsted. Under Olmsted’s direction, CCC crews cleared vegetation to offer views to appealing scenes on the mainland (Pliska 2008: 58). Olmsted specified that views off of the north edge of the island

should be limited to glimpses of water under overhanging branches, as the Georgetown and Rosslyn shorelines at the time were industrial and unsightly (Fanning 2001: sect 7 page 13 from Frederick Law Olmsted Fr., "Theodore Roosevelt Island: Report on adjustment in location of northwestern and northern portion of main circuit foot path on visit of May 22nd to 26th, 1936" [11 June 1936]; Olmsted Papers Manuscript Division LC.).

At this time, further research will be needed to determine where these spots that Olmsted requested the CCC to clear may have been, and if they are still relevant. Over time the landscape adjacent to the island has changed dramatically. The addition of the Kennedy Center and the shift in the appearance of Georgetown from what Olmsted deemed industrial and unsightly to its modern look and the abundance of high-rises along the Virginia shore are only a few examples of major changes to the immediate surroundings that have occurred since Olmsted's plan was conceived.

Olmsted proposed to situate a formalized "Outlook Plateau or "Outlook Terrace" near the ruins of the old Mason house on the southern portion of the island. Olmsted thought that the "outlook" area would serve to unify the site and integrate and align itself into the larger composition of the capital city's other memorials and monuments. This proposal was squashed when the decision to construct the Theodore Roosevelt Bridge on the south section of the island was implemented.

The memorial was sited on the northern section of the island and instead of being seen from the surrounding landscape, it was designed to be an open plaza immediately framed by formalized plantings and beyond those, the naturalistic forest that Olmsted conceived on the island.

EXISTING

There are many inspiring views both within and from the site. For instance, the short path leading from the Woods Trail north towards the monument, the view of the swamp from the constructed overlook along the boardwalk section of the Swamp Trail, and the view from the southern section of the Swamp Trail boardwalk where one's eye is drawn towards the swamp and the single bald cypress protruding from it.

However, the view from the interior of the plaza across the plaza is the only one implemented during a period of significance (1931-1967) extant today. At this time, overgrown boxwood hedges prevent viewers from experiencing these views.

EVALUATION

The single known historic view is of the plaza from the plaza. The view is currently obscured by overgrown boxwood hedges. Overall, this view has integrity to its 1931-1967 period of significance.

Character-defining Features:

Feature: Views within/across plaza

Feature Identification Number: 143574

Type of Feature Contribution:

Contributing

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



The boxwood in the plaza is overgrown and impedes views across the plaza (NCR CLP 2010).

Constructed Water Features

The landscape characteristic “constructed water features” is defined as the built features and elements that utilize water for aesthetic or utilitarian functions and exist today.

HISTORIC

It is certain that during the Mason and Civil War era periods that there were built features that utilized water for utilitarian functions as people who lived on the island and were sustained by the resources found there. These features may have been related to irrigation, drainage or water storage. None of these features are extant on the modern landscape.

As part of the memorial plaza designed by Eric Gugler, two types of constructed water features exist on the island. One, the two shallow round granite pools located on the east and west ends of the plaza. Each have a large granite fountain basin in their center. The second type, are the two large moats on both the east and west sides of the memorial plaza.

EXISTING

The extant contributing constructed water features on the island are the fountains and moats

within the memorial plaza.

EVALUATION

The fountains and moats within the memorial plaza contribute to the integrity of constructed water features dating back to the 1931-1967 period of significance.

Character-defining Features:

Feature: Large moat sw side of plaza

Feature Identification Number: 143578

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 233759

LCS Structure Name: Theodore Roosevelt Memorial, Southwest Pool

LCS Structure Number: TR-1

Feature: Large moat ne side of plaza

Feature Identification Number: 143610

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 233744

LCS Structure Name: Theodore Roosevelt Memorial, Northeast Pool

LCS Structure Number: TR-1

Feature: Round pool sw side of plaza

Feature Identification Number: 143614

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 233672

LCS Structure Name: Theodore Roosevelt Island, Southwest Fountain

LCS Structure Number: TR-1

Feature: Round pool NE side of plaza

Feature Identification Number: 143616

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 233685

LCS Structure Name: Theodore Roosevelt Island, Northeast Fountain

LCS Structure Number: TR-1

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



The two contributing constructed water features on the site are the large moats and the shallow round fountains (NCR CLP 2010).

Archeological Sites

The landscape characteristic “archeology” is defined as relating to sites containing surface and subsurface remnants related to historic or prehistoric land use.

'Knowledge of [a site where investigations took place]... is based on an eight-page report written by Charles W. McNett and Harvard G. Ayers describing excavations carried out between May 20 and July 16, 1967. This document was printed in 1974 in an issue of the non-juried amateur journal of the Archeological Society of Virginia. Not only is the description of their work inadequate, but their maps are so poor that it would not be possible to precisely redefine their excavation units. Of greater importance, given the manner in which the excavations were conducted, it is quite likely that the archeological deposits destroyed during excavation were not the jumble of prehistory that the authors reported. Therefore, it would be rash to base any interpretation of site integrity on their research.

Archeological knowledge of John Mason's early nineteenth-century plantation is not much better than that of the island's prehistory. In the spring of 1936, an NPS architect with no archeological training was given 12 weeks to explore the site of Mason's house. This was done as part of the HABS survey. Recovered artifacts were then buried within the foundations of the house. 3 Another amateur excavation was apparently conducted in 1962....

In the spring of 1970 the NPS permitted a class of graduate history students, with no training in archeology or supervision by a professional archeologist, to dig at Mason's house. No report of this investigation was ever produced and NPS attempts to get the Smithsonian Institution to return the archeological collection to the agency have been unsuccessful.' (Fanning 2001: Appendix A p 116)

Only when further archeological identification and evaluation study of TRI is conducted will it be possible to have the data necessary to determine archeological site eligibility for listing on the National Register. Further archeological study could reveal information about prehistoric sites, transportation-related history, historic circulation, the Mason house and related structures, additional dwellings, wharves and boats, military-related usage of the island, possible grave sites and remains associated with the period of time in 1864 and 1865 when the island was utilized as a refugee camp.

Condition

Condition Assessment and Impacts

Condition Assessment: Fair

Assessment Date: 09/24/2010

Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:

The Condition Assessment Date is the date the park superintendent signed the concurrence memo.

Overall, Theodore Roosevelt Island is in fair condition (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 landscape characteristics will cause the inventory unit to degrade to a poor). It retains integrity for the periods of significance 1748-1833, 1861-1865 and 1931-1967.

A 2010 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) is planned for the site. The project focuses on repair and rebuilding of the infrastructure, bottom and sides of the moat, piping, motor and water level sensors in the fountains and some stonework repair and repointing around the memorial plaza. The result will be part of the process in upgrading the site condition from fair to good.

In addition, the spread of non-native vegetation including English ivy (*Hedera helix*), Japanese honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*), fig buttercup (*Ranunculus ficaria*) and the groundcover known as creeping myrtle, periwinkle or, more commonly, vinca (*Vinca minor*), among others impacts the condition of the island vegetation planned by Frederick Law Olmsted Jr. This is despite the fact that Olmsted himself approved the use of English ivy and vinca in his planting plan. Management of exotic species is necessary to prevent a loss of the integrity of vegetation on the island.

In order for the condition of the site to acquire a "good" rating, the plaza will have to be repaired and there would need to be a marked improvement in the eradication of the invasive and exotic plant species on the island.

Impacts

Type of Impact: Deferred Maintenance

External or Internal: Internal

Impact Description: Deferred maintenance could lead to deterioration of both the hardscape materials composing the memorial plaza and the vegetation on the island.

Type of Impact: Fire

External or Internal:	Internal
Impact Description:	Fire on the island could cause severe and irreparable damage to memorial plaza hardscape and plants deriving from the Olmsted planting plan.
Type of Impact:	Flooding
External or Internal:	Internal
Impact Description:	Flooding by the surrounding Potomac River could cause severe damage to both the memorial plaza and the vegetation deriving from the Olmsted planting plan
Type of Impact:	Inappropriate Maintenance
External or Internal:	Internal
Impact Description:	Inappropriate maintenance of vegetation (e.g. spraying herbicide at the wrong time of year or on the wrong plants) could harm vegetation. Inappropriate maintenance (e.g. using the wrong solvents to clean the plaza hardscape) could severely damage the memorial plaza
Type of Impact:	Neglect
External or Internal:	Internal
Impact Description:	Neglect of the site would certainly lead to rampant growth of exotic vegetation which could suffocate Olmsted plantings. Neglect of the plaza would lead to cracked concrete, clogged drains and overall deterioration. Neglect of internal paths could lead to an increase in social trails and dangerous situations created by potholes or fallen trees. The neglect of the boardwalk could also create dangerous conditions for visitors.
Type of Impact:	Pests/Diseases
External or Internal:	Internal
Impact Description:	Pests and disease could easily harm the vegetation of the island if not monitored and treated as soon as it is detected.
Type of Impact:	Planting Practices
External or Internal:	Internal
Impact Description:	Planting of invasive or exotic species could damage the integrity

of the existing forest.

Type of Impact: Vegetation/Invasive Plants
External or Internal: Internal
Impact Description: One of the most critical impacts to the site would be an untreated infestation of invasive plants. The forest on Theodore Roosevelt Island is one of the most significant conveyors of the history of the island.

Type of Impact: Visitation
External or Internal: Internal
Impact Description: An abrupt increase in visitation could impact trails on the island and would mean that more attention would need to be paid to trail maintenance, and that increased maintenance of the comfort station would need to be implemented.

Treatment

Bibliography and Supplemental Information

Bibliography

Citation Author:	Kay Fanning PhD
Citation Title:	Theodore Roosevelt Island National Register Nomination
Year of Publication:	2001
Citation Publisher:	NPS DOI
Source Name:	Other
Citation Type:	Both Graphic and Narrative
Citation Location:	http://pdfhost.focus.nps.gov/docs/NRHP/Text/66000869.pdf
Citation Author:	Jonathan Pliska, delineators: Meghan Clemmens, Anne E.Kidd, Cal J. Mincey
Citation Title:	Historic American Landscapes Survey Theodore Roosevelt Island (Analostan Island, Mason's Island HALS DC-12 Digital ID http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.pnp/hhh.dc1044
Year of Publication:	2008
Citation Publisher:	DOI NPS
Source Name:	Other
Citation Type:	Both Graphic and Narrative
Citation Location:	From Library of Congress, American Memory, Historic American Landscape Survey. http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.pnp/hhh.dc1044 (accessed July 27, 2010).
Citation Title:	Theodore Roosevelt Island Pedestrian Bridge Historic American Engineering Record Washington, D.C. No. VA-87
Year of Publication:	1994
Citation Publisher:	DOI NPS
Source Name:	HAER
Citation Type:	Narrative
Citation Location:	From Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division Historic American Engineering Record http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/VA1684 (accessed July 27, 2010).

Citation Author: Barnette, Stuart M -Delineator, HABS
Citation Title: General John Mason House, Analostan Island or Theodore Roosevelt Island, Washington, District of Columbia, HABS DC-28
Year of Publication: 1936
Citation Publisher: DOI NPS
Source Name: HABS
Citation Type: Both Graphic and Narrative
Citation Location: From Library of Congress, American Memory, Historic American Landscape Survey <http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/DC0424> (accessed July 27, 2010).

Supplemental Information

Title: D.C. Georgetown Ferry-boat Carrying Wagons, and Aqueduct Bridge Beyond, from Rocks on Mason's Island 1862-1865

Description: Barnard, George N. Washington, D.C. Washington, D.C. Georgetown Ferry-boat Carrying Wagons, and Aqueduct Bridge Beyond, from Rocks on Mason's Island 1862-1865. Library of Congress, Prints & Photographs Division, Selected Civil War Photographs, 1861-1865. LC-B811-0291B. <http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/cwp2003000924/PP> (accessed July 27, 2010).

Title: D.C. Guards at Ferry Landing on Mason's Island Examining a Pass 1862-1865

Description: Barnard, George N. Washington, D.C. Guards at Ferry Landing on Mason's Island Examining a Pass 1862-1865. Stereographs 1860-1870. LC, Prints & Photographs Division. Selected Civil War photographs, 1861-1865. LC-B8171-0290 <http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/cwp2003000925/PP> (accessed July 27, 2010).