

pole and the pendants at the bottom of the torches are in the form of acorns or buds. Most of the lights are in good condition.

Traffic lights at street crossings are D.C. property.

Trash Receptacles

All trash receptacles in Union Square are the "tulip" type, with a wood-slat cylinder supported on a steel post and containing a plastic trash can. Most are placed along the perimeter of the grass panel behind the Grant Memorial; several are located at the corners and intersections of walks in the square. Most are in fair condition.

Bollards, Walls, and Curbs

A row of concrete bollards lines the west end of the broad plaza that extends west of the reflecting pool. Bacon Twin-Twenty light standards stand to the inside of every third bollard. Single bollards are located at the northeast and southeast corners of the pool at the top of the steps. Measuring about three-and-a-half feet high, the bollards are cylindrical, with sides that slope slightly inward. The sides are cut back to form a rim, then rise into a rounded, domical top. Each stands on a square concrete platform. Except for some staining of the concrete, the bollards are in good condition.

Two low semicircular retaining walls are located northwest and southwest of the Grant Memorial, where the low rise in the ground is cut back for the walk along the east side of the pool. The walls curve from the steps on one side into the sloping ground on the other. They were probably built as part of the SOM design for the pool and its surroundings. The walls, about a foot high, are constructed of three courses of limestone blocks. The top two courses are darker and larger than the base course, and extend out slightly farther. A few blocks have shifted, and many are stained; some mortar is missing, and weeds grow from the mortar in places. Overall, the walls are in fair condition.

Low, flat curbs of both granite and concrete with square end blocks surround the Grant Memorial plaza. The planting beds at the ends of the memorial have curved concrete copings with corner blocks. First Street has granite curbs and brick gutters.

Signs

The only signage in Union Square is a tall locational map, situated at the park's northeast corner, that shows the entire Mall. The sign is in the form of a large narrow box on four legs, which have scrolled brackets. The map is repeated on the front and back faces. The structure rises above head height and is covered with a pyramidal roof.

Other

Round metal (probably cast iron) drainage grates are set in the paving in front of the pool's coping. Each grate is embossed with a stylized flower head.

List of contributing features:

Bacon Twin-Twenty lights
benches
concrete curbs around Grant Memorial plaza
granite curb along 1st Street
granite curbs around Grant Memorial plaza

List of non-contributing features:

trash receptacles
bollards
grates
locational sign
retaining walls
circular metal grates



At Union Square, such amenities as benches and trash receptacles are located only along 1st Street. This small paved area off the 1st St. sidewalk probably once featured a kiosk for visitor services. (CLP file "GM, paved recess in sidewalk along 1st, 2" Feb. 24 2006)



Bollards and Bacon Twin-Twenty lights line the west side of the large concrete plaza west of the pool. (CLP file "bollards" Feb. 10 2006)



The ornamental flourish of the drainage grates set around the reflecting pool contrast with the stark simplicity of the rest of the SOM design. (CLP file "decorative grate" Feb. 24 2006)



This retaining wall partially surrounds a *Zelkova serrata*, remaining from the historic Botanic Garden, located in the square's northeast corner. (CLP file "GM NE tree well and corner of pool" Feb. 24 2006)

Management Information

Descriptive and Geographic Information

Historic Name: Botanic Garden; Union Square
Current Name: Union Square
Management Unit: National Mall & Memorial Parks
Tract Numbers: Reservation 6A
State and County: Washington, D.C.
Size (acres): 11.37

Boundary UTMs

Source	Type	Datum	Zone	Easting	Northing
GPS-Differentially Corrected	Line	NAD 27	18	325441	4306557
GPS-Differentially Corrected	Line	NAD 27	18	325434	4306385
GPS-Differentially Corrected	Line	NAD 27	18	325234	4306316
GPS-Differentially Corrected	Line	NAD 27	18	325242	4306633

GIS File Description:

National Register Information

National Register Documentation: Entered, inadequately documented.

Explanatory Narrative: Union Square is listed on the National Register under the nomination “The L’Enfant Plan of the City of Washington, District of Columbia” (1997) and “The National Mall” (1981). These documents do not describe the current condition nor the historic evolution of the site, and do not adequately describe any of its physical features.

NRIS Information:

NRIS Number: 97000332
Primary Certification: Listed in the National Register
Primary Certification Date: May 19, 1981
Name in National Register: “The National Mall”

NRIS Number: 97000332
Primary Certification: Listed in the National Register
Primary Certification Date: April 24, 1997
Name in National Register: Union Square

National Register Classification: Multiple Property

Significance Level: National

Contributing/Individual: Contributing

Significance Criteria: A – Inventory Unit is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history
B – Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past
C – Inventory Unit embodies distinctive characteristics of type/period/method of construction; or represents work of master; or possesses high artistic values; or represents significant/distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction

Periods of Significance

<u>Time Period:</u>	1791-1792
Historic Context Theme:	Expressing Cultural Values
Historic Context Subtheme:	Landscape Architecture
Historic Context Facet:	The Early National Period
<u>Time Period:</u>	1901-1936
Historic Context Theme:	Expressing Cultural Values
Historic Context Subtheme:	Landscape Architecture
Historic Context Facet:	The City Beautiful Movement
<u>Time Period:</u>	1908-1922
Historic Context Theme:	Expressing Cultural Values
Historic Context Subtheme:	Painting & Sculpture
Historic Context Facet:	Realism 1850-1926
<u>Time Period:</u>	1933-1936
Historic Context Theme:	Expressing Cultural Values
Historic Context Subtheme:	Landscape Architecture
Historic Context Facet:	The 1930s: Era of Public Works

Areas of Significance

Category:	Community Planning and Development
Priority:	1
Category:	Landscape Architecture
Priority:	2
Category:	Art
Priority:	3

National Historic Landmark Information

National Historic Landmark: No

Date Determined Landmark:

Landmark Theme:

World Heritage Site Information

World Heritage Site: No

Cultural Landscape Type and Use

Cultural Landscape Type:

Historic Designed Landscape

Current and Historic Use/Function

Use/Function Category: Recreation/Culture
Use/Function: Outdoor Sculpture (statuary)
Detailed Use/Function: Outdoor Sculpture (statuary)
Type of Use/Function: Both Current and Historic

Use/Function Category: Landscape
Use/Function: Leisure – Passive (Park)
Detailed Use/Function: Leisure – Passive (park)
Type of Use/Function: Both Current and Historic

Use/Function Category: Landscape
Use/Function: Plaza/Public Space (Square)
Detailed Use/Function: Urban Park
Type of Use/Function: Both Current and Historic

Use/Function Category: Landscape
Use/Function: Scenic Landscape
Detailed Use/Function: Vista
Type of Use/Function: Both Current and Historic

Ethnographic Information

Ethnographic Survey Conducted: No

Adjacent Lands Information

Do Adjacent Lands Contribute?: yes

Union Square is an integral part of the Mall, functioning as a transitional area between the central Mall landscape and the landscape of the Capitol Grounds. Union Square is surrounded by large institutional structures, many of them housing congressional and federal offices, which provide a spatial framework as envisioned by the McMillan Plan. Its pool was built in 1969-71 to reflect the United States Capitol.

General Management Information

Management Category: Must be preserved and maintained
Management Category Date: April 24, 1997
Explanatory Narrative: Union Square was listed as a contributing feature in the National Historic Register nomination, "The L'Enfant Plan of the City of Washington, District of Columbia." This nomination listed the plan as nationally significant. A draft National Historic Landmark nomination has been prepared and is under review by the D.C. Historic Preservation Office.

Condition Assessment and Impacts

The criteria for determining the condition of landscapes is consistent with the Resource Management Plan Guideline definitions (1994) and is decided with the concurrence of park management. Cultural landscape conditions are defined as follows:

Good: indicates the landscape shows no clear evidence of major negative disturbance and deterioration by natural and/or human forces. The landscape'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 landscape 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 landscape to degrade to a poor condition.

Poor: indicates the landscape 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.

Undetermined: not enough information available to make an evaluation.

Condition Assessment: Fair
Assessment Date: February 1, 2006
Date Recorded: March 21, 2006
Park Management Concurrence: yes **Concurrence Date:** 8/04/2006
Level of Impact Severity: Moderate

Stabilization Measures/Explanatory Notes:

Union Square has lost much of its historic Olmsted-designed landscape. Some of the historic Botanic Garden-era trees that were incorporated into the Olmsted landscape remain, as does Olmsted's landscape setting for the Grant Memorial. Most historic trees are in good condition; when they die, they are replaced in kind. Historic shrubs are healthy, if overgrown. The Grant Memorial needs extensive rehabilitation of its deteriorating marble and bronze elements.

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

Impact:

Type of Impact: Adjacent Lands
Internal/External: External
Description: Parking lots on Pennsylvania and Maryland Avenues, just outside of the study boundary, are discordant elements.

Type of Impact: Erosion
Internal/External: Internal
Description: Lawn areas are eroded by pedestrians.

Type of Impact: Exposure
Internal/External: Internal
Description: The Grant Memorial has been damaged by exposure; marble and bronze surfaces are weathered.

Type of Impact: Pollution
Internal/External: External
Description: Air and water pollution contribute to the deterioration of the Grant Memorial.

Type of Impact: Pruning practices
Internal/External: Internal
Description: Yew hedges are unpruned, and have grown larger than intended in Olmsted planting plan.

Type of Impact: Removal/Replacement
Internal/External: Internal
Description: Removal of trees by SOM forty years ago resulted in the loss of major features of the Olmsted landscape.

Type of Impact: Structural deterioration
Internal/External: Internal

Description: The marble platform of the Grant Memorial is deteriorating. The limestone and concrete walks and plaza around the pool are deteriorating.

Type of Impact: Vandalism/Theft/Arson
Internal/External: Internal
Description: The bronze Artillery and Cavalry statues have often had parts damaged or stolen from them.

Type of Impact: Soil Compaction
Internal/External: Internal
Description: The many visitors who walk through Union Square compact the soil. Every other year, between Sept. and March, NAMA takes the Union Square grass panels out of service to aerate and reseed.

Agreements, Legal Interest, and Access

Management Agreement: None

NPS Legal Interest: Fee Simple

Public Access: Union Square is open daily at all hours with no restrictions.

Treatment

Approved Treatment:

Approved Treatment Document:

Document Date:

Explanatory Narrative: There are currently three treatment projects entered in PMIS related to treatment of structures in Union Square: "Capitol Reflecting Pool Retaining Wall and Floor Repair," estimated cost \$475,000, to reposition some retaining wall stones and reseal wall stones and pool floor because of leaking (entered 8/11/99, updated 2/17/05); "Ulysses S. Grant Memorial Marble Consolidation," estimated cost \$5909.50, to consolidate marble of memorial rather than replacing pieces and thereby retain original material; this is an experimental treatment that may not prove effective (entered 6/12/98, updated 1/13/06); and "Grant Memorial Restoration," estimated cost \$1,030,000, a more extensive treatment of the sculpture. Additionally, there are two projects to replace street light poles and to replace trash cans and benches throughout the parks under the jurisdiction of National Mall & Memorial Parks (entered 8/15/00 and updated 2/21/06 and 2/24/06, respectively).

Approved Treatment Completed:

Documentation

Documentation Assessment: Good

Document: Historical Base Map

Year of Document: 1917

Amplifying Details: "Botanic Garden, Survey of 1917." I.W. Payne, landscape architect. CRP files.

Document: Historical Base Map

Year of Document: 1931

Amplifying Details: TIC 802/89072. "Union Square, Preliminary Study." Dec. 3, 1931. A.H. Hanson, landscape architect, OPBPP.

Document: Historical Base Map

Year of Document: 1934

Amplifying Details: Land Resources Program Center (LCRP) 4-73. "Transfer of Jurisdiction, Union Square." Feb. 1, 1934.

Document: Historical Base Map

Year of Document: 1934

Amplifying Details: Plan No. 511 and (?unclear). "Union Square Plan, Notes Relative to Sewer Construction." June 11, 1934. Frederick Law Olmsted Jr. CRP files.

Document: Historical Base Map

Year of Document: 1934

Amplifying Details: Plan No. M.Un. 533, "General Plan," Union Square. Oct. 19, 1934. Frederick Law Olmsted Jr. CRP files.

Document: Historical Base Map

Year of Document: 1935

Amplifying Details: TIC 802/89057, "Union Square General Plan." Jan. 15, 1935. Frederick Law Olmsted Jr.

Document: Historical Base Map

Year of Document: 1935

Amplifying Details: Plan No. M.Un. 568, "Union Square Plan for Vegetation." Jan. 28, 1935. Frederick Law Olmsted Jr. CRP files.

Document: Historical Base Map

Year of Document: 1935

Amplifying Details: TIC 802/89058, "Union Square General Plan." Feb. 21, 1935. Frederick Law Olmsted Jr. Drawn by Eastern Division, Branch of Plans and Design.

Document: Historical Base Map

Year of Document: 1935

Amplifying Details: TIC 802/89046, "Union Square Planting Plan," Feb. 27, 1935. Frederick Law Olmsted Jr. Drawn by Eastern Division, Branch of Plans and Design. 2 sheets. CRP files.

Document: Historical Base Map

Year of Document: 1935

Amplifying Details: TIC 802/89026, "Union Square General Plan." April 23, 1935. Utilities and specifications.

Document: Historical Base Map

Year of Document: 1935

Amplifying Details: TIC 802/89026, "Union Square General Plan." Another version of utilities plan.

Document: Historical Base Map

Year of Document: 1935

Amplifying Details: LRPC 4-46, "Union Square Revised Planting Plan," June 25, 1935. Eastern Division, Branch of Plans and Design. LRPC and CRP files.

Document: Historical Base Map

Year of Document: 1935

Amplifying Details: M.Un. 556C, "Union Square Study of Walks and Pavement." Jan. 17, 1935. Frederick Law Olmsted Jr. CRP files.

Document: Historical Base Map

Year of Document: 1935

Amplifying Details: NCP 1585, "Union Square, Supplementary Planting at Grant Memorial." April 30, 1935. Eastern Division, Branch of Plans and Design. 3 of 3 sheets. NAMA files.

Document: Historical Base Map

Year of Document: 1935

Amplifying Details: NCP 1585, "Union Square Planting Plan." Feb. 27, 1935. Frederick Law Olmsted Jr. 1 of 2. NAMA files.

Document: Historical Base Map

Year of Document: 1965

Amplifying Details: LRPC 4-90, Dec. 22, 1965. Orndorff-Davis, study of Union Square showing topography and existing conditions.

Document: Historical Base Map

Year of Document: 1966

Amplifying Details: TIC 802/83168, "1966 Mall Master Plan," Skidmore, Owings, & Merrill

Document: Historical Base Map

Year of Document: 1966

Amplifying Details: TIC 802/99903, "Capitol Reflecting Pool Plan," Skidmore, Owings & Merrill, Nov. 1, 1966

Document: Historical Base Map

Year of Document: 1971

Amplifying Details: TIC 802/83170, "The Washington Mall Master Plan 1971," Circulation Plan, Skidmore, Owings & Merrill

Document: Historical Base Map

Year of Document: 1971

Amplifying Details: TIC 802/83170A, "The Washington Mall Master Plan 1971," Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (another version)

Document: Historical Base Map

Year of Document: 1972

Amplifying Details: TIC 802/83171, "The Washington Mall Master Plan 1972," Skidmore, Owings & Merrill

Document: Historical Base Map

Year of Document: 1973

Amplifying Details: TIC 802/83172, "Sketches – 1973 Mall Free Issues," Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (sketches showing perspectives of different treatments of four Mall roads, looking east from Washington Monument to Capitol)

Document: Historical Base Map

Year of Document: 1973

Amplifying Details: TIC 802/83173, "The Washington Mall 1976 Development Plan," Skidmore, Owings & Merrill, Oct. 1, 1973

Document: Historical Base Map

Year of Document: 1974

Amplifying Details: TIC 802/83175, "The Washington Mall Bicentennial Master Plan," Skidmore, Owings & Merrill, March 1, 1974

Document: Historical Base Map

Year of Document: 1974

Amplifying Details: TIC 802/83176, "The Washington Mall/Plan: 1st to 14th St.," Skidmore, Owings & Merrill, March 1, 1974

Document: Historical Base Map

Year of Document: 1985

Amplifying Details: TIC 802/80014-A, "Park Rehabilitation, Grant Statue, Res. 6A." Roise. Sept. 1985. NAMA files.

Appendix

Bibliography

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Supplemental Information

Title: Federal Record Center files

Description: These boxes containing historic records on the Mall and Union Square were requested from the Federal Records Center in October 2005. The author developed this key to assist in making parenthetical references.

64 – A – 42, Box 46 – The Mall

FRC1 1460/Mall, Nov. 1917-April 1955
FRC2 1460/Mall – 5 Admin, Main, & Prot, #1
FRC3 1460/Mall – 5, Admin. Main. & Protection
FRC4 1460/Mall – 5, Adm. Main. & Prot. Supl.
FRC5 1460/Mall – 95 Traffic & Parking Facilities

66A – 1097, Box 25 – The Mall

FRC6 1460/Mall – 5 Adm. Main. & Protection #2

66A – 1097, Box 26

FRC7 1460/Mall – 20 Grading & Drainage
FRC8 1460/Mall – 25 Land
FRC9 1460/Mall – 50 Plant & Landscaping #2
FRC10 1460/Mall – 60 Public Utilities
FRC11 1460/Mall – 70 Roads & Walks #2
FRC12 1460/Mall – (Buildings & Structures)
FRC13 1460/Mall – (Land Transfers)
FRC14 1460/Mall – (Lighting)

68A -3201

FRC15 Box 16 – The Mall Master Plan, 1/1/65 (copied one letter)

Title: "Historical Trees in the Botanic Garden." Oct. 1932. FRC Bx 64A42, 46, Nov 1917-April 1955

Description: This survey of the remaining memorial trees in the Botanic Garden was conducted by naturalist I.N. Hoffman in 1932, based on a survey by the OPBG in 1904. In 1904 29 memorial trees remained; in 1932, only "12 existing positively identified Memorial trees" were found. Of the others, six were known to be dead, and the remaining were dead or had been "improperly recorded". ("Plans," unsigned and undated history of Mall and current project, FRC Bx 64A42, 46, Mall, AMP Supl. (pp 3-4)

This survey is a historic document that is presented here verbatim. Phrasings, etc., have not been altered from the original.

name, species, original location, subsequent locations if known

1. The Crittenden Tree, a Mossycup (Overcup) Oak – *Quercus macrocarpa*, located near to and south of the East gateway entrance to the gardens originally, was moved about 1904 to a site southeast of the middle north entrance to the gardens.
2. The Garfield Tree. Planted bordering the walk near the south entrance to the large conservatory. This tree called an acacia, is a Silk-Tree – *Albizzia julibrissin*.
3. Beck memorial tree. This American elm planted by Senator Beck south of the east gateway entrance to the gardens. This tree was removed to a spot near the Crittenden tree but it has since died.
4. The Alexander Shepherd memorial tree. An American Elm was also propagated from the roots of the Washington Elm, formerly in the Capitol grounds. This tree was located by Mr. Padgett on the lawn to the east of the south entrance.
5. The J.W. Forney and Edwin Forrest memorial trees. These two conspicuous bald cypress trees are planted on opposite sides of the walk in the garden at the southern entrance, Maryland Avenue and Second Street.
6. The Hayes [sic] memorial tree, this being a Lea Oak, *Quercus leana*, a very rare native oak of which there are but few specimens found growing in the United States. Planted just south of the west gateway entrance in the garden by Mr. Hayes during his term of service in Congress as Chairman of the Library Committee.
7. The Palmer memorial tree. Japanese walnut, planted by Mr. Palmer, the Public Printer, near the west gateway entrance to the garden north of the Hayes memorial tree. This tree must have died as it is not to be found.
8. Bingham memorial tree. A European hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) planted bordering the south walk of the gardens. This tree died a few years ago.

9. The Stewart Memorial. A red oak (*Quercus rubra*) planted by Senator Stewart of Michigan, near the east gateway entrance.
10. The Hoar and Evarts memorial trees. Two handsome specimens of the Cedar of Lebanon, planted by Senators Hoar and Evarts, bordering the south walk of the garden between 1st and 2nd Streets. (These trees have been erroneously called Cedar of Lebanon, but are really Blue Atlas Cedars (*Cedrus atlantica glauca*)).
11. The Holman memorial tree. A superb Crimson fir, planted by the distinguished member of Congress, from Indiana, located on the lawn bordering the walk, leading to the west door of the large conservatory. (Note: This tree is in very poor shape, and probably will not live much longer).
12. The Dan Voorhees memorial tree. A European sycamore (*Platanus orientalis*), planted by Mr. Voorhees during his term in Congress, located near the west gateway entrance to the garden, south of the walk. (Note: This is an unusual type of Oriental Plane tree, with a different type of leaf).
13. The Morrill memorial trees. Two Wahoo or winged elm trees (*Ulmus alata*), planted by Honorable Lot M. Morrill and Honorable Justin S. Morrill during their terms of service in the United States Senate. These are somewhat unusual trees and are now handsome specimens and are located near the western end of the central main walk of the garden. (Note: These are the only trees of this species that I know of in Washington, and are of a size that can readily be transplanted).
14. The Blackburn memorial tree. A *Magnolia conspicua* and a Japanese elm planted near the large conservatory in the center of the garden.
There is no tree of this species at the designated place, however, there is a *Magnolia conspicua* near the west entrance. This may be the one mentioned.
15. The O.R. Singleton Memorial tree. A European cut-leaved Linden (*Tilia vulgaris laciniata* or *T. platyphyllos laciniata*) planted on the main walk near the center of the garden. (Note: This is the only tree of its kind that I have found in the Parks. It could be transplanted.)
16. A Chinese Oak – a Bristle tooth Oak – *Quercus serrata*, from the grave of Confucius. Planted south of the greenhouses near Maryland Avenue. This is a very rare tree in this country and should be saved.
17. The Hanna and Dick memorial trees. Two Japanese umbrella trees (*Sciadopitypus verticellata*) planted by Senator Charles Dick on the lawn bordering the south walk near the south entrance gateway. Both of these trees are dead.

Title: Acts pertaining to the relocation and reconstruction of the Botanic Garden

Description: A list from a folder, "Grant Memorial/Union Square," in Cultural Resource Program files

History of the U.S. Botanic Garden, taken from Annual Report of the Architect of the Capitol, June 30, 1937

Public Resolution No. 42, 68th Cong., approved Jan. 7, 1925 – authorized preparation of preliminary plans and cost estimates

Public Law 624, 68th Cong., March 4, 1925 - \$5k to carry out Public Resolution. No. 42

Public Law 535, 69th Cong. Jan. 5, 1927 – purpose of enlarging and relocating BG, authorized acquisition of squares 576 and 578, removal of buildings from, removal and relocation of Bartholdi Fountain, prep of prelim plans for construction new conservatories, etc.

Public Law 665, 69th Cong., March 1, 1927 – authorized construction new conservatories etc.

Public Law 2, 70th Cong., approved Dec. 22, 1927 – appro. \$600k for carrying out Public Law 535

Public Law 844, 70th Cong., approved Feb. 28, 1929 – appro. \$300k for construction new conservatories etc.

Public Law 311, 71st Cong., approved June 6, 1930, \$5k for relocation Bartholdi

Public Law 519, 71st Cong., approved July 3, 1930 - \$404,190.68 more to complete carrying out 535

Public Law 691, 71st Cong., approved Feb. 20, 1931 - \$576,398 additional to complete construction new conservatories etc.

Public Law 212, 72nd Cong., approved June 30, 1932, made appropriation of \$567,398 for new conservatories etc. available for removal plant material from old to new conservatories and grounds.