

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
NATIONAL MALL AND MEMORIAL PARKS

WASHINGTON MONUMENT
SCOPE OF COLLECTION STATEMENT

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I. INTRODUCTION

A. Executive Summary

The Washington Monument is a unit of the National Park Service (NPS) managed by National Mall and Memorial Parks (NAMA). The Washington Monument is the most prominent structure in Washington, D.C. and one of the city's earliest attractions. It is a powerful symbol of the Nation's Capital. The monument grounds are situated in the monumental core of the capital city and have been the site of significant public events, ceremonies, and demonstrations for over a century. It was built in honor of George Washington, who led the country to independence and became the first President. The Monument is shaped like an Egyptian obelisk, stands 555' 5 1/8" tall, and offers views in excess of thirty miles. It was finished on December 6, 1884. The monument grounds are bordered by 15th street to the east, 17th street to the west, and by Constitution Ave to the north and Independence Avenue to the south.

National Mall and Memorial Parks maintain several museum collections, including the Washington Monument Collection. The objects in the Washington Monument (WAMO) collection consist of historic artifacts directly related to the design and construction of the monument (and other buildings on the grounds), individuals involved in the construction, and historic events which occurred at the monument. Artifacts related to the life and contributions of President George Washington will not be accepted into the collection.

NOTE: The ICON memorials (the Jefferson Memorial (JEME), Lincoln Memorial (LIME), and Washington Monument (WAMO)) each have their own museum collection and Scope of Collection Statement. The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Collection has its own collection/SOCS due to the size and nature of the collection. The daily management of the VVM collection is conducted entirely by the Museum Resource Center (MRCE) staff. Oversight of the collection is managed in partnership with NAMA park staff. The Lightship Chesapeake has been declared a legacy and maintains a separate museum collection as well. *All other park areas are included in the NAMA museum collection.*

B. Purpose of the Scope of Collection Statement

This Scope of Collection Statement defines the scope of present and future museum collection holdings of the Washington Monument that contribute directly to the understanding and interpretation of the park's purpose, themes and resources, as well as those objects that the Service is legally mandated to preserve. It is designed to ensure that the museum collection is clearly relevant to the park.

C. Legislation Related to National Park Service Museum Collections

The National Park Service's (NPS) legal mandate for acquiring and preserving museum collections is contained in the Antiquities Act of 1906 (16 USC 431-433); the Organic Act of 1916 (16 USC 1 et. seq.); the Historic Sites Act of 1935 (16 USC 461-467); the Management of Museum Properties Act of 1955, as amended (16 USC 18f); the Reservoir Salvage Act of 1960, as amended (16 USC 469-469c); the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (16

USC 470 et seq.); the Archeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974, as amended (16 USC 469-469l-2); the Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979, as amended (16 USC 470aa-mm); the National Parks Omnibus Management Act of 1998 (16 USC 5901).

Washington Monument: 9 Stat 333, 11 Stat 386, 19 Stat 123

D. Park History, Significance, Purpose, Themes, and Goals

Mission

National Park Service: The National Park Service preserves unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the national park system for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations. The Park Service cooperates with partners to extend the benefits of natural and cultural resource conservation and outdoor recreation throughout this country and the world.

National Mall and Memorial Parks: The Mission of National Mall and Memorial Parks (NAMA) is to manage, preserve, and maintain the monument, memorials, historic sites, cultural landscapes, natural and recreation areas located in the memorial core of the Nation’s Capital, as well as to interpret the significant and the historic events that have occurred surrounding them for the inspiration of all visitors.

History, Significance, and Purpose

Officially established in 1965, National Mall and Memorial Parks protects some of the older parkland in the National Park System. Areas within this park provide visitors with ample opportunities to commemorate presidential legacies; honor the courage and sacrifice of war veterans; and celebrate the United States commitment to freedom and equality.¹

NAMA's origins are as old as the capital city itself. The open spaces and parklands envisioned by Peter L'Enfant's plan, which was commissioned by President George Washington, created an ideal stage for national expressions of remembrance, observance, celebration, and expression of First Amendment rights. With everything from colossal monuments to commemorative gardens, from presidential inaugurations to civil rights demonstrations, NAMA hosts history in the making. Numerous First Amendment activities and special events are held in the park each year. The park continues to evolve as Americans seek new ways to recognize our heritage.

The Washington Monument Society was organized in 1833 to build a “great National Monument to the memory of Washington at the seat of the Federal Government.” The Washington Monument, which was built between 1848 and 1885 with funds from public subscriptions raised by the Washington Monument Society and Federal appropriation, memorializes George Washington’s achievement and unselfish devotion to his country. The Washington Monument is entrusted to the National Park Service to preserve the monument and its surroundings.

Interpretive Themes

¹ <http://www.nps.gov/nama/>

The museum collections of National Mall and Memorial Parks do not reflect the themes interpreted onsite, but instead they represent the physical space. The WAMO museum collection contains representative objects related to the design, construction, and maintenance of the Monument.

National Mall and Memorial Park's Primary Interpretive Themes²:

1. The History of our capital and the story of our nation.
2. The symbolic nature and unique purposes of civic space in the nation's capital.
 - a. First Amendment freedom of speech
 - b. Celebration and patriotism.
 - c. The National Mall and reserve as a completed work of civic art
 - d. L'Enfant and McMillan plans.
 - e. Themes directly related to commemorative works:
 - i. Themes common to multiple memorials (presidential legacies, sacrifice, liberty, equality, democracy, freedom, Civil War, etc.)
3. Land reclamation by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the creation of park lands for a range of recreation uses.

Resource Management Plan Goals (1989)³

1. Work to actively conserve/preserve and treat artifacts in the museum collection.
2. Improve documentation of collections, making sure that all artifacts fit within the appropriate scope of collection.
3. Update collection records, including the use of the Interior Collections Management System (ICMS)

E. Laws, Regulations, and Conventions Related to Museum Collections

Archeological collections, except inalienable and communal property (as defined by the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990 [25 USC 3001-13]), recovered from within park boundaries through systematic collection are Federal property and must be retained in the park's museum collection in accordance with 43 CFR 7.13 and NPS *Management Policies* (2006).

In accordance with the NPS Research Permit and Reporting System, permits to collect natural resource specimens state that retained specimens remain Federal property, are incorporated into the park museum collection and, as required by 36 CFR 2.5g, must bear official National Park Service museum labels and their catalog numbers will be registered in the National Park Service National Catalog.

Other laws, regulations, directives and conventions pertinent to the acquisition of museum collections at the park include: the Lacey Act of 1900 (18 USC 43-44); the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 (16 USC 703-711); the Bald Eagle Protection Act of 1940, as amended (16 USC 668-668d); the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949, as amended (40 USC 483[b]); the Federal Records Act of 1950, as amended ("Records Management by Federal Agencies" [44

² National Mall Plan.EIS p.14

³ Resource Management Plan, 1987, Section II, pages 78-87.

USC 3101 et. seq.]); the Freedom of Information Act of 1966, as amended (5 USC 552); the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 (16 USC 1361-1407); the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 USC 1531-1543); the Privacy Act of 1974 (5 USC 552a); the Copyright Act of 1976 (17 USC 101 et seq. [1988 & Supp. V 1993]); the American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1978 (42 USC 1996); the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990 (NAGPRA) (25 USC 3001-3013); Federal Property Management Regulations (FPMR), 41 CFR 101; 410 Departmental Manual, Interior Property Management Regulations (IPMR); 411 Departmental Manual, "Managing Museum Property," Chapters 1-3; "Curation of Federally-Owned and Administered Archeological Collections," 36 CFR 79; NAGPRA Final Regulations, 43 CFR 10; "Disposition of Federal Records," 36 CFR 1228; "Protection of Archeological Resources", 43 CFR 7; "Preservation of American Antiquities", 43 CFR 3; "Preservation, Arrangement, Duplication, Exhibition of Records" (44 USC 2109); "Disposal of Records" (44 USC 3301 et seq.); Director's Order #19: Records Management; Director's Order #24: NPS Museum Collections Management; Director's Order #28: Cultural Resource Management; Director's Order #44: Personal Property Management; the 1983 Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES); the 1970 UNESCO Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export, and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property (implemented in the United States by P.L. 97-446 in 1983, 19 USC 2601).

F. Structures, Landmarks, and Other Park Resources Listed on National or International Registries

The following are listed as contributing structures on the **National Register of Historic Places**:

- Washington Monument
- Survey Lodge
- Monument Lodge
- Jefferson Pier Marker
- Sylvan Theater
- Circle of Flags
- Two U.S. Capitol Gateposts (designed by Charles Bulfinch)

II. TYPES OF COLLECTIONS

The interpretive themes and resource management goals and objectives stated in the introduction provide direction for the acquisition of museum objects. The following guidelines will prevent arbitrary and excessive growth of the collection, while ensuring that it remains relevant to the park's mission.

A. Cultural Collection

The purpose of this collection is to increase knowledge and inspiration among present and future generations through exhibits, research, and interpretive programs. Objects and archival collections with a direct association to the park are more desirable for inclusion within the collection than similar items without such primary significance. The cultural collection is subdivided into four disciplines: archeology, ethnology, history, and archives and manuscripts. The following list identifies, by discipline, object types appropriate to the park's museum collection and, as needed, notes current representation.

1. Archeology Collection

Archeological collections are generated in response to cultural resource management requirements related to legal mandates, to development of park facilities, to preservation-related activities, to research requirements, and to interpretive needs.

As per 43 CFR Part 7, any archeological materials discovered within the park are the property of the United States and will be maintained as a part of the park's museum collection.

a. Artifacts and Specimens

Archeological research projects within the park may result in the collection of artifacts, ecofacts, or other data.

Park staff and visitors should be discouraged from picking up surface artifacts. It is preferred that surface artifacts be left in-situ and their location documented. If materials are turned in to park staff, appropriate measures must be taken to ensure that the visitor collects no more material, that precise provenience information is recorded, if possible, and that the objects/data are promptly turned in to the curatorial staff upon receipt by staff members.

The park's archeology collection includes:

Historic Material. This collection contains material related to the use of land later established as memorial grounds. This includes material related to early use memorial grounds, the development of the land as park property and the building of memorials or a cultural landscape.

b. Associated Field Records

All records associated with archeological collections are retained as part of the museum collection. These records include field notes and catalogs, daily journals, drawings and maps, photographs and negatives, slides, sound recordings, raw data sheets, instrument charts, remote sensing materials, collection inventories, analytical study data, conservation treatment records, computer documentation and data, as well as any other documents generated through archeological activity.

2. Ethnology Collection

Ethnographic materials include oral histories of persons associated with the building of the Washington Monument or events held at the Washington Monument.

- a. **Associated Records.** All records associated with ethnographic collections are retained as part of the museum collection. These records may include field notes; interview schedules, tapes (video and audio), interview transcripts; negatives, prints and slides; data sheets (all subject to restrictions of confidentiality, if any); artifact inventories, analytical study data; conservation treatment records; computer documentation and data; reports generated by ethnographic investigations; as well as any other documents generated through ethnographic field work.

3. History

The history collection is an important component of the interpretive and resource management programs and supports the mission of the park. The WAMO history collection contains objects related to the Washington Monument as a commemorative space which allow visitors to reflect on the people and events honored at the memorial. While the park interprets the site as a part of George Washington's legacy, the objects in the museum collection reflect the design and building of the monument.

Only historic material that has a direct association with the park is included in the museum collection. When a large quantity of an object type is available, priority is given to acquiring the best-preserved examples. The history collection is based on the park's themes used to establish the following collecting categories:

- a. Artifacts directly related to the construction of the monument including its planning, design, and execution.
- b. Artifacts directly related to the Washington Monument Society's involvement in the planning, design, and execution of the monument.
- c. Artifacts directly related to the Architect Robert Mill's involvement in the design and execution of the monument.
- d. Artifacts directly related to the individuals who participated in the construction of the monument. Artifacts will be limited to those related to the individual's direct

involvement in the building process between 1848 and 1888 and only as they relate to the construction.

- e. Artifacts directly related to historic events which took place at the Washington Monument since its construction, including its dedication ceremony.
- f. Artifacts directly related to the individuals who physically participated in historic events at the Washington Monument. Artifacts will be limited to those related to the individuals' direct involvement with such events.
- g. Artifacts directly related to the 25 year interruption of construction and events which led to the monument's final completion.
- h. Artifacts directly related to the Army Corps of Engineer's involvement in the design and construction of the Washington Monument.
- i. Artifacts directly related to the first and each subsequent elevator used in the Washington Monument.
- j. Artifacts directly related to the design, production, and execution of the 195 memorial stones which are set in the interior walls of the Washington Monument.
- k. Artifacts directly related to the alterations in design which occurred between 1848 and 1888.
- l. Artifacts directly related to the preservation and maintenance of the monument and its memorial stones.
- m. **Commemorative Events.** Memorabilia from important current or commemorative events are included in the museum collection. Materials related to the dedication of the Washington Monument, historic marches and rallies that took place on the monument grounds, and other significant events will continue to be preserved as they become available.

NOTE: Ephemera and other paper based records related to a historic event on the WAMO grounds may be considered part of the history collection, rather than archives. In these cases the value of the object is in its physical form, not the information contained therein. An example would be a memorial dedication program. General site bulletins and brochures produced by the NPS will not be accessioned into the history collection, but rather remain as part of the record collection in the archives.

- n. **Historic Fabric.** When original fabric is removed from a historic structure during a preservation or repair project, a representative portion of the fabric will be preserved and accessioned into the museum collection, along with any

associated documentation. Examples of typical WAMO collection items include architectural samples of stone, samples of original site features, casts for bronze features or statues found in the memorial, and drawings and records from memorial designers and artists. The material contained in the WAMO museum collections may be used for research, reference, or historical documentation regarding the building of the memorial and consequent improvement or repair projects done on site

4. Archival and Manuscript Collection

Archives and manuscripts include all types of documents, regardless of format. Documents may be in hardcopy (paper), or in any kind of magnetic, electronic, digital, or film technology. Individual documents may be loose, or they may be contained in file folders or in bound volumes. Carbon copies, photocopies, and other duplicates may be regarded as “original documents,” depending on specific circumstances. For example, if an individual sent a letter to someone and kept a copy of that letter in his or her own files, then that copy would still be regarded as an original document in the individual’s manuscript collection. (Museum Handbook, Part II, Appendix D).

- a. **NPS Resource Management Records:** These records include documentation created by the park or acquired by the park in the course of everyday business (e.g., reports done for the park) to record information on cultural and natural resources and their management over time.

Resource management records are the documentary products of archeological surveys and excavations, natural resource surveys, historic structure and cultural landscape research, scientific projects, and various natural and cultural resource maintenance projects. These records (regardless of format) document park resources and serve as information bases for their continuing management. Resource management records include drawings, field notes, films, laboratory reports, maps, manuscripts, oral histories, photographic negatives, prints, and slides, reports; and audio and video tapes.

The majority of the WAMO archival collection will be made up of Resource Management Records. The constant maintenance of resources in the park and the building of new monuments produce a great amount of paper records. Our records include drawings, contracts, internal memos, construction photos, official correspondence, compliance documentation, etc. The Resource Management records are housed in the Records Room in the mezzanine level of the Jefferson Memorial. The room is locked and alarmed.

- b. **Rare Books:** According to the NPS Museum Handbook, Part II, Appendix D, rare books should be managed as part of the museum collection and not in the park library.

Rare books include the following: published books that are difficult to replace or books from the park's historic period. This category also includes books and other library materials used in exhibits or as furnishings in historic structures or books that are retained for their physical properties or their associative value.

- c. **NOTE:** Ephemera and other paper based records related to a historic event on the WAMO grounds will be considered part of the history collection, not archives. In these cases the value of the object is in its physical form, not the information contained therein. An example would be a dedication or event program. General site bulletins and brochures will not be accessioned into the history collection, but rather remain as part of the record collection in the archives.

B. Natural History Collection

There is no Natural History Collection associated with the Washington Monument. All natural history collections will be included in the NAMA museum collection.

III. MUSEUM COLLECTIONS SUBJECT TO THE NATIVE AMERICAN GRAVES PROTECTION AND REPATRIATION ACT OF 1990

The Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990 (NAGPRA), 25 USC 3001-13, requires, in addition to other actions, a written summary of unassociated funerary objects, sacred objects, and objects of cultural patrimony.

The Washington Monument museum collection does not include any unassociated funerary objects, sacred objects, and objects of cultural patrimony.

NAGPRA requires a written, item-by-item inventory of human remains and associated funerary objects to be completed no later than November 16, 1995. .

The Washington Monument museum collection does not include any Native American associated funerary objects or human remains.

IV. ACQUISITION

The park acquires objects for its museum collections by gift, purchase, exchange, transfer, field collection, and loan. Acquisition of museum objects are governed by the park's ability to manage and preserve them according to NPS *Management Policies* (2006), Chapter 5; the standards for managing museum objects in Director's Order #28, *Cultural Resource Management* (1998) and *Cultural Resource Management Guideline* (1997); revised Special Directive 80-1, "Guidance for Meeting NPS Preservation and Protection Standards for Museum Collections," (Mar 90), and the *NPS Museum Handbook*, Part I, Museum Collections.

In accordance with NPS policy the park will discourage gifts with restrictions or limiting conditions. Incoming loans will be acquired only for a particular purpose such as research or exhibition, and for a specified period of time. Museum objects are acquired, accessioned, and cataloged in accordance with the *NPS Museum Handbook*, Part II, Museum Records.

The acquisition of firearms included on the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (ATF) list of prohibited/restricted weapons requires concurrent review by the regional/SO curator and the regional/SO law enforcement specialist.

The park Superintendent, by delegation, represents the Director and the Secretary of the Interior in accepting title to and responsibility for museum objects. The Superintendent bears the ultimate responsibility for the acquisition and proper care and management of the museum collection. The Superintendent has delegated the day-to-day care of the collection to the Museum Curator.

All acquisitions must receive formal approval from the Superintendent before they can be accepted into the museum collection. Upon receipt, all newly acquired objects and related documentation must be turned over to the Museum Curator. The Museum Curator prepares, for the Superintendent's signature, all instruments of conveyance, and letters of thanks, acceptance, or rejection, and transmits them as appropriate, to the donor, lender, vendor, or other source of acquisition.

Donors of Native American cultural materials must be able to demonstrate legal title to the materials and prove that they were not illegally removed from public lands. Gifts of this type of material are not ordinarily accepted unless they have been collected in a scientific manner and have adequate provenience data associated with them.

Collecting, either under permit or by park staff, will be approved only in response to the park's need for on-site reference or to establish baseline data. The museum collection will not be a repository for cultural or natural science specimens in excess of these needs.

V. USES OF COLLECTIONS

The park's museum collection may be used for exhibits, interpretive programs, research, publications, or other interpretive media. The primary consideration in the use of museum objects is the conservation of each object in question and of the collection as a whole.

Researchers and other specialists may examine objects and archival materials under the conditions and procedures outlined in Director's Order #28, *Cultural Resource Management* (1998) and *Cultural Resource Management Guideline* (1997).

Any interpretive use defined as consumptive must be authorized in advance, as outlined in Director's Order #28, *Cultural Resource Management* (1998), *Cultural Resource Management Guideline* (1997), and Director's Order #6, *Interpretation and Education* (2002). The use of reproductions is preferred to the consumptive use of original objects.

Destructive analysis is a legitimate use of museum collections for approved research purposes when the impact is minor or when the object is common, in which case approval by the Superintendent is required. If an object is rare or significant, a request for destructive analysis should be reviewed by the regional curator and may be approved only by the Regional Director, as outlined in Director's Order #28, *Cultural Resource Management* (1998) and *Cultural Resource Management Guideline* (1997).

Objects may be loaned out to qualified institutions for approved purposes in accordance with NPS *Museum Handbook*, Part II, Chapter 5, Outgoing Loans. Institutions must meet minimal museum standards for security, handling, and exhibition of NPS museum objects. Sensitive materials may require additional conditions prior to a loan commitment. Expenses related to loans of museum objects, including shipping and insurance, will normally be assumed by the borrower.

All exhibits containing museum objects must have proper security, appropriate environmental controls, and proper mounts to ensure the long-term preservation of the objects.

VI. RESTRICTIONS

Restrictions in addition to those applying to the use of the museum collection outlined in Section IV of this statement are as follows:

Curatorial staff should consult with Tribal governments, Native Hawaiian organizations, Alaskan Native corporations, and traditional religious leaders about the terms and conditions for management of collections from Federal lands that have significance for these groups; and should consult with other indigenous and immigrant ethnic, social, and religious groups that have aboriginal or historic ties with the museum collection or lands of origin, and/or traditionally have used the museum collection. Archeological objects in the museum collection shall be made available to persons for use in religious rituals or spiritual activities in accordance with 36 CFR 79, Section 79.10(c), "Curation of Federally-owned and Administered Archeological Collections." Requests to borrow non-archeological material for religious ritual or spiritual activities will be addressed on a case-by-case basis.

The park will not approve research on human remains and associated funerary objects without the consent of the affected group(s).

The park will not knowingly be a partner to or encourage in any way the trafficking in illicitly or unscientifically collected materials.

NPS *Management Policies*, (2006), Chapter 5, states that:

"Under certain circumstances, and to the extent permitted by law, information about the specific location, character, nature, ownership, or acquisition of cultural resources on park lands will be withheld from public disclosure."

"To the extent permitted by law, the Service will withhold from public disclosure (1) information provided by individuals who wish the information to remain confidential, and (2) the identities of individuals who wish to remain anonymous and who are protected from release by exemption under FOIA."

Inquiries to the park of this nature will be referred to the regional Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and Privacy Act Officer for consultation and possible review.

Restrictions may be placed on the publication of images or manuscripts in the museum collection if these materials are subject to copyright, and this right has not been signed over to the National Park Service.

All endangered, threatened, or rare plants and vertebrate and invertebrate animals will be collected only when accidentally killed or when dead from natural causes. The collection of threatened, endangered, or rare plant and animal species will comply with NPS *Management Policies* (2006), be in accordance with the provisions of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, and will be strictly limited according to the applicable rules of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Final disposition of type specimens will be determined at the Servicewide level and will adhere to recognized conventions established for specific disciplines.

VII. MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

This Scope of Collection Statement must be reviewed every five years, and when necessary, must be revised to remain supportive of and consistent with any changes in the park's mission. Any revision to this document requires the approval of the Superintendent.

A number of objects said to belong to the WAMO collection have been sent to the Museum Resource Center (MRCE) over the years. However, none of these items were ever accessioned or cataloged into a museum collection. We are currently working on an ongoing research project to determine which items at MRCE should be accessioned into a park collection and which do not fall within the scope of our collections. **In accordance with NPS policy, we will only bring accessioned and cataloged objects to the Museum Resource Center to avoid this problem in the future.**