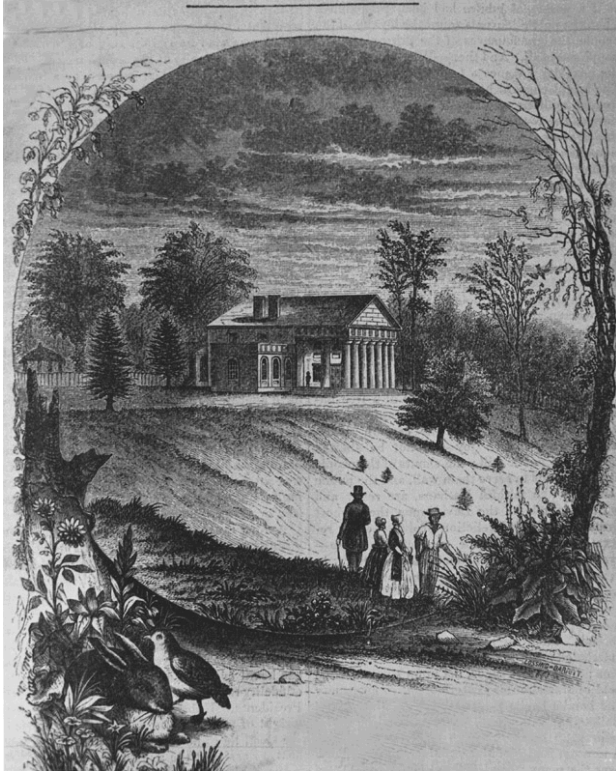

National Park Service
Cultural Landscapes Inventory
2009



Arlington House, The Robert E. Lee Memorial
Arlington House, The Robert E. Lee Memorial

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Purpose and Goals of the CLI

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

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

Scope of the CLI

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

treatment guidelines for the cultural landscape.

Inventory Unit Description:

Inventory Unit Description:

Arlington House: The Robert E. Lee Memorial is a 16 acre site managed by the National Park Service that is located within Arlington National Cemetery, a 600-plus acre cemetery managed by the US Army and located in Arlington County Virginia directly across the Potomac River from Washington, D.C. The site is a memorial to Robert E. Lee, and serves as a museum exhibiting decorative arts; archives; music; gardens; manuscript collections; Civil War memorabilia; 18th and 19th century furnishings and relics of the Robert E. Lee and Custis families and the slaves who also lived on the property. These objects can be found throughout the site: on the grounds, in the house itself, in the potting shed/museum building and in the slave quarters.

The period of significance for Arlington House: The Robert E. Lee Memorial is 1802-1880. Three periods associated with a sequence of historical development can be found within this time frame. One, 1802-1861 relates to the time that the Custis and Lee families used the estate as a residence. Two, 1861-1865 is when Arlington was used as the headquarters for the Army of the Potomac during the Civil War, and finally, 1865-1880 relates to the time when the site was transformed into a national cemetery.

The 16 acre property is what remains of an 1,100 acre estate on the banks of the Potomac River that was inherited by George Washington Parke Custis (G.W.P. Custis), step-grandson of George Washington. Custis was the grandson of Martha Washington through her first marriage. After his natural father, John Parke Custis, died in 1781, G.W.P. Custis went to live at Mount Vernon where George and Martha Washington raised him as their own son (<http://www.nps.gov/arho/historyculture/george-custis.htm>). This report will refer to G.W. P. Custis as Washington's step-grandson. During his childhood, Custis became very attached to George Washington who was said to regard G.W. P. Custis his own son. Arlington Estate, first known as Mount Washington, was one of several estates owned by Custis and run by his slaves. It was more of a family seat than an income-generating plantation like his others. Custis considered Arlington a memorial to his step-grandfather George Washington. Custis, like Washington, was interested in advancements in agriculture, but he was also a painter, a playwright, a lover of music and a storyteller. Thousands of visitors came to the estate every year to enjoy social events and outings at Arlington Spring, a public meeting place that Custis established in the southwest section of the estate on the banks of the Potomac River.

The focal point of the estate, Arlington House, was set upon the highest topographic point of the estate and was designed and built between the years of 1803-1818 by George Hadfield, an English architect who is known for designing numerous classical residences as well as Treasury Building (1800) in D.C. and the District of Columbia City Hall (1820). The house is notable for being the first temple-form residence built in the United States, and was purposefully set in a prominent position overlooking the growing capital city of Washington, D.C.

A single carriage road accessed Arlington House. It headed uphill to the west along the edge of the

Park of Arlington from the Alexandria-Georgetown Turnpike which bisected the entire estate. The house rested on a terrace above the sloping parkland in which sheep grazed among oak trees and groves of eastern red cedar that framed views of the river below, and to the city beyond the estate. To the immediate north and south of the house were both a flower and a vegetable garden, and behind, or to the west of the house were slave quarters that were built in the same style as the main house. Beyond the slave quarters, a vast dense forest grew lending a dark and mysterious backdrop to the estate, contrasting with the large open area of the park to the east of the house. Tucked into the woods, and on the other side of a ravine to the west of the house, were stables accessed by a carriage road spur.

In 1831, Custis' daughter Mary Anna Randolph Custis married Lt. Robert E. Lee. The couple called Arlington home and raised their seven children there. Lee's military career frequently kept him away from Arlington but following the death of GWP Custis in 1857, Lee became the master of Arlington despite the fact that the estate was actually owned by his wife Mary. Lee took on the responsibility of managing the estate and lived a contented life with his family at Arlington.

Following the eruption of the Civil War on April 12, 1861, when Confederate artillery opened fire on Fort Sumter in Charleston Harbor, South Carolina, Lee faced the difficult choice of joining forces with the north, or fighting for the south. He resigned from the U.S. Army on April 22, 1861 and left Arlington to command the Virginia forces which he named the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia. Lee went on to become the leader of the Confederate Army during the Civil War. Mary Custis evacuated Arlington in May of 1861. A few days later the Union Army crossed the Potomac River and spread out over Arlington Estate claiming the land for the north.

From 1861 to 1865, Arlington was used as the headquarters for the Army of the Potomac during the Civil War. Troops lived and were trained on the estate. Arlington's elevated view and prominent setting high above Washington gave the army tactical defense advantages and symbolically announced their presence to the capital city. As forts were established around the borders of Arlington Estate, the army built a system of roads for better access from headquarters at the house. The landscape began to transform from a picturesque estate and farm into a more practical landscape where officers and infantrymen lived and trained among the forests and fields, and where the remaining slaves also resided and worked to sustain themselves and their families. Under the watchful eyes of the Lee family slaves who remained on the estate, the house, personal items left by the Lee family, and the gardens and grounds near the house remained largely unharmed.

As the war progressed, and the slaves were relocated, the house and grounds deteriorated. The Park at Arlington was devastated by the loss of trees that provided the army with timber, Black campfire circles dotted the larger landscape, paths were widened and slopes eroded under the heavy usage by troops, but somehow Arlington Woods remained largely intact. By 1863 garden fences had disappeared and the gardens themselves were reduced to trampled mud pits and the terraces were losing their definition. Some of the only remaining features near the house were the trees that provided valuable shade to the enlisted men.

In 1863, Freedmen's Village was established in the southern portion of the estate west of the Turnpike. It was the most famous of several freedmen's camps established by the army on the Potomac River built to accommodate the influx of fugitive and former slaves into Washington. The village was approximately 400 acres and hosted a community with homes and churches and a school and hospital where residents could farm nearby government-owned lands to establish financial autonomy through agriculture. It also included a cemetery nearby which, in 1864, a soldier from Pennsylvania was buried.

In 1864, Arlington Estate was deemed suitable for the location of a national cemetery. It was chosen because it was owned by the federal government, for its close proximity to hospitals in Alexandria and Washington, for its picturesque location, for the security from floods that its elevation provided, and because it was the former home of Lee, leader of the Confederate Army.

Under congressional authority, Quartermaster General Montgomery Meigs, a prominent Washington, D.C. engineer, established 200 acres of burial ground that would not interfere with Freedmen's Village. Meigs was made aware that one month before his plan for burials was announced, the soldier from Pennsylvania was buried near the Freedmen's Village cemetery. This did not please Meigs. He wanted soldiers to be buried nearer to the mansion to further secure the locale as a cemetery and to prevent it from future use as residence. Over sixty enlisted men were buried per day at this time. Despite protestations from officers living at the mansion who objected to having the men buried so close to where they were living, federal officers were buried along the flower garden due south of the house. In total, forty-five men were buried at this location.

In the mid 1860s, as the land was evolving into a landscape of burials, fences reappeared around the flower garden, roads were repaired, ground was re-sodded, and terraces and slopes were improved as Arlington Estate transformed into a national cemetery. Congress appropriated monies for cemetery improvement, the house was repainted and stuccoed and the cemetery superintendent moved in to Arlington House. Throughout the late 19th century as the cemetery expanded and as transportation became easier, visitation to Arlington increased. In 1873, Landscape Gardener David H. Rhodes, hired by the Quartermaster General's office, also made Arlington House his home. Under his authority, benches and urns were added to the landscape around the building. Rhodes installed planting beds and foundation plantings along the base of the house to blend it into the landscape. Quartermaster General Meigs also had opinions as to what kinds of plantings would enhance the landscape near the house, and rapid improvements ensued.

The land on the former estate that was not used for burial remained a military reservation and was utilized for agriculture. Disbanding of Freedmen's Village began in the 1880s after the United States was deeded clear ownership after a Supreme Court decision, and by 1900, the former 400 acre village was transferred to the Department of Agriculture and was used as an experimental farm until the land was returned to the Army prior to World War II.

A greenhouse stood in the northeast corner of the flower garden from around 1870-1880, it was removed and in 1885 the flower garden underwent a complete redesign. The area was plowed and regraded, fences were removed and new concrete paths criss-crossed the garden. A Custis-Lee era

arbor was removed from the center of the garden and was replaced with a large “Temple of Fame,” a domed structure with stone columns, entablature and frieze salvaged from a fire at the US Patent Office. The temple stood for seventy years.

Walks were extended to improve access to the house from the electric railway stops where trolley trains brought visitors in. Annual beds continued to be maintained and foundation plants at the house grew larger and the once-graveled yard area around the house was hidden under scored concrete. The Custis-Lee landscape was becoming less and less apparent beneath all of the modern improvements.

Over the next few decades the national cemetery grew in response the need for burials, memorials and monuments with every war America fought. In the 1910s, with the creation of the Commission of Fine Arts (CFA), an oversight committee which reviewed developments on public property in Washington, D. C., the idea of restoring Arlington House to a more historic configuration began to take shape and by the late 1920s, money was appropriated for the cause.

Under the management of the Quartermaster General’s office, and with the approval of the CFA, a Colonial-Revival style landscape, a popular design style at the time, was installed at Arlington in the 1930s. The design incorporated symmetry, brick sidewalks, boxwood hedges and less floral ornamentation than had been used previously.

By 1933 the building known then as the “Lee Mansion” and the two slave quarters were transferred to the Department of the Interior’s Office of National Parks, Buildings and Reservations (later called the National Park Service) while the rest of the property remained property of the War Department.

A restoration of the kitchen garden took place in the mid 1930s and was complete by 1935. One of the first phases of the restoration was the removal of a greenhouse built there by the army in 1880. After this project America was immersed in war and maintenance of the landscape around Arlington House was reduced to basic upkeep.

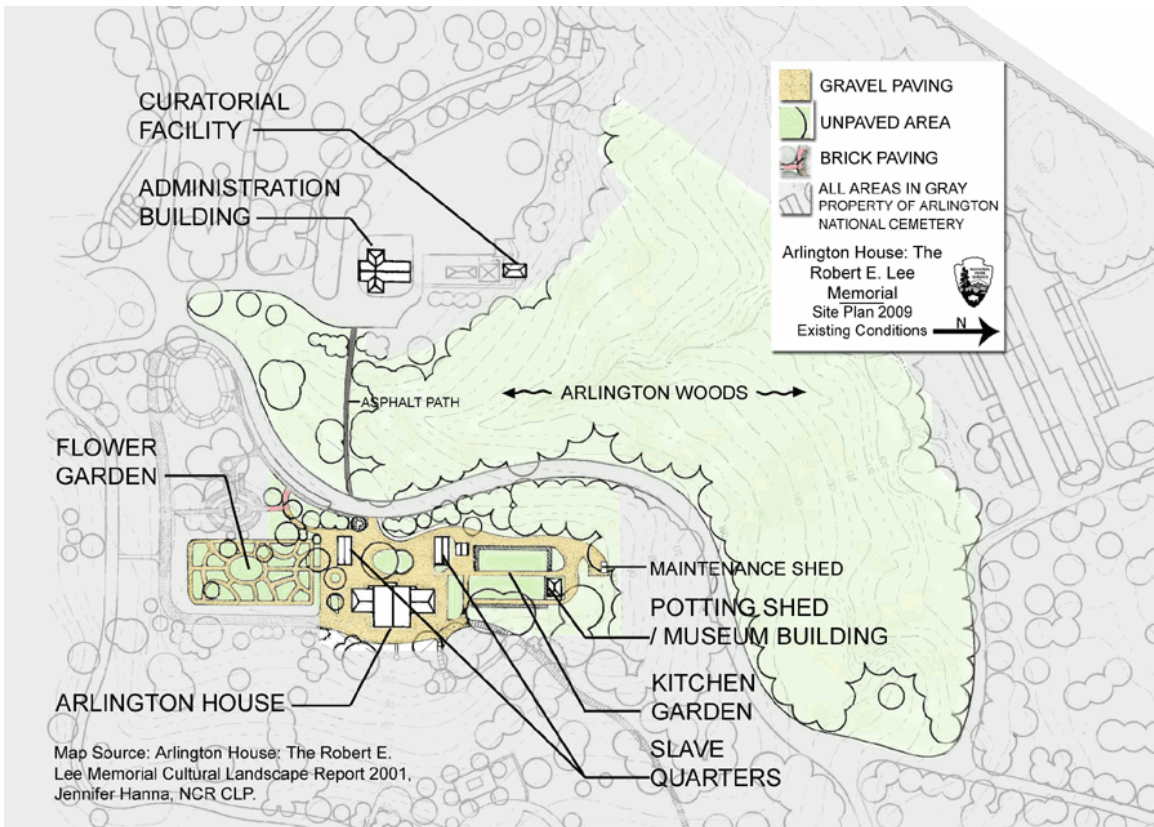
In 1947, the kitchen garden, potting shed and yard area (2.374 acres) were transferred in fee simple to the NPS, spawning yet another massive vegetative rehabilitation and redesign project. In 1959 a bill was introduced to allow for transfer of the flower garden to the NPS. In 1975 another 24.44 acres were transferred to the NPS to provide a appropriate backdrop of woods to the west of Arlington House. Changes to the appearance of the landscape continued, most based on a 1966 Master Plan generated by the NPS.

The spatial organization of the historic core that contributes to the historic integrity of the site consists of buildings, yard, garden terraces and woods. The use of the flower and kitchen gardens as gardens and the fact that Arlington Woods retain integrity as a wooded area lend integrity to land use. The existence of the house, slave quarters, well and potting shed lend integrity to buildings and structures on site. Paths, roads and road traces found on site today lend integrity to circulation. The existence of “witness trees” in Arlington Woods, and the use of compatible plantings in the kitchen and flower gardens lend some integrity to vegetation. Views between the flower and kitchen gardens, views from the east side

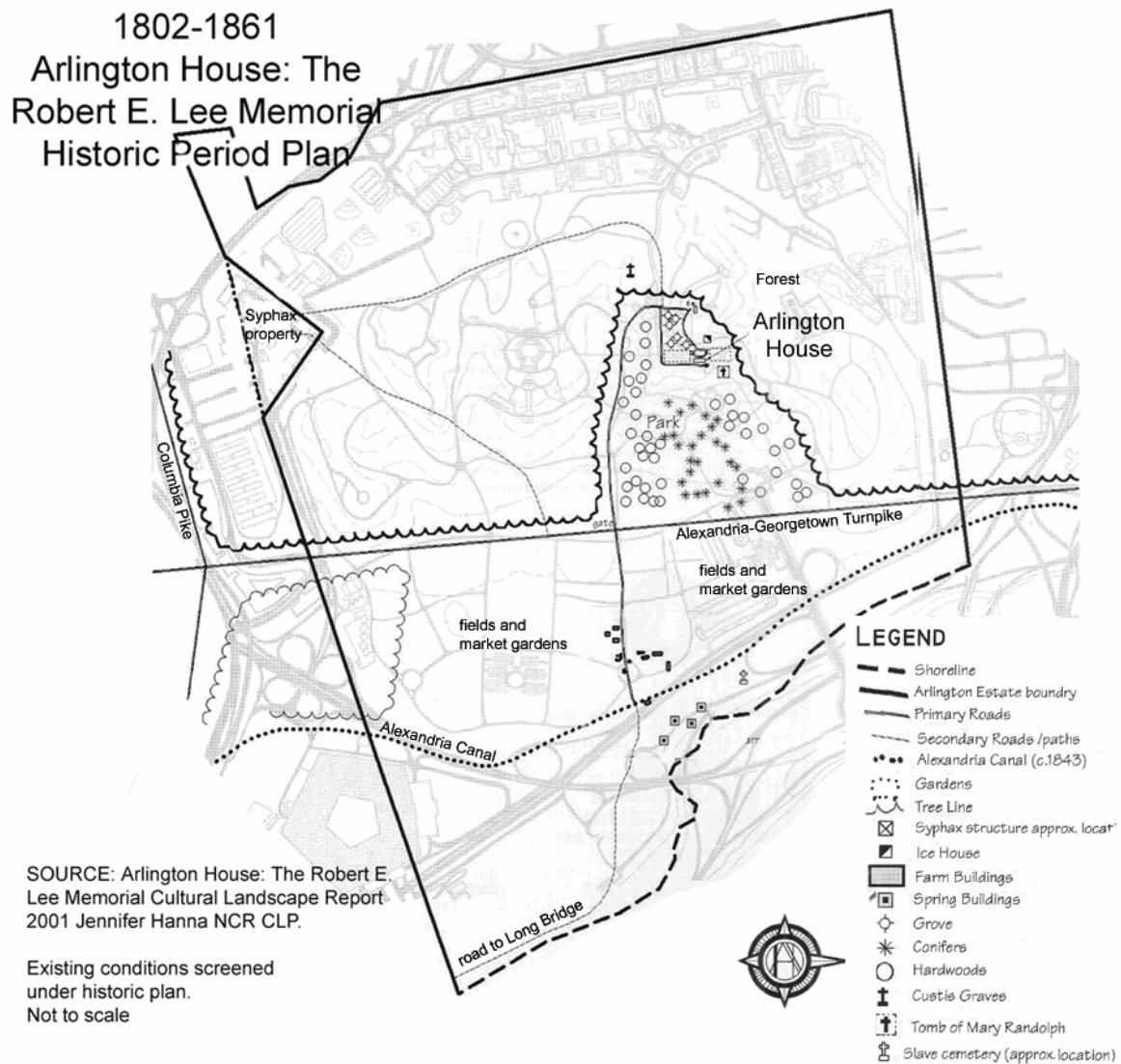
of the house towards Washington and views along Lee Avenue north to the house and the broader southern view lend integrity to views and vistas. Finally, the cluster of buildings comprising the house, garden and yard area and the cluster of buildings on the other side of the ravine west of the house where the stables once stood contribute to the integrity of cluster arrangement on site.

The landscape at Arlington House: The Robert E. Lee Memorial is in good condition. (Indicates the inventory unit shows no clear evidence of major negative disturbance and deterioration by natural and/or human forces. The inventory unit's cultural and natural values are as well preserved as can be expected under the given environmental conditions. No immediate corrective action is required to maintain its current condition). It retains integrity for the period of significance (1802-1880). The most pressing issue on-site may have to do with loss of acreage to Arlington National Cemetery.

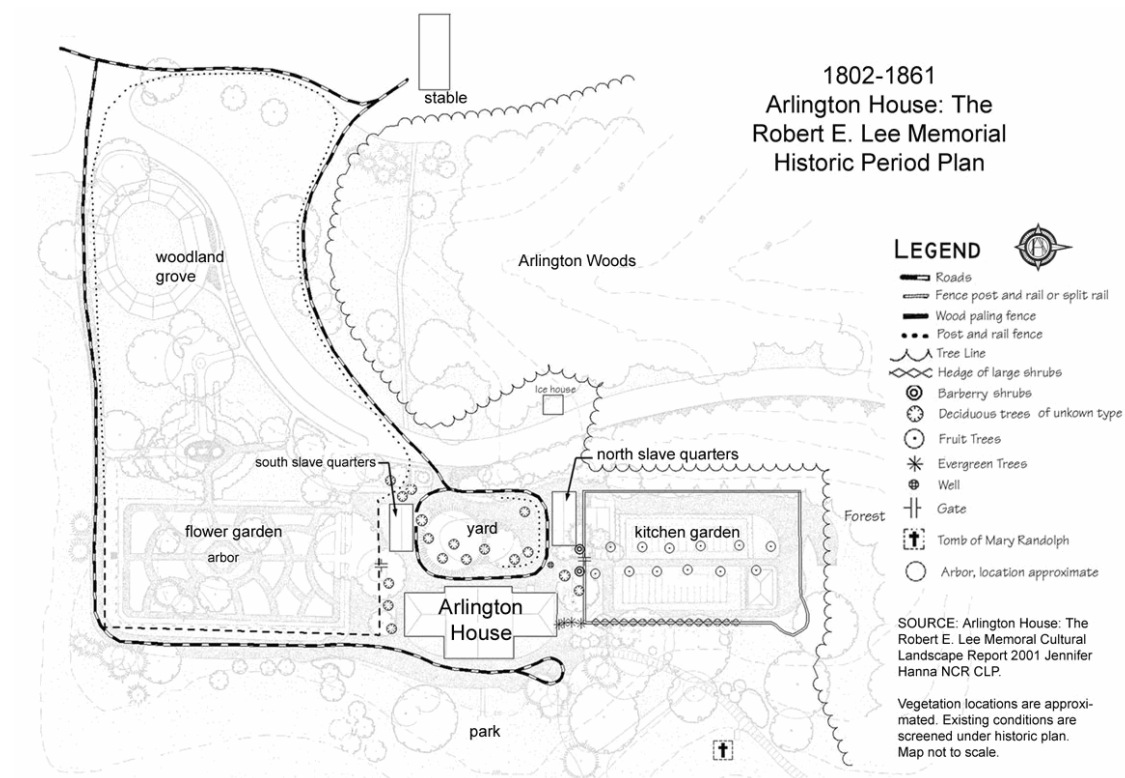
Site Plan



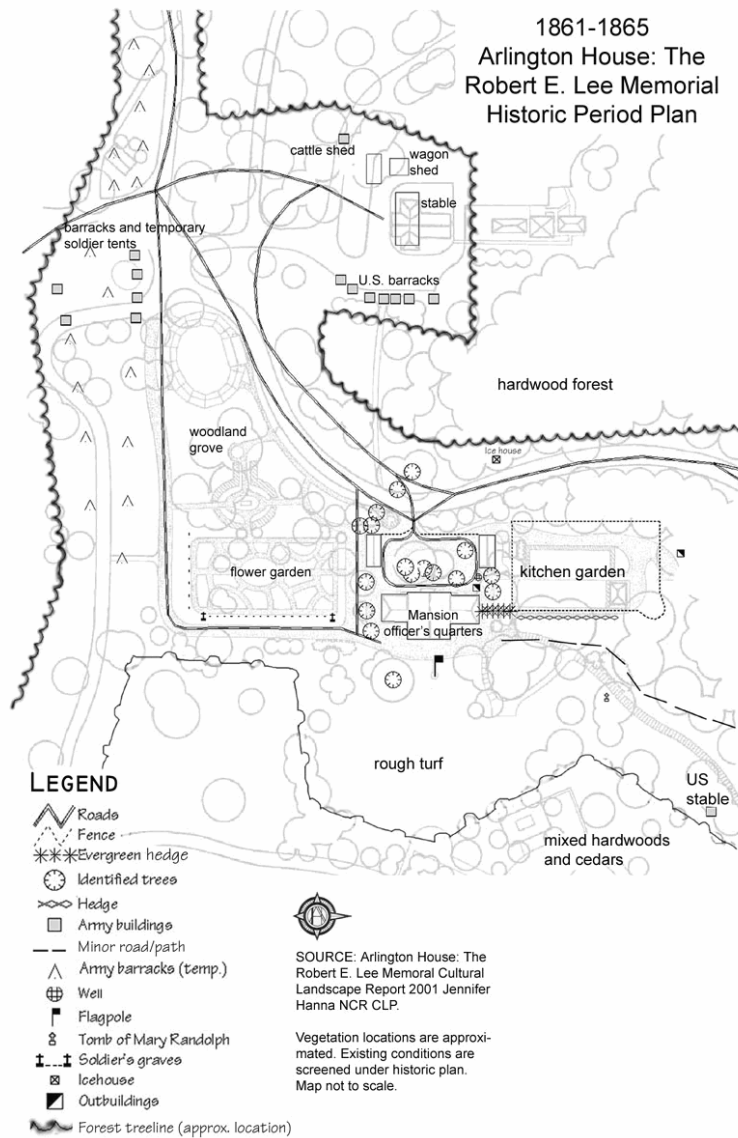
Arlington House: The Robert E. Lee Memorial is located within the boundaries of Arlington National Cemetery. The colored portions of this map indicate NPS site boundary lines as of 2009 (NCR CLP 2009).



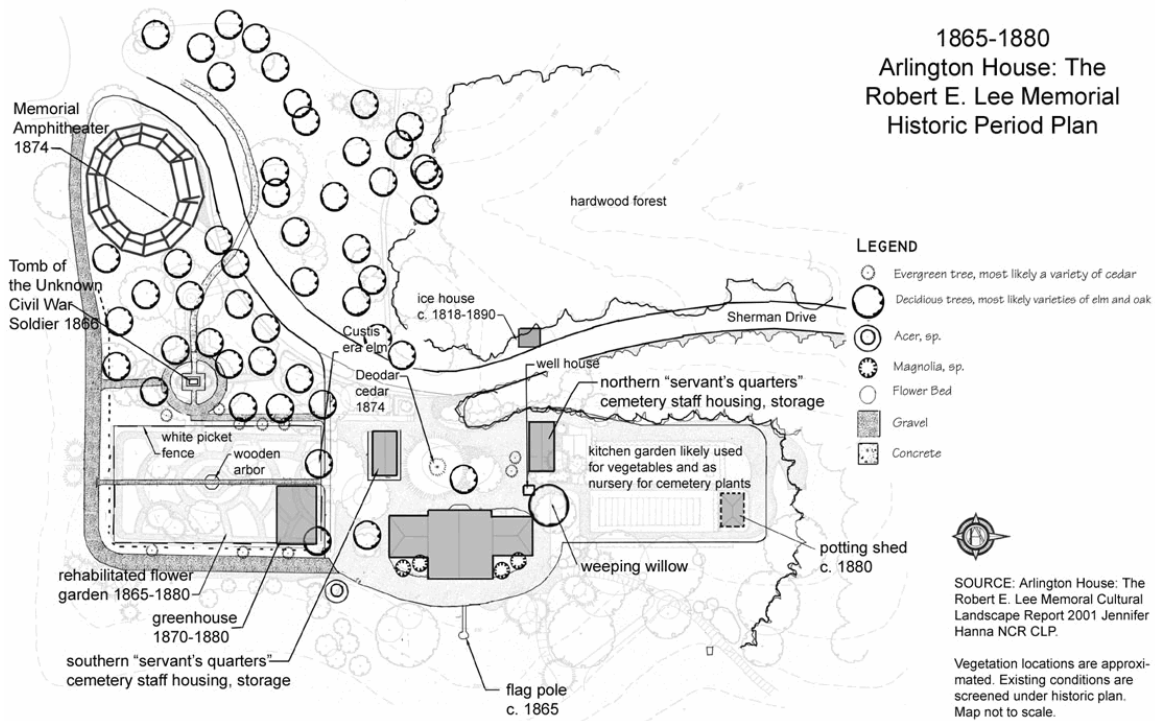
This map shows the broader context of Arlington Estate from 1802-1861. (NCR CLP 2001, 2009)



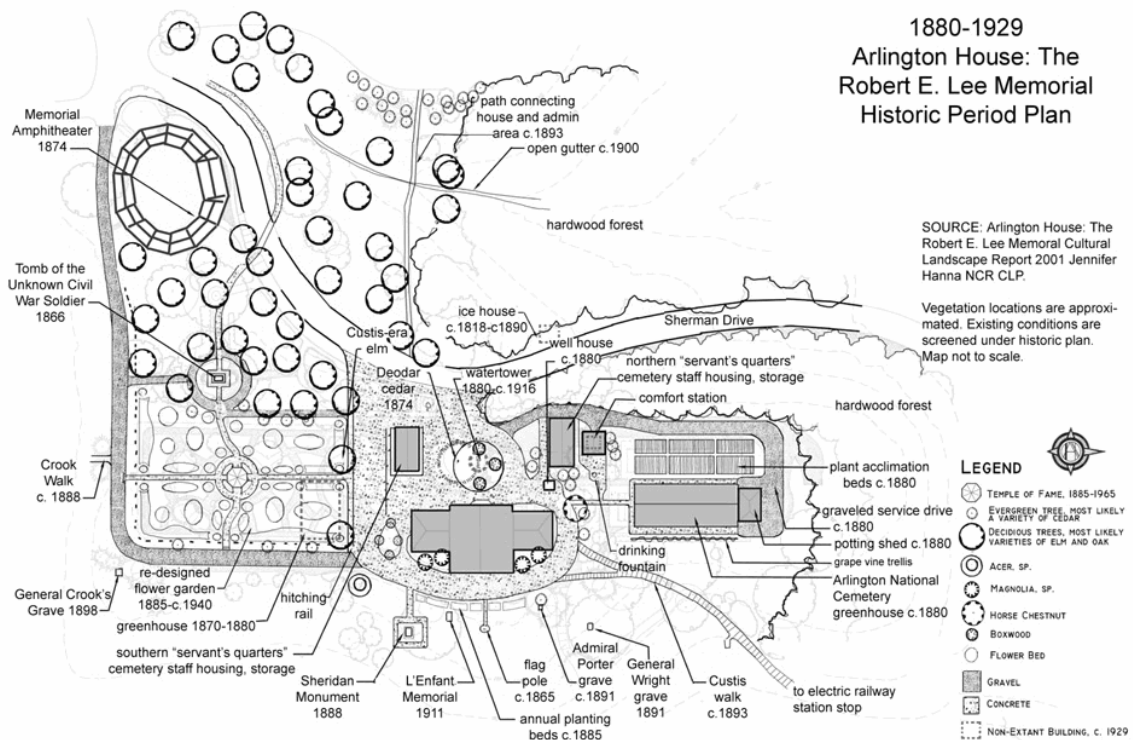
The landscape of Arlington House and surrounds from 1802-1861. (NCR CLP 2001, 2009)



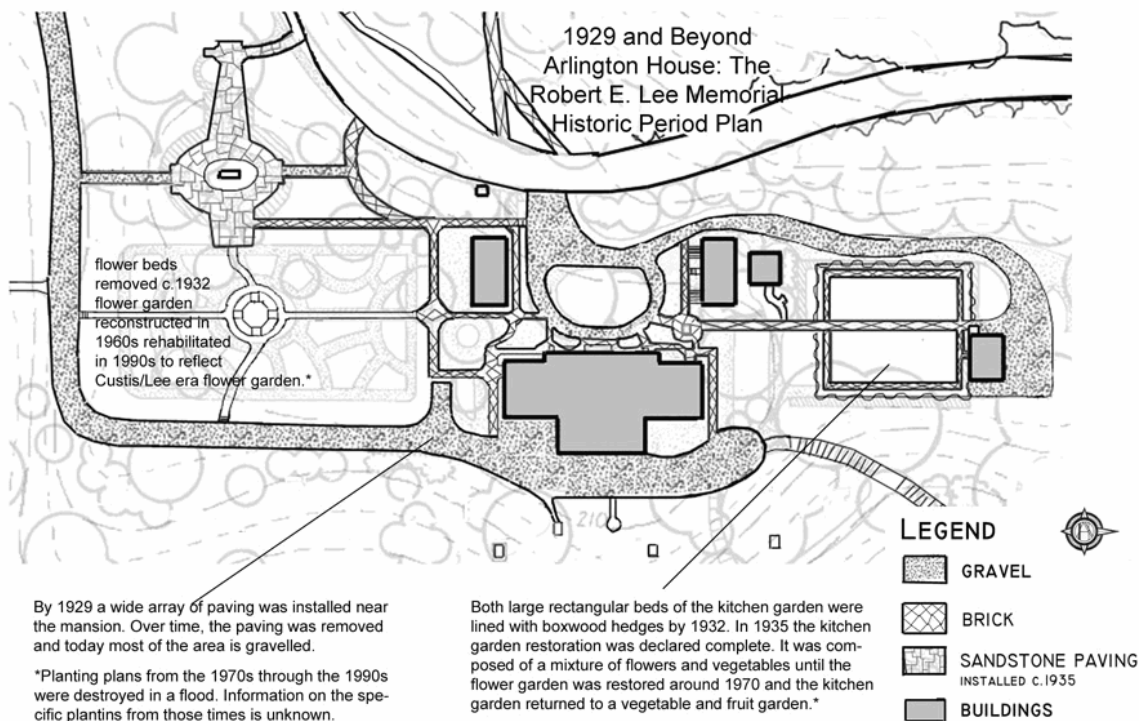
Arlington House and surrounds during the Civil War occupation period (NCR CLP 2001, 2009).



Changes in the landscape surrounding Arlington House after the Civil War and between the years of 1865 and 1880 (NCR CLP 2001, 2009).



With the development of the national cemetery, many changes were made to the surrounding landscape of Arlington Estate after 1880 including the placement of monuments, memorials and graves within close proximity to the house (NCR CLP 2001, 2009).



The greatest changes to the landscape surrounding the house in the early 20th century included the removal and reconstruction of the flower garden, kitchen garden restoration and the removal of landscape paving (NCR CLP 2001, 2009).

Property Level and CLI Numbers

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Inventory Unit Name: | Arlington House, The Robert E. Lee Memorial |
| Property Level: | Landscape |
| CLI Identification Number: | 600049 |
| Parent Landscape: | 600049 |

Park Information

| | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Park Name and Alpha Code: | Arlington House, The Robert E. Lee Memorial -ARHO |
| Park Organization Code: | 3332 |
| Park Administrative Unit: | George Washington Memorial Parkway |

Concurrence Status

Inventory Status: Complete

Completion Status Explanatory Narrative:

This Cultural Landscape Inventory was researched and written by Saylor Moss, Historical Landscape Architect for the Cultural Landscapes Program of the National Capital Region of the National Park Service. Principal resource materials for this study came from Arlington House: The Robert E. Lee Memorial Cultural Landscape Report, History Volume I by Jennifer Hanna published by the USDOL, NPS, NCR Cultural Landscape Program of Washington, D.C. in 2001 and The Robert E. Lee Memorial Cultural Landscape Report, Volume II Existing Conditions and Analysis and Evaluation by Jennifer Hanna (unpublished), 2001. Other sources are cited in the text and noted in the bibliography. Research and editorial assistance was provided by the following NCR staff: Maureen Joseph, Regional Historical Landscape Architect and Martha Temkin, Regional Cultural Landscape Inventory Coordinator. Assistance also provided by Matt Virta, Cultural Resources Program Manager, GWMP, Kendell Thompson, Site Manager, ARHO, Brandon Bies, Cultural Resource Management Program Assistant, GWMP, Adam Sklar, Supervisory Facility Operations Specialist, GWMP, Kate Barrett Landscape Architect, GWMP, Andrew Wenchel, Architect, GWMP, Mary Troy, Chief of Museum Resources, Southeast Region, Sarah Groesbeck, NCR, CLP Intern.

Concurrence Status:

| | |
|---|--|
| Park Superintendent Concurrence: | Yes |
| Park Superintendent Date of Concurrence: | 07/24/2009 |
| National Register Concurrence: | Eligible -- SHPO Consensus Determination |
| Date of Concurrence Determination: | 08/04/2009 |

National Register Concurrence Narrative:

The State Historic Preservation Officer for Virginia concurred with the findings of the Arlington House Cultural Landscape Inventory on August 4, 2009, in accordance with Section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act. It should be noted that the "National Register Eligibility Concurrence Date" refers to this Section 110 Concurrence and not the date of listing on the National Register.

Concurrence Graphic Information:



United States Department of the Interior

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

July 14, 2009

Memorandum:

To: Regional Landscape Architect, National Capital Region
From: Superintendent, George Washington Memorial Parkway
Subject: Statement of Concurrence, Arlington House: The Robert E. Lee Memorial Cultural Landscape Inventory

I, Dottie Marshall, Superintendent of George Washington Memorial Parkway, concur with the findings of the Cultural Landscape Inventory for Arlington House: The Robert E. Lee Memorial, including the following specific components:

MANAGEMENT CATEGORY: Must Be Preserved and Maintained

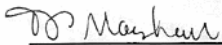
CONDITION ASSESSMENT: Good

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

Fair: indicates the inventory unit shows clear evidence of minor disturbances and deterioration by natural and/or human forces, and some degree of corrective action is needed within 3-5 years to prevent further harm to its cultural and/or natural values. If left to continue without the appropriate corrective action, the cumulative effect of the deterioration of many of the character defining elements, will cause the inventory unit to degrade to a poor condition.

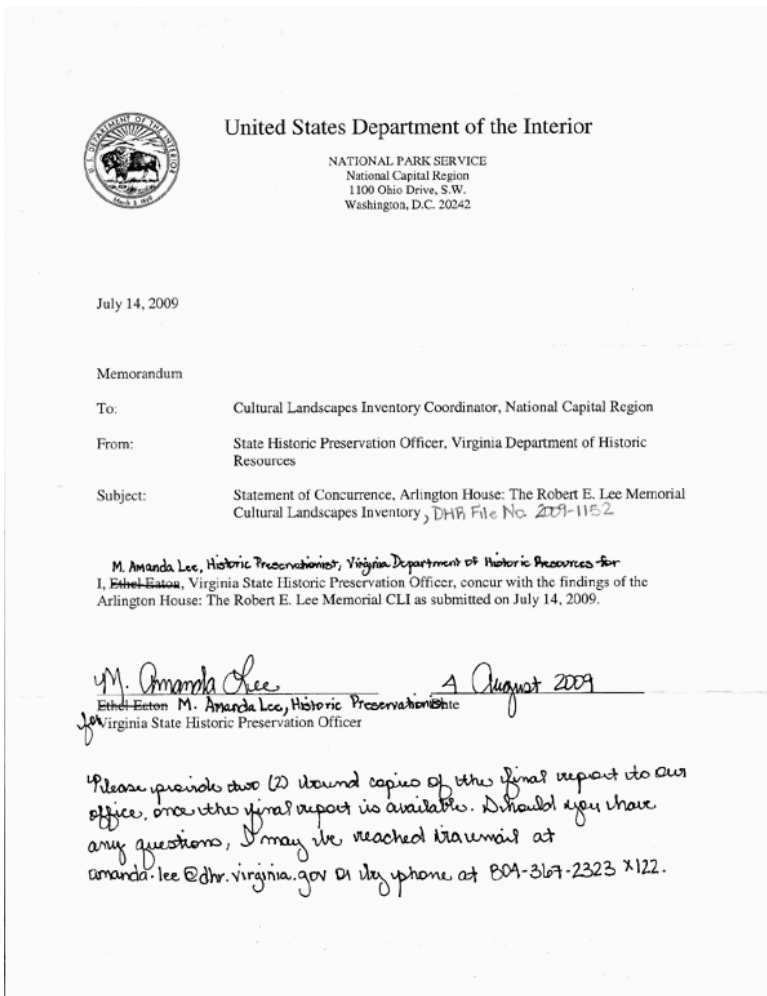
Poor: indicates the inventory unit shows clear evidence of major disturbance and rapid deterioration by natural and/or human forces. Immediate corrective action is required to protect and preserve the remaining historical and natural values.

The Cultural Landscapes Inventory for Arlington House: The Robert E. Lee Memorial is hereby approved and accepted.


Superintendent, George Washington Memorial Parkway

7/24/09
Date

Signed letter of concurrence from the George Washington Memorial Parkway Superintendent dated July 24, 2009



Signed letter of concurrence from the Virginia State Historic Preservation Officer dated August 4, 2009

Geographic Information & Location Map

Inventory Unit Boundary Description:

Inventory Unit Boundary Description

Arlington House: The Robert E. Lee Memorial, also known as Reservation U.S. 697, is situated within Arlington National Cemetery, which is administered by the Department of the Army. The 600-plus acre cemetery is located in Arlington County Virginia directly across the Potomac River from Washington, D.C. Sherman Avenue, owned and managed by the cemetery, passes through the site, dividing it into two main areas: Arlington Woods to the west and the house and gardens to the east. The NPS also owns and manages two buildings to the west of Arlington Woods. An administrative building (referred

to as the Old Administration Building) and a curatorial facility. Ownership of the buildings is limited to the structures alone. The surrounding land is under the administration of the Department of the Army.

Arlington Woods, the larger of the two sections of land that make up the site, is bordered on its east and south side by Sherman Avenue. To its southwest is a large cemetery-owned parking lot. Continuing north along the property edge of Arlington Woods is a tract of woodland with the same character as Arlington Woods which was recently transferred to the Cemetery. The northern border of Arlington Woods follows along the south and west sides of Ord and Weitzel Drive and then along the west side of Sherman Avenue, which intersects with Ord and Weitzel Drive.

The southern boundary of the house and garden area wraps around the east and south edges of the flower garden and excludes the burials and memorials beyond the edge of the flower garden. It continues north along the west side of the flower garden and takes a ninety-degree turn to the west and heads in a straight line to Sherman Avenue between the lawn and the large boxwood (*buxus* sp.) shrubs that encircle the Tomb of the Unknown Civil War Soldier. The western boundary of the house and garden area is the east side Sherman Avenue. The boundary line leaves Sherman Avenue and turns ninety-degrees to the east just north of the maintenance building located across the drive north of the kitchen garden and potting shed. Here it travels approximately 270 feet and takes a ninety-degree turn to the south until it reaches the Custis Walk. It follows the western edge of the Custis Walk for roughly 200 feet and turns towards the west for a few feet to the edge of the gravel paving. Here it turns to the south and heads in a straight line for approximately 215 feet. At this point it takes another ninety-degree turn towards the west, runs 70 feet and returns to the eastern edge of the flower garden. The extent of the site excludes burials, monuments, memorials, the flagpole to the east of the house, the Tomb of the Unknown Civil War Soldier, the Memorial Amphitheater and Lee Drive which travels north and south on the east side of the flower garden.

State and County:

State: VA

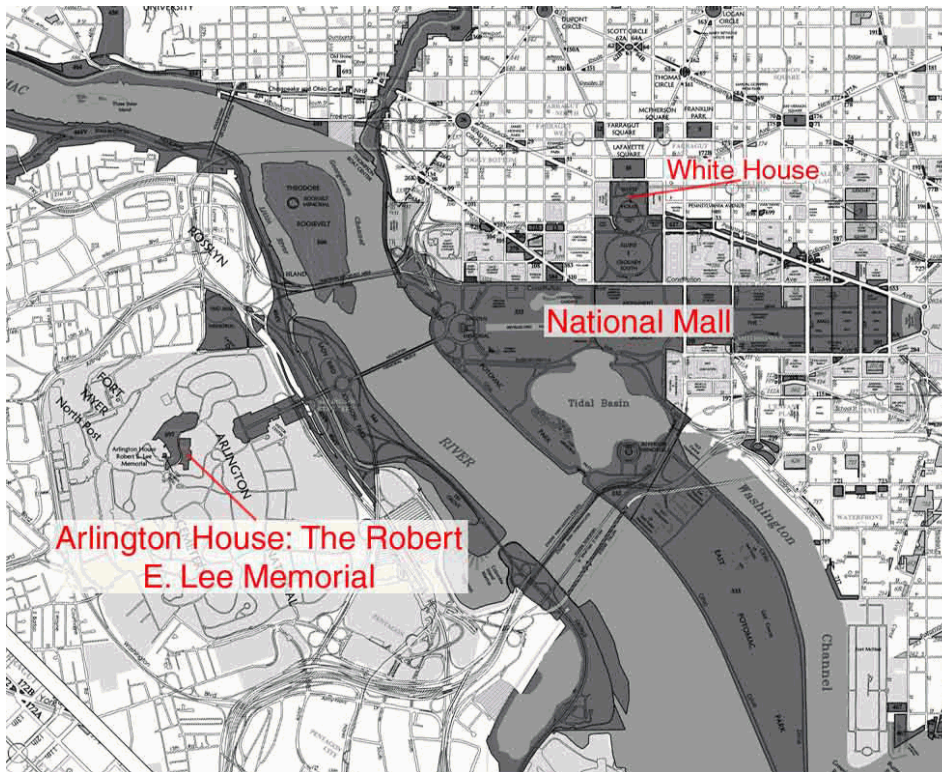
County: Arlington County

Size (Acres): 16.08

Boundary UTMS:

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Source: | USGS Map 1:100,000 |
| Type of Point: | Area |
| Datum: | NAD 83 |
| UTM Zone: | 18 |
| UTM Easting: | 319,977 |
| UTM Northing: | 4,305,720 |
| Source: | USGS Map 1:100,000 |
| Type of Point: | Area |
| Datum: | NAD 83 |
| UTM Zone: | 18 |
| UTM Easting: | 320,277 |
| UTM Northing: | 4,305,886 |
| Source: | USGS Map 1:100,000 |
| Type of Point: | Area |
| Datum: | NAD 83 |
| UTM Zone: | 18 |
| UTM Easting: | 320,225 |
| UTM Northing: | 4,305,566 |

Location Map:



Arlington House: The Robert E. Lee Memorial is located within Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington Virginia. It is across the Potomac River from Washington, D.C. (NPS 869, 80,462)

Management Information

General Management Information

Management Category: Must be Preserved and Maintained

Management Category Date: 07/24/2009

Management Category Explanatory Narrative:

The Management Category Date is the date the CLI was first approved by the park superintendent.

Arlington House: The Robert E. Lee Memorial was listed on the National Register of Historic Places for its significance for its association with Robert E. Lee, the leader of the Confederate Army during the Civil War, its prior association with George Washington Parke Custis, the step-grandson of George Washington, its architectural significance as the work of the famous English architect, George Hadfield, and for its role as the Civil War headquarters of the Army of the Potomac. The house has been a significant landmark that has also contributed to the design of Washington, D.C.

NPS Legal Interest:

Type of Interest: Fee Simple

Adjacent Lands Information

Do Adjacent Lands Contribute? Yes

Adjacent Lands Description:

Arlington House: The Robert E. Lee Memorial was originally part of an 1,100 acre agricultural and residential estate located the banks of the Potomac River. In the early part of the 19th century, under the direction of owner George Washington Parke Custis, step-grandson of George Washington, The house was purposefully and prominently sited atop the highest topographic point of the estate. The placement of the estate conveyed the family's prominence in society as it overlooked the White House, the US Capitol and city of Washington, D.C. which was then in its infancy. The home's proximity and relationship to Washington, D.C. defined its meaning and conversely, the house has defined the city itself.

On both a large and small scale, adjacent lands make a significant contribution to the modern setting and configuration of Arlington House: The Robert E. Lee Memorial. With the beginning of the Civil War and the fleeing of the Lee family in 1861, Arlington House was seized by federal forces and acted as headquarters for the Union forces from 1861-1864. Its prominent setting high above the city of Washington was utilized to provide the army with strategic defense advantages, and to symbolically announce to Washington that the nearby surrounds were under the control of the Northern army. During the army's stay, a series of forts and batteries were established under the direction of the army officials stationed at Arlington. It was important for the Union army to establish a large presence in and around Arlington to prevent attacks on the capital city from this section of northern Virginia.

In 1864, under the 1863 amended tax act, President Lincoln ordered that the Arlington Estate be bid on and acquired by the United States. It was purchased at auction for \$26,800.00. In 1863 a Freedmen's Village which fanned out over approximately 400 acres of the estate was established by the army. The village at Arlington was the largest among many such camps established by the end of the Civil War to deal with the influx of fugitive and former slaves into Washington. Freedmen's Village at Arlington quickly grew into a community of homes and churches with a school and hospital where residents could farm nearby government-owned lands to establish financial autonomy through agriculture. Between May of 1863 and May of 1864 a cemetery where residents of the village could be buried was established in the northeast corner of the estate. Later, this area became the first place that soldiers were buried on Arlington Estate.

In 1862, the Quartermaster General of the United States was given authority by Congress to oversee lands purchased for cemetery grounds for soldiers. In 1864, Arlington Estate was deemed suitable for the location of a national cemetery. It was chosen because it was owned by the federal government, its proximity to hospitals in Alexandria and Washington, its picturesque location, the security from floods that its elevation provided, and because it was the former home of Lee, leader of the Confederate Army. The locations of the first burials were directed by Quartermaster General Montgomery Meigs, a prominent Washington, D.C. engineer. Meigs established 200 acres of burial ground that would not interfere with Freedmen's Village. One month before Meigs' plan, however, a soldier from Pennsylvania was buried near the Freedmen's Village cemetery. This did not please Meigs who wanted soldiers to be buried nearer to the mansion to further secure the locale as a cemetery and to prevent it from future use as residence. Over sixty enlisted men were buried per day during this time. Officers living at the mansion objected to having the men buried so close to where they were living, but under the direction of Meigs, federal officers were buried along the flower garden due south of the

house.

The national cemetery continued to grow and the portion of land to the immediate west of the flower garden known to the Custis and Lee families as “The Grove” was replaced with a granite sarcophagus called the Tomb of the Unknown Civil War Soldier which housed the remains of 2111 unidentified soldiers from nearby battlefields. The tomb was circled by a circular walk and was one of the first monuments established in the cemetery. With the rapid growth of the cemetery, and clear title of the property given to the US in 1888, the property that once represented the tastes and social standing of a prominent family continued to be a training and housing grounds for Union soldiers and was evolving into a landscape of monuments, memorials, burials, roads and cemetery support structures. Freedmen’s Village was gradually disbanded and ceased to exist by the turn of the nineteenth century.

By the turn of the century, the location of Arlington House inspired the layout of a visionary plan for Washington. It inspired the placement of Arlington Memorial Bridge (built 1926-1932), which was symbolically aligned to represent the coming together of the north, represented by the Lincoln Memorial, and the south, represented by Arlington house. Initially, plans based on the 1901 Senate Park Commission (McMillan Commission) plan for Washington, called for a bridge across the Potomac at the terminus of the National Mall with a more northerly alignment. Designers and planners in 1922 overhauled the plan and aligned the bridge in a straight line between the Lincoln Memorial and Arlington House.

In 1933, Under Executive Order 6166, the "Lee Mansion" and two slave quarters were transferred from the War Department to the Office of National Parks, Buildings and Reservations (later known as the Department of the Interior) under the administration of the Department of the Interior. The land under the structures remained property of the War Department, Quartermaster General’s Office.

In 1947, the kitchen garden, potting shed and yard area (2.374 acres) were transferred in fee simple to the NPS. This spawned a massive vegetative rehabilitation and redesign project by the NPS. In 1959 a bill was introduced to allow for transfer of the flower garden to the NPS. In 1975 another 24.44 acres were transferred to the NPS to provide an appropriate setting for Arlington House and changes to the appearance of the landscape continued, most based on a 1966 Master Plan generated by the NPS. The plan had four specific objectives: to increase understanding and regulation of historic resources in the wake of the passing of the Historic Preservation Act in 1966, to upgrade park facilities and improve resource management under Mission 66, to boost interpretation of living history by re-creating settings that told a story of US history, and finally to create a permanent memorial to understand the life and worth of Robert E. Lee.

Over time, the War Department, the one-time owner of the Arlington Estate, influenced the current configuration of the site by allowing the house and nearby grounds to remain partially intact and retain their historic character as a residence and grounds while they were otherwise occupied with matters of war and burials. The Department of the Army continues to influence the site to this day as small tracts of land are periodically transferred from the NPS to the Department of the Army to expand the cemetery in order to prolong the period of time it is able to provide land for burials. The most recent

occurred in 2008 when several acres were transferred from the NPS to the cemetery from the western portion of Arlington Woods.

Lands that are directly adjacent to Arlington House: The Robert E. Lee Memorial are also significant. Administered by the Army, Arlington National Cemetery owns and maintains all of the graves around the site, including the memorials and monuments at the edge of the hillslope. The cemetery is also responsible for the graves of Mary Randolph (Godmother of Robert E. Lee and cousin to GWP Custis) and the Custis' located to the south of the site. The NPS has no formal responsibility for the graves but it does minor spring cleaning on the graves and plants shamrocks there prior to a St. Patrick's Day event held in the area.

Arlington National Cemetery is also responsible for the flagpole on the east side of the mansion. However, the NPS pays for the electricity associated with the pole that illuminates the house at night, and the red airplane warning lights on top of the pole. Each day, the flag is at half-staff at 8am when burials begin, and full staff when they are finished at 5pm. The flag is taken down when the cemetery closes at night.

The cemetery also owns and maintains Sherman Avenue, which divides the property between the house, yard and gardens and Arlington Woods. Lee Drive, formerly part of the main carriage drive to the mansion, which splits off of Sherman Avenue on the southwest side of the Memorial Amphitheater, continues east to the southeast corner of the flower garden and then turns north and terminates at the northeast corner of the flower garden is also owned and maintained by the cemetery.

Other cemetery-owned features located adjacent to the site include the Tomb of the Unknown Civil War Soldier (1866) and the Memorial Amphitheater (1874). The first few steps of the Custis Walk (1893) fall within the site boundary of Arlington but the cemetery is responsible for maintaining the walk and stairs.

National Register Information

Existing NRIS Information:

| | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Name in National Register: | Arlington House, The Robert E. Lee Memorial |
| NRIS Number: | 66000040 |
| Primary Certification Date: | 04/16/1980 |

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|---------------------------------|--|
| Significance Criteria: | A - Associated with events significant to broad patterns of our history |
| Significance Criteria: | B - Associated with lives of persons significant in our past |
| Significance Criteria: | C - Embodies distinctive construction, work of master, or high artistic values |
| Significance Criteria: | D - Has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important to prehistory or history |
| Criteria Considerations: | F -- A commemorative property |

Area of Significance:

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|--|-------------------------|
| Area of Significance Category: | Military |
| Area of Significance Category: | Politics - Government |
| Area of Significance Category: | Social History |
| Area of Significance Category: | Architecture |
| Area of Significance Category: | Archeology |
| Area of Significance Subcategory: | Historic-Non-Aboriginal |
| Area of Significance Category: | Archeology |
| Area of Significance Subcategory: | Historic-Aboriginal |

Statement of Significance:

Statement of Significance

The 16 acre Arlington House: Robert E. Lee Memorial is located in Arlington, Virginia within Arlington National Cemetery. The period of significance associated with the landscape of Arlington House: The Robert E. Lee Memorial is 1802-1880. It is significant under three of the National Register's standards for evaluating the significance of properties. Under Criterion A (associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history), it is significant for acting as the Civil War headquarters of the Army of the Potomac. Under Criterion B (associated with the lives of persons significant in our past), as the home to the step-grandson of George Washington, George Washington Parke Custis, and later Robert E. Lee, the leader of the Confederate Army during the Civil War. The house and slave quarters are architecturally important as the work of the famous English architect, George Hadfield, and are significant under Criterion C (distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master). Finally, Under Criterion D (a property that has yielded or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history), Arlington Woods has provided insight into American Indian land use, as well as that of the Custis, Lee and slave families living and working on the estate. Investigations into whether or not the property may be significant for Criteria Consideration F (a property primarily commemorative in intent if design, age, tradition, or symbolic value has invested it with its own historical significance) are being considered and may add to the property's significance.

The period of significance for Arlington House: The Robert E. Lee Memorial is 1802-1880. The Cultural Landscape Report conducted by the National Capital Region of the NPS determined that within the period of significance, three periods associated with a sequence of historical development can be found. One, 1802-1861 relates to the time that the Custis and Lee families used the estate as a residence. Another, the time period of 1861-1865 is the time in which Arlington was used as the headquarters for the Army of the Potomac during the Civil War. Finally, 1865-1880 relates to the time when the site was transformed into a national cemetery.

The Arlington estate house was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1980 as a building with a period of significance spanning from 1803-1861, significant for its association with Lee and Custis, and as the architectural work of a master, George Hadfield. The current nomination does not adequately address the landscape.

Criterion A: From 1861-1865 the estate was influential in the development of America through its use first as a headquarters for the Army of the Potomac and later a training ground for soldiers throughout the Civil War. In 1863, a portion of the former 1100 acre estate was incorporated into Freedmen's Village, a resettlement area for freed slaves that would become the longest lasting Freedmen's Village in the country. In May of 1864, the first military officers were buried on the grounds of Arlington near the estate itself. This burial was crucial in the genesis of Arlington National Cemetery-the most significant military cemetery in America.

The development of the landscape of Arlington House is integrated with that of Arlington National Cemetery. Arlington House and its gardens became the central vortex of the cemetery as it developed from a locally-based, Union-centered burial ground into a military cemetery of national significance. From 1865 to 1880, memorials and graves were established near the house. The Custis and Lee era gardens, trees and paths were incorporated into the cemetery design. Graves were installed and juxtaposed against the flower garden and monuments were placed in former garden groves. The residential and agricultural landscape of the Custis and Lee families was revealed clearly through the overlay of the now sacramental burial site. With the increasing need for maintenance and personnel management, Arlington House became the main staging area for Arlington National Cemetery. To support these needs, its surrounding yards were paved, a water tower was erected to the west of the house and a greenhouse was built in the kitchen garden.

Criterion B: As the home of the Custis and Lee families from 1802-1861, the house and grounds are illustrative of the personal tastes and beliefs of the individuals who developed Arlington and of those who called it home. George Washington Parke Custis, step-grandson of George Washington, was influential in the formation of American agricultural theory, as well as prominent in the development of nineteenth-century Washington, D. C., as the bearer of the legacy of George Washington. Arlington House, a memorial to Robert E. Lee, (House Public Law 107 of 1955) is significant under Criterion B for this reason as well as for being the home of Lee, leader of the Confederate Army during the Civil War.

Criterion C: The spatial organization of the site-with its formally aligned gardens on a terrace at the top of a slope and backed by dark woods, typifies theories of nineteenth-century landscape design propagated by such designers as Andre Parmentier and Thomas Jefferson. The spatial organization of the existing landscape reinforces this historic design hierarchy. In addition, Arlington House, designed by George Hadfield, was the first temple-form residence built in the United States. The classically-styled temple-and-wing structure is characterized by arched front façade windows, bilateral symmetry and a prominent temple portico. Hadfield, an English architect, came to the US after he was engaged to take over the construction of the U.S. Capitol. While he became entangled in controversy and was eventually discharged without completing the building, he designed numerous classical residences as well as the District of Columbia City Hall and the Treasury Building in D.C. His designs, Arlington House being one of the most prominent, were especially influential in the northern United States where his architectural concepts were disseminated throughout the upper east coast and eastern Midwest portions of the country.

Criterion D: The landscape of Arlington House, the woods in particular, have the potential to reveal information about the landscape present during the time of the Custis and Lee families as well as of the slaves and prehistoric peoples who may have used the area before white settlement.

State Register Information

Identification Number: 000-0001

Date Listed: 07/06/1971

Name: Arlington House (Robert E. Lee Memorial)

Explanatory Narrative:

Arlington House: The Robert E. Lee Memorial is listed in the Virginia Landmarks Register as Arlington House (Robert E. Lee Memorial).

Chronology & Physical History

Cultural Landscape Type and Use

Cultural Landscape Type: Historic Site

Current and Historic Use/Function:

Primary Historic Function: Estate Landscape

Primary Current Use: Interpretive Landscape

Other Use/Function

Domestic (Residential)-Other

Other Type of Use or Function

Historic

Current and Historic Names:

| Name | Type of Name |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|
| Lee Mansion | Historic |
| Custis-Lee Mansion | Historic |
| Arlington House: The Robert E. | Current |

Ethnographic Study Conducted:

No Survey Conducted

Chronology:

| Year | Event | Annotation |
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| 3000 - 1200 BC | Inhabited | Stealite bowl and other domestic tools found on Arlington estate. The material is associated with prehistoric groups of peoples utilizing the site. |
| | Farmed/Harvested | Archaeological evidence suggests that crops such as squash, sunflower and chenopodium were grown in the project area. |
| AD 300 - 1000 | Inhabited | Permanent village sites are located along major rivers and estuaries in northeastern Virginia. |
| AD 1000 - 1600 | Established | Trade and exchange networks are established by native peoples. Highly organized village structures are established. |
| AD 1608 | Explored | John Smith is the first Englishman to navigate the Potomac River. |
| | Inhabited | John Smith identifies Nacotchtanks and Tauxenents, part of the Conoy chiefdom, as groups who inhabited the area that became the Arlington estate. |
| AD 1651 - 1655 | Purchased/Sold | Land from the northwest shore of the Occoquan to the falls of the Potomac is granted and patented by English proprietors. |
| AD 1668 - 1669 | Purchased/Sold | Land including the Arlington House estate included in 6000-acre land grant made by Sir William Berkeley, royal Governor of Virginia to English Captain Robert Howsing under the authority of King Charles II. |
| AD 1669 - 1670 | Purchased/Sold | Less than one month after obtaining the land, Howsing sells the tract to surveyor and planter John Alexander for about 6000 lbs of tobacco. |

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| AD 1690 - 1691 | Land Transfer | 6550 acres of land, including the original Howsing tract is bestowed to Robert and Philip, John Alexander's sons, upon his death. |
| AD 1735 | Land Transfer | Upon the death of Robert Alexander, 4930 acres of land is bestowed to his children. Gerrard Alexander owns the property which eventually becomes Arlington estate. |
| AD 1750 - 1840 | Established | The main entrance to Arlington was a narrow dirt or graveled carriage drive west of the farm on the Alexandria and Georgetown Turnpike. It passed through a gate west of the turnpike and winds up the hill to the west through broom sedge and corn fields which were dotted with cedars. |
| | Established | Three-fourths of a mile up the entrance road is a footpath extending north from the driveway into the park. The park, framed on the south by the carriage drive and to the north by native forest, descends downhill from the house. Trees grow both singularly and in clusters. In the tradition of the English Landscape-style garden, some trees are strategically planted to frame views or to appear natural. Grass is kept short by grazing livestock or the occasional trimming of the slopes with scythes. Visitors take in views while they sat on strategically placed rough stone seats. |
| AD 1761 - 1762 | Land Transfer | Gerrard Alexander dies and wills his entire property in fee simple to sons Gerrard and Robert. Gerrard owns the 900-acre upper part of the tract, the land that would become Arlington estate. |
| AD 1778 | Purchased/Sold | John Parke Custis, step grandson of George Washington purchases the 1100 acres of land that would become Arlington estate. He agreed to pay 12 pounds per acre to Robert Alexander and, at the end of 24 years, to pay the principal with compound interest. He agrees to pay Gerrard Alexander 11 pounds per acre, to be paid at Christmastime of 1778. Custis, wife Eleanor and two children, Nelly Parke and George Washington Parke Custis move into Robert Alexander's former home at the mouth of Four-mile Creek and name it Abingdon. |

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| AD 1801 - 1802 | Purchased/Sold | During a public auction, GWP Custis purchased about \$4,500 worth of supplies from the estates of George and Martha Washington which included livestock and farm implements. |
| AD 1802 | Land Transfer | George Washington Parke Custis inherits all of his father's properties. He moves into a home on the muddy flats of the Potomac on land that would become part of Arlington estate. |
| AD 1802 - 1857 | Established | Custis' estates, including White House and Old Quarter in New Kent County and Romancock in King William County, were primarily income-generating estates for the family. Arlington House, even though it retained a market garden, fisheries, crop fields and pastures, was intended as the family seat with a decorative landscape and a prominent setting that would convey the status and wealth of the family. |
| AD 1802 - 1803 | Farmed/Harvested | After Custis' slaves clear the land and improve the remains of the former tenants on the flat plains by the river, a large market garden is established to provide nearby urban centers with fresh fruits and vegetables. Custis also grows wheat and corn on the flat plains down by the river. |
| AD 1803 | Developed | The estate of Mount Washington continued to develop as fish are harvested from the Potomac River, salted and barreled on the property and then used to feed the slaves or sold in inland markets. |
| AD 1803 - 1818 | Built | GWP Custis begins construction of the north wing of Arlington House. Custis calls his new estate Mount Washington. |
| | Built | In the early 1800s, a horse and carriage stable is built across the wooded ravine west of Arlington House. |
| | Built | Sometime in the early 1800s, two brick and stucco slave quarters west of the main house were built and formally aligned with the two wings of the main house. The building's facades were ornamental where they faced the formal garden spaces, and plain where they face the work yard. |

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| AD 1804 | Planned | Custis employs English Architect George Hadfield to design what would become Arlington House. The two-story stuccoed brick house would be the first temple-form residence built in the United States. |
| | Engineered | Necessary grading to build the house included smoothing the area to the north and south of the house into flat terraces in preparation for the gardens. |
| AD 1804 - 1861 | Established | The kitchen garden was established on the north side of the house hedges lined the southeast side and a post and rail fence surrounded the entire garden. Fruit trees flanked the central path, which was on axis with the central path of the flower garden which was located to the south of the house. The kitchen garden extended approximately 200 feet from the northern slave quarters. It was almost rectangular with a slightly bowed eastern boundary which was necessary to accommodate the terrain. Tall trees screened the garden from northwest winds. Two large barberry bushes were located on either side of the entrance gate. |
| | Established | The flower garden to the south of the house is bounded on its southern and western borders by the carriage drive. A white picket fence with wide palings ran along the south, north and east sides. The west side, known as "The Grove" was more naturalistic than the rest of the garden and was without a fence so it would appear to blend into the surroundings. The principle walk was probably composed of gravel and was approximately 6 feet wide. At the center of the garden the path narrowed to about 4 feet and passed through a hexagonal-shaped wooden arbor. Inside the arbor were wooden benches that curved along the arbor's sides. Yellow flowering jasmine and red and pink honeysuckle vines grew up the lattice that extended from the roof to the ground on all sides of the arbor. |

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| AD 1805 - 1861 | Established | Single-subject written accounts known as "monographs" are published in the 1830s that were specifically about roses and dahlias at Arlington. An 1836 publication makes mention of the oval, circular, and square shapes of flower beds and winding gravel walks of the formal flower garden at Arlington. The same publication made mention of an elegant mixed perennial border. An 1858 letter included mention of geraniums, parmesse violets, heliotropes and callas at Arlington. Two women who had been slaves at the house remember two large magnolias, white and pink grew near the center (of the garden), and a good deal of box(wood) and shrubbery was located at the back. After the Lees left Arlington, Elizabeth Calvert remembered pines shading masses of lily of the valley. She also wrote of hyacinths, tulips and tall lilies. Chrysanthemums were also documented as growing in the Arlington flower garden. |
| | Established | The area known as "The Grove," is a wilder garden located west of the formal flower garden. It is fenced-in, and shaded by large oak and elm canopies. Mention of blue bells of Scotland, grape vines, lilac in a corner and beds bordered by violets are made by the Lee's youngest daughter Mildred. |
| AD 1805 - 1811 | Established | Individuals gathered for public sheep shearing on the edge of the Potomac River near a fresh water stream, later named Arlington Spring. Tents were erected next to rustic arbors covered with honeysuckle and laurel. |
| AD 1805 | Established | A fenced-in 8 acre section on the eastern side of the property on the river becomes a destination for the public. Known as Arlington Spring and accessed by a ferry, visitors could picnic, fish, socialize, dance and relax on the grass in a rustic setting under groves of locust, cedar, maple and oak trees. |
| AD 1809 | Built | A road from the ferry landing across from Analostan Island (Modern Roosevelt Island) is built through Custis' land to the Columbia Turnpike. |
| AD 1818 | Built | Arlington House construction is completed. Final construction phase implemented by Cornelius McLean for \$1,550. |

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| AD 1826 | Land Transfer | Custis gives Maria Syphax and her husband Charles a seventeen-acre parcel of land on the southern boundary of the estate. The "old school house" or Arlington slave church was also located on this property. |
| AD 1840 - 1849 | Built | Custis added a wood-sided one story kitchen and dining room structures are built at Arlington Spring. Structures are tucked against the berm of the Alexandria and Georgetown Turnpike. The turnpike divided Arlington Spring from the farm, both physically and visually. |
| | Established | By the 1840s, the significant elements that composed the landscape of Arlington House were the farm, the "Park", the flower garden, the grove, the yard, the kitchen garden and the forest. |
| AD 1843 | Built | The Alexandria Canal opens on Arlington property parallel to the Potomac River. |
| AD 1854 | Expanded | After a successful crop season and strengthening commodities markets abroad, Custis makes improvements at Arlington. He increases crop production by amending the soil with guano, clover seed and plaster of Paris. He builds new steps and lays hexagonal bricks on the floor of the portico, and he repairs Arlington Mill. |
| AD 1857 | Land Transfer | After the death of GWP Custis in October of 1857, his daughter Mary Custis Lee, wife of Robert E. Lee, inherits the Arlington estate. Custis' other estates, Romancock and White House were bequeathed to the Mary and Robert E. Lee's sons. Arlington was now self-supporting. Robert E. Lee and his firstborn son, George Washington Custis Lee, who was now heir to Arlington, worked together to improve and maintain the property. |
| AD 1858 - 1861 | Abandoned | Many slaves run away from Arlington as a result of slave families being separated and rented to other estates, and urgings from northern abolitionists |
| AD 1859 | Expanded | Robert E. Lee makes improvements to Arlington Spring structures and grounds and then leases it to a concessionaire. On July 4, 1860, ten thousand people come to celebrate the Fourth of July at Arlington Spring. |

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| AD 1861 | Military Operation | The Civil War begins with shots fired on Fort Sumter, South Carolina. |
| | Moved | Robert E. Lee is put in command of the Virginia forces and the rest of the family leaves Arlington estate. |
| | Military Operation | As part of the first military action of the Civil War, Union soldiers from New York are ordered to the slopes of Arlington. Tents are constructed using branches from trees that formerly shaded guests at Arlington Spring. Trenches are cut into the hills near the river and the fruit trees at Arlington farm are felled to keep views unobstructed. Military camps are established among the oaks and elms south of the flower garden. Major General Charles W. Sandford, who was in charge of all New York regiments in DC establishes his divisional headquarters at Arlington House. He erects three large tents between the house and flower garden. Sandford promised to protect occupied sites in Fairfax County where Arlington is located (Arlington county est. 1920). |
| AD 1861 - 1865 | Military Operation | Arlington estate is used during the four and a half year period of the Civil War to house and train soldiers. |
| AD 1861 - 1862 | Built | Roads are built through Arlington Estate to allow for passage and communication between military posts. |
| AD 1861 | Preserved | New York Times writer reports that the Arlington House and gardens remained unmolested. He describes masses of flowers and states that the garden and its fences were in fine shape. |
| AD 1861 - 1862 | Damaged | Much of the park and forest in the eastern section of the property is damaged after thousands of soldiers camp there over the winter. When the soldiers left, the ground was said to be covered with stumps and broken fences. During the occupation, fence posts and trees are used as fuel for fires and lumber is used for housing. |

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| AD 1861 - 1865 | Built | On the former Arlington farm, federal forces took over the structures associated with the farm to be used as support structures for the Arlington Stables. By 1865, the Arlington Stables were established to accommodate Union army horses and mules. Trees at Arlington Spring were eventually cut down to make room for large corrals and stables. |
| AD 1862 - 1863 | Altered | With the departure of the slaves and the continued military occupation, the landscape of Arlington Estate degrades. Boundaries, green turf and garden plots and fences disappear and the terraces became ragged embankments. The gardens became muddy, roads were damaged and new trails crisscrossed the grounds. Some of the remaining landscape characteristics that defined Arlington during the eras of the Custis and Lee families; these include the long grasses that remained on the slope and a few of the large trees, retained by the military for shade. |
| AD 1863 - 1890 | Established | In May of 1863, under the authority of the Department of the Army, Freedmen's Village, intended to be model community for freed persons, is established on the southeastern portion of Arlington Estate, west of the Alexandria-Georgetown Turnpike (its exact location is unknown). Permanent wood frame buildings initially housed one hundred people, including fugitives and former slaves (many of them former slaves of the Custis' and Lees'). The village is organized around a central street and within it is a pond and fountain, a hospital, school house, laundry, mess hall and old folks home. The population of the village quickly grew to over one thousand, infrastructure was put into place by the federal government and the community thrived until it is disbanded in the late 1880s. |
| AD 1864 | Purchased/Sold | Federal government purchases Arlington Estate for \$26,800 after it was forfeited to the United States when Mary Ann Randolph Lee was unable to pay the \$92.70 property tax. |
| | Developed | On June 15, 1864, Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton, officially designated that the Arlington Mansion and not more than 200 acres of the grounds be used as a cemetery and charged Quartermaster General Meigs with execution of the order. |

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| | Altered | In 1864 Arlington Estate is deemed appropriate for burial use under Congressional legislation authorizing the President to purchase grounds for national cemeteries for burial of soldiers. Prominent D.C. engineer and the Quartermaster General of the Army, Montgomery Meigs suggested that the burial area was not to exceed 200 acres and not to interfere with the Freedmen's Village. He stated that it was important to utilize the land around the mansion for burials. Before Meigs' declaration, soldiers were buried in the northeast corner near the contraband (slave) cemetery. Officers living at Arlington House said burials should occur on the western portions of the grounds so they would not have to live near the dead. Meigs was satisfied with this arrangement but it is likely he who decided that Federal army officers be buried in a line along the flower garden. By 1865 graves are concentrated in the northeast corner of the property and to the southwest of the house. |
| | Built | A wooden paling fence is erected along the Alexandria and Georgetown Turnpike to border the cemetery grounds. |
| AD 1864 - 1870 | Built | A circular drive in northwest corner of property is built to access graves in that area. The Custis/Lee era carriage drives winding around Arlington House are regraded and redefined. The drive circling the work yard to the west of the house and the circular turn-around east of the north wing is reestablished. The road between the slave quarters and the flower garden, and the road descending down the hill from the west side of the mansion to the turnpike, both Civil War-era roads, are also reconditioned. Additional roads connecting burial plots to main roads and to the mansion were also added, including a road running along the northern boundary of the cemetery. Despite the reconditioning and additions to the landscape, evidence of war-time earthworks and forts remains extant. |
| AD 1865 | Platted | A survey of the existing conditions i.e. fence lines, buildings and trees, is undertaken. Photographic documentation is made and the damages to the property during wartime are also recorded. |

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| | Removed | The corral and other unusable structures are removed from the former Arlington farm area. The remaining usable structures are incorporated into Freedmen's Village. |
| | Purchased/Sold | Maria and Charles Syphax, former slaves of the Custis family are allowed to legally purchase the 17 acre triangle-shaped parcel of land on the southern border of the estate that was given to them by G.W.P. Custis in 1826. |
| AD 1865 - 1890 | Expanded | The physical development of the property now called National Cemetery. Post Civil War, it is an iconic national burial ground characterized by ornate decorations and tributes to the dead. It is no longer representative of an estate where aesthetics, social and economic values were reflected in the built structures and design of the landscape as it had been during the Custis/Lee years. |
| AD 1866 | Built | Under the order of Quartermaster General Montgomery Meigs, the large granite sarcophagus containing the bones of over two thousand soldiers and known as the Tomb of the Unknown Civil War Soldier is placed in what had been known as "The Grove" during the Custis-Lee era, located immediately to the west of the formal flower garden. A circular walk is built 45 feet from the monument. The path was bisected by a north-south path, and flowers and sod were planted in the open spaces created by the pathways. The Grove itself had been severely damaged during the Union occupation. |
| AD 1866 - 1868 | Land Transfer | Four hundred acres of land outside of the cemetery but inside the borders of the original estate boundaries are divided into ten-acre parcels and rented to people from Freedmen's Village. They cleared the land where necessary, and grew crops to finance their financial independence. |
| AD 1867 | Restored | By 1867, according to a report on the conditions of the Arlington National Cemetery, the lawns, gardens and slopes were gradually repaired and the flower garden was enclosed with a white washed narrow paling fence as it had been before the war. Nearly all of the forests were gone by this point. Including the forests near the Potomac by Arlington Spring, around Fort Whipple north of the house and those to the south near Fort McPherson. |

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| AD 1867 - 1897 | Built | Under Congress' 1867 Act to Establish and to Protect National Cemeteries, a Seneca sandstone wall is built to enclose the cemetery's 230 acres. |
| AD 1869 | Planted | One hundred cedar trees are planted around officer's graves and main drives. |
| AD 1870 | Planted | Under the direction of Montgomery Meigs a "Sylvan Hall" is planted in the southwest corner of the cemetery. This temple of trees is laid out in a pattern suggesting the knave of a gothic cathedral planted around an oval cul-de-sac. |
| AD 1870 - 1890 | Maintained | During this era, the design style of cemetery landscape included use of large ornate iron urns, cast iron benches, thick foundation plantings and the use of annuals. While some designers of the time used naturalistic effects and organic shapes in their design styles, masses of color, geometric shapes and ornamentation were the choices of design at Arlington. |
| AD 1870 - 1873 | Restored | A paling fence was rebuilt around the flower garden and newly whitewashed, and the flower garden is repaired. Gravel walks in the garden are repaired and beds are prepared for planting of annuals. Roses are added (1872) and an arborvitae hedge is planted in the open border between the garden beds and fence to act as a screen. The content of the flower garden was different than it had been during the Custis/Lee era. In 1873 landscape gardener D. H. Rhodes described the walks bounding and bisecting the garden and passing through the old arbor on a north-south axis. He described the whole garden as being comprised of walks and beds of which no two were the same shape or size. |
| AD 1870 | Built | A greenhouse on a brick foundation with glass walls is built in the northeast corner of the flower garden. (It was removed in 1880.) |
| AD 1870 - 1875 | Retained | In the early 1870s and beyond, the areas to the north and west of the house remained forested. The majority of the trees were red oaks, white oaks, chestnut oaks and elms. A few American beech were growing directly north of the kitchen garden, possibly seedlings from older trees. At the time they were the only beeches in the cemetery. |

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| | Graded | Sometime in the early 1870s, the western edge of northern boundary road near Arlington House is realigned to lessen its slope and it is regraded. |
| AD 1870 | Maintained | A cemetery visitor wrote of anemone, dog-tooth violet, lady's slipper, fringed polygala and hepatica-all found in the woods of Arlington. |
| AD 1873 - 1930 | Established | Landscape gardener David H. Rhodes is hired, His home and office are headquartered in Arlington House. |
| AD 1874 | Built | The formal Memorial Amphitheater is built in the former grove west of the Tomb of the Unknown Civil War Soldier. The seating capacity of the amphitheater is five thousand. Seats are made of raised earth covered by grass. Wisteria is planted at each of the structure's columns. |
| | Planted | Two deodar cedars (<i>Cedrus deodara</i>) are planted by landscape gardener David H. Rhodes behind the house, between the slave quarters in circular planting bed. |
| | Purchased/Sold | Curving cast-iron framed benches with simple wooden seats were purchased. |
| AD 1878 | Planted | Rhodes installed specimen boxwood, yew and arborvitae along the foundation of the mansion and magnolia trees in front of each wing. Meigs requested that orders be given to plant clumps of Elephant's ear (<i>caladium esculentum</i>) and canna in beds established along the drive immediately east of the house at the base of the flagpole the following season. |
| AD 1880 | Built | A brick water tower is built west of the house in the planting bed created by Rhodes where the deodar cedars were planted in 1874. |
| AD 1880 - 1881 | Built | Around 1880, a new greenhouse is built in eastern half of what was the kitchen garden space. it has a brick foundation, glass windows and an iron frame that was 100' long X 30' wide. A two-story potting building is attached to the north side of the greenhouse. The potting shed is ornamented with dentils and ventilation copulas on each face of its slate-clad hipped roof, |

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| | Built | Sometime around 1880, a graveled service drive is built to access the potting shed. The road runs from the northwest corner of the yard, along the west sides of the Northern Slave Quarters and the kitchen garden and took a turn to the east at the northern end of the garden terminating at the potting shed. |
| AD 1880 - 1889 | Built | In the 1880s, an ornate roof over the well near the house is built in the style of the original flower garden arbor. It has a slightly concave four-sided roof extending to a finial at its top. |
| AD 1890 - 1891 | Built | In the early 1890s, public lavatories were built immediately north of northern slave quarters. |
| AD 1880 - 1889 | Maintained | In the 1880s, the former slave quarters, which were then covered in vines, are used for storage and housing. |
| AD 1880 | Removed | The greenhouse that was built in the northeast corner of the flower garden is removed. |
| AD 1880 - 1889 | Built | Slate roofs are added to slave quarters, stable and mansion wings in the 1880s. |
| AD 1881 - 1883 | Built | In the early 1880s, new water lines are installed at Fort Myer and Arlington Cemetery. |
| AD 1883 | Land Transfer | A Supreme Court decision grants a clear title of ownership of the Arlington property to the United States after George Washington Custis Lee is paid \$150,000 to settle the debt. He had tried to fight the decision of federal acquisition of the property during the Civil War but was denied at that time. |
| AD 1884 | Built | A new Temple of Fame replaces the Custis-Lee era arbor at the intersection of the paths in the center of the flower garden. The temple was created out of discarded stone columns, entablature and frieze discarded after a fire destroyed parts of the US Patent Office. |
| AD 1884 - 1886 | Planted | In the mid-1880s, numerous flower beds are cut out of turf in the garden. During the warm months, showy annuals and exotic foliage were planted. During some years, plants were arranged to form words and numbers. |

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| | Planted | A border of hardy roses is planted on east and south sides of the garden in the mid-1880s. |
| | Built | In the mid-1880s, new gravel walks are built that cross the garden from east to west and connect to existing walks around the Tomb of the Unknown Civil War Soldier. |
| AD 1885 | Planted | The flower garden was plowed, regraded and redesigned under a plan designed by Rhodes. The plan includes removal of old arbor and white picket fence surrounding the garden. Boxwood and trees, including the magnolia and northern pine are also removed. New entrances on east and west side are built with brief staircases taking the place of the original entry on the north side. Small fluted iron urns sit on pedestals at the beginning of each stair flight. Iron benches with backs and arms shaped like gnarled twigs are placed under the temple and on the Arlington House portico. |
| | Memorialized | The names of Union Army heroes were carved in the frieze of the Temple of Fame around the domed roof and on the columns in or close to the year 1885. |
| AD 1888 | Memorialized | A monument to General Philip Sheridan, one of the most honored Union leaders is erected on a prominent site at the top of the slope immediately east of the house. |
| AD 1888 - 1898 | Established | There is a gradual disassembly of Freedmen's Village. Army regulations state that no one can reside on a military reservation unless they are employed by the government. |
| AD 1890 - 1891 | Memorialized | Burials of Rear Admiral David Dixon Porter and General Horatio Gouverneur Wright occur directly north of Sheridan monument on top of slope to east of house. The practice of burying highly-esteemed Union officers on the slope east of the house was discontinued circa 1898. When General George Crook, who was intended to be buried near Sheridan, Porter and Wright, died in 1890, his burial site was located within the officer's burial section to the east of the flower garden. A walk extending downslope from the southern end of the flower garden was named Crook Walk in his honor. |

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| | Built | In the early 1890s, a comfort station was built in the same place it is located presently to serve the needs of the growing number of visitors to the site. |
| AD 1893 | Built | Around 1893, a paved walkway, later known as the Custis Walk, ran from the Washington, Alexandria and Mount Vernon Electric Railway stop at Sheridan Gate (1879-1960), up the slope to Arlington House. Benches along the walk provided seating. |
| | Paved | Installed near or in 1893, granite pavers and scored concrete paving surrounded Arlington House. Asphalt paving was laid on main drive between mansion and western Fort Myer entrance. Granolithic sidewalk was laid parallel with north side of the drive from Arlington House to the Arlington and Falls Church Electric Railway stop at the Fort Myer gate. |
| | Planted | Iron urns are set into planting beds. One bed at the southern end of the southern wing has an urn surrounded by individual boxwood specimens. Urns are also placed beside the drive extending along the front of the house east of the mansion within beds where annuals and grasses were grown. In the center of the planting bed in front of the mansion, a flag pole rises from a small berm. The base of the flagpole is framed with evergreen shrubs. |
| AD 1896 | Destroyed | A hurricane topples over 300 trees on Arlington grounds including the deodar cedar just west of the mansion. The cedar was saved. |
| AD 1898 | Established | Bodies of those killed in the 1898 sinking of the USS Maine in Havana are interred at Arlington. Arlington is now truly a National Cemetery and no longer primarily associated with burials of Union soldiers. |
| AD 1900 | Land Transfer | The US government transfers 400 acres, formerly of the estate between the cemetery and the Potomac River, to the Department of Agriculture. The land was then used as an experimental farm. |

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| AD 1901 - 1900 | Engineered | The Department of Agriculture land is manipulated to allow for its use as an experimental farm. Drainage tiles are added to existing drainage ditches, and low-lying lands are engineered for better drainage. Vegetation that had grown up during the Freedmen's Village occupation is removed and the land is plowed under, crops were planted and demonstration lawns are created. |
| AD 1901 - 1902 | Planned | The 1901 McMillan Plan is incorporates Arlington's prominent location into their vision document. The plan considers Arlington House is considered a symbol of Confederate cause, and of the south in general. |
| AD 1904 | Destroyed | The stable built under Custis, and located to the west of the mansion, is destroyed by fire I July 1904. |
| AD 1907 | Reconstructed | The stable that burned in 1904 is reconstructed of brick in a similar style to the original, with Doric-columned portico symmetrical-wing and stuccoed walls. |
| AD 1911 | Inhabited | Pierre Charles L'Enfant, most famous for laying out the design for the City of Washington, died in 1825 and was originally buried at Green Hill farm in Chillum, Prince George's County, Maryland. He was reinterred in 1909 east of the front of the mansion, despite regulations established circa 1898 to discontinue burials in this section of the property. His burial marker, a monument of white marble was placed on his grave in 1911 where it overlooked DC, the city he had such a large part in planning. |
| AD 1915 | Planted | Sometime around 1915, four boxwoods are planted at equal intervals in the bed where the deodar cedar grew between the slave quarters to the west of the mansion. |
| | Planted | By 1915, the magnolias in front of house are large, and clumps of grasses and annuals grow in symetrical plantings on the crest of the slope east of the mansion. A concrete path led to and around the Sheridan grave from drive, and evergreens surrounded the flagpole. |

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| | Planted | In this time period, a grape arbor is located on the eastern edge of kitchen garden terrace to screen the greenhouse from the Custis walk. The western half of the kitchen garden is lined with rows of seedlings that are being acclimated to the outdoors from the greenhouse. A boxwood-lined path leads from the yard west of house, past the comfort station and on to the seedling rows. |
| AD 1916 | Removed | the large brick water tower west of the house, and the nearby deodar cedar are removed. |
| AD 1921 | Planned | Plan for remodeling the grounds presented to the Commission of Fine Arts (CFA) (The CFA, est. 1910 gave expert advice to executives and agencies of the Federal and District of Columbia on location, design and aesthetic matters relating to statues, fountains, monuments, buildings, coins and medals, heraldic designs, and lands on public land as they affect the federal interest and preserve the dignity of the nation's capital. CFA) by the Quartermaster General's Office. The main goals of the plan were to improve safety of visitors through the redesign of roads and paths and to create a setting reflecting the solemn and patriotic essence of the cemetery and house. |
| | Built | In 1921 the comfort station that was built in the early 1890s is either altered or rebuilt into the current configuration. |
| | Built | The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier is built and located south of mansion in a former 19th century gravel pit. |
| AD 1925 | Established | A restoration of the mansion to the period of time before Lee's departure is authorized by Congress. |
| AD 1929 | Planned | Congress appropriates \$90,000 to fund restoration of the "Lee Mansion." Approval is subject to the approval of the Commission of Fine Arts. |
| AD 1930 - 1939 | Established | Landscape gardener Rhodes says that the fruit trees scattered around the cemetery at this time derive from those planted by residents of Freedmen's Village. |
| AD 1930 | Planned | The Colonial Revival-style 1930s landscape treatment plan created by the Quartermaster General's Office is approved by the Commission of Fine Arts. |

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| AD 1930 - 1933 | Planted | Post and chain fences are removed and cedars are used to screen the monuments on the east side of house from the mansion. |
| | Removed | The paved Sheridan walk leading from the drive on east side of the mansion around the Sheridan monument is removed. |
| | Removed | The drive on the east side of house is paved with brick. |
| | Altered | Under the Colonial Revival plan, vehicular traffic is removed from the west side of the mansion to a screened parking area near Memorial Amphitheater. The slope on west side of mansion is reduced. |
| | Planted | Comfort station building north of northern slave quarters is screened with vegetation. |
| | Built | The paths created in the flower garden in the 1930s are straight and lined with tightly trimmed boxwood hedges in the "colonial-garden" style. |
| | Built | A field stone well head is built over the well on the mansion's west side. |
| | Altered | The concrete paving surrounding the mansion and outbuildings is replaced with gravel. |
| | Built | Brick walks connecting the kitchen garden with the mansion, slave quarters and comfort station are installed. |
| | Planted | Lilac, boxwood and yew are used to line the path to the greenhouse and to screen the comfort station. |
| AD 1932 | Removed | Annual flower beds planted in the 1880s are removed from the flower garden |
| | Built | The opening of Arlington Memorial Bridge took place on January 16th. It was envisioned by the 1901 McMillan Plan as a symbol of the coming together of north (symbolized by Lincoln Memorial) and south (symbolized by Arlington). |

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| AD 1933 | Land Transfer | Under Executive Order 6166, the Lee Mansion and the two slave quarters are transferred from the War Department to the Department of the Interior. The land remained property of the War Department. |
| AD 1934 - 1935 | Restored | A Kitchen garden restoration project began in 1934 and is completed in 1935. |
| AD 1934 | Removed | The large greenhouse, circa 1880 is removed from the kitchen garden. The potting house remains. |
| | Rehabilitated | The stable building circa 1907 to the west of Arlington House is converted to administrative offices for cemetery staff. New awnings are added over new windows, and a parking lot around the building is built. |
| | Built | A greenhouse extending to the west from the back of the administration building is built as replacement for the one removed from the kitchen garden. |
| | Built | A large parking lot extending around the administrative building is built and named the Chaffee Place public parking after the cemetery superintendent who lived in a nearby Colonial Revival style house. |
| | Altered | A walk between the house and the administration building is paved with brick. |
| | Engineered | Old clay and debris is hauled out of the kitchen garden and 100 cu yds of top soil are brought in. The garden is divided into eastern and western beds. Western bed are surrounded by a boxwood hedge, circa 1932. |
| | Planted | A low boxwood hedge is planted around the newly-built eastern bed of the kitchen garden to match the hedge that was built around the western bed in 1932. |
| | Built | A brick perimeter walk is built around the kitchen garden and a north-south brick walk is added to center of garden. A cruciform shaped turf walk is built to divide each bed into four sections. |
| | Planted | Perennials and annuals are planted on the outside borders of the kitchen garden. Bulbs, vegetables and young seedlings grow in the interior. |

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| AD 1935 - 1939 | Altered | During the late 1930s, the South Post of Fort Meyer was built on the former fields of the Government Experimental Farm. |
| AD 1945 | Planted | A bed of Hybrid tea Peace roses are planted east of southern slave quarters. Otherwise, deferred maintenance due to WWII is evident in the plantings on-site. Wisteria and trumpet vines smother outbuildings and wickets pose stumbling hazards. |
| | Planned | Irving Payne, The Chief Landscape Architect for the Buildings and Grounds Division of the National Capital Parks division of the NPS creates a plan for redesign of grounds to east and west of the mansion. |
| AD 1947 | Land Transfer | Kitchen garden, potting shed, yard area are transferred in fee simple to NPS. |
| AD 1947 - 1954 | Planted | Payne's planting plan is implemented. It includes the use of over 40 kinds of shrubs, heavy foundation planting for the east side of the house, the use of prickly plants to discourage trespassing, a planting of roses in northeast corner of the kitchen garden, and an American Holly hedge surrounding the kitchen garden. |
| AD 1948 - 1954 | Planted | Payne's planting plan also included a fruit garden in the western half of the kitchen garden. The boxwoods are moved from the edge of the kitchen garden to screen the Monument of the Unknown Civil War Soldier from the flower garden area, and to the edge of the woods on the north and east end of the kitchen garden to provide a transition between the woods and the turf area near the potting house |
| AD 1950 - 1955 | Established | A Custis and Lee family museum with artifacts from the two families is placed in the potting building. |
| AD 1954 | Removed | The magnolias in front of the eastern wing of the house are removed to open the view of the house wings from the slope below. |
| | Planted | A bed of camellias is planted near the northern wing of the house. |

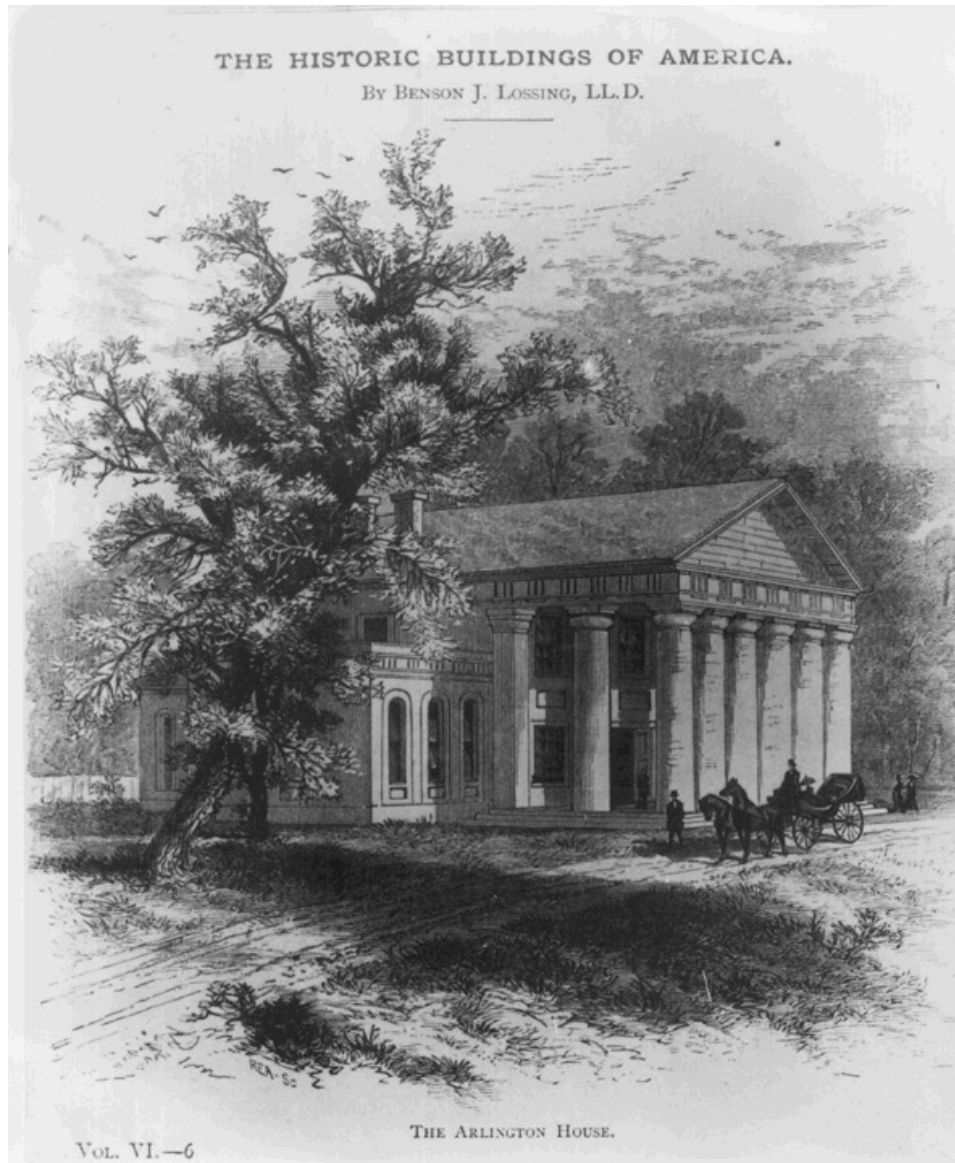
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| AD 1955 | Established | The Lee Mansion is officially designated the Custis-Lee Mansion. |
| AD 1959 | Land Transfer | A bill is introduced to extend the grounds. Essentially this would allow for the NPS to restore the flower garden. The garden is transferred in August from Department of War to NPS. |
| AD 1963 | Settled | President John F. Kennedy is buried on the eastern slope below Arlington House. His grave surrounded by a white picket fence. |
| AD 1964 | Established | The Secretary of Defense ordereds the 24.436 acre hardwood forest west of the mansion to be preserved in perpetuity and to be maintained in a park-like manner. |
| AD 1965 - 1967 | Built | the Architectural firm of John Warnecke and Associates is tasked to design and build a more permanent grave area for JFK. |
| | Planted | The area around the JFK gravesite is primarily planted with magnolias, crabapples, cherries, hawthorns, yellow wood, American holly and willow oaks. |
| AD 1967 | Established | The JFK grave area is paved with irregular Cape Cod granite stones. Clover, and later, sedum were planted in the crevices to give the appearance of stones lying naturally in a Massachusetts field. A specially designed weather and windproof natural gas powered Eternal Flame burns from center of a five-foot circular flat-granite stone at the head of the grave. The entire JFK burial site is 3.2 acres. |
| AD 1964 - 1967 | Built | A rectangular flower garden is recreated on the terrace south of the house. It has gravel paths and curvilinear beds. |
| AD 1964 | Planned | The National Capital Office of Design and Construction of the NPS creates a plan to restore the flower garden based on the recorded history of 1930. |
| | Planted | The trees planted at the southern end of garden include Norway spruce, magnolia, apricot and white poplar. |

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| AD 1965 - 1979 | Removed | As bricks were dislodged and displaced during freeze-thaw cycles, brick paved paths are removed intermittently and replaced with gravel. Post and chain fences edging brick walks are also removed. |
| AD 1966 | Planned | Partially encouraged by the Historic Preservation Act of 1966, the NPS creates a master plan for the Custis-Lee Mansion. One goal of the plan is to recreate the historic scene of April 1861, and to re-emphasize the place of Robert E. Lee in the landscape. |
| AD 1967 | Removed | The Temple of Fame (built 1884) is removed from the center of the flower garden. |
| AD 1970 | Established | By 1970, the new plantings of the flower garden are established. |
| AD 1972 | Established | The name of the Custis-Lee Mansion is legally changed to Arlington House: The Robert E. Lee Memorial. |
| AD 1975 | Land Transfer | The NPS acquires the 24.444 acres of land set aside in 1964 by the Secretary of the Army. |
| | Planted | With the flower garden established, the kitchen garden is planted with vegetables, fruit trees and shrubs including raspberries, gooseberries, currants, pears, cherries and plums. |
| AD 1975 - 1979 | Removed | The Peace rose garden is removed during late 1970s. |
| AD 1980 - 1989 | Planted | The historic elm tree at the center of northern edge of flower garden is replaced. A Kentucky coffee tree is planted south of southern wing of the house. |
| | Established | The administration building is transferred to the NPS while the parking lot and nearby structures remain the property of the Department of the Army. |
| AD 1981 | Established | The comfort station is transferred to the NPS, the land under it remains property of the Department of the Army and is leased to the NPS under renewable 5-year permit. |
| AD 1990 - 1999 | Planned | Rehabilitation is planned for the flower garden. |

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| | Altered | The remaining brick walks around the house and slave quarters are removed and replaced with gravel. |
| | Restored | The Memorial Amphitheatre is restored by the Department of the Army. |
| AD 1995 | Land Transfer | The Department of the Interior and the Department of the Army sign an interagency agreement to transfer portions of the 24.444 acres of woods previously set aside to be used for burials. |
| AD 1999 | Altered | The pea gravel used for walks and drives surrounding the house is replaced with bank-run gravel. |
| AD 2000 | Rehabilitated | The fire-damaged administration building is rehabilitated for use as administrative offices for Arlington House staff. |
| AD 2008 - 2009 | Rehabilitated | Arlington House is undergoing a three-phase rehabilitation project to preserve the site's historic structures and furnishings, and to improve visitor experience. Phase I includes installation of a fire detection and suppression system in the house and ductwork for climate management to protect the house and historic furnishings. Phase II will focus on a climate management system which includes construction of a below grade mechanical bunker on the western edge of the access road west of the vegetable garden, installation of HVAC and demolition and installation of underground ductwork. Phase III focuses on preservation and visitor services. During this phase, the interior of the house will be repaired and refurbished, the furniture will be returned to the home, the South Slave Quarters will undergo rehabilitation, the kitchen garden will be restored to its 1861 appearance, stabilization of soils and the house foundation will occur, and the comfort station will be replaced. |

Physical History:

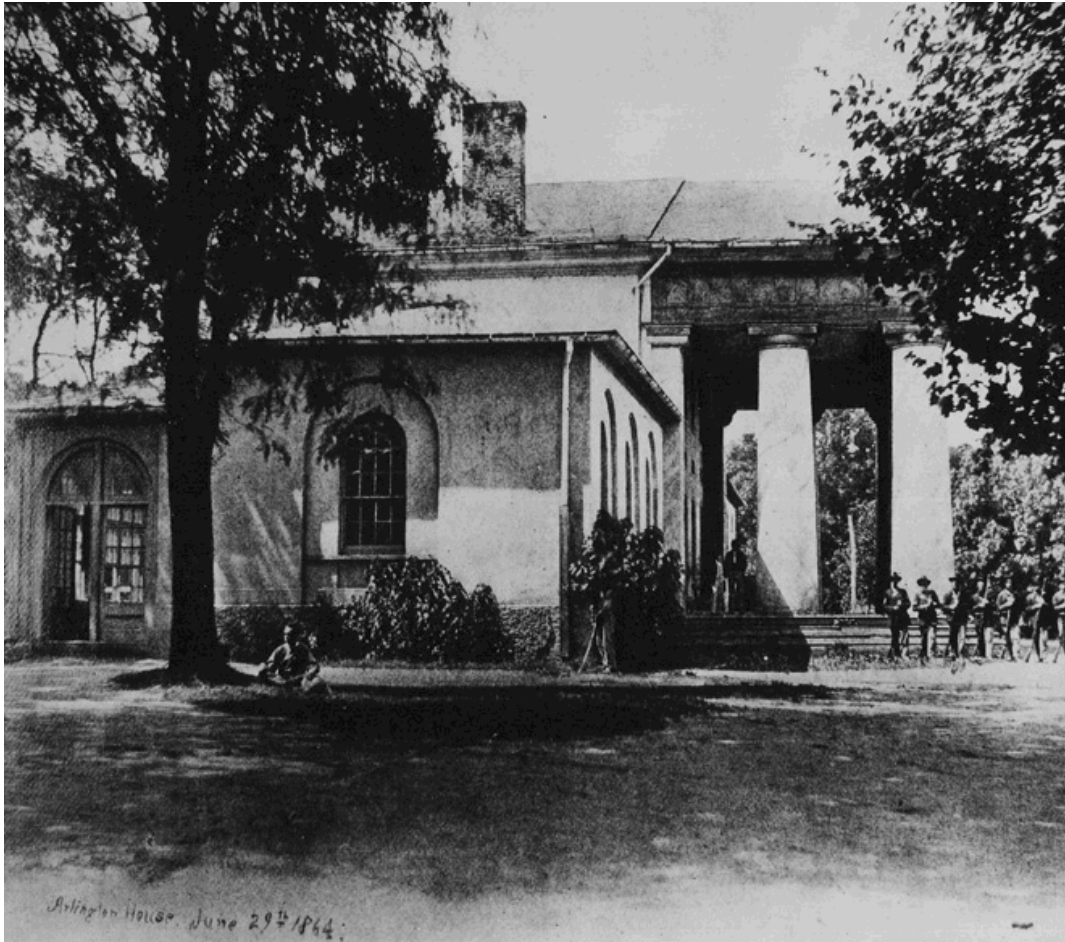
For a comprehensive history of the landscape of Arlington House: The Robert E. Lee Memorial, please refer to Jennifer Hanna's Arlington House: The Robert E. Lee Memorial Cultural Landscape Report Volume I History, Washington, D.C. USDOJ NCR CLP. 2001



1850s Rendering of The Arlington House'from The Historic Buildings of America by Benson Lossing (ARHO photo reproductions 1850s box 4).



Broad view of Arlington House from the park to its east c. 1864 (ARHO, ARHO and grounds 1860_1960 box 6.tif II cat #237).



Troops at Arlington House c.1864. Looking north towards the portico and east facade (ARHO Matthew Brady file 1864 box 5).



Foundation plantings and urns are seen along the east side and portico of Arlington House c. 1895 (ARHO E.J., Lee, 438 1895 file ARHO photos of house 1).



Arlington House in June of 1864. From left to right, north slave quarters, kitchen garden fence, yard and house (ARHO restoration photos, box 8 photo by Andrew Russell).



Looking north towards Arlington House across the lawn planted after the flower garden was removed in the early 1930s (ARHO archives Signal Corps 95034-file slave quarters 1957-1959 box 1).

Analysis & Evaluation of Integrity

Analysis and Evaluation of Integrity Narrative Summary:

This section provides an evaluation of the physical integrity of the Arlington House: The Robert E. Lee Memorial cultural landscape by comparing landscape characteristics and features present during the period of significance (1802-1880) with current conditions. Landscape characteristics are the tangible and intangible aspects of a landscape that allow visitors to understand its cultural value. Collectively, they express the historic character and integrity of a landscape. Landscape characteristics give a property cultural importance and comprise the property's uniqueness. Each characteristic or feature is classified as contributing or non contributing to the site's overall historic significance.

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

Contributing landscape characteristics identified for the property are spatial organization and topography, land use, buildings and structures, circulation, vegetation, views, cluster arrangement, small-scale features and archeology. The buildings and structures, already documented through the List of Classified Structures (LCS), are described here in the context of the landscape setting. This section also includes an evaluation of the property's integrity in accordance with National Register criteria. Historic integrity, as defined by the National Register, is the authenticity of a property's identity, evidenced by the survival of physical characteristics that existed during the site's historic period. The National Register recognizes seven aspects of integrity: location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. Several or all of these aspects must be present for a site to retain historic integrity. To be listed in the National Register, a property not only must be shown to have significance under one of the four criteria, but must also retain integrity.

HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE

Arlington House: The Robert E. Lee Memorial is bounded on each side by Arlington National Cemetery. The property was added to the National Register of Historic Places in October of 1966 with a period of significance lasting from 1803 to 1861 and was deemed significant under Criterion B as a place associated with the lives of persons significant in our past, and Criterion C as a structure that embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master. The property is significant with regard to architectural scale and proportion and as an embodiment of the tenets of English landscape style, the continued use of the

flower and kitchen gardens, the broad views as well as its prominent placement in the larger landscape of the Washington, D.C. area.

The property is likely eligible for listing on the National Register under Criterion A (associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history) and Criterion D (...that have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history), as well as Criteria consideration F (a property primarily commemorative in intent if design, age, tradition, or symbolic value has invested it with its own exceptional significance). The proposed extension of the period of significance within this CLI (1802-1880) accounts for the time period when George Washington Parke Custis first came to live on the land that would become Arlington Estate, to the time that the area was steadily transforming into a national cemetery.

Despite changes in plant material, additions to circulation patterns, a lack of small scale features and the change of land use from a residence and agricultural landscape, the landscape continues to reflect the historic function of the site as home to Robert E. Lee.

LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISTICS AND FEATURES.

Contributing landscape characteristics identified for Arlington House: The Robert E. Lee Memorial are spatial organization, land use, Buildings and Structures, Circulation, Vegetation, Views, Cluster Arrangement and Archeology.

The spatial organization of the site remains similar to its arrangement during the period of significance. This can be seen in the location of buildings, the open yard, the garden terraces and the woods to the west of the house. The landscape and circulation patterns established during the 19th century still shape the organization of the site today and contribute to the historic character.

Land use at Arlington has largely changed from residential and agricultural to burial and interpretation. However, Arlington House: The Robert E. Lee Memorial retains a degree of integrity of land use due to the preservation of the remaining portion of Arlington Woods and through the continued use of the flower and vegetable garden which remain in their historic locations, and currently serve the same purposes as during the Custis-Lee era.

Today, existing buildings and structures on site include Arlington House, the two slave quarters and the potting shed. The use of the buildings has changed from their original residential and utilitarian roles, but they do continue to reflect the historic period and lend a good deal of integrity to the landscape characteristic buildings and structures.

Several additions have been made to circulation patterns since the period of significance but overall, most of the historic circulation is still visible and some are still in use on site. Routes include the garden paths and yard from the Custis-Lee era, the road to the potting shed from the yard, the Sherman Avenue and Lee Drive connector from the Civil War period, the road trace in Arlington Woods. These features lend to integrity of circulation on the site.

Most of the vegetation on site does not derive from the historic period but much of it is considered to be compatible with the exception of the trees in Arlington Woods that are “witness trees” or trees which were standing and “witnessed” the historic time period. Additionally, the deodar cedar (*Cedrus deodara*) that was planted in 1874 in the yard to the west of the house remains from the historic period. The yard, house, flower and vegetable gardens are generally compatible with the Custis-Lee era landscape (with the exception of the deodar cedar), but there are several individual and groupings of plants that reflect changes made after the period of significance as well. Overall, there is some integrity to vegetation on the site.

Views today from Arlington House retain a degree of continuity to the period of significance. The long view to and from Washington, D.C. remain and allow the house to retain its historic character of conspicuousness and prominence upon the landscape when viewed from the surrounding area, and, conversely, offer a broad view of the surrounding area from the site. Internal views between the flower and vegetable gardens have been preserved from the historic period and retain integrity. The extant views south and north along Lee Drive could be improved by reduction of vegetation along the east side of Lee Drive. However, the situation is reversible and is therefore considered to be a contributing feature, which along with the other existing views lends integrity to views on the site.

Two of the original five clusters of development upon the site remain in the landscape today. The Arlington House cluster which includes the house and both slave quarters and the potting shed remains intact and retains integrity. The Arlington Stable cluster also remains and retains integrity. Despite the fact that land use has changed within the clusters, the fact that the location and patterns of buildings, structures and associated spaces in the landscape remain in their historic locations lends integrity to this landscape characteristic.

Archeological surveys have indicated that archeological resources do exist on site. Investigations have uncovered individual artifacts from the period of significance, and have shed light on circulation patterns which were not previously evident on the surface. As they are investigated, archeological resources have the ability to offer further information about the history of the site. For this reason, there is a degree of integrity to archeology at Arlington House: The Robert E. Lee Memorial.

Aspects of Integrity

1. The location aspect of integrity involves the place where the landscape was constructed. Although the size of the original estate property has decreased and property boundaries have changed over time, Arlington House: The Robert E. Lee Memorial occupies its historic location. The contributing elements that define the landscape-structures, circulation patterns and vegetation patterns-are in their original location. The location of the flower and vegetable gardens and Arlington Woods, though they have been slightly altered, are also the same as they were during the period of significance.

2. Design is the combination of elements that create the form, plan, space, structure and style of a cultural landscape or historic property. The hierarchy of the original estate design is evident through the spatial organization of the site. While the size of some designed elements has been diminished, the

property has maintained its characteristic zones and other design elements of the historic period including the picturesque park-like setting, graduating into the formally organized gardens, and progressing into the dark woods beyond. The utilitarian yard behind the house and the woods beyond, retain integrity of design to the period of significance. The design elements of the garden, while not fully intact, are suggestive of and compatible with its original design intent. The organization of the buildings and structures on the property (the house, slave quarters and potting shed) exist today in the same place as they were originally designated during the period of significance. While some intentional changes have been made to the design of the property, the evolved cultural landscape retains some integrity of design for most of the period of significance.

3. Setting is the physical environment of a cultural landscape or historic property. The overall rural-feeling hilltop setting with the broad views of the surrounding landscape of Washington, D. C. that influenced the location of the estate remains. The setting outside of the property boundaries, and the elements surrounding the estate have changed over time to reflect the creation and growth of Arlington National Cemetery. Although both are diminished, the park-like setting on the east side of the house, and the woods to the west of the house continue to reflect some of the qualities of the picturesque setting of the original design. Overall, the property's cultural landscape retains the essential integrity of setting for the period of significance, especially to the middle and later parts of the period of significance (1860s-1880s).

4. Materials are the physical elements of a particular period, including construction materials, paving, plants, and other landscape features. The slave quarters, the potting shed and the house itself are composed of original materials or complementary and compatible materials. Arlington Woods retains much of its integrity and remains a factor in the retention of integrity to the site. The loss of historic plant material dating to the nineteenth century, and the changes in paving surface materials decreases the integrity of materials on an individual basis, but does not discount the overall presence of integrity of materials on the property.

5. Workmanship includes the physical evidence of the crafts of a particular period. The home itself, as well as the slave quarters and potting shed reflect nineteenth century workmanship as they have been preserved, rehabilitated, or reconstructed. Additionally, the home, existing from the historic period, despite modern preservation work, demonstrates nineteenth-century workmanship, and the cultural landscape retains integrity of workmanship. Changes to the original design of the flower and kitchen gardens has diminished, but does not detract from, the fact that integrity of workmanship exists on the site today.

6. Feeling is a property's expression of the aesthetic or historic sense of a particular period. The property's open hilltop setting, views, rural feel in an urban environment, buildings from the historic period, and the existence of the home are among the greatest contributors to the historic feeling of the site. They are lasting witnesses of the events from the period of significance. Along with the existence of the flower and vegetable gardens and Arlington Woods, these factors contribute to the integrity of feeling on the property.

7. Association is the direct link between an important historic event or person and a historic property. Arlington House: The Robert E. Lee Memorial is associated with the lives of George Washington Parke Custis, Robert E. Lee, the Union Army during the Civil War and the creation of a (Arlington) National Cemetery. The property is a museum and interpretive center where visitors are given the opportunity to learn about the many historical associations of the property including the lives and times of the many people who lived there during the Custis and Lee eras, and the changes that occurred on the site after Lee and his family left the property. Visitors can experience these things with interpretive materials in the museum, by walking through the landscape, and by touring the house. The cultural landscape reflects the links to the historic period and retains a high integrity of association for the period of significance.

Conclusion

After evaluating the landscape features and characteristics within the context of the seven aspects of integrity established by the National Register, this CLI finds that despite alterations and additions to the property since the period of significance, the landscape of Arlington House: The Robert E. Lee Memorial retains integrity from the period of significance.

Aspects of Integrity:

Location
Design
Setting
Materials
Workmanship
Feeling
Association

Landscape Characteristic:

Land Use

Land Use

Contributing Features:

Arlington Woods

Flower and Vegetable Gardens

Non-Contributing:

Use of Potting Shed as Interpretive Center

Curatorial Facility

Old Administration Building

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

HISTORIC

The period of significance for Arlington House: The Robert E. Lee Memorial is 1802-1880.

Between the Custis-Lee years of 1802-1861, land use on the site was residential and agricultural. The land served as a home to the Custis and Lee families as well as their slaves. For a period of time, Arlington Springs (non-extant and no longer within the site boundaries) was also a destination day spa for the public. A market garden, orchards, pastures, crop fields and related structures supported the agricultural aspects of the landscape. The land near the house, with its flower garden, vegetable garden, woods and parkland showcased and reinforced the family's prominence in society and their horticultural interests. It also provided a space in which the family could grow and maintain vegetables, herbs and flowers to supplement their diets, beautify their surroundings and generate money through the sale of flower bouquets.

During the years of Union Army occupation (1861-1864) land use was dominated by military housing and the property was used as a gathering space for soldiers. A portion of the southwest area of the 1,100 acre estate served as the location of Freedmen's Village, a residential and agricultural landscape where freed slaves could live and work to support themselves and their families. After a 1883 Supreme Court decision which gave the United States clear title to the Arlington property, efforts were initiated by the military to remove the civilians from the land. Freedmen's Village's 763 residents were evicted, buildings were removed, and Arlington's Freedmen's Village was finally disbanded around 1900.

In 1864, burial became the priority function of the estate. The house itself and slave quarters were used for cemetery maintenance and staff housing facilities until the late 1920s/1930s when they underwent restoration and became a museum.

EXISTING

Originally, Arlington House was an 1,100 acre estate. Due to the establishment and growth of Arlington National Cemetery, it has been reduced in size incrementally to its current configuration of 16 acres. Current land use practices include: a museum site to interpret the Custis and Lee families and their slaves, a horticultural showcase of the historic time period and as a headquarters for NPS administrative facilities and curatorial collections for Arlington House: The Robert E. Lee Memorial.

EVALUATION

Arlington House: The Robert E. Lee Memorial retains a degree of integrity of land use due to the preservation of a portion of Arlington Woods and through the continued use of the flower and vegetable garden which remain in their historic locations, and currently serve the same purposes as during the Custis-Lee era.

Character-defining Features:

Feature: Flower Garden

Feature Identification Number: 136084

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Arlington Woods

| | |
|--------------------------------|------------------|
| Feature Identification Number: | 136086 |
| Type of Feature Contribution: | Contributing |
| Feature: | Vegetable garden |
| Feature Identification Number: | 136088 |
| Type of Feature Contribution: | Contributing |

Spatial Organization

Spatial Organization
Contributing Features:
Building locations
Yard
Garden terraces
Arlington Woods

The landscape characteristic “spatial organization” refers to the historic arrangement of elements creating the vertical and horizontal planes that defined and created space and still exist today. The landscape characteristic “topography” is defined as the historic three-dimensional human-developed configuration and manipulation of the landscape surface characterized by features and orientation that still exist today. Arlington House: The Robert E. Lee Memorial is uniquely situated on top of a hill above the surrounding landscape. The topography of the site was a driving factor in the spatial organization, or arrangement of built elements on the property.

HISTORIC

The placement of Arlington House was partially influenced by the design values that George Washington studied and applied at Mount Vernon. Arlington Estate was intended to be a status-conveying family seat of the Custis family surrounded by a decorative landscape, rather than a utilitarian self-sufficient manor. Custis’s intention drove both the placement and construction of the estate which was sited on a prominent knoll which could both be seen from and overlooked Washington, D.C. Custis hired prominent Italian architect George Hadfield to build a two-story stuccoed brick house, the first temple-form residence built in the United States. During house construction, sometime between 1803-1818, Custis had slave quarters built to the immediate west of the house. Between the two structures was a yard that was left open for serviceable purposes and separated the slave quarters from each other and from the house. A stable, in the same style as the house, was built on the other side of the wooded ravine west of the house.

Arlington House was built on gradual north to south sloping topography. It is likely that during the historic period when grading was undertaken to create a large flat terrace for the home, flat terraces on the north and south sides of the house were also prepared for both the flower and vegetable gardens.

To the west of the house was a woodland that was preserved during the development of the estate for its value as part of the overall English Landscape-style of design, which was a driving force in the overall layout of the house and surrounds. The woods served as a dark and mysterious background for the house, in contrast with the open park area in the front and the formalized landscape of terraced gardens near the house. The value of the woodland is demonstrated by the fact that instead of harvesting timber from Arlington Woods, Custis utilized a 1,200 acre tract of woodland known as the Washington Forest tract, which was located just to the south of Arlington, for mill wood. Research suggests that wood was only removed from Arlington Woods when it was determined that doing so would improve the health of the forest.

EXISTING

Currently, the spatial organization of the house, slave quarters, yard, garden terraces and the small portion of the historic woodland to the west of the house exist in almost the same configuration as they did during the period of significance. The slave quarters have not moved and are still behind the house facing each other and separated by the yard area. The flower and kitchen gardens are still located on the terrace established during house construction in the same configuration as they were during the historic period. The extent of the gardens may vary from the historic period but not in any manner that would hurt their integrity. The potting shed remains on the northeast corner of the kitchen garden and the access road to it that was established in 1880 remains as well. The 1925-era comfort station to the northwest of the northern slave quarters, as well as an accessible port-o-potty are also extant.

EVALUATION

The 16 acre Arlington House: The Robert E. Lee Memorial property has evolved from its historic use as part of an 1,100 acre family estate, farm and Union Army headquarters, to its current state as a museum, interpretive center and historic landscape. A significant amount of the spatial organization including the location of buildings, the yard, the garden terraces and the woods to the west of the house remain extant and contribute to the site's historic character. The spatial organization of the remaining property associated with Arlington House: The Robert E. Lee Memorial, although greatly diminished in size, does retain integrity.

Character-defining Features:

Feature: Building locations

Feature Identification Number: 136090

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Open yard area

Feature Identification Number: 136092

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Garden terrace topography

Feature Identification Number: 136094

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Existence of Arlington Woods

Feature Identification Number: 136096

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Buildings and Structures

Buildings and Structures

Contributing Features:

Arlington House

North Slave Quarters

South Slave Quarters

Potting shed

Below-ground section of well

Non-Contributing Features:

Comfort station

Maintenance facility

Curatorial Facility

Old Administration Building

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

HISTORIC

During the historic period, several buildings and structures were both added and removed from the site. The house, slave quarters and potting shed are buildings from the historic period that exist today.

Arlington House

Designed by architect George Hadfield, and built of locally made brick, Arlington House, a Greek-Revival structure, was constructed during the 15-year span of 1803-1818. It began in 1803 as a small two-story brick building which would become the home's northern wing and was followed in 1804 by a southern wing located approximately 60 feet away from the 1803 structure. In 1817 construction of a large central block connecting the two wings was initiated. The center block was ornamented with a two-story portico supported by eight stuccoed and marbleized Doric columns and a high gable roof. The exterior of the home was stuccoed and scribed to simulate ashlar stonework. The west façade and the central section was not stuccoed until late in the 19th century by the Army. In the 1860s, the stucco was marbleized. At some point, either before or after the construction of the central block, loggias extending along the west facades of the two wings were added and bricked-in. These loggias were enclosed by the mid 1840s.

The classical design of the house was meant to be impressive from a great distance and to enforce the hierarchy of the estate and the family's place in society. The Civil War saw the

house being used as the headquarters of the Army of the Potomac, for officer's housing and later, as the home and office for the Superintendent of Arlington National Cemetery.

North and South Slave Quarters

The exact construction date of the two slave quarters located to the west of the house is not known. It is likely that they were built during the house construction period of 1803 to 1818. They are both made of brick, have a classical appearance and are situated perpendicular to the north and south wings of the house in a formal alignment. They are approximately 40 feet long and 20 feet wide and are treated with course pebble-dash stucco. The two buildings face each other and are separated by a yard between them. The north and south sides of the buildings that face the formal garden spaces and the west facing sides of the building are highly ornamental, echoing the same design elements of the house. The facades of the buildings that face the yard and the back of Arlington House are fairly plain in comparison.

Historically, the north quarters housed a summer kitchen as well as slave living quarters. The south quarters housed a smokehouse, a storeroom and slave quarters. During the management of the Department of the Army, the slave quarters were used to house staff and for storage.

Potting Shed

The potting shed was built on the northeast edge of the vegetable garden in 1880 by the Army. The small potting house is a finely articulated late Victorian building that is a stuccoed brick two-story building resting on a stone foundation and topped with a hipped slate roof. The one story entrance has a trellis arch and a tin roof and the sides of the entry are covered with latticework.

Well

A hand-dug well approximately 45 feet deep exists in the yard area of the site. It appears in a drawing from the 1850s to have been a simple wooden sweep well which was converted to a pulley and bucket system by 1864 (CLR pt. II pg 76).

This CLI evaluates buildings from the historic period that exist on the 16 acre study site as of 2009. Several additional buildings and structures both on and near the site can be seen in historic photographs and are referred to and described in historic journals, articles and letters. None of these buildings are extant today.

Additional buildings and structures reported to have existed on the estate during the period of significance include:

Arlington stables c.1818-1904

An ice house west of the northern slave quarters

A flower garden arbor that was non-extant by 1885

An overseer's house, slave quarters and associated structures

Arlington Springs kitchen, dining room and related structures

Syphax property house and farm buildings and church

Temporary structures built by the army to house and supply soldiers
Army corral and veterinary facility
Flower garden greenhouse c 1870-c 1880

EXISTING

The extant buildings and structures that remain from the historic period are the house, north and south slave quarters and the potting shed. The below-ground section of the well in the yard to the west of Arlington House also derives from the historic period but the above-ground portion of the well is from the 1930s. The comfort station, built in 1925, was added outside of the period of significance and is considered non contributing. It has been slated for removal under Phase III of a three-part rehabilitation project at the park that is currently in progress.

Museum collections including Decorative arts; archives; music; manuscript collections; 18th and 19th century furnishings; furnishings and memorabilia of the Robert E. Lee and G.W.P. Custis families; and historic objects related to Robert E. Lee's life, can be found in the house itself, the potting shed/museum building and in the south slave quarters.

Comfort Station

In 1925 a 19 x 21' brick stuccoed comfort station designed to mimic the style of the historic slave quarters was built on the immediate northwest side of the north slave quarters building. It replaced, or was an improvement on a previously constructed comfort station that was built in the early 1890s. At this time, an accessible Port-A-Potty is in place in the corridor between the North Slave Quarters and the comfort station.

Administrative Buildings

In 1907, what is now referred to as the "Old Administration Building" was constructed on the former site of a stable that was built in 1810 and burned in 1904. This building is located to the approximately 400 feet due west of the house across Sherman Avenue and the ravine at the south end of Arlington Woods. The architectural style of the building suggests a miniature Arlington House. The building (owned by the NPS) currently serves as the administrative headquarters of Arlington House: The Robert E. Lee Memorial, and sits approximately 75 feet west of the contiguous 16 acre park site on Arlington National Cemetery property.

A second administrative building was constructed in 1907 on the footprint of a stable building approximately 150 feet due north of the aforementioned administrative building. It too sits on cemetery property and is owned by the NPS. This structure is the Arlington House curatorial building.

Arlington House

Arlington House itself still stands in its original location and has experienced several rehabilitation and restoration projects since its construction. It was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1980 with a designated period of significance of 1803-1861. Mention of the two slave quarters is made in the nomination but the landscape surrounding the

house is not included.

North and South Slave Quarters

The South Slave Quarters currently exhibit a Freedmen's Village diorama and an exhibit on Arlington House slaves as well as Selena Gray's quarters furnished with 19th century furnishings. The North Slave Quarters currently host a rehabilitation exhibit and will soon reflect the time period in which George Clark, a cook, was living and working there.

Potting Shed

The potting shed still exists in its original location and is used a walk-through museum exhibiting collections from the families of GWP Custis and Robert E. Lee. The National Register Nomination mentions this two-story brick building built by the Army as a potting house in the 1880s, but since construction of the building took place after the designated National Register period of significance, it is not discussed in great detail. The potting shed was recommended to be eligible for the National Register in 1984.

Well

The well remains in its historic location in the yard. Currently it is covered by a stone well-head deriving from the 1930s.

EVALUATION

Despite alterations that occurred after the historic period, and the loss of some buildings, existing buildings and structures including Arlington House, the two slave quarters, the potting shed and the below-ground portion of the well reflect the historic period and lend integrity to this landscape characteristic.

Character-defining Features:

Feature: Arlington House

Feature Identification Number: 136142

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 59

LCS Structure Name: Arlington House, the Robert E. Lee Memorial

LCS Structure Number: AH

Feature: North Slave Quarters

Feature Identification Number: 136144

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 60

LCS Structure Name: Arlington House, North Servants' Quarters

LCS Structure Number: AHQN

Feature: South Slave Quarters

Feature Identification Number: 136146

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 11956

LCS Structure Name: Arlington House, South Servants' Quarters

LCS Structure Number: AHQS

Feature: Potting Shed

Feature Identification Number: 136148

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 11957

LCS Structure Name: Arlington House, Potting Shed/Museum Building

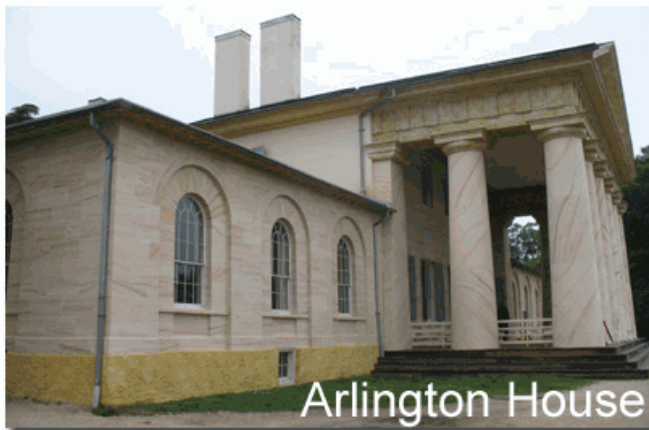
LCS Structure Number: AHM

Feature: Below-ground section of well in yard

Feature Identification Number: 136592

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Potting Shed



Comfort Station



Administration Building



Arlington House (built 1803-1818c) and the Potting Shed (1880) derive from the historic period. The comfort station (1925) and the administrative building (1907) came later (NCR CLP 2009).

LESS FORMAL FACING INWARD



FORMAL FACING OUTWARD



The slave quarters were built during the same time as Arlington House (1803-1818c.). The less formal exteriors face the utilitarian yard area and house, and formal facades can be seen from the gardens and their west sides (NCR CLP 2009).

Circulation

Circulation

Contributing Features:

Trace road at the north end of Arlington Woods

Flower garden central path

Kitchen garden central path

East/west oriented road connecting Lee Drive and Sherman Avenue

between yard and flower garden

Potting shed access road

Portion north/south section of Custis Walk on NPS property

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

HISTORIC

Custis-Lee era (1802-1861)

Historic circulation on the estate consisted primarily of access roads and paths connecting buildings, structures, slave quarters, Arlington Springs, agricultural fields and gardens. During the Custis-Lee era, the primary access to the house was the dirt and gravel carriage drive that

connected it with the Alexandria and Georgetown Turnpike (c.1808). This road bisected the estate property in a north and south direction. The historic carriage drive exited the turnpike and curved slightly up a hill along the southern edge of the Park. At the top of the hill it split into two directions. In one direction it took a 180 degree turn to the east where it passed along the edge of the grove and flower garden. There, it took a 90 degree turn towards the north, passed in front of the portico and terminated at a rotary in front of the north wing of the house. This was the route of the Custis and Lee families and their guests. The second split at the top of the hill led to the stable across the ravine directly to the west of the house, from there it turned 180 degrees and continued in a loop around the yard on the east side of the house. This part of the drive was used to gain access to the slave quarters, storage and domestic work areas.

On the east side of the Alexandria and Georgetown turnpike the drive led downhill to the Farm and Arlington Spring area. Between the farm and spring, the road passed under the Alexandria Canal (1843) and continued past the spring to the shoreline of the Potomac River where it turned south and exited the property at its southeast corner.

In addition to the primary road, the estate was criss-crossed by horse and foot paths. Known paths include one from Arlington House to the Syphax property (A 17 acre parcel of land on Arlington's south boundary given to Charles and Maria Syphax by Custis in 1826.) Another path existed around the graves of George and Mary Custis after their deaths in 1850. Paths were also located in the Park of Arlington and in the flower and kitchen gardens which were both bisected by north and south oriented paths. The specific locations of other paths on site during the Custis-Lee era are unknown.

Civil War/National Cemetery era 1861-1880

When the estate became the headquarters of the Army of the Potomac, Fort Craig, Fort Tillinghast, Fort Whipple, and Fort Cass were established on or near the estate and access to the forts from the house were established via new roads on the property. The roads were built to provide a safer and more efficient route for army personnel to enter the property or retreat from their headquarters at the house if they were invaded by enemy forces. The Custis-Lee era carriage road was deemed too dangerous for potential retreat so a new "main drive" was established. West of the yard, the new main drive ran north down a ravine behind the house and then took a turn to the east where it met up with the turnpike in the northeastern quadrant of the property. Modern day Sherman Avenue follows part of the route of this Civil War era road. It was altered north of the house in the early 1870s to lessen its grade. A trace of this road can be found today in the north section of Arlington Woods.

A short east-west oriented road between the flower garden and the yard connecting the Custis-Lee era carriage road on the south side of the house (Lee Drive) and the road leading to the yard (Sherman Avenue) was also built during the Civil War era at Arlington.

By 1865 the drive to the horse stable had been divided into many distinct routes by footpaths created by soldiers, and the once formal carriage drive that wound around the flower garden to

the mansion had lost definition and was eroding into the slope. The yard had been trampled and the little vegetation that once grew there was gone.

In 1880, the graveled service drive was built to access the potting shed. The road ran from the northwest corner of the yard, along the west sides of the North Slave Quarters and the kitchen garden and then turned to the east at the northern end of the garden and terminated at the potting shed.

A small portion of the Custis Walk, a paved walkway established in 1893, is located within the Arlington estate boundaries. According to an 1861-1865 Historic Period Plan in the 2001 CLR, the walk is located on the approximate location of a known Civil-War era pathway. This pathway may have pre-dated the Civil War but more research will have to be done to confirm this fact.

Under the direction of the War Department, just after the Civil War, roads near the house that dated to the Custis-Lee era, that had lost definition and were eroded by the occupation were regraded and redefined. Roads were built to connect burial plots and surrounding roads to the house, which was serving as cemetery headquarters at that time.

EXISTING

Extant contributing features include the Custis-Lee era north/south oriented paths bisecting the flower and kitchen gardens, the circular course through the yard, the access road along the west side of the kitchen garden to the potting shed, the small portion of the north and south oriented section of the Custis Walk on the park property and the short east/west aligned road connecting Lee Drive and Sherman Avenue located between the flower garden and the mansion. Non-contributing but compatible circulation includes the paths through the flower garden (excluding the central path) which derive from the 1966 Master plan rehabilitation project and represent a circulation pattern similar to that of the Custis-Lee period.

A road trace at the north end of Arlington Woods that once served as the primary drive to and from the house before it was altered into the modern Sherman Avenue alignment still exists and can be seen in Arlington Woods.

After several iterations of paving over time, the yard and gardens are now paved with gravel. An exception is a non-contributing brick-curbed and brick-paved landing and stone stairs located between the west end of the yard and the road.

EVALUATION

While some circulation features dating to the period of significance have been lost, several important paths, roads and road traces remain extant in the landscape. These include the central garden paths and yard from the Custis-Lee era, the road to the potting shed from the yard, the Sherman Avenue and Lee Drive connector from the Civil War period, the road trace in Arlington Woods and the small portion of the north and south oriented section of the Custis Walk on park property. These features lend to integrity of circulation on the site.

Character-defining Features:

Feature: Trace Road in Arlington Woods
Feature Identification Number: 136150
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Flower Garden Central Path
Feature Identification Number: 136152
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

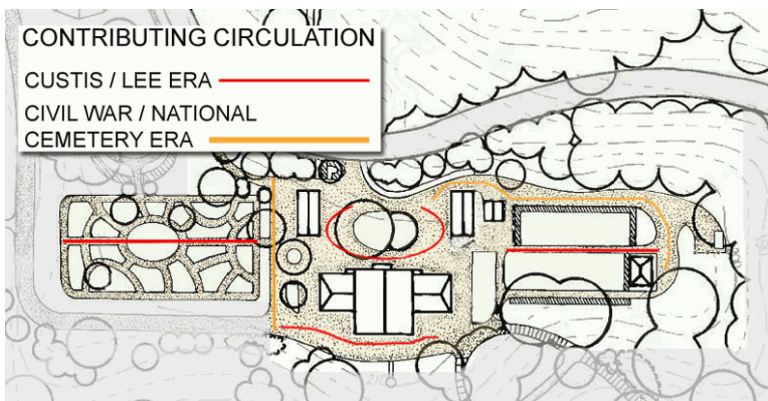
Feature: Kitchen Garden Central Path
Feature Identification Number: 136154
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Potting Shed Access Road
Feature Identification Number: 136156
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Lee Drive and Sherman Avenue Connector
Feature Identification Number: 136158
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: North/south section of Custis Walk
Feature Identification Number: 136582
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Contributing circulation patterns in the house, yard and garden areas (NCR CLP 2009).



An asphalt path through a ravine connects Arlington House and the Administration building. The most dense portion of Arlington Woods can be seen on the north side of the path and on the right-hand side of this image (NCR CLP 2009).

Vegetation

Contributing Features:

Trees in mixed hardwood forest of Arlington Woods ravine

Vegetation

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

HISTORIC

Documentation of the vegetation of the landscape of Arlington House: The Robert E. Lee Memorial during the historic period includes drawings, family and slave remembrances, agricultural records and Civil War era photographs. Overall, during the period of significance, the broader landscape of the original 1,100 acre estate was largely agricultural but it also included purposeful design elements. It consisted of crop fields, orchards, pasture, a fishery, as well as the treed groves of the Park, Arlington Springs, and the dense forests of Arlington Woods.

House and Slave Quarters

Vegetation surrounding the house and slave quarters during the historic period was sparse. Flowers and edible plants were maintained in the flower and vegetable garden and the utilitarian nature of land use in the yard area did not support a place for or dedication of time and resources to allow for landscaping to be implemented at the base of buildings. Foundation plantings are a largely 20th century phenomenon and were not found during the historic period.

Limited planting took place after the Custis Lee era and during the Union Army's 1861-1865 occupation of Arlington. There were repairs of eroded areas and there was a restoration of grassy areas around the house and beautification plantings of roses and trees at selected road junctions. It was at this time that some foundation plantings were first added near the house. In the 1870s, Quartermaster General Montgomery Meigs suggested that the beauty of Arlington be increased and recommended planting clumps of elephant ears (*Caladium esculentum*) and canna (*Canna* sp.) in front of the mansion. Planting beds were created at the base of the flagpole along the drive to the immediate east of the house. Also in the 1870s, a Nordmanns fir (*Abies nordmanniana*) was planted to the west of the southern slave quarters and remained through the 1950s. Trumpet vines (*Campsis* sp.) and ivy (*Hedera* sp.) were planted to grow up the sides of the slave quarters. Boxwood (*Buxus* sp.) was also added to planting beds near the house and slave quarters.

Arlington Woods

Historically the woods were a thick stand of forest composed mainly of oak (*Quercus* sp.), chestnut (*Castanea* sp.) and elm (*Ulmus* sp.). The woods provided a dark background to the house, a design feature that was often commented on with admiration in recollections of the estate during the historic period. This setting was based on the picturesque ideal of a naturalistic landscape popularized by Andrew Jackson Downing, Humphry Repton and other landscape designers who were influential during this time period. The woods provided a place for hunting, pleasure walks and family burials. During the historic period, five types of forest were included in Arlington Woods: mixed hardwood forest, red oak forest, chestnut oak forest, white oak forest and disturbed hardwood forest.

Park

Outside of the study area, and in contrast to the woods, an expansive "park" to the east of the house was where sloping topography was dotted with single specimens and clumps of large oaks, chestnuts, elm and evergreens (probably eastern redcedar [*Juniperus virginiana*]). Over time the park was used as pasture land and was a place for both ornamental and utilitarian vegetation. It was maintained as a relatively open landscape so views from or to the house would remain open.

Yard

A utilitarian yard between the slave quarters and the house was kept open and planted with rough grass. High-limbed deciduous trees (likely locust [*Robinia* sp.]) were located in the yard

between the slave quarters, and a large weeping willow (*Salix* sp.) was located west of the north wing of the house. Accounts of the house and photographs show that the trees in the yard were whitewashed, a common practice of the day. Two large Deodar cedars (*Cedrus deodara*) were planted in a circular bed in the yard area just west of Arlington House in 1874. The last of the locust trees from the historic period was removed from the yard between the two slave quarters in 1954.

Kitchen Garden

The vegetation within the vicinity of the house was based on an English-landscape style of design. There was a fenced formal flower and vegetable garden, both of which were arranged to complement the formal arrangement of the house and slave quarters. A survey map prepared by the Surveys of the Engineer Department in 1864-1866 of the kitchen garden showed the existence of a central path bisecting the rectangular garden on a north and south axis. The path was lined with fruit trees including cherry, pear, plum and apricot. The garden itself was screened from the wind with large trees. The garden gate was said to be flanked by two large barberry (*Berberis* sp.) bushes on either side of it. Historic accounts of the garden mention strawberries, currents, blackberries, fox grapes, raspberries, celery, tomatoes, asparagus, peas and cabbage as having been grown in the garden. In 1880 the potting shed (extant) was built in the northeast corner of the vegetable garden and a large greenhouse that spanned the entire eastern half of the garden was built. The smaller greenhouse in the flower garden built in 1870 was removed at this time.

Flower Garden

The flower garden to the south of the house and slave quarters was surrounded by a picket fence on its south, north and east sides. Plantings in the garden changed on a regular basis with the changing tastes of the women who were its primary caretakers, and by the fashions of the times. It was divided into geometric designs and planted with shrubs, annuals and perennials. Recollections of the garden mention Parmese violets, heliotropes, callas, roses, dahlias, lily of the valley, hyacinth, tulips, tall lilies, chrysanthemums, box, white and pink magnolias (near the center). A path divided the garden on a north and south axis and a wooden arbor with lattice-work sides that was covered in yellow flowering jasmine and red and pink honeysuckle vines were located in the center. During the Civil War period, reports stated that the flower garden remained in good condition. This could have been attributed to the care given to it by the slaves who remained on the property.

In 1870 a greenhouse was constructed in the northeastern corner of the flower garden. Plots of young plants were grown to its west. Around 1870 an arborvitae hedge was planted in a row in the inside of the white picket fence which circled the garden. The flower garden greenhouse was removed in 1880.

Grove

The west-facing side of the flower garden was likely blended into the naturalistic fenced “grove,” a comparatively wild garden with informally planted native and non-native plants

where oak and elm trees formed a canopy above blue bells of Scotland, a grape vine covered arbor, lilac, snowball bushes, mock orange, maidens-bower and violets. Construction of the Memorial Amphitheater (1874) and the Tomb of the Unknown Civil War Soldier (1866) necessitated the removal of the understory growth in the grove area. The large trees remained and provided a canopy over these structures.

EXISTING

After the period of significance, many changes were made to the landscape and vegetation of Arlington as it transformed from an estate and agricultural landscape to Arlington National Cemetery, a landscape of characterized by memorials, monuments and burying grounds.

House and Slave Quarters

Today, the landscape of the house and slave quarters have a similar appearance to their historic state. The ground is covered with gravel and there is an absence of foundation plantings at the base of buildings and structures.

Arlington Woods

Currently Arlington Woods has diminished in size. As a result of The Millennium Project in 2008, 12 acres of woods from the western edge of the woodland was transferred to Arlington Cemetery. With this transfer, the Park Service retained about half of the remaining woods adjacent to the central core of the property. Many of the oldest trees in Arlington Woods were identified by the 1998 Garrow and Associates Cultural Investigation. The report indicated that the mixed hardwood forest of the ravine between the house and administration building was where the oldest trees in the surrounding area were found. A fallen hickory tree was dated to approximately 1775. The report found. Some of these trees, considered "witness trees," (trees which were standing and "witnessed" the historic time period) still stand today.

There are two native species of plants, *Lonicera sempervirens* (a native honeysuckle vine) and *Prunus virginiana* (a native shrub cherry), found in Arlington Woods that are not found anywhere else within the GWMP. In fact, *Prunus virginiana* is not known to grow anywhere else on the Virginia Coastal Plain. An abundance of exotic plants including English ivy (*Hedera helix*) and Japanese wisteria (*Wisteria floribunda*) are now rampant in the Arlington Woods, and most likely derive from nearby plantings at Arlington House.

There are two types of forest classified in the Arlington House Woods. One, found on the upper drier slopes is dominated by chestnut oak and mountain-laurel and is classified as an oak/heath forest. The other, and most common type found in the extant Arlington Woods tract, can be found near mid-slope in more mesic (moderately moist) conditions. Classified as mesic mixed hardwood forest, it has an overstory dominated by mixtures of white, northern red, and chestnut oak, with beech abundant in the understory and maple-leaf viburnum abundant in the shrub layer. Mountain-laurel is absent. Both forest types also contain numerous exotics.

The trees in these forests are very large. The oak/heath forest contains nine chestnut oaks

ranging in DBH (diameter at breast height) from 63 to 102 cm. The mesic mixed hardwood forest contains (among other trees) six red oaks between 70 and 107 cm DBH, white oaks 85 and 126.5 cm DBH, and chestnut oaks 85 and 86 cm DBH. These diameters indicate that this forest is significantly old. Since oaks in these forest types take quite a while to reach sized like these, many of these tree probably predate the Civil War (NatureServe).

The overall integrity of the woods from the Custis-Lee period decreased with Civil War occupation. What is left of the woods does retain integrity.

Yard

The yard at Arlington House is relatively free of vegetation, as it was during the Custis-Lee era. The slave quarters are free of vines and foundation plantings from modern rehabilitation projects. A bed of English ivy (*Hedera helix*) is located to the west of the northern slave quarters and a few tendrils are starting to creep up the north and east sides of the building here. A gravel surface defines the utilitarian yard and an oval-shaped ivy bed surrounds one of the two deodar cedars (*Cedrus deodara*) that were planted in 1874, and a large American boxwood (*Buxus sempervirens*). At the turn of the century the large willow (*Salix* sp.) dating back from the historic period near the north end of the house was removed.

Kitchen Garden

The kitchen garden represents a 1930s and 1950s era interpretation of the Custis-Lee era garden. It still retains its rectangular shape and is bisected with a gravel path running north to south as it was during the historic period. A second gravel path currently runs north to south on the east side of the garden. Two large rectangular planting beds dominate the garden space. The rectangular bed on the west side of the central path is currently composed of turf. The other bed is edged with a border of turf surrounding an bare garden plot. During the growing season, a number of crops, limited in number by financial and personnel availability, are usually grown and harvested in the garden by park staff. In the mid 1930s, a boxwood (*Buxus* sp.)hedge was planted surrounding the eastern bed, it matched the one that had been planted around the western half of the garden during the time the greenhouse stood in the garden. Boxwood currently growing on the edge of the woods to the north and east of the kitchen garden may derive from having been moved from the garden during a 1940s rehabilitation project. In the 1940s, under a massive vegetative rehabilitation headed by Irving Payne, Chief Landscape Architect for the Buildings and Grounds Division of National Capital Parks within the NPS, a hedge of American holly (*Ilex opaca*), still in place today, was planted around the entire kitchen garden.

Flower Garden

In 1948 the Department of the Army transferred the area of the flower garden to the NPS. Later, the 1966 Master Plan led planners in the direction of depicting the landscape at Arlington as it was during the time of Robert E. Lee, specifically 1861. The re-creation of the period's flower garden with period plants and a restoration of the planting beds into their historic configurations was a major step in recapturing the historic scene. One living remnant of the

restoration is the Chinese elm (*Ulmus parvifolia*) on the northwest edge of the garden that was planted in 1981 in the spot where an American elm (*Ulmus americana*) previously shaded the landscape and was likely killed by Dutch elm disease. The Chinese elm is considered to be compatible with the historic landscape but it is not a contributing feature.

Maintenance of both the flower garden and the kitchen garden is the responsibility of NPS maintenance and interpretation. When possible, volunteers are employed to care for the kitchen garden and a contractor maintains the flower garden. Often it is the responsibility of one person to do all of the gardening.

EVALUATION

There is almost no vegetative matter on the site today that was growing during the period of significance with the exception of a few trees in Arlington Woods and the deodar cedar. The yard, house, flower and vegetable gardens are generally compatible with the Custis-Lee era landscape, with the exception of the deodar cedar which was planted in 1874. While there are few contributing vegetation features, the compatibility of the non-contributing features and the presence of the deodar cedar and the “witness trees” in Arlington Woods give the vegetation some integrity.

Character-defining Features:

Feature: Witness Trees in Arlington Woods Ravine

Feature Identification Number: 136574

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Deodar cedar (*Cedrus deodara*)

Feature Identification Number: 136252

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



The flower and kitchen gardens maintain much the same configuration as they did during the historic period. Edibles are still planted in the kitchen garden and the flower garden hosts plants from the historic period and the 20th century (NCR CLP 2009).

Views and Vistas

Views and Vistas

Contributing Features:

View between Arlington House and Washington, D.C.

View between kitchen garden, through yard to flower garden

View north and south along Lee Drive

Non-Contributing Features:

View from east side of house to JFK grave site

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

HISTORIC

Views were an important part of the original layout of the Arlington Estate. The placement of the house itself, upon a hilltop overlooking Washington, D.C., illustrates the importance of views to and from the house.

A primary view established during the Custis era was from the front of the house looking east towards the expanse of Washington, D.C. It was also important to Custis that his home be seen

from Washington. This is illustrated in the creation of park-like land to the east of the house. The park was a planned pasture area dotted with single tree specimens, and groves of trees strategically preserved or planted to frame views and present a picturesque setting for the house behind it. The retention and preservation of Arlington Woods to the west of the house provided a scenic and mysterious backdrop in the tradition of the English Landscape-style of design.

The view from Lee Drive (the north/south oriented gravel road running along the east side of the flower garden) to the south was especially significant during the historic period as the primary view of the surrounding estate from the house. The view of the house from the southern edge of the flower garden where Lee Drive makes a turn to the north, was likely an impressive sight for the Custis and Lee families and their guests, as well as troops and cemetery organizers who occupied the property during the Civil War and beyond. The placement of burials along the east side of the flower garden lends support to the idea that this area at the top of the hill near the house was a meaningful spot on the landscape. The view to the south from the top of the hill along Lee Avenue and beyond (modern day Crook Walk est. 1888) was where the agricultural landscape of the greater estate could be seen to the south.

Internal views were also an integral part of the historic cultural landscape of the site. The formal arrangement of the slave quarters to the west of the house was designed to allow for views from the flower garden through the yard to the vegetable garden and vice versa. Both gardens were bisected with paths upon which the other garden was visible beyond the yard and without obstruction by the slave quarters which were set back slightly to the west to allow for this view.

Internal views were also sometimes screened with vegetation to retain social hierarchy and control access. For example, shrubs on the eastern edge of the vegetable garden were used to screen this utilitarian space from the entry carriage drive.

During the Union Army occupation, views of the house from and to Washington continued to be of great significance and strategy. The Union Army occupation of the former family home of Lee, the commander of the Army of Northern Virginia and later the general-in-chief of Confederate forces, was very symbolic. The sight of the mansion from the perspective of Washington D.C. and the knowledge that the Union Army occupied the Virginia estate was meant to be a statement of strength by the Union Army.

EXISTING

Currently the views to and from Washington, D.C. are extant along with those north and south along Lee Drive and internal views from the flower garden from the vegetable garden and vice versa. One notable view which has gained prominence since the period of significance is the view from the hilltop on the east side of the house to the JFK grave site. This view is considered non-contributing because it does not derive from the period of significance.

EVALUATION

The view to and from Washington, D.C. from Arlington House exists today and allows the house to retain its historic character of conspicuousness and prominence upon the landscape. Internal views between the flower and vegetable gardens remain from the historic period and retain integrity. The extant views south and north along Lee Drive could be improved by reduction of vegetation along the east side of Lee Drive. However, the view is not completely obscured and is considered to be a contributing feature, which along with the other existing views lends integrity to views on the site.

Character-defining Features:

Feature: View between Arlington House and D.C.

Feature Identification Number: 136160

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Kitchen Garden Through Yard to Flower Ga

Feature Identification Number: 136162

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: View north and south along Lee Drive

Feature Identification Number: 136164

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



A clear view of the gravesite of President John F. Kennedy, Memorial Bridge, the Lincoln Memorial, the Washington Monument, the U.S Capitol and much of Washington, D.C. is seen from the gravel plaza in front of the Arlington House portico. (NCR,CLP 2009)

Cluster Arrangement

Cluster Arrangement

Contributing Features:

Arlington House cluster

Arlington Stable cluster

Cluster arrangement is defined as the location and patterns of buildings, structures and associated spaces in the landscape. Cluster arrangement at Arlington House: The Robert E. Lee Memorial was historically determined by land use, design and topography.

HISTORIC

During the historic period there were five considerable building clusters upon the 1,100 acre historic estate. The Arlington farm cluster, just west of the Potomac River included agricultural support buildings, slave quarters and a brick overseer's house. The Arlington Spring cluster near the Potomac River consisted of a dancing pavilion, a dining hall and kitchen, a spring structure, a dock and possibly an ice house and more. The Syphax family building cluster was located on a portion of the southwest corner of the property and included at least one house, a

church and an outbuilding; possibly more. The Arlington House stable cluster across the ravine to the west of Arlington House was a stable building, a cattle shed and a wagon shed. Finally, the Arlington House cluster consisted of the house, the north and south slave quarters and the potting shed.

EXISTING

Two of the five historic cluster arrangements remain. The Arlington House Stable cluster and the Arlington House cluster. In the stable cluster, both administrative buildings were built after the period of significance in 1907 but are considered compatible with the historic landscape. However, the fact that buildings exist in the same general arrangement as they did during the historic period gives integrity to the Arlington House stables cluster.

Despite the addition of the comfort station and maintenance building on the north end of the property, the Arlington House cluster remains intact. All of the historic structures remain in their original locations, and retain the same relationship to each other as they did in the past

EVALUATION

The integrity of cluster arrangement at the Arlington Estate has been impacted by its reduction in size from 1,100 to 16 acres. The two cluster arrangements located within the site's current boundaries are intact and lend integrity to cluster arrangement.

Character-defining Features:

| | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Feature: | Arlington House Cluster |
| Feature Identification Number: | 136166 |
| Type of Feature Contribution: | Contributing |
| Feature: | Arlington Stable Cluster |
| Feature Identification Number: | 136168 |
| Type of Feature Contribution: | Contributing |

Small Scale Features

Small-Scale Features

Contributing Features:

Rectangular cut bench or mounting stone

Non-contributing Features:

Signs

Fences and walls

Handrails

Drinking fountains

Fire hydrants

Wooden stairs

Concrete and stone pads

Trash receptacles
Planters
Benches
Ashtrays
Grates
Manhole covers
Utility meters, structures and boxes
Curbing
Sidewalks
Lighting and related fixtures
Stone tree wells
Stone well head
Tombstone riprap

The landscape characteristic “small scale features” is defined as elements that historically provided detail and diversity combined with function and aesthetics, and remain today. There are many small-scale features located at Arlington House: The Robert E. Lee Memorial. Most extant features are modern and do not derive from the period of significance.

HISTORIC

Some of the small-scale features that existed during the historic period but are no longer found on the site include: simple white washed or paling fencing around the south, north and east sides of the flower garden, fencing around the vegetable garden from both the Custis-Lee era and the Civil War era, an arbor in the center of the flower garden, a wooden sweep well (where 1930s era stone well head is currently located) which was converted into a pulley and bucket system and later covered with a simple roofed structure, wooden hitching rail fences and telegraph poles deriving from the Civil War era.

EXISTING

One feature on site, a rectangular cut stone presumably used as a mounting or sitting stone, derives from the period of significance. The stone is reported to have “1833” engraved into it, but at this time the engraving is not visible and no attempts to dig the stone out of the ground and inspect it have been made. The stone is located on the edge of a grassy area on the northeast corner of the graveled area that creates a plaza in front of the portico.

Small scale features from after the period of significance that are no longer found on site include: cast-iron urns and benches, inscribed bronze plaques along the drive near the portico, wire wickets bordering planting beds, metal pipe hitching rails and a “Temple of Fame,” located in the center of the flower garden, among others.

Signs, Fences and Walls, Site Furnishings

There is no evidence of the existence of signs during the historic period. Therefore, all interpretive and directional signage on site is considered non-contributing. Fences and walls on

the site do not date to the historic period and are also non-contributing features. Other non-contributing site furnishings include benches, trash receptacles, whiskey barrel planters, plastic and terra cotta planters, benches and ashtrays. Some of the wooden benches are made in a similar style to those seen in photographs during the Civil War period. These benches are compatible but non-contributing small-scale features.

Other

Other modern non-contributing small-scale features include; drinking fountains; fire hydrants; concrete and stone pads under benches, drinking fountains, door thresholds and other features; grates, utility and manhole covers; concrete curbing; concrete sidewalks; utility meters and boxes and related utility housing structures; lighting and light-related protective devices; stone tree wells in Arlington Woods and the stone well head constructed in the 1930s in the yard to the west of the house. Also, during the 1930s and through the 1960s(c.), old tombstones were used as riprap material to line drainages in Arlington Woods. The tombstone lined drainages do not derive from the period of significance and are considered non-contributing features.

EVALUATION

One of the extant small-scale features on site, the cut rectangular stone, is from the period of significance. The existence of this stone does contribute to the integrity of small scale features of Arlington, but overall, small-scale features on site have no integrity.

Character-defining Features:

| | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Feature: | Rectangular Cut Stone |
| Feature Identification Number: | 136170 |
| Type of Feature Contribution: | Contributing |

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



This single feature, a cut rectangular stone thought to be used for sitting or mounting a horse, is the only small-scale feature on site dating back to the historic period. Signs and waste receptacles are non-contributing features. (NCR, CLP 2009)

Archeological Sites

Archeology

Archeological investigation of the landscape surrounding Arlington House has been limited in scope. Some of the most significant investigations are noted in the following text.

The first known study was an informal survey conducted in 1954 after the removal of a locust tree near the South Slave Quarters which uncovered china, glass and stoneware. In 1955, a second investigation shed light on a trash deposit and artificial grading. In 1963 an excavation by Bruce Powell, Regional Archeologist in the National Capital Region of the National Park Service, led to information on the historic composition and appearance of the Flower Garden. In 1982, an investigation to determine if the construction of a proposed waterline in Arlington Woods would have an adverse affect on potentially significant cultural resources led to the recommendation of a new route for the waterline.

In 1983 an archeological investigation was to reveal the structural evolution of the mansion and the cultural practices of the occupants of the house. In 1983, another investigation revealed that the original Yard area between the slave quarters existed approximately 2 feet lower during the historic period than it did at the time of investigation. In 1991, to fulfill compliance requirements, a study of land which would be impacted during a high voltage electrical system upgrade was undertaken. A significant study was undertaken by Garrow and Associates in 1998. Along with archeology, it included cultural landscape inventory, and forestry and viewshed analysis. A 2005

report by the Louis Berger Group of Washington, D.C. gathered information about slave life at Arlington and investigated effects of a new comfort station and utility bunker on the site.

Condition

Condition Assessment and Impacts

Condition Assessment: Good

Assessment Date: 06/16/2009

Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:

Arlington House: The Robert E. Lee Memorial retains integrity to the period of significance and is in good condition. In order to maintain the site in good condition, routine maintenance programs should continue cyclic maintenance of the landscape. At Arlington House, this specifically includes monitoring erosion of the main terrace, using and maintaining appropriate vegetation in both the flower and kitchen gardens, maintaining the yard as an open area, preserving Arlington Woods and continuing to preserve contributing buildings and structures on site. Additionally, maintaining good condition includes sensitivity to archeology and potential archeology, monitoring and preserving historic views, and all other efforts that lead to creating the atmosphere that Robert E. Lee himself might have experienced in the early part of the 1860s.

The determination of condition is on a scale which includes an assessment of good, fair and poor. Good condition indicates the inventory unit shows no clear evidence of major negative disturbance and deterioration by natural and/or human forces. The inventory unit's cultural and natural values are as well preserved as can be expected under the given environmental conditions. No immediate corrective action is required to maintain its current condition.

Impacts

| | |
|------------------------------|---|
| Type of Impact: | Adjacent Lands |
| External or Internal: | External |
| Impact Description: | Incremental allocation of lands to Arlington National Cemetery will continue to reduce the acreage of the landscape of the site |
| Type of Impact: | Deferred Maintenance |
| External or Internal: | Internal |
| Impact Description: | Vegetation on site requires routine pruning, pest management, replacement and weeding |
| Type of Impact: | Erosion |
| External or Internal: | Internal |
| Impact Description: | Erosion, if not properly controlled will degrade quality of terraces on property. |

Type of Impact: Exposure To Elements
External or Internal: Internal
Impact Description: Severe weather may damage vegetative and structural resources on property.

Type of Impact: Fertilization Practices
External or Internal: Internal
Impact Description: Improper administration of fertilizer could lead to diminished quality of on-site vegetation.

Type of Impact: Fire
External or Internal: Both Internal and External
Impact Description: Vegetation, buildings and structures are susceptible to damage from fires started either inside or outside of property boundary lines.

Type of Impact: Impending Development
External or Internal: Both Internal and External
Impact Description: Development from both inside and outside the property boundary could impact buildings, structures, vegetation and archeological resources. possible impacts sources include vibrations and compaction from heavy equipment, disruptions caused by digging and loss or obstruction of historic views among others.

Type of Impact: Improper Drainage
External or Internal: Internal
Impact Description: Standing water on site could degrade built structures and erode terraces.

Type of Impact: Planting Practices
External or Internal: Internal
Impact Description: Improper planting practices could impact the integrity of vegetation on site if proper care to choose plants either from or compatible with the historic period are not chosen.

| | |
|------------------------------|---|
| Type of Impact: | Visitation |
| External or Internal: | Internal |
| Impact Description: | With continued and increasing visitation to the site, special care will need to be taken to continue monitoring impacted areas and monitoring of visitation impacts should persist. |

Treatment

Treatment

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Approved Treatment: | Rehabilitation |
| Approved Treatment Document: | Cultural Landscape Report |
| Document Date: | 10/01/2001 |

Approved Treatment Document Explanatory Narrative:

The 2001 Cultural Landscape Report (CLR) is in draft form but has been used to inform projects on the site.

A second document,
"Rehabilitation of Arlington House,
Outbuildings & Grounds Environmental Assessment For the Arlington House, The Robert E. Lee
Memorial (An Administrative Unit of the George Washington Memorial Parkway) Arlington, Virginia"
is also considered to be a landscape treatment document that is appropriate for the site.

Approved Treatment Costs

| | |
|-------------------|------------|
| Cost Date: | 10/01/2001 |
|-------------------|------------|

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Bibliography

| | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Citation Author: | Garrow, Patrick H., Heather Mills, Jeff Holland, Todd Cleveland and Bill Nethery |
| Citation Title: | Cultural Investigations at Section 29 Arlington House: The Robert E. Lee Memorial |
| Year of Publication: | 1998 |
| Citation Publisher: | Garrow and Associates Inc. |
| Source Name: | Other |
| Citation Type: | Narrative |
| Citation Location: | NCR |
| Citation Author: | Hanna, Jennifer |
| Citation Title: | Arlington House The Robert E Lee Memorial Cultural Landscape Report: History Volume I |
| Year of Publication: | 2001 |
| Citation Publisher: | NPS |
| Source Name: | Other |
| Citation Author: | Hanna, Jennifer |
| Citation Title: | Arlington House The Robert E Lee Memorial Cultural Landscape Report: Existing Conditions and Analysis and Evaluation |
| Year of Publication: | 2001 |
| Citation Publisher: | NPS |
| Source Name: | Other |
| Citation Author: | NatureServe. In preparation. |
| Citation Title: | Vegetation classification and map of National Capital Region (NCR) |
| Citation Publisher: | NPS USGS / NPS Vegetation Mapping Program |

| | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Citation Author: | The Lewis Berger Group |
| Citation Title: | Rehabilitation of Arlington House, Outbuildings & Grounds Environmental Assessment For the Arlington House, The Robert E. Lee Memorial (An Administrative Unit of the George Washington Memorial Parkway) Arlington, Virginia |
| Year of Publication: | 2006 |
| Citation Publisher: | DOI NPS |
| Citation Author: | Garrow & Associates, Inc. |
| Citation Title: | Cultural Resource Investigations at Section 29 at Arlington House, The Robert E. Lee Memorial, Arlington County Virginia. |
| Year of Publication: | 1998 |

Supplemental Information

- Title:** Additional Sources as listed for maps in Site plan section of CLI
(listed as cited in Arlington House: The Robert E. Lee Memorial Cultural Landscape Report. 2001 NCR CLP)
- Description:** Sources for 1802-1861 maps
- Environs of Washington Prepared from Original Surveys of the Engineer Department 1864-1866. Sheet 5 and 8. NARA II Record Group 77. F99, Cartographic Branch
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Map of the Ground of Occupation and Defense of the Division of the U.S. Army in
Virginia in Command of Brig. Gen. Irin McDowel. 1861 U. S. Coast Survey A. D.
Bache Supt. Field work executed during parts of June and July 1861. NARA II.

Map of Eastern Virginia and Vicinity of Washington. 1862 U. S. Army, Corps of
Engineers. NARA II, Record Group 77, Cartographic Branch.

[Map of Arlington National Cemetery] illustrating location of Freedmen's Village and
Division-approximately 10 acre plots. 1868 Partial copy in map files, ARHO.

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NARA I, RG 92 and ARHO archives.

Sources for 1865-1880 map

U. S. National Cemetery Arlington Virginia. 1869, Scale 100 ' to 1". NARA I. Copy
map files ARHO.

Map of Arlington Estate. Virginia January 1888 Showing all buildings occupied by
citizens outside of Fort Meyer (sic) and the National Cemetery. U. S. Congress
Washington D. C. Copy ARHO archives. On file Library of Congress. Cartographic
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Granolithic Pavement around Mansion at Arlington National Cemetery. November 8,
1893. Depot Quartermaster General's Office. NARA RG 92. Copy. Map files
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Arlington Va. Military Reservation Fort Myer and the National Cemetery with Annex
Showing the Road to Aqueduct Bridge. Depot Quartermaster's Office, Washington,
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National Cemetery Arlington Virginia 1901, Quartermaster General's Office. Copy
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Arlington National Cemetery Virginia Plan for Remodeling Grounds about Lee
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Arlington National Cemetery Virginia. Plan for Work to be Done at Lee Mansion on
Sites of Old Flower and Vegetable Garden. 1929, Quartermaster General Office ,
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Arlington National Cemetery: Present Layout of Arlington Mansion Showing Approximate Location of Drives, Walks, Plantings. ETC. c. 1930, Quartermaster General Department, original ARHO archives.

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U. S. National Cemetery Arlington Virginia. 1869, Scale 100 ' to 1". NARA I. Copy map files ARHO.

Map of Arlington Estate. Virginia January 1888 Showing all buildings occupied by citizens outside of Fort Meyer (sic) and the National Cemetery. U. S. Congress Washington D. C. Copy ARHO archives. On file Library of Congress. Cartographic division Washington D.C.

Granolithic Pavement around Mansion at Arlington National Cemetery. November 8, 1893. Depot Quartermaster General's Office. NARA RG 92. Copy. Map files ARHO.

Arlington Va. Military Reservation Fort Myer and the National Cemetery with Annex Showing the Road to Aqueduct Bridge. Depot Quartermaster's Office, Washington, D.C. January 10, 1894. NARA II RG 92 Copy map files GWMP headquarters.

National Cemetery Arlington Virginia 1901, Quartermaster General's Office Copy map files ARHO. Original NARA II RG 92.

Arlington National Cemetery Virginia Plan for Remodeling Grounds about Lee Mansion. Approved by CFA March 21, 1921. NCR 855/41900 plan Feb 23, 1921.

Arlington National Cemetery Restoration of Arlington Mansion Study for Drives, Walks and Planting Around Mansion on Sites of Old Flower and Vegetable Garden 1929, Quartermaster General Office, original ARHO archives.

Arlington National Cemetery: Present Layout of Arlington Mansion Showing Approximate Location of Drives, Walks, Plantings. ETC. c. 1930, Quartermaster General Department, original ARHO archives.

Photographic Collections, Arlington House Archives, Library of Congress, National Archives.

Sources for 1929 and beyond map

Arlington Va. Military Reservation Fort Myer and the National Cemetery with Annex Showing the Road to Aqueduct Bridge. Depot Quartermaster's Office, Washington, D.C. January 10, 1894. NARA II RG 92 Copy map files GWMP headquarters.

National Cemetery Arlington Virginia 1901, Quartermaster General's Office Copy map files ARHO. Original NARA II RG 92.

Map of the Arlington Virginia National Cemetery. Office of the Depot Quartermaster General, Washington D.C. August 14, 1912. Copy map files ARHO.

Map of Arlington National Cemetery to Accompany Estimate of Feb 28-1929 for Proposed Drives, Walks, Plantings, etc. Quartermaster General Department, Ca. 1930. Original ARHO archives.

Map of Arlington National Cemetery showing walks, drive and burial sections 1935 Executive Office of Arlington National Cemetery. Copy map files. ARHO TIC 855/81048, NCRNPS.

Arlington Reservation Virginia Fort Myer Military Reservation. Arlington National Cemetery, Dept. of Agriculture Experimental Farm and Naval Radio System. 1935 War Department Washington. Quartermaster General Office. TIC 855/81070. NCR NPS.

Arlington National Cemetery Virginia. Topographic and Cadastral Map. September 1940. Quartermaster General Office. NARA II, RG 92.

Historic Photographic Collections Arlington House: The Robert E. Lee Memorial, Library of Congress, National Archives II.

Title: ARLINGTON HOUSE ENABLING LEGISLATION
from pages 4,5 of
"Rehabilitation of Arlington House, Outbuildings & Grounds
Environmental Assessment For the Arlington House, The Robert E. Lee Memorial
Arlington, Virginia"

Description: ARLINGTON HOUSE ENABLING LEGISLATION pg 4,5 EA
The enabling legislation for Arlington House defined the period to which the Memorial was to be restored and interpreted, how it should be furnished, and why the American people thought the house should be restored and preserved for future generations. In March 4, 1925, Congress passed legislation (Public Resolution – NO. 74) that authorized the restoration of the Lee Mansion in the Arlington National Cemetery, Virginia. As stated:
“Whereas the era of internecine strife among the States having yielded to on better understanding, of common loyalty, and a more perfect Union; And Whereas, now honor is accorded Robert E. Lee as one of the great military leaders of history, whose exalted character, noble life, and eminent services are recognized and esteemed, and

whose manly attributes of percept and example were compelling factors in cementing the American People in bonds of patriotic devotion and action against common external enemies in the war with Spain and in the World War, thus consummating the hope of a reunited country that would again swell the chorus of the Union: Therefore be it, Resolved. . .that the Secretary of War be, and he is hereby, authorize and directed, as nearly as may be practicable, to restore the Lee Mansion in the Arlington National Cemetery, Virginia, to the condition in which it existed immediately prior to the Civil War and to procure, if possible, articles of furniture and equipment which were then in the Mansion and in use by the occupants thereof. He is also authorized, in his discretion, to procure replicas of the furniture and other articles in use in the Mansion during the period mentioned, with a view to restoring , as far as may be practicable, the appearance of the interior of the Mansion to the condition of its occupancy by the Lee family.”

For several years after the 1925 legislation was passed, when the War Department was responsible for managing the house and grounds, the enabling legislation was largely ignored. In direct violation of the enabling legislation, the War Department, largely at the insistence of Commission of Fine Arts director Charles Moore, decided to furnish and interpret to “the first half of the republic.” This decision was based, in part, on the popularity of the Colonial Revival movement which was still popular in 1925. The Mansion was restored to the period of George Washington Custis, and no furniture manufactured after 1830 was accepted. This approach utterly negated Lee’s role and presence at Arlington. Even after the National Park Service assumed control of the Mansion in 1933, the “Custis” interpretation continued for many years. In 1955, Public Law 107 officially designated Arlington House as a permanent Memorial to Robert E. Lee. Gradually the house was furnished and interpreted to the period of Robert E. Lee as specified in the original legislation. The law reads:

“Whereas of the two great figures therein involved, one, General Ulysses S. Grant, has been highly honored by becoming the President of the United States, but the other, Robert E. Lee, has never been suitably Memorialized by the National Government; and Whereas Robert E. Lee had graduated by West point, dedicated himself to an Army career, and became the colonel in the United States Army, then the commander of the Confederate forces, attained world renown as a military genius, and after Appomattox fervently devoted himself to peace, to the reuniting of the Nation, and to the advancement of youth education and the welfare and progress of mankind, becoming president of the Washington and Lee University at Lexington, Virginia; and Whereas the desire and hope of Robert E. Lee for peace and unity within our Nation has come to pass in the years since his death, and the United States of America now stands united and firm, indivisible, and unshakable; and whereas Public Resolution Numbered 74, Sixtyeight Congress, approved March 4, 1925, provided for the physical restoration of the Lee Mansion but did not dedicate the same as a permanent Memorial to Robert E. Lee:

Now therefore be it Resolved... That the Congress of the United States, at this anniversary time, does hereby pay honor and tribute to the everlasting memory of Robert E. Lee, whose name will ever be bright in our history as a great military leader, a great educator, a great American, and a truly great man through the simple heritage of his personal traits of high character, his grandeur of soul, his unfailing strength of heart..."

Although many changes have been made to adhere to the enabling legislation since that time, the process of restoring Arlington to the "period immediately prior to the Civil War" continues. In recent years, the staff of Arlington has increased its efforts to remain faithful to the spirit and dictates of the enabling legislation.

Title: Source for cover illustration

Description: Title: Arlington House The Seat of G.W.P. Custis, ESQ. by Benson J. Lossing.
ARHO archives 1857 file ARHO photo reproductions of drawings 1850s box 4