

## V. National Register Status

## Introduction

In 1972 a single national register nomination was prepared for East and West Potomac Parks. The focus of the approved 1972 nomination was on the continued use of the parks for recreation and for special event activities at the memorials and monuments, without reference to the significance of the two parks as designed landscapes. The nomination emphasized that the design intent of Potomac Park "to be . . . used as a park for the recreation and pleasure of the people" had been fulfilled. This may be true for East Potomac Park, but the original design intent for West Potomac Park was not exclusively based on recreation. Although the setting for the memorials and monuments is addressed minimally, little discussion on the influence of the L'Enfant Plan, McMillan Commission Plan, and other subsequent plans for West Potomac Park occurs. While the 1972 nomination lists structural features, such as monuments, memorials, and statues, landscape features that contribute to the character of the Lincoln Memorial grounds (Lincoln Memorial, Reflecting Pool, and Watergate areas) are not covered. A more comprehensive approach that addresses landscape issues relating design intent, circulation, vegetation, views, site furniture, and land use is needed. Because the approved 1972 national register nomination does not adequately address currently accepted criteria for the historic landscape, National Capital Parks Central and the National Capital Region offices are currently updating the nomination for East and West Potomac Parks. Information from this document and other cultural resource documents completed since 1972 will be used to include more specific information on the contributing landscape features.

## Evaluation of Significance

According to *National Register Bulletin 18* (for nominating "designed historic landscapes"), a designed historic landscape is defined as a "landscape that has significance as a design or work of art; was consciously designed and laid out by a master gardener, landscape architect, architect, or horticulturist to a design principle. . . ." Based on research for the Lincoln Memorial grounds, the study area is a significant historic landscape.

There are two periods of significance for the landscape of the Lincoln Memorial. One period (1791-1914) includes the early development of Washington, D.C., the creation of parkland from the tidal flats of the Potomac River, and the work of the 1901-1902 McMillan Commission. The second period (1914-1933) is based on the design development, construction and completion of the Lincoln Memorial, and the surrounding grounds and features. Three additional periods (1933-1945, 1945-1970, and 1970-1996) have been documented as well. Each of these is characterized by NPS management of the site and by the incremental physical changes over time. Many of these changes have been the result of increases in tourism and automobile use and reflect the National Park Service's efforts to deal with these issues. Of the two significant periods, the second is of primary significance as it had the most impact on the overall physical development and organization of the landscape.

The McMillan Commission was established to develop a comprehensive plan for the nation's capital. Basing their plan on an adaptation of Pierre L'Enfant's 1791 design for the federal city, the commission proposed extending the existing east-west mall axis to the west, beyond the Washington Monument to a new memorial to Abraham Lincoln. To achieve this effect, a long narrow pool delineated the land between the Washington Monument and the new memorial location. West of the memorial, a series of steps descended to the Potomac shoreline, creating a ceremonial watergate entrance to the city from the river. Near Watergate, a bridge to Arlington Memorial Cemetery spanned the Potomac and served to symbolically reunite the north and south. Although the conceptual designs of the McMillan Commission were never fully implemented, subsequent plans developed between 1914 and 1933 for the Lincoln Memorial and Arlington Memorial Bridge and for the pool between the memorial and the Washington Monument, incorporated many of the McMillan Commission's underlying ideas.

There are three distinct landscapes that comprise the Lincoln Memorial grounds: the Reflecting Pool area, the Lincoln Memorial circle and radial roads, and the Watergate area. In addition to the significance of the historic designed landscape, there are structures with significance in their own right. Furthermore, the relationship of the buildings and structural features with the designed landscape cannot be separated since they complement each other. Because of this, the Lincoln Memorial, Arlington Memorial Bridge, Watergate plaza and steps, Parkway Drive, and the Reflecting/Rainbow Pool are all considered contributing features to the historic landscape and are also significant as individual buildings and structures.

The study area for the Lincoln Memorial grounds are comprised of three different landscape types as defined by the national register for designed landscapes: *Monuments and Memorial Grounds* (Lincoln Memorial circle and radial roads and Reflecting Pool area), *Public Spaces* (Watergate steps and adjacent areas of West Potomac Park), and *Parkways* (Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway approach and Arlington Memorial Bridge as the connection to the George Washington Memorial Parkway ).

As outlined in the national register program, a process of identification and evaluation is used to determine the significance of districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects. The other way to assess a feature's attributes is by evaluating its integrity. Integrity is determined by the examination of the location, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association of a feature. Before determining the integrity, the site must meet at least one of the following national register criteria for significance:

- associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of history;
- associated with the lives of persons significant in our past;
- embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that

represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction;

- yielded or may be likely to yield information in prehistory or history.

The following is a more detailed discussion of the Lincoln Memorial grounds with respect to these four criteria.

### **Criterion A: Association with Events, Activities, or Trends**

The Lincoln Memorial grounds have national significance because they are an essential part of the larger plan conceived by the McMillan Commission of 1901-1902. The commission's work marks the first comprehensive effort to showcase Washington D.C., the nation's capital, in the construction of the civic buildings, improvement of the Mall, and the development of a park system. These aspects of the plan also represent one of the most successful implementations of the "City Beautiful Movement," the national movement for the planning of civic spaces inspired by the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago. In addition to their significant design, the Lincoln Memorial grounds have gained national significance in the role they have played as a forum for racial justice starting in 1939 with the Marian Anderson concert, into the 1960s providing a backdrop for the civil rights movement, and continuing into the 1990s. The site also has local significance as part of a citywide park system for the Washington D.C. and in its connection to a regional parkway system, which includes Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway and George Washington Memorial Parkway.

### **Criterion B: Association with an Important Individual**

The Lincoln Memorial grounds are strongly associated with two important Americans. The first one is Abraham Lincoln, to whom the building and grounds serve as a memorial. The second individual is Martin Luther King Jr., who delivered his historic "I Have A Dream" speech from the steps of the memorial at the conclusion of the 1963 March on Washington.

### **Criterion C: Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a Type, Period, or Method of Construction, or Represent the Work of a Master**

The formal symmetrical arrangement of the Lincoln Memorial grounds embodies the classicism of the Beaux Arts style found in the design of the memorial building. In addition to the great public park that was created around the Lincoln Memorial, peripheral areas were set aside for parkways and eventually developed for recreation. The Lincoln Memorial grounds were designed and subsequently developed under the direction of such noted landscape architects, architects, and engineers as Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr., Charles McKim, Henry Bacon, James Greenleaf, and the U.S. Army Corps

of Engineers. As the landscape architect, Olmsted contributed the most and had the greatest influence on both the conception of the design and implementation of the Lincoln Memorial landscape through his service on the McMillan Commission , Commission of Fine Arts (1910-1918), National Capital Park Commission (1924-1926), and the National Capital Parks and Planning Commission (1926-1932). Charles McKim, architect, played a major role in the selection of the memorial site and in the earliest designs for the memorial bridge, when he served on the McMillan Commission. As the architect for the Lincoln Memorial, Henry Bacon continued to assert his ideas on the design of the building and its relationship to the setting during the course of his service on the Lincoln Memorial Commission (1912-1921), and on the Commission of Fine Arts (1921-1928). James Greenleaf, landscape architect, directed the design and implementation of the foundation plantings on the north, east and south sides of the Lincoln Memorial when he replaced Olmsted on the Commission in 1918. Greenleaf served in this position until 1927. As consulting landscape architect for the Arlington Memorial Bridge Commission, Greenleaf designed the planting plan for the west side of the Lincoln Memorial and for the Watergate area. The Army Corps of Engineers also exercised considerable influence over the site as a whole. Since dredging the Potomac and filling the "flats," from which West Potomac Park was created, the Corps managed, supervised construction and prepared designs for Lincoln Memorial grounds. The Corps was also responsible for the implementation of plans and the care of buildings and public spaces in West Potomac Park until 1933.

**Criterion D: Potential to yield information important to history or prehistory**

All the land for the Lincoln Memorial grounds is reclaimed land from the Potomac River. Because of this, there is no archeological significance to the site.

## **Evaluation of Integrity**

There are seven qualities that help to determine the integrity of the overall landscape. These are historic location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. By using each of these to determine the degree of integrity, we are able to assess whether this landscape had retained enough of its important features to convey its historical significance. Even though some modifications to paving materials and use have taken place around the memorial, the character (or setting), which is the most important element, has remained intact. As part of the character, the major features are: vegetation (arrangement and species selection), circulation patterns (both vehicular and pedestrian), structural features (the Lincoln Memorial, Reflecting Pool/Rainbow Pool, Watergate, and bridge and parkway approaches), the views (mall axis), and continued use of the landscape for commemoration and for passive recreation. Some changes in the past have adversely affected the integrity but not to the degree that the overall design intent has been seriously compromised. Where the major changes have occurred, it has generally been caused by the development of new road systems adjacent to the study boundaries (Independence Avenue and Theodore Roosevelt Bridge). In other areas, changes in use have had a greater impact on the resource, and if continued, could degrade the integrity of the landscape (French Drive concessionaire structures). In addition, the inconsistency of new materials and the inconsistency of types of site furniture used in the study area, where the design was intended to be simple and clean, undermine the integrity of the landscape. In most cases, these effects can be reversed so that the historic character of the Lincoln Memorial grounds is retained.

## VI. Design Guidelines

## Introduction

As stated previously, this report represents *Part 1* of a Cultural Landscape Report for the Lincoln Memorial, as presented in *A Guide to Cultural Landscape Reports* and the *Cultural Resource Management Guidelines* (NPS-28). The team has developed a broad set of design guidelines, rather than specific treatment alternatives. Design guidelines are essential for the future development of preservation treatments that support general management objectives. When appropriate, key landscape features that are integral to the original design of the **Lincoln Memorial grounds** and belong to the period of historical significance, **1914-1933**, may be preserved, restored or reconstructed. For the purposes of this report, original designs have been defined as the construction drawings used to implement the concepts of the McMillan Commission Plan. In addition, any on-site alterations to the designs found in these drawings occurring within the period of significance are also considered original.

These guidelines provide the framework for the future development of treatment plans for the Lincoln Memorial grounds. General recommendations are outlined for the site overall, while specific recommendations are listed separately for the Reflecting Pool area, the Lincoln Memorial circle and the radial roads, and for the Watergate area. In the event that the guidelines stated below conflict with any pre-existing report or study, park management should base their decisions on sound resource management practices and visitor service needs.

Many recommendations and guidelines that follow will require investigations by interdisciplinary teams before implementation. In areas requiring specific site development plans, *Cultural Resource Management Guidelines* (NPS-28) and the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes* should be reviewed to insure the proper treatment documents are prepared.

## Overall Site

Development for the Lincoln Memorial site in West Potomac Park was based on the conceptual designs of the McMillan Commission Plan of 1902, which was never fully implemented. Using the form, arrangement and styles suggested in the plan, individual designs for the memorial building, the reflecting basins, the memorial bridge and all the surrounding grounds were conceived and realized over a nineteen-year period. These landscaped areas demonstrate the formal geometry, straightforward symmetry and balance used to visually link sites in West Potomac Park with the sites selected in the L'Enfant Plan for the Capitol, the White House, the Washington Monument and the Mall.



## Spatial Organization

1. Landscape treatment will confirm and reestablish the overall organization and spatial arrangements delineated in the original plans for the site. Designs, materials, and landscape treatments should be compatible with historic practices and used consistently through the whole memorial area to provide visual continuity, and enhance the overall historic character of the site. Materials and designs should be compatible with the historic period but should allow for contemporary maintenance practices, accessibility, visitor services, and visitor safety concerns.
2. Because the formal and geometric character of the landscape is reinforced by many of the historic features, future design development should enhance and reinforce those qualities through the use of geometry, symmetry and consistent use of materials. The development of non-integrated features, where the continuity of the overall design is broken, should be avoided.
3. Prior changes made in circulation, vegetation, and placement of structures should not be perpetuated in their non-historic locations. The specific areas where these changes have occurred are addressed in detail for each component landscape (See *Reflecting Pool area, Lincoln Memorial circle and radial roads* and *Watergate area*.)

## Views and Vistas

1. The east/west axis, the visible relationship between the Capitol, the Washington Monument and the Lincoln Memorial, should remain broad, open and unimpeded. In turn, the axial view between the Monument and the Memorial should be reinforced by the continued maintenance of the original design features: the double rows of elms, the straight paths, the terraced slopes, the two basins (Reflecting Pool and Rainbow Pool), the simple reflections of these buildings in the long pool and the play of fountains at the rainbow pool.
2. The visual and historically symbolic link between the Lincoln Memorial and Arlington Cemetery and the Arlington House and Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway approach (Parkway Drive) should be kept as an open vista that both embraces the view of the Virginia shoreline and brings the close proximity of the Potomac River and the regional park system into the overall landscape.
3. All lost secondary visual relationships identified in the report should be reestablished. All other secondary visual relationships identified in the report shall continue to be maintained. Specific views are addressed in detail for each component landscape.

## Vegetation

1. All trees, shrubs and lawn areas planted as part of the historic design (1914-1933) should be retained and/or reestablished. These should be managed according to accepted horticultural practices.
2. Management of mature vegetation should take into account the need to reestablish and maintain critical historic views, where applicable. Selective thinning of vegetation to reestablish historic views and vistas called for in original designs should be undertaken under the supervision of a trained horticulturist, arborist and a supervisory landscape architect.
3. In the event plant material has died or requires replacement; the same species, variety or similar type of tree or shrub shall be planted in its place, based on historic documentation, unless otherwise specified. Before a plant is replaced, an evaluation should be made to determine why it died, and if it is suited for that particular area. In general all plant materials should be selected from a list of appropriate materials to assure compatibility with the historic character.
4. An overall vegetation management plan for the Lincoln Memorial circle, the Reflecting Pool, the radial roads, Watergate steps and riverside drive slopes should be developed to address the care and maintenance of historic trees and shrubs, lawn, and the process for replacing existing materials as needed. A preservation maintenance plan, such as those prepared by the *Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation* for historic landscapes, would be consistent with this recommendation. (*The Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation* is a partnership between the National Park Service and the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University. The office is based at the Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site.)
5. Contemporary plantings that are in conflict with reestablishing the historic planting plan, such as understory trees and herbaceous perennial and annual plants, should be removed.
6. Guidelines for managing memorial trees and memorial tree markers within the Lincoln Memorial grounds and West Potomac Park should be developed. Additional research may be needed to identify memorial trees planted during the historic period and determine whether those no longer extant should be replaced.
7. All plant material should be temporarily protected during special events and demonstrations as specified in *The Lincoln Memorial: Guidelines for Special Events and Demonstrations*, December 1996.

8. All shrubs, including those located in the inner circle, along the Watergate steps and at the Ericsson Memorial should be added to the NACC Resource Management Vegetation Database.

### **Circulation**

1. Existing historic sidewalks and pedestrian paths should be retained and maintained so as to reinforce and enhance the physical and interpretative connection to adjacent historically designed areas. Several of these routes serve to link the Lincoln Memorial with other sites featured in either the L'Enfant Plan or the McMillan Commission Plan and should be strengthened whenever possible. (See *Analysis and Evaluation - Circulation*, for each component landscape.)
2. Walking should remain the primary mode of access to the site for visitors to the Lincoln Memorial. Tourmobile buses will continue to have access on the east side of the Lincoln Circle between French and Bacon drives, until a new transportation solution is devised to eliminate all motor vehicles from this area.
3. The alignment, material and geometric character of the pedestrian paths and roads throughout the area should be kept and maintained according to the historic patterns of circulation.
4. The hierarchy of pedestrian paths, primary and secondary (formal and informal) should be maintained by the selection of proper materials and the preservation of the historic widths of the paths. For further description of the type of materials specified, see *Design Guidelines - Circulation*, section for each component landscape.
5. New pedestrian paths should be added for only the most compelling reasons, and should be based on the historic design with special attention to the form, alignment, and material used. Accessibility to the memorial area for the disabled should be developed in a manner that is compatible with the character of the original design. The visual and physical impact on the landscape from the addition of new ramps, railings, signs, and curb cuts should be minimized.
6. Pedestrian paths associated with the Vietnam Veterans and Korean War Veterans memorials at the west end of the Reflecting Pool should be redesigned to reduce the impact on the original design caused by random paths and intense visitor use. Close attention to the symmetry of the connections to the main walks is vital.
7. Crosswalks and/or other pedestrian safety features should be added at strategic locations on the western segment of the Lincoln Circle to provide designated safe crossing points for pedestrians.

**Structures**

1. All historic structural features should be maintained and included in a routine maintenance schedule that addresses long-term preservation requirements for individual structures.
2. Future commemorative features should be located in the Lincoln Memorial study area only if they will have a minimal impact on the historic setting. Site design of such features should sensitively incorporate historic components such as circulation patterns, vegetation, views and vistas and site furnishings to preserve the integrity of the historic landscape and historic structures.
3. If the park requires new and/or additional structures for general park operations, including maintenance and visitor services, all efforts should be made to place these functions outside of the memorial area. In the event that existing or new structures are to remain or be sited within the area, site design of such features should sensitively incorporate historic components such as circulation patterns, vegetation, views and vistas and site furnishings to preserve the integrity of the historic landscape and historic structures.
4. Treatments associated with the adaptive use of individual structural features should take into account the historic landscape context (i.e. accessible ramp to the Lincoln Memorial.). These treatments incorporate accessibility, smooth transition to adjacent grades, sensitive placement of utilities, the use of appropriate plant materials and site furniture.

**Small-Scale Features**

1. A site furnishing plan for the Lincoln Memorial grounds should be developed to address the type, location, and character of street furniture, signs and small-scale features that are part of the landscape. Where possible and practical the historic locations for small-scale features, including benches, signs and trash receptacles, should be used.
2. A standard fence type, such as the post and chain, should be adopted for use throughout the area; to replace the assortment of fencing currently used to direct pedestrian circulation across the site. If temporary fencing is required, then a standard temporary type, based on a hierarchy of uses, should be selected as well. More aesthetically pleasing barriers for traffic control should also be developed.
3. Standard designs should be developed for all regulatory signs within the study area. These should be installed as replacements or new signs in selected locations where they will least intrude on the qualities of the historic landscape.

## **Interpretation**

1. Consideration should be given to expanding interpretive programs to include the cultural landscape and the establishment of waysides and exhibits that address the landscape design, the L'Enfant and McMillan Commission Plans, and other significant cultural landscape resources from all historic periods. Examples of potential wayside locations might include: the Watergate steps, Arlington Memorial Bridge plaza, the Reflecting Pool steps, the Rainbow Pool, the double rows of elms, the outer circle, the historic western terminus point of Constitution Avenue, and the former locations of the World War I and World War II temporary war buildings. Location of such waysides should be carefully selected and designed to minimize their visual intrusion on the qualities of the historic landscape.

## Component Landscapes

The study area is divided into three designed spaces: the Reflecting Pool area, Lincoln Memorial circle and radial roads, and Watergate area. The component landscapes generally represent three distinct construction periods and have their own representative character, but they are also part of the larger designed landscape.

### Reflecting Pool area

#### Introduction

The Reflecting Pool and the Rainbow Pool serve as a visual connection between the Lincoln Memorial and the Washington Monument. The simplicity of their design compliments the design character of the Mall.

#### Vegetation

1. The arrangement, form and shape of the "English" elms (*Ulmus x hollandica* cultivars) planted along the axial walks shall be retained and maintained according to accepted horticultural practices for elm trees in the Nation's Capital. Because of its unique upright, arching quality, this species was originally selected to line the pools and the walks. To maintain the historic design intent, these trees shall be replaced in-kind and in location whenever possible (propagate from genetic stock if possible).
2. Aquatic plants should not be established in the Reflecting or Rainbow Pools.
3. American elms should be reestablished as a street tree along the west side of 17<sup>th</sup> Street SW, north and south of the Rainbow Pool. The designed opening at the east end of the Rainbow Pool/Reflecting Pool axis historically framed the view between the Lincoln Memorial and the Washington Monument.
4. Pedestrians have created "temporary" footpaths in the Reflecting Pool area that have destroyed the turf and compacted the soil. Accepted maintenance practices have been unsuccessful in correcting this problem. The situation should continue to be monitored with consideration given to using newly developed maintenance techniques and/or materials.
5. The open grass areas around the Reflecting Pool and Rainbow Pool should be preserved.

## **Circulation**

1. The walks between the elms along the Reflecting Pool area should be repaved in concrete with a square-grid pattern to enhance the historic character of this pedestrian corridor. To protect the roots of the adjacent elm trees, the walks should remain at their originally designated width of fifteen feet, not be widened, and should have a straight edge, unlike the present asphalt path, which has a more variable edge. These walks should remain aligned with the concrete steps located on the far north and far south sides of the granite steps descending from the Lincoln Memorial circle to the west end of the pool.
2. Walks around the Rainbow Pool should be maintained in concrete and in their original square-grid scoring pattern.
3. Formal accessible ramps need to be redefined to provide access to both the north and south sides of the west end of the Reflecting Pool. Pedestrian ramps currently connecting the walks between the elms and to the Vietnam War and the Korean War Veterans memorials with the west end of the Reflecting Pool do not follow the geometry of the original design and are not constructed of materials that integrate well with the historic surfaces. More importantly, the ramp on the north side leading to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial over the flood berm, does not meet the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards. To integrate the ramps into the symmetrical layout of the Reflecting Pool area and to bring one of them up to code, the connections to the Vietnam and Korean memorials from the elm walks should be redesigned.
4. The areas of granite block paving that were installed as a temporary measure to stabilize the adjacent side slope along the concrete steps from the elm walks leading up to the circular roadway, should be removed. If they remain, they may eventually become an accepted and permanent feature of the design. All other temporary features that no longer serve a need should be eliminated for the same reason.
6. A uniform paving material should be used between the western end of the Reflecting Pool and the base of the granite steps. The concrete and cobblestone surface installed in the 1970s should be removed and replaced with a surface that is more appropriate to the original design intent, as defined by the 1916 plan (See Map 3 "Lincoln Memorial Potomac Park Improvements: B-Street N. to B-Street S. and 17th Street to the Potomac River," C.E. Howard, #801/80095) and subsequent plan of 1924 (See Map 6 "Lincoln Memorial Memorial Tree Plan," #801/80081), which shows the area as a plain paved plaza. Since that 1916 plan shows a plain paved plaza, scored concrete should be used to replace the cobblestone paving.

**Structures**

1. When it is necessary to erect temporary visitor service structures, every effort should be made to retain and protect the historic granite, cobblestone, concrete and mortar fabric of the Reflecting Pool, the Reflecting Pool steps and the Rainbow Pool, as well as the turf and other hard surfaces, during their installation and removal.
2. The historic granite coping edging the Reflecting Pool should be repaired, realigned and restored.
3. The Rainbow Pool fountain should be repaired and restored to provide a true fountain effect, as was originally intended. However, the extent of the play (height and breadth of the spray) of the fountain shall be adjusted to enhance not interfere with the east-west axial view. (See *Design Guidelines - Overall Landscape -Views and Vistas.*)

**Small-Scale Features**

1. Additional benches should be placed along the walks between the elms along the Reflecting Pool area and around the Rainbow Pool. For consistency, the benches should all be the same type, a cast iron frame wooden slat bench (the current standard bench located in the study area), similar to the benches used during the period of historical significance. All benches, new and existing, should be located in their historic alignment (i.e., all facing the Reflecting Pool and Rainbow Pool).
2. Establish a pattern of consistent spacing for installation of trash receptacles in relation to the bench locations.
3. The Reflecting Pool and Rainbow Pool areas were not designed to be illuminated at night. Streetlights or any other form of exterior lighting, which would impact on the reflective quality of the pools, should not be installed in this area.

**Response to Natural Features**

Any future development of the flood control embankment on the north side of the Reflecting Pool or the installation of any additional flood control measures shall not detract from or impinge on the historic character of the site.



## **Lincoln Memorial circle and radial roads**

### **Introduction**

The formal character derived from the simple geometric design of Lincoln Memorial circle and the radial roads bears the strongest and most direct relation in form to the McMillan Commission plan. As implemented, the landscape immediately surrounding the Lincoln Memorial has had the fewest alterations from the design concept shown on the plan.

All materials and methods used for future preservation work in this area should reinforce the unity of the circle and the formal, classical setting. The original design integrity of the Lincoln circle and the elements that reinforce the unity, such as the curb, the ring of elm trees, the circular sidewalks and road, and the radial sidewalks and roads, should be maintained, whether they are used by vehicles or pedestrians.

### **Views and Vistas**

1. Designed sight lines along the radial roads and sidewalks and around the circular roadway and sidewalks should be kept free from visual clutter. An effort should be made toward removing elements that effect historic sight lines. (Types of visual clutter include: placement of inappropriate vegetation under the canopy of the elms; ill-conceived arrangement of acceptable small-scale features – benches, trash receptacles, lampposts, and stake and chain barriers; hodge-podge collection of unattractive traffic control measures; regulatory and informational signs poorly located; and historically open areas now being occupied by poorly placed temporary structures.)
2. As previously discussed, the important east/west axis should be kept open in its extension from the Washington Monument to the Lincoln Memorial and across the Potomac River to Arlington Cemetery and the Arlington House.
3. Views toward the Lincoln Memorial from the Reflecting Pool and Washington Monument should be maintained on the front, or east side of the building. Views to the building should also be maintained at the center points on the north and the south where foundation plantings hide the raised. At the center point of the west elevation, the view of the building should be open from the base of the raised terrace wall to the top of the attic story. Also, the fan-shaped view from the raised terrace to the west from this same center-point should remain open and be free of any foundation plantings.

### **Vegetation**

1. The existing triangular planting beds, created in 1953 by the elimination of the rectangular curb in the circular roadway, should be eliminated, as a way to restore the historic

geometric relationship between the entrance to the memorial approachway and the descent to the Reflecting Pool. After the planting beds and paving is removed, the historic curb alignment should be restored.

2. The multiple rows of American elms planted around the Lincoln circle should be reestablished on three sides (north, east and south), according to the original implemented planting plans. Selection of tree type shall be done according to accepted horticultural practices for elms in the Memorial Core, but every effort should be made to use the same type of elm in order to achieve a uniform effect of height, spread and canopy shape. The double rows of American elms originally lining both sides of the four radial roads shall also be reestablished. Any other non-historic genus, understory trees, shrubs and herbaceous plants not part of the original plan should be removed, when the planting arrangement conflicts with the character of the symmetrical elm planting.
2. Whenever trees or shrubs located in the inner circle decline or die, the selection and location of replacement plants should be based on planting plans from the period of historical significance (1914-1933). Before a plant is replaced, an evaluation should be made to determine why it died, and whether it is suited to current environmental conditions. Every effort should be made to replace historic plants in-kind and location, but substitutions of more adaptable plants may be made if they are similar in size, character, color, texture, etc.
4. The grassed areas and many of the individual evergreen shrubs and trees planted around the base of the raised terrace wall at the Lincoln Memorial are original. Most of these are located on the northwest, west and southwest sides of the structure. The siting of plants on the northeast, east and southeast sides has been altered from the original and does not follow the historic plan. The following is recommended to restore the character and arrangement of the historic plans: the selection of trees and shrubs to remain should be based on the historic planting plan which consisted of boxwood and yew on the east and boxwood, holly, magnolia and yew on the west (see item #2). All vegetation should be allowed to grow to its natural maturity, unless otherwise specified (see item #5). In addition, all vegetation should be maintained – i.e. located or selectively pruned – so that the raised terrace and memorial structure are not damaged by the vegetation (moisture retention, staining of walls).
5. The inner circle foundation plantings should receive routine pruning of dead wood and selective thinning to maintain the health and the longevity of the plant material. To restore the openings in the vegetation designed for the north and south sides, additional thinning for sight lines should be initiated in these two areas. The broader area on the west side, designed to be completely free of vegetation, should be kept open.

6. The yew hedge lining the approachway and the Japanese hollies flanking the entry planters are replacements for the original boxwood. While it is preferable to restore the boxwood, the environmental conditions along the approachway and entry planters are not conducive to its survival. Boxwood is slow to recover from damage by storms and visitor use, and is affected by chemicals applied to clear adjacent walkways of ice and snow. The existing yew hedge should be maintained in a form that reflects the historic design intent for the area (a looser, irregular, rounded and less-sheared shape with high and low accents in the overall form). If this is not possible, then other horticultural solutions consistent with the intent of the historic planting should be pursued.
7. A *Landscape Preservation Maintenance Plan* for the foundation shrubs should be developed and implemented. (See *Design Guidelines - Overall Landscape - Vegetation*.)
8. The two American hollies located on the east side of the Lincoln are not part of the historic plant selection for this area. They should be removed before their height and mass further dominate the shrub and tree profile on the east. (See *Analysis and Evaluation - Map 15 Lincoln Memorial circle and radial roads - Vegetation* for location of hollies on the east side of the Lincoln Memorial)
9. The landscape around the Ericsson Memorial should be restored based on the original implemented plan from the 1930s (See historic photo documentation *Figure 60* and "Ericsson Memorial, Suggestion Planting Plan, West Potomac Park," 1932, #801/80165.) Replanting in this area should be based on an understanding of the historic design intent and original selection of type, size, shape and texture of plants.
10. The open grass panels between 23<sup>rd</sup> Street NW and Bacon Drive, and 23<sup>rd</sup> Street SW and French Drive, should be preserved and kept free of such intrusions as plantings and structures or other non-compatible uses. Every effort should be made to remove existing temporary structures and related landscaping as soon as alternative permanent solutions can be implemented. Site design of any new feature should sensitively incorporate historic components such as circulation patterns, vegetation, views and vistas, and site furnishings to preserve the integrity of the historic landscape.

### **Circulation**

1. Over the years additional sidewalks have been added to the outer circle and radial road area to handle increased visitor requirements. These walks were not laid out in consideration of with the historic character of the area. An interdisciplinary team should evaluate pedestrian circulation to determine the most effective way to restore the integrity of the historic design.

2. Every effort should be made to maintain the original width of the circular road and the alignment of the inner and outer curb. However, even if vehicular traffic control measures necessitate the installation of islands or barriers for the circle, the road width and alignment of the original curb should remain. It is highly preferable for all traffic control devices or structures to be freestanding and not attached to the peripheral curbs of the circle or the radial roads. However, if efforts to control traffic require the structures to be attached, all original materials should be restored, including both the circular and radial curbs and sidewalks. Traffic control structures located in the roadways should relate in both color and texture to historic circulation features. Treatments should be of a uniform design and material. The planter barriers saw horses and delineators presently in place should be eliminated because they add nonhistoric fabric to the historic landscape.
3. Consistent with the no-parking concept for the roadway, handicap-parking spaces should be removed from the circle and relocated along the radial roads.
4. The following concrete sidewalks should be reestablished in their designed alignment: the northwest and southwest segments of the outer circle sidewalk, and along both sides of French Drive. The existing historic sidewalks should continue to be maintained in their current alignment.
5. The concrete sidewalks and curb around the inner circle should be considered part of the zone around the Lincoln Memorial building. Originally the color of the walks and curb harmonized with the color of the marble building. The historic material as well as the historic character of the color and the texture of the surface should be reestablished when the walks and curb are restored. Historic plans indicate that the inner circle sidewalk was finished with a "scrubbed" surface, while the radial walks were finished with a "smooth" surface, but it is not known if the walks were actually installed with this treatment. Given this information, the "scrubbed" surface sidewalk may or may not have included exposed aggregate, but the color did harmonize with the memorial structure. Standards for the installation of any new walks should follow the historic pattern, texture and color of the original walks.
6. The rectangular jog in the curb originally constructed near the top of the Reflecting Pool steps should be reestablished. The planting beds and non-historic paving would need to be removed to reestablish the historic curb alignment. This squared-off section formed part of the original visual connection between the Reflecting Pool and the memorial approachway.

## **Small-Scale Features**

1. The original streetlights, the "Washington Globe" lamp and post, should remain in their present locations and not be modified. The variation in heights of the lampposts, eighteen feet around the outer circle and sixteen feet along the radial roads, should be maintained. Streetlights have never been located around the inner edge of the circle and should not be installed there in the future.
2. Exterior fixtures for the architectural lighting of the Lincoln Memorial and its approachway shall be unobtrusively located within the existing landscape setting where they will least intrude on the character of the historic landscape.

## **Watergate area**

### **Introduction**

The Watergate area includes the Arlington Memorial Bridge abutment, the Watergate steps, the plaza and wing walls beside the steps, the Parkway Drive, portions of Ohio Drive and the landscaped slopes along each of these routes. All of these features were incorporated into the overall design for the area, which the McMillan Commission originally intended to serve as a ceremonial riverfront entry to the capital city. Although this use was never realized, the classical architectural descent to the river did serve to symbolically link the Lincoln Memorial with the bridge, the parkway, Arlington Cemetery and the parkland to the northwest. Distinct, separate sections within the Watergate area, which developed after the fact, include the memorial tree plantings, the old staging area for the Watergate concerts, the Parkway and Ohio Drive slopes and active recreation areas.

### **Land Use**

Although not specified on the original McMillan Commission plan, the area north of the Watergate plaza and west of 23<sup>rd</sup> Street NW presently utilized for volleyball and baseball was traditionally set aside for active recreational uses (a golf course was located in this area during the 1920s and 1930s). Active recreational activity should be allowed to continue in this area.

### **Views and Vistas**

All views and vistas to the water's edge and across the river should be respected. The bridge plaza should continue to be an open expanse of lawn, without structures or any

additional small-scale features. The area at the base of the Watergate steps should also remain open with lawn along the shoreline.

## Vegetation

1. Historic plantings based on plans developed by Arlington Memorial Bridge Commission in the 1930s should be maintained whenever possible. Most of the trees and shrubs located in the large beds flanking the Watergate steps and on the slopes north and south of the plaza area, are original. When these decline, they should be replaced in-kind and location according to the historic plan.
2. The types of trees used on the Parkway and Ohio drive slopes should be as indicated in the historic plans. Not all of the trees shown on these plans were installed. Those that were, and that remain, reflect the design intent for the development of the shoreline. When these decline, they should be replaced in-kind and location according to the historic plan. Sight lines under the trees should be maintained for improved views to the river and of the bridge and bridge plaza.
3. The memorial tree grove (naturalistic grove) planting from the 1930s and 1940 should be maintained in its present location to the east of Parkway Drive, and southwest of Ohio Drive (near the present day volleyball courts). These trees should be identified in the NACC Resource Management Vegetation Database. (See "Key List of Memorial Trees, West Potomac Park," May 5, 1932, #801/80166 and *Analysis and Evaluation – Map 21 Watergate area - Vegetation - "Memorial Tree Record, West Potomac Park,"* 1950, #801/80235.) and replaced in-kind and location when they decline or die. Any missing trees should be restored based on these plans in their historic locations.
4. American elms originally planted along non-extant sections of Constitution Avenue (the roadway was removed during the Theodore Roosevelt Bridge construction in the 1960s, but the trees were retained) should be maintained and replaced in-kind and location. These street trees help to define the former section of Constitution Avenue that once ended at a formal overlook circle at the balustrade seawall along the Potomac River.
5. Distinct sections within the Watergate area require separate treatments. Some of these areas, such as the Watergate steps, should continue to reflect the original formal design. Other areas, such as the memorial grove and the old Watergate concert staging area, represent transitions between the Lincoln Memorial and the informality of the rest of West Potomac Park.
7. The open grassy panels located in the Watergate plaza and lying west of 23rd Street NW and SW should be maintained. (See *Analysis and Evaluation – Map 22 Watergate area - Vegetation*).

## Circulation

1. The speed and large volume of automobile traffic in the Watergate area inhibits pedestrian appreciation of the overall design and the historic and aesthetic elements that contribute to the character. Efforts should be made to enhance the pedestrian experience in this area by addressing safety issues and by improving informational signs.
2. The pair of concrete walkways that once followed the rectangular edge of the north and south wing walls, located on both sides of the bridge abutment and the parkway approach, should be reestablished according to the original circulation patterns. The existing walkway along the southern curb line from the Arlington Memorial Bridge approach somewhat follows the historic alignment of an old bridle trail, and should be retained. The complementary concrete sidewalk on the north side does not follow any historic circulation path and should be reassessed as to its compatibility to the historic landscape. Outside the wing walls on the south and north ends, asphalt paths connect with pedestrian and bicycle routes along riverside drive. The southern path follows an historic alignment but the northern path does not. Both paths need to be reassessed as part of a parkwide system of trails. (See *Analysis and Evaluation – Map 24 Watergate area - Circulation* map for location of walkways). When reestablishing the concrete walks, the historic alignment, width, grid-scoring pattern, texture and color should be reestablished.
3. The alignment of and the materials used in the Watergate plaza sidewalks should conform to and continue the formal design of the Lincoln Memorial area. The present color and coarse type of aggregate found in the sidewalks and plaza should be replaced with an aggregate more consistent in color and texture with the structural features of the bridge, the balustrade, and the Lincoln Memorial. Standards for the installation of any new walks should follow the historic alignment, width, grid-scoring pattern, texture and color of the original walks.
4. The bicycle path to the south of the Watergate plaza, and the path located through the naturalistic grove should be maintained in their current location. They follow the original alignment of an historic bridle path. All other asphalt bicycle paths should be reassessed for their compatibility to historic landscape.
5. All non-contributing features such as the short asphalt paths at the river's edge, in front of the Watergate steps, which provided access to the old Watergate concert barge, should be removed.
6. The granite set walk at the base of the Watergate steps is original and should be retained.

