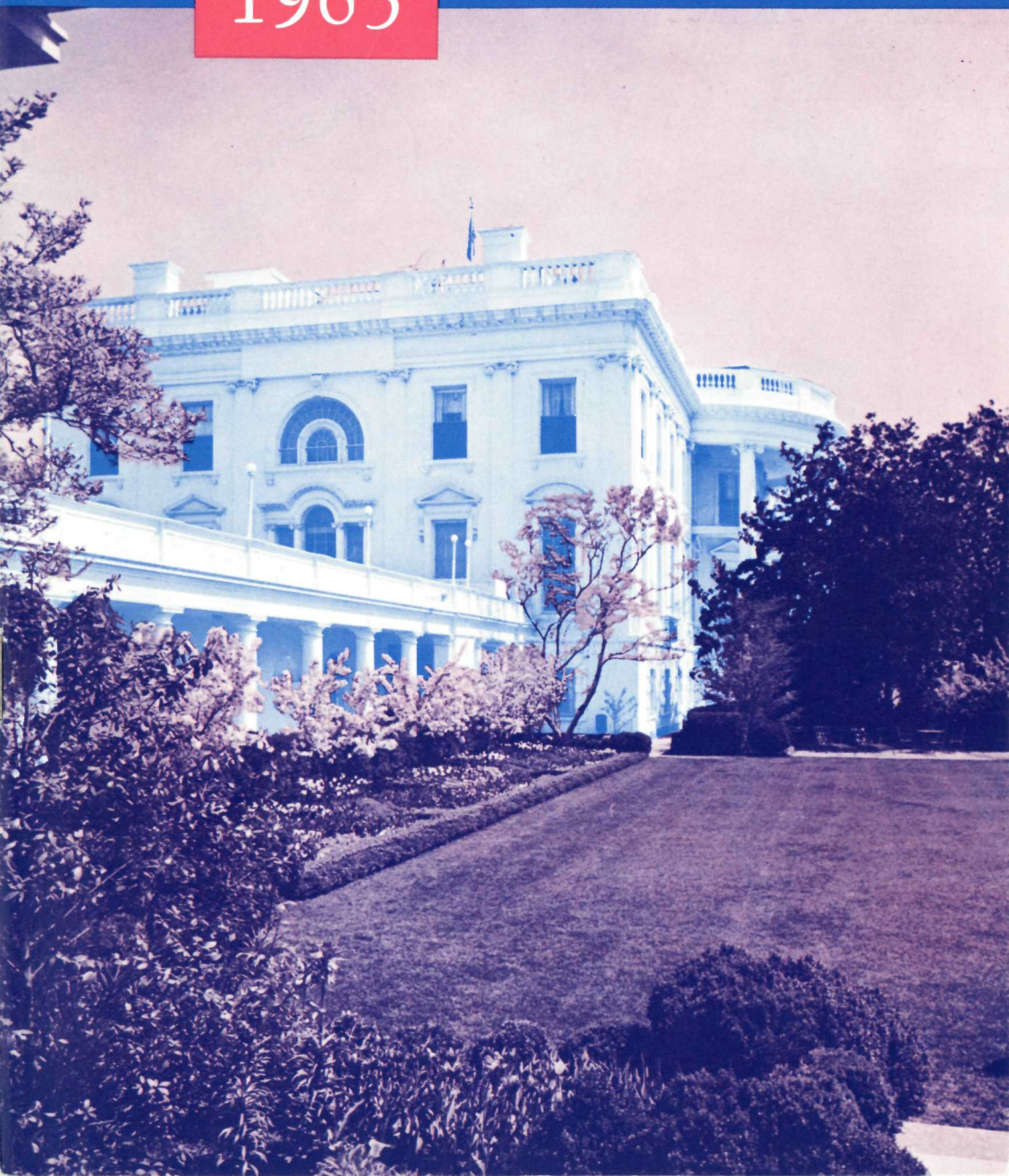


PARKS OF THE National Capital

1963





🌸 Parks of the
**NATIONAL
CAPITAL** 🌸

TOUR • 65th Annual Conference
*The American Institute of Park Executives •
The American Association of Zoological Parks
and Aquariums • The National Conference
on State Parks*

WASHINGTON, D.C. • SEPTEMBER 26, 1963

Prepared by the
National Capital Region, National Park Service
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

AMERICA'S NATURAL RESOURCES

Created in 1849, the Department of the Interior—America's Department of Natural Resources—is concerned with the management, conservation, and development of the Nation's water, wildlife, mineral, forest, and park and recreational resources. It also has major responsibilities for Indian and territorial affairs.

As the Nation's principal conservation agency, the Department works to assure that nonrenewable resources are developed and used wisely, that park and recreational resources are conserved, and that renewable resources make their full contribution to the progress, prosperity, and security of the United States—now and in the future.



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Stewart L. Udall

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

Welcome Park Executives:

It is with great pleasure that I welcome the members of the American Institute of Park Executives and the National Conference on State Parks to your 1963 Washington Conference.

In today's space age there is great emphasis on our technical resources and man's desire to explore the secrets of the Universe. These are laudable aims, to be sure. But oftentimes, we fail to ponder a more fundamental resource and challenge - namely, our human resource - the American people, and their need to appreciate, enjoy and relax in the outdoors and the challenge to preserve magnificent areas of natural beauty and the historic treasures of our Nation for our people's inspiration, instruction and enjoyment.

As in the words of William Wordsworth, we in America must have the places where youth can "bound o'er the mountains like a roe", wherever nature leads. We must have places where the sounding cataract haunts like a passion and the deep woods entreat us to study nature's secrets. And we must have places that elevate our thoughts of powers sublime.

Millions of Americans seek the wide variety of recreation and enjoyment which parks of various kinds can provide. The National Park, the State Park, the City Park and the Regional Park each has a vital and distinct role in meeting the total recreational needs of the American people. This is a mandate for the park men to meet the conservation-use challenge of our times - to conserve the most precious natural and historic areas for the enjoyment of this and future generations while providing still more areas and facilities for intensive use by the people.

I am confident you will unite in meeting this challenge.

Sincerely yours,

Secretary of the Interior

August 15, 1963

Dear Members and Friends:

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to Washington, D. C.

As President of the American Institute of Park Executives, and Director of the National Park Service, my association and responsibilities in the National Capital Region have given me a better understanding and a greater appreciation of the importance of urban park operations. As a member of the National Capital Planning Commission, I have participated in and watched with great admiration the pooling of Federal, State and county resources in the development of the outstanding park system administered by the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission.

We hope this tour of the Nation's Capital will enable you to evaluate your National Park System from various points of view--as a visitor to the Federal City and as a public servant from your home town. We hope that it will heighten your inspiration and enthusiasm for your individual responsibilities as park executives.

The Park System of the Federal City belongs to all Americans. We all have a responsibility for its preservation and beautification. Share your ideas about it with us. As the Nation's leading park executives, you have a unique opportunity to develop a national awareness of the great resources which the people in our Nation have in this historic Park System. Take the story home as forcefully as you can.

Sincerely,

Conrad L. Wirth
President

Conrad L. Wirth

To the Delegates and Honored Guests:

On behalf of the membership of the National Conference on State Parks, I warmly welcome delegates, their wives, and the honored guests to the 43rd annual meeting of The National Conference on State Parks and the annual meeting of the American Institute of Park Executives being held jointly in the Nation's Capital.

It is fitting, at this time when the spotlight is focused on the accelerated park and recreational needs of the people of the United States, that park executives and lay people representing the interests of all levels of government seek to appraise those needs and to formulate the manner in which they are to be met.

Among the greatest of these needs is that for recreational experiences in the out-of-doors unique in the lives of those who would seek surcease from the complexities of asphalt jungle and urban-sprawl. It should be the avowed purpose of the delegates to this joint conference to foster such outdoor experiences so that those who participate in them are truly re-created.

EARL P. HANSON, President
The National Conference on
State Parks



Earl P. Hanson

Dear Friends:

It is our pleasure to welcome you, as your official hosts, to the Nation's Capital. This is your city. We hope that you will enjoy it and will help support the efforts to make it the most beautiful city in the world.

During the course of this tour you will witness the development of Pierre Charles L'Enfant's dream of a planned city for the Federal Government, and one of the Nation's outstanding suburban regional park systems.

We hope that you will enjoy this tour and will take an interest in the work of the National Capital Region of the National Park Service and the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission, in maintaining the unique urban parks of the Nation's Capital, which is itself one great National Park.

Sincerely,

John P. Hewitt
Director
Maryland-National Capital
Park and Planning Commission

T. Sutton Jett
Director
National Capital Region
National Park Service

Co-Chairmen 1963 Conference

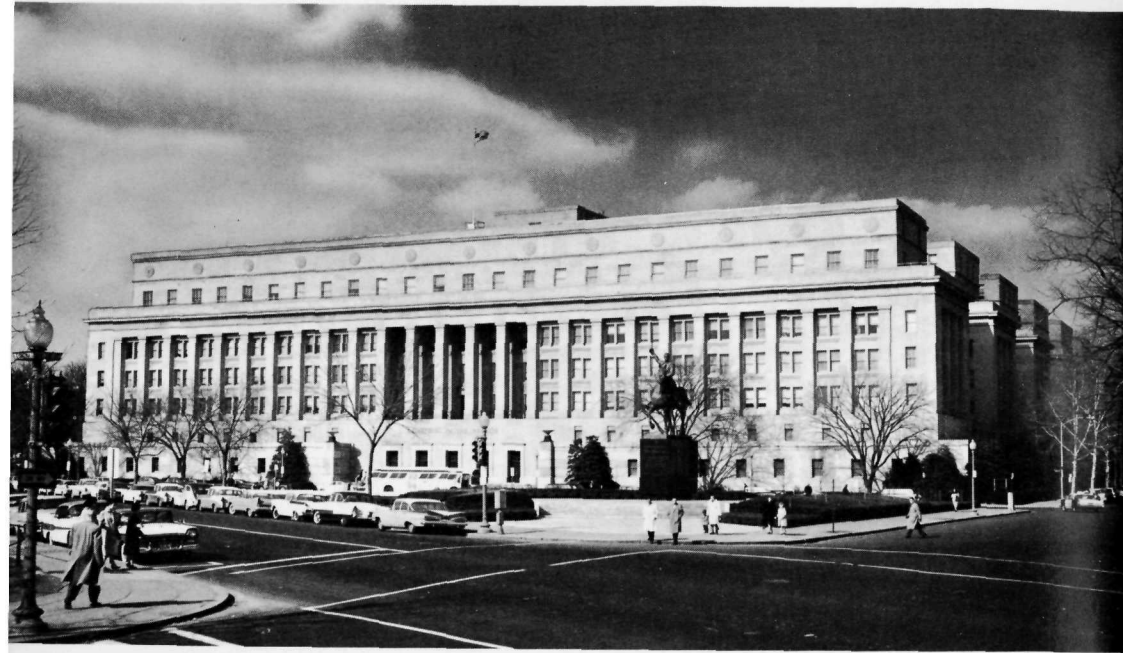


John P. Hewitt



T. Sutton Jett

Interior Department Building



National Capital Region Operations Building

PARKS of the NATIONAL CAPITAL

The city of Washington is itself one large National Park.

By authority of the Residence Act of July 16, 1790, President George Washington appointed three Federal Commissioners to lay out a district 10 miles square for the seat of the Federal Government. Later, Pierre Charles L'Enfant was chosen to plan the new Capital. In his plan, the character of the Capital was formed by its parks.

The parks were developed to provide settings of unparalleled beauty for the Government buildings—for the White House and the Houses of Congress. They were designed also to provide enrichment to the citizen through floral displays and attractive landscapes.

As the years passed, and the Capital advanced from a rustic village to an urban area, the Park System of Washington developed recreational facilities for sports, outdoor theaters, museums, and other services required to meet the needs of the urban dweller. Today the parks of the National Capital serve more than 15 million visitors annually, and 3 million metropolitan area residents, who use and reuse the parks a hundredfold throughout the year.

The parks of the National Capital, because they surround the most important structures in Washington, have been witnesses to the making of American history—from 1791 to this very moment!

Because Washington is the Capital of the Nation, the city and its parks must reflect the national character. The structures of the city and the parks of green reflect the accomplishments and aspirations of the American people. For this reason, the parks of your Capital have been administered by the Federal Government for 172 years.

In 1791, the parks were under the Federal Commissioners appointed by President George Washington. Those three men were, with broad powers, in control of all public buildings and grounds in the Federal City. As time passed and the Government grew, certain functions of the original Federal Commissioners were given to other Federal agencies.

In 1849, the parks of Washington were administered by the Interior Department. From 1867 to 1925, the Chief Engineer of the U.S. Army was responsible for the National Capital Parks. Finally, in 1933, control of the parks was returned to the Department of the Interior as they became an important unit of the far-flung National Park System.

One of the six major units of the National Park Service, this Park System of Washington is officially known as the National Capital Region.

In the beginning, national capital park areas included the Mall, the Washington Monument Grounds, Franklin, and Garfield Parks, and the "President's Park." Eventually 301 park reservations were established on lands acquired from the original landowners in 1791. A significant addition to the Washington

Park System was the establishment of Rock Creek Park in 1890, one of the largest and most beautiful natural parks in the world.

Although there were certain deviations from the L'Enfant Plan in the early history of Washington, the basic integrity of L'Enfant's "Grand Design" lived on. In the realm of park planning, a most significant event occurred at the beginning of the 20th century. In 1901, the McMillan Park Commission, created by the Congress, reported on "plans for the development and improvement of the Park system of the District of Columbia." The McMillan Plan reestablished the idea of a "Grand Mall" extending west from the Capitol to the Washington Monument and reaffirmed the soundness of the L'Enfant Plan.

Senator James McMillan of Michigan, for whom the Plan was named, ably persuaded the railroads to remove their tracks from the Mall, and to build the impressive Union Station to the northeast of the Capitol. The Mall concept was extended west of the Washington National Monument to the banks of the Potomac where the site for the Lincoln Memorial was selected. The return to the principles of L'Enfant enabled the city of Washington to preserve its simple dignity and beauty.

Now, in 1963, the National Capital Parks, under Regional Director T. Sutton Jett, faces the complex task of preserving the beauty of the Federal City, and providing vital services for the people. It must at the same time combine these with the modern utilitarian and technological developments which an urban community generates.

These goals are not incompatible. They can be attained to the benefit of all Americans. But the support, particularly of Park Executives, will be needed to advance parks of the National Capital with understanding and wisdom in the years ahead.

Since Washington is the scene of great events and decisions, its parks which enhance the halls of Government, *must* first bespeak a moving dignity and grandeur. Its parks must exhibit a rich mosaic of floral beauty. They must be restful and relaxing to the spirit—as "a thing of Beauty is a joy forever."

As part of the overall balance, some of its parks which are not ornamental must provide facilities for the wholesome recreation of body and refreshment of the soul.



INTRODUCTION

The National Park Service welcomes you to the Nation's Capital. We hope that this tour will help you to better understand Washington and to enjoy your visit here. This brief itinerary does not cover all of Washington, nor even all of its important sites, but it should help to acquaint you with the significance of this city as a treasure house of our American heritage. You will surely experience a certain pride and pleasure as you view these landmarks and recall the great deeds and sacrifices of our forefathers, the glory and grandeur of our past, our future hopes and dreams.

Washington, unlike any other city, belongs to all the people of the Nation. It was created for a unique purpose. It was developed according to an approved plan. In a new land, a new city was built for a new kind of government.

The plan, submitted in August 1791, was conceived by Maj. Pierre Charles L'Enfant, French military engineer and close friend of George Washington. The famous L'Enfant Plan was, in his own words, "drawn on a scale as to leave room for that aggrandizement and embellishment which the increase of the wealth of the Nation will permit it to pursue to any period, however remote."

At first, growth of the city was painfully slow, but by 1800 the Capital had progressed sufficiently for the Government with a total of 126 clerks to be moved from Philadelphia to the banks of the Potomac.

In 1900, L'Enfant's vision became a reality when a Park Commission was authorized by Congress, and a group of outstanding experts were appointed to report on plans for the development and improvement of the Park System of the District of Columbia. After making careful study of the city, they were greatly impressed with the beauty and utility of the original plan.

You, as Park Executives, will note the many similarities and differences in the Park System of this city and other urban areas. The National Capital Region of the National Park Service is responsible for the supervision and maintenance of the parks, parkways, monuments, memorials, squares, circles, playgrounds, and historic sites of our National Capital.

A TOUR OF THE NATIONAL CAPITAL

As we begin our tour of the Parks of the National Capital, your attention is first directed to a small park. This is typical of hundreds of squares and circles throughout the city of Washington. From the original 17 park reservations established in 1791, as a part of the L'Enfant Plan, many small verdant areas were developed at the intersection of streets. They provide spots of beauty, "little breathing spaces of green" among the brick and concrete of the city. Here is an example of renewed emphasis on floral beautification undertaken this year by the National Capital Region. This program will eventually bring additional color and beauty to many parks.



DUPONT CIRCLE

This Circle, located where five streets converge—Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Hampshire Avenues, and 19th and P Streets—is named for Rear Adm. Samuel F. Dupont, a U.S. Naval Officer in the Civil War. The memorial fountain at its center is the work of Daniel Chester French, sculptor of the Lincoln Statue in the Lincoln Memorial.



About 40 years ago the Circle was surrounded by rows of fine townhouses with several palatial residences on the north. Most of the residences have been removed. No. 15 Dupont Circle, a white marble home with diagonal porch, built by Mrs. Robert (Cissy) Patterson in 1902, is occupied by the Washington Club, the oldest women's club in the city. Next to this, at No. 1501 New Hampshire Avenue, is the mansion built by Mrs. Robert Hitt, widow of a former Congressman from Illinois.



Farragut Square

FARRAGUT SQUARE

Farragut Square is a haven of rest where the many office workers in the area enjoy a brief respite from their daily toil. In spring, azaleas and tulips bloom in profusion. The grass is green and the shade inviting. This year a wonderful display of dark red Couleur Cardinal tulips added to the beauty of this little park. Near the center of the square stands Vinnie Ream Hoxie's heroic bronze figure of Adm. David G. Farragut, cast from metal from his flagship, the *Hartford*. Farragut, the first Admiral in the U.S. Navy, started his naval career at the age of 10 and served in three wars. This imposing statue, unveiled in 1881, calls to mind the courage and devotion of the hero of Mobile Bay and his ringing words, "*Damn the Torpedoes—Full Speed Ahead.*"



Lafayette Park from the White House



Lafayette Statue



Jackson Statue, Lafayette Park, White House in background

LAFAYETTE PARK

No other square block in America is as rich in national history as the area around Lafayette Park. Here lived the most brilliant political, literary, scientific, diplomatic, and military figures in American history. Momentous events, both tragic and pleasant, have occurred in the Square throughout the years. Here courage and love, hate and violence, the noble and the despicable passions of man have played their part in the great drama of American history.

From Decatur House, Steven Decatur walked across the Square in the early dawn of March 22, 1820, on his way to meet death in a duel with Commodore Barron at the dueling field in Bladensburg, Md.

Significant as the Square is in national history, it has retained throughout the years a peculiar domestic charm.

When George Washington proposed to acquire the site as a public park in 1791, it had been owned by the Edward Peirce family since 1685. The Peirce farmhouse stood at the northeast corner of the Square and the Peirce apple orchard occupied most of the remaining land, except for the family graveyard between the present Jackson Monument and the White House.

In design, the Square is a good example of American taste in parks—a neat compromise between the formal style of European continental gardens and English naturalism. Rectangular in shape and covering two city blocks, its turf cut by winding asphalt paths, it is adorned with statues in the center and at the four corners.

Informally and attractively landscaped, it contains many varieties of trees and shrubs. The ancient columnar elms bordering the paths are impressive. In an early summer's dusk the heavy lemon scent of southern magnolias is truly representative of the park. Here and there colorful flower beds change with the seasons. Delicate crabapple blossoms and pansy beds in spring are followed by roses which bloom all summer into late autumn. In winter birds twitter among the snow laden boughs and squirrels chatter in their nests in the old trees.

The first formal celebration of Independence Day in Washington occurred in this park in 1801. Here Andrew Jackson sat and ate his lunch as he talked to the people. Years later, it was here that President Truman took his routine morning walks.

Lafayette Park statues commemorate foreign patriots who aided General Washington and the Revolutionary Army in the fight for our independence. In the southeast corner is a statue of the Revolution's most famous foreign soldier, the Marquis de Lafayette. The statue is the work of Alexander Falquiere and Antone Mercie. Lafayette was one of those people who gave color and romance to the American scene. Nineteen when he arrived in America from France, he volunteered his services to Congress and soon became one of the closest friends of George Washington, under whom he served during the long years of the Revolution. He also secured economic and political aid for America from his native country.

Statue of Andrew Jackson Since 1853, this statue of one of our Nation's great leaders has dominated the center of Lafayette Square. The sculptor, Clark Mills, achieved amazing balance in this unusual statue. It was the first equestrian statute to be erected in Washington. Cast from the bronze cannon captured at Pensacola during the War of 1812, the statue literally breathes the courageous spirit of "Old Hickory." *General Thaddeus Kosciuszko* This statue honors the Polish patriot Thaddeus Kosciuszko, who served the American cause during the Revolution. He was a Major General of the "volunteers," and is particularly remembered for his service at Saratoga. The statue was a gift of the Polish American Societies of America. *Statue of General Rochambeau* On the southwest corner of Lafayette Park is a statue of another Frenchman, the Count de Rochambeau. Rochambeau headed the French land forces that were sent to America after France declared war on England. He, like Lafayette, returned to France and aided in the French Revolution. *General Von Steuben* On the northwest corner of Lafayette Square stands Baron von Steuben's statue. He had been Frederick of Prussia's drill master before he became the drill master of Washington's raw troops at Valley Forge.



North Portico of White House

THE WHITE HOUSE

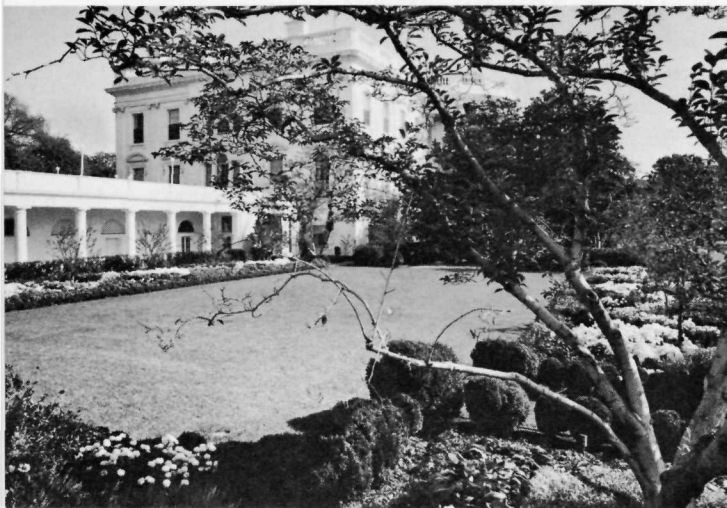
Of the world's great residences of state, none surpasses the White House in charm and dignity. Americans may well be proud of their Executive Mansion which seems, in its simple, dignified lines, to be expressive of the country. Critics are unanimous in extolling its architecture. Throughout the years it has remained basically as James Hoban of Dublin, Ireland, designed it in 1792.

Hoban was a young Irish-American architect who won a \$500 prize for submitting the accepted design. The architecture of the mansion is basically Italian Renaissance but the north portico, added by Jefferson, gives the mansion a distinctive southern colonial aspect.

The site for the President's House, as it was first called, was selected by George Washington and the cornerstone was laid on October 13, 1792.

In design and setting the White House avoids any suggestion of formal display or lavish expenditure. It echoes the human story of a great republic and its struggles toward self-expression and liberty. It is the oldest public structure in Washington, and the most beautiful of its period.

White House Rose Garden



The White House has been the home of every President of the United States except George Washington. The variety that is America has been reflected in these men. They have come from the South, the North, the East, and the West. Something of the personality of each has been left to linger on in the memories which surround this Nation's House.

Throughout the years, the White House changed with the times. Until 60 years ago, the Presidents conducted their business in offices on the second floor of the White House.

At first only a room for the President and an anteroom were needed. But gradually the business of the Presidency encroached upon his family's privacy until, out of 13 rooms on the second floor, only 6 were left as living quarters for the Nation's First Family. And each successive First Family endured and rarely complained, so firmly entrenched was the idea that the House belonged to the people, the President being merely a tenant—the familiar American story of the sovereign people and their servant, the President.

After the British burned the White House in 1814, it was painted white. Various structural changes occurred throughout its history, and in 1949–52, a complete renovation of the exterior and a restoration of the interior was conducted. The Mansion's beauty, the informal grace of its spacious grounds, and its rich historical associations draw over a million visitors each year.

BLAIR HOUSE and BLAIR-LEE HOUSE

The Blair House is a four-story yellow stucco building of historic interest. Blair House is today owned by the Government, and used as a guest house for important visitors of state. President Truman and his family lived here for 2½ years during the renovation of the White House. It was here that two Puerto Rican fanatics tried to shoot their way in November 1, 1950, killing one guard and wounding two others.

Built in 1824, the house takes its name from Francis P. Blair of Kentucky, who bought it when he came to Washington at the request of Andrew Jackson to establish the *Washington Globe*. In Jackson's administration this house became the rendezvous of Old Hickory's advisers, and since most of them did not hold official positions, they were called derisively by the opposition, "the Kitchen Cabinet." It was in this house at a private dinner that Robert E. Lee was offered the command of the Union forces in the Civil War, which he declined.



Blair House and
Blair-Lee House



ORNAMENTAL and NATURALISTIC PARKS

Rawlins Park

Meridian Hill Park

Dumbarton Oaks Park

Catoctin Mountain Park

Japanese Cherry Trees

McPherson Park

Franklin Park

Prince William Forest Park



EXECUTIVE OFFICE BUILDING

This massive, rococo building is an example of French Renaissance architecture in Washington. It houses various Executive Offices of the President, including the Bureau of the Budget, and the Office of Emergency Planning. Built during the years 1871 to 1887, the building once housed the Departments of State, War, and Navy. It was in this building that President Eisenhower worked as a young Army officer and later, as President, initiated television press conferences. A Treaty Room, which is still used as a conference room, may be visited. This room will recall agreements of international significance. The Treaty of 1871, which resolved trade differences between Britain and the United States, was signed there. The halls echo with voices of the past—Hoover, Roosevelt, Eisenhower, Dulles, Pershing, and Cordell Hull. Few Government offices can claim an equal position of historical significance.

FIRST DIVISION MEMORIAL

This memorial is one of the first World War I memorials in the city. It was erected in 1924, as a memorial to the 1st Infantry Division of the U.S. Army. A bronze statue of Victory surmounts the 80-foot column. On bronze plates at the base are inscribed 5,500 names of World War I dead. Recently, names of the Division's World War II heroes were added.

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

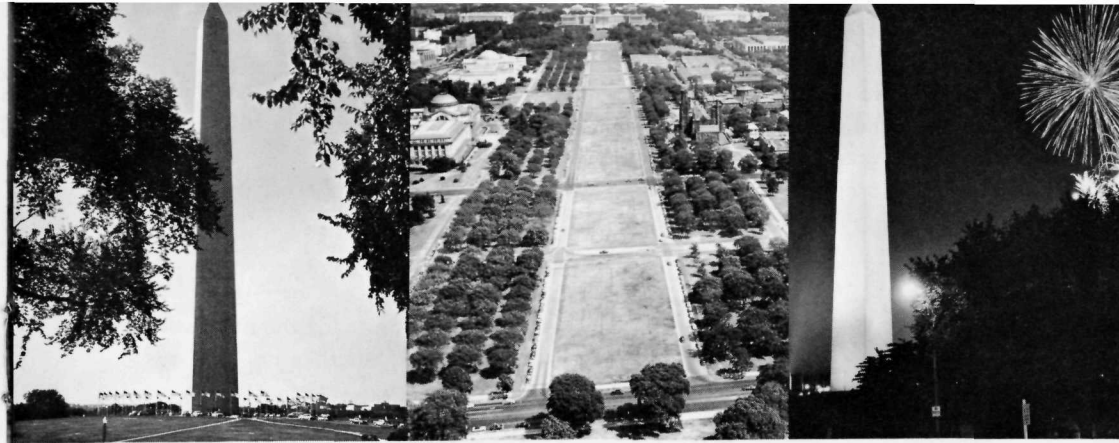
Built in 1816, the famous "Church of the Presidents" may be seen, looking across Lafayette Park, from the White House. St. John's Church became associated with the Presidents in December 1816, when President James Madison was first offered a pew. He selected Pew No. 54; and thereafter, this same pew was occupied by the next five Presidents. Ever since that time Pew No. 54 has traditionally been known as the "President's Pew."

In this city of beautiful architecture, St. John's Church holds a distinguished place. It was designed by the noted New England architect Benjamin Latrobe, and remains very much as it was originally built.

Executive Office Building



First Division Memorial



Washington Monument and Mall

SECOND DIVISION MEMORIAL

The Second Division Memorial honors the men of the Second Infantry Division of the U.S. Army who died in World Wars I, II, and Korea. This memorial, which bears the insignia of the unit, a flaming sword, was the work of James E. Fraser.

It was dedicated on July 18, 1936, by the Second Division Memorial Association.

THE ELLIPSE

The Ellipse, an open area surrounded by trees, is an official part of the Executive Mansion grounds. Earliest plans for the Federal City called for a broad, grassy, tree-lined open space as the south vista of the President's House. At the present time the area is used for recreation and special events. On the side of the Ellipse near the White House Grounds, distances on national highways passing through Washington are reckoned to and from the Zero Milestone.

High point of annual activities in Washington on the Ellipse is the opening program of the Pageant of Peace, when the President of the United States traditionally lights the National Community Christmas Tree.

THE WASHINGTON NATIONAL MONUMENT

The Washington National Monument, built at intervals between 1848 and 1885, with funds from public subscriptions and Federal appropriations, memorializes George Washington's achievements and unselfish devotion to principle and to country. The monument was started in 1833 when a group of citizens organized the Washington National Monument Society for the "purpose of erecting a great National Memorial to Washington." The cornerstone was laid on July 4, 1848 and, after many difficulties and delays, was completed on December 6, 1884. It was first opened to the public on October 9, 1888. Today, nearly 2 million persons visit the 555-foot marble shaft each year. The majority of these visitors reach the top of the monument in 1 minute by elevator. Others

prefer to walk up the 898 steps, viewing the 190 memorial stones along the way. Straight and lofty as the character of George Washington, the Washington National Monument has become the symbol of the love and devotion of the American people for his memory.

THE MALL

Pierre L'Enfant's original plans for the Federal City included the impressive park area known as the Mall. This is the central axis of the city, and was intended to be a "grand avenue" of majestic beauty. On L'Enfant's Plan he stated that "this avenue leads to the Monument, and connects the Congress Garden (at the west entrance to the Capitol) with the President's Park."

The L'Enfant Plan called for the Monument to be located at a point where a line drawn due west from the center of the Capitol would intersect a line drawn due south from the center of the White House. However, the builders of the Washington Monument were concerned with the strength of the soil for foundations at that point; hence the site of the Monument was moved a short distance from the exact point fixed by L'Enfant.

In 1853, the first steps were taken toward the development of the Mall between the Capitol and the uncompleted shaft of the Washington Monument, and an informal landscape park treatment was adopted.

During the Mall's early history, progress was slow, but in 1901, the McMillan Commission accomplished two important things—the removal of the railroad tracks from the Mall and the selection of the site for a proposed monument to Abraham Lincoln. In accomplishing the latter, the Commission extended the Mall Axis 1 mile directly west of the Washington Monument on the lands dredged from the Potomac River.

Other important features of the McMillan Commissions' work, which materially affected the Mall and aided the beautification of Washington, included suggestions for connections between various parks and the acquisition of new parks with increased emphasis on securing those lands needed to preserve the best landscape effects.

By adhering to the broad outline of the L'Enfant and McMillan Plans, park officials have effected improvements which make Washington one of the most beautifully designed cities of the world.

THE UNITED STATES CAPITOL

The Capitol is the symbol of America. Within its walls the destiny of the Nation is shaped by the chosen representatives of the people—the people who share in the conduct of our Nation's Government. The Capitol is the embodiment of our Democratic system. The cornerstone of the building was laid by George Washington in 1793, and through the years various wings were added as the needs grew. In 1863 the dome was completed and the bronze statue of Freedom placed on top of the lantern. In 1961, the East Front was



moved forward 32½ feet. This modification allowed space for 75 additional rooms. The original sandstone walls were left in place, and a new front of marble, faithfully reproducing the design of the old sandstone front, was constructed in the new location.

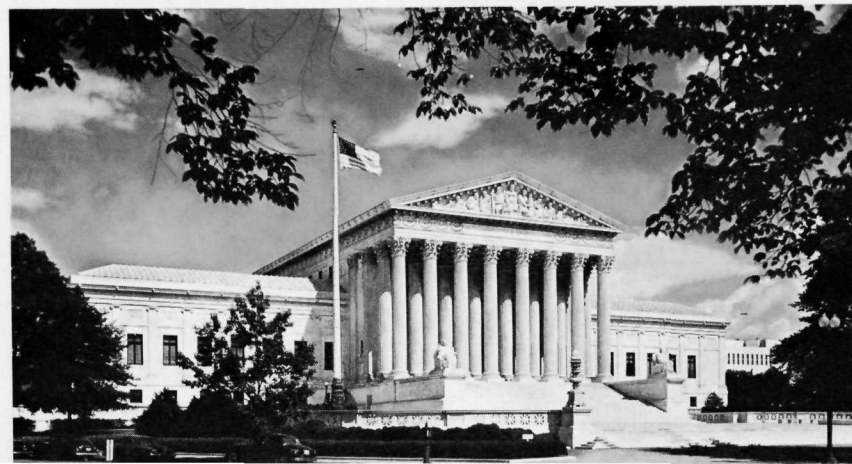
THE BUREAU of ENGRAVING and PRINTING

The Bureau of Engraving and Printing operates the largest plant of its kind in the world. Erected in 1914, the west facade features a monumental Doric colonnade and is designed in harmony with the neoclassic architecture of other Government buildings. An average of 8,000 visitors a day during peak periods come to see the daily average printing of 6,300,893 notes with a face value of \$30,959,171. Currency, however, is only one item among many on the production schedule of the Bureau, which includes postage stamps, bonds, patent certificates, and treasury warrants.

THE SUPREME COURT

The U.S. Supreme Court Building, housing the Judicial Branch of the tripartite Federal system of American Government, is one of the finest examples of architectural grandeur in the Nation's Capital. Few other buildings approach it in beauty and splendor. It was designed and constructed by the firm of Cass Gilbert, and was dedicated in 1935.

Supreme Court





GENERAL GRANT MEMORIAL

The lone word "GRANT" carved upon its marble pedestal is the only inscription on this memorial to the Nation's great and inspiring hero of Appomattox. One of the largest equestrian statues in the world, it is the result of 20 years of research and work by the sculptor, Henry Merwin Shrady, who died but a few days before its dedication on April 27, 1922. Shrady literally gave his fortune and his life to this supreme achievement in bronze. Washington, as the Capital of the Nation, has become famous, and properly so, as a city studded with monuments and memorials in marble and granite and bronze, erected by a grateful and appreciative people to commemorate the lives and deeds of those who have won honor and renown in the service of their country.

FOLGER SHAKESPEARE LIBRARY

The Folger Shakespeare Library, of Georgia white marble, is perhaps the finest example of contemporary architecture in the city. Decorative metal-work and fine landscaping surround the building; and on the west side there is a delightful statue of Puck by Brenda Putnam.

The interior has a great oak-paneled hall, high vaulted ceiling, mosaic tile floor, and wooden grilled doors. There is a museum of Elizabethan works of art, a library of rare books, and an adaptation of a 17th century English theater in which Shakespearean plays are given.

THE NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

The National Gallery of Art, a gift from Andrew W. Mellon, was established as a Bureau of the Smithsonian Institution by Joint Resolution of Congress, and approved March 24, 1937.

Containing one of the world's finest collections of art, it is one of the largest marble structures in the world, and has more than 500,000 square feet of floor space. The exterior is of rose-white Tennessee marble, graded to shade, with the darkest at the base.

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

Within this beautiful and historic building the largest literary collection in the world has been assembled. There are over 41 million items in the Library of Congress.

Originally started in 1800, the Library was first located in the Capitol as a reference service for Congressmen. It was almost completely destroyed when the British burned the Capitol in 1814; and to replace the loss, Thomas Jefferson offered for sale to the new Government his private library of 6,700 volumes.

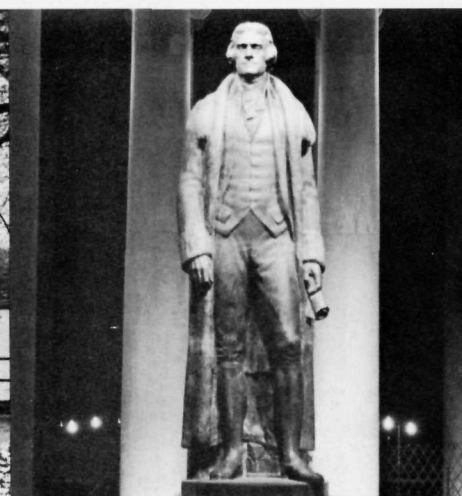
The present building, completed in 1897, is of Italian Renaissance style. A grand stairway rises on either side of the Court of Neptune, a bronze fountain group. The interior of the Library of Congress is of Italian white marble, and there are numerous paintings, mosaics, and inscriptions on the walls.

THOMAS JEFFERSON MEMORIAL

The Thomas Jefferson Memorial is a tribute to one of the greatest figures in American history. Dedicated on April 13, 1943, the 200th anniversary of the birth of Thomas Jefferson, this Memorial was designed by the architectural firm of John Russell Pope in the style which Jefferson himself preferred. In the interior of the Memorial is a 19-foot bronze statue of Thomas Jefferson by Rudolph Evans. On the walls are four carved inscriptions based upon the writings of Jefferson. The first panel contains words from the Declaration of Independence; the second embodies his doctrine of freedom of mind; the third is devoted to his belief in common education and his opposition to slavery; while the fourth expresses Jefferson's vision in matters of government. The Tidal Basin, bordered by the famed Japanese Cherry Trees, reflects in its placid waters the classical beauty of the Memorial.

Jefferson Memorial

Jefferson Statue



COLUMBIA ISLAND MARINA

The Columbia Island Marina, along the George Washington Memorial Parkway, provides space for 675 privately owned boats. Operation of the Marina is conducted for the National Capital Region by a Concessionaire, Government Services, Inc.

THE PENTAGON

Directly across from the Marina is the Pentagon, Headquarters of the Department of Defense. A phenomenon of construction, the Pentagon is the world's largest office building. Its architecture can best be described by the Greek prefix *pente*—meaning five. It has five sides, five floors, and five concentric rings. Completed in 1943, the building houses more than 35,000 employees. There are 17½ miles of corridors in the Pentagon. On the ground floor of the building is a large shopping center. Today the Department of Defense far exceeds all other departments in size and expenditures.

ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY

The Arlington National Cemetery, America's solemn resting place for its war dead, was established in 1864. Here is the site of the "Tomb of the Unknowns."

In this beautiful setting in Virginia on a hillside overlooking the Potomac River, the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier is a shrine that has become a mecca for all who visit Washington. With its perpetual honor guard, the Tomb is a lasting memorial to those who gave their lives in battle in defense of this Nation. The body of an unknown and unidentified American soldier of World War I was interred at Arlington on November 11, 1921. By his side, the bodies of an unknown soldier of World War II and of the Korean conflict were laid to rest on May 30, 1958.

The design of the Tomb is in the form of a simple but impressive sarcophagus. It is 11 feet high and, at the base, 8 feet wide and nearly 14 feet long. The Tomb is composed of only four pieces of white marble, the largest of which weighs over 50 tons. The severity of the design is relieved by Doric Pilasters in low relief at the corners and along the sides. There is only one inscription: "Here Rests In Honored Glory An American Soldier Known But To God."

Entrance to Arlington National Cemetery



Family Parlor
Custis-Lee
Mansion

CUSTIS-LEE MANSION

Built between 1802-17 by George Washington Parke Custis, the grandson of Martha Washington and the foster son of George Washington, this spacious mansion became the home of Lt. Robert E. Lee when he married Mary Ann Randolph Custis on June 30, 1831. It was on April 20, 1861, that Robert E. Lee made his momentous decision to resign his commission in the U.S. Army and offer his service to his native State of Virginia.

In 1933, the Mansion was transferred from the War Department to the Department of the Interior.

UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS WAR MEMORIAL

The United States Marine Corps War Memorial by Felix de Weldon was inspired by Joe Rosenthal's famous photograph of the Marines raising the flag on Mount Suribachi in World War II. Dedication of the Memorial was November 10, 1954. It was donated by the U.S. Marines, former Marines, friends of the Marine Corps, and members of the Naval Service.



Marine Corps
Memorial

THEODORE ROOSEVELT ISLAND

President Theodore Roosevelt, an ardent conservationist, is memorialized by Theodore Roosevelt Island in the Potomac. An ideal site for observing nature, it contains many kinds of plant and animal life. Raccoon, foxes, ducks, and the great blue heron may be observed here. During the summer months, Park Naturalists conduct guided walks on the Island on weekends and holidays.

THE NETHERLANDS CARILLON

This Carillon, presented to the people of the United States by the people of the Netherlands, is an expression of their gratitude for the help of Americans during the dark years of World War II. Each of the 49 bells bears the coat of arms or symbol of the donor. The largest bell weighs over 12,000 pounds and the smallest, presented as a token by Queen Juliana, weighs less than 42 pounds. The Tower was dedicated in 1962.

LINCOLN MEMORIAL

In this temple as in the hearts of the people for whom he saved the Union, the memory of Abraham Lincoln is enshrined forever.

This memorial honors the virtues of tolerance, honesty, and constancy in the human spirit. The man whose likeness presides over this marbled hall used these virtues in the practice of statecraft. And from it flowed everlasting benefit to his Nation and an enduring inspiration to his countrymen.

Thirty-six columns of Colorado marble form a colonnade representing the 36 States in the Union at the time of Lincoln's death. In the frieze above it are the names of the States. On the marble walls above the colonnade are the names of the 48 States in the Union at the time of the dedication on Memorial Day, May 30, 1922.

Extending toward the Washington Monument to the east of the Memorial is a reflecting pool—a mirror for the Lincoln Memorial. The pool is 1,992 feet long and 160 feet wide, bordered by two rows of stately English elms.

Lincoln Memorial



THE WATERGATE THEATER

The Watergate, a series of granite steps leading down from the Lincoln Memorial, was designed as the name indicates to be Washington's Grand Entrance by water. It was thought that Heads of State would arrive here by boat. These steps form a unique amphitheater for visitors who can enjoy summer entertainment on a floating barge at the seawall. Sponsored by the National Capital Region, this activity was attended by over 500,000 persons last year, and contributes to the cultural enjoyment of the residents as well as the visitors to the city.

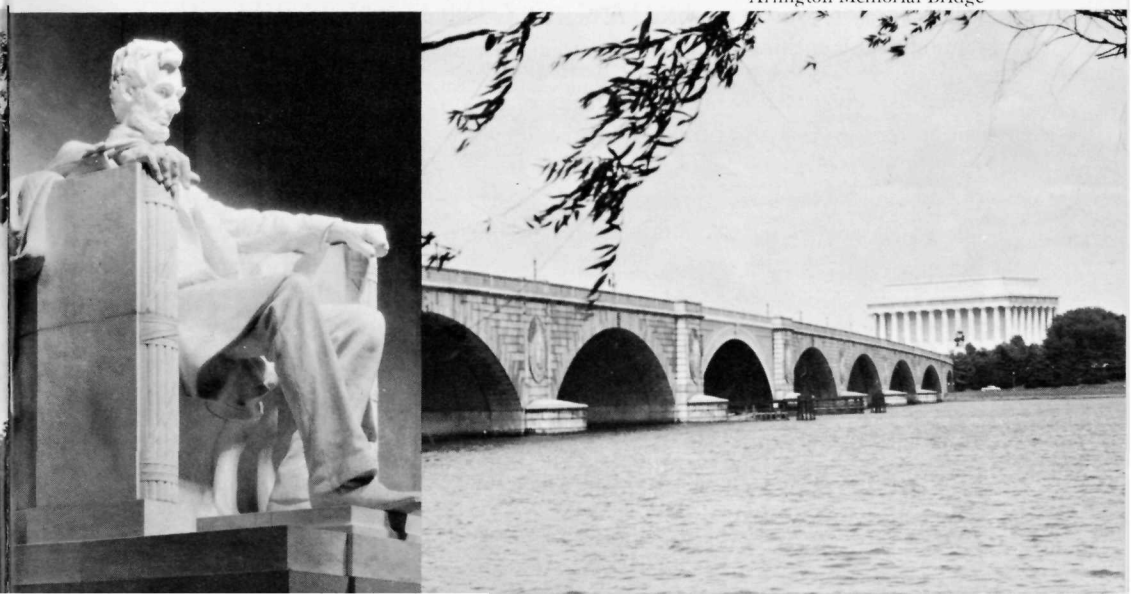
THE EQUESTRIAN STATUES

Four statues, depicting "The Arts of War" and "The Arts of Peace" mounted on the Plaza of the Arlington Memorial Bridge and the entrance to Rock Creek Parkway embellish this National Memorial. Designed and modeled by American sculptors, they were cast in bronze and surfaced with a fire-gilt finish of pure gold by artisans in Italy. The two statues flanking Memorial Bridge are the work of Leo Friedlander and represent "The Arts of War." *Valor* is represented by the statue on the left, and *Sacrifice* by the figure on the right. The statues at the entrance to Rock Creek Parkway are the work of James E. Fraser. They represent "The Arts of Peace." The one on the left represents *Music and Harvest*, and that on the right, *Aspiration and Literature*. A gift to the American people from the people of Italy, the statues were dedicated on September 26, 1951.

GEORGETOWN

Historic Georgetown, the most fashionable residential district in Washington, was established in 1751. In the early days, before Washington became a city, "George Town" was a seaport at the headwaters of the Potomac. Tobacco was its chief export, in which it carried on an international trade. Its harbor was

Arlington Memorial Bridge



a bustling place filled with square-rigged vessels built by the enterprising merchants of the town, who further reflected their prosperity in many fine homes. When the U.S. Government, consisting of 126 people, moved from Philadelphia in 1800, many settled in nearby Georgetown. In the last two decades an active restoration of these fine old homes has more and more transformed it to its original appearance during the early days of our country.

GEORGE WASHINGTON MEMORIAL PARKWAY

The George Washington Memorial Parkway is one of the most scenic roadways in the National Capital. It borders the Potomac River from Mount Vernon to Washington on the Virginia side, and its most recently completed section extends along the Virginia bluffs from Key Bridge toward the Great Falls of the Potomac. A new portion under construction will extend from Washington to Great Falls on the Maryland side.

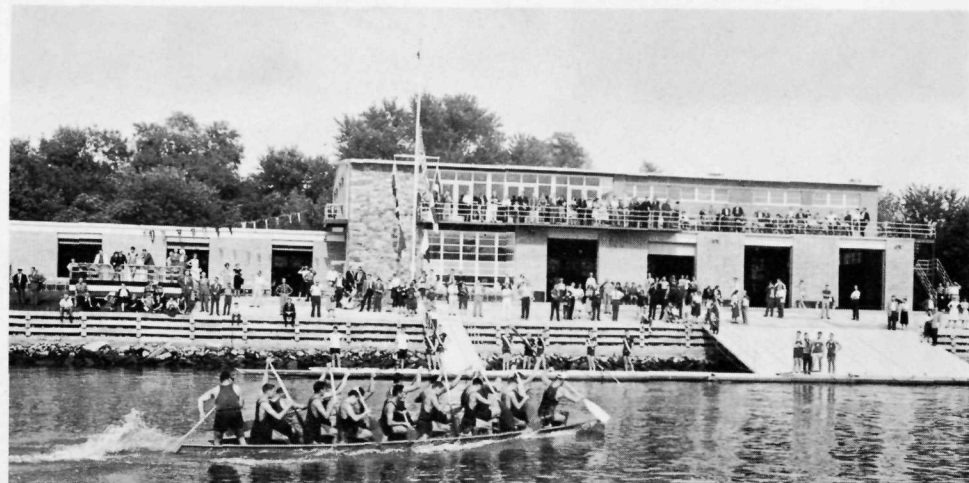
The very first section of this beautiful Parkway was started back in 1932. It extended 15 miles along the Virginia shore between Memorial Bridge and Mount Vernon. In 1948, another section was opened, extending approximately 5½ miles from metropolitan Rosslyn to the Central Intelligence Agency's headquarters. Near Rosslyn, a panorama of historic Georgetown can be seen. The view includes spires of the Georgetown University and other historic buildings, the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal, and the Three Sisters Islands.

Two parking overlooks offer spectacular views of the Potomac River and the National Capital. There are more than 2,500 dogwood trees, thousands of redwood, and other shrubs and trees all along the 880-acre parkway.

THE HARRY T. THOMPSON BOAT CENTER

The most adequate boating facility of its type is the Harry T. Thompson Boat Center. It is located at an ideal spot on the Potomac River. Dedicated in 1960, it was named in honor of former Superintendent of National Capital Parks, Harry T. Thompson, who encouraged the development of water sports. Here, rowing and canoeing and special events, including high school and intercollegiate competitions are held. The facility also provides means for storing, renting, and launching canoes, rowboats, and kayaks.

Harry T. Thompson Boat Center



Spring along the Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway



C & O Canal

ROCK CREEK AND POTOMAC PARKWAY

In 1913, a Commission made up of the Secretaries of Treasury, War, and Agriculture was authorized by Congress to acquire a strip of land connecting West Potomac Park with the National Zoo for a National Park area.

The Parkway, beginning at the west side of the Lincoln Memorial, follows the Potomac River, passes under the M Street Bridge, and from there follows the course of Rock Creek up a narrow winding valley, through the wooded, residential sections of Georgetown, and northwest Washington. It goes under ornamental bridges at Pennsylvania Avenue, M Street, P and Q, and passes Oak Hill Cemetery on its left. Beyond the cemetery it widens into an area noted for its picturesque rose gardens, Montrose Park, and proceeds under Massachusetts, Connecticut Avenues and Calvert Street bridges, where it emerges into the Zoological Park. The Parkway features birch, American beech, walnut and other trees and shrubs.

CHESAPEAKE & OHIO CANAL

North of the Whitehurst Freeway is the first lock of the Chesapeake & Ohio Canal. This lock, as well as other locks and a 22-mile section of the old canal, is preserved to illustrate one of the most interesting eras of transportation in our country. Construction of the Canal began in 1828, and extensions were gradually made to extend for 184.5 miles between Georgetown and Cumberland, Md. Canal boats carrying coal, flour, grains, and lumber were seen on the Canal until 1924, when loss of traffic to the more modern transportation agencies caused its abandonment. There were 74 lift-locks having a capacity to lift or lower a boat approximately 8 feet.

One of the most popular interpretive features on the restored Canal is a ride on a canal boat pulled by mules at 2 miles per hour—just as canal packets of old.



African Elephant
National Zoological Park

Giraffes
National Zoological Park

THE NATIONAL ZOOLOGICAL PARK

The National Zoological Park, established by Congress in 1890 through the efforts of Secretary Samuel P. Langley of the Smithsonian Institution, is dedicated to the "advancement of science and the recreation and education of the people." It has experienced much growth and development since its humble beginning, when the elephants were tied to trees because there was no building to house them. In the natural semi-wilderness setting, this zoo offers for public enjoyment a collection of nearly 3,000 animals. The zoological breadth and diversification of the collection have wide popular appeal for the casual visitor as well as for the serious student of zoology. The small-mammal collection and the reptile collection are particularly fine. Other exhibits of special interest are the white tiger, the only one in any zoo in the world, and a young gorilla born here (one of the only two that have been born in the United States).

The Zoological Park is now embarking on a 10-year program of improvement and development.

Rock Creek Nature Center



ROCK CREEK PARK

Rock Creek Park, 1,800 acres of grass and forest alternating with open fields and high cliffs, follows the winding creek on its way south to the Potomac. It is the largest area for public use in the National Capital Region.

In 1866, Congress sought a suitable park site for the growing city of Washington. It was not, however, until 1888, that Charles Carroll Glover aroused public interest, and a bill was drawn up recommending to Congress its establishment. On September 27, 1890, President Benjamin Harrison signed the bill, and Rock Creek became a National Park, "a pleasure ground for the benefit and enjoyment of all people of the United States."

ROCK CREEK NATURE CENTER

The Rock Creek Nature Center is a new and unique educational development dedicated to promoting understanding and appreciation of the out-of-doors. Located in the attractive woodland setting of upper Rock Creek Park, a modern building houses colorful exhibits, an assembly room, planetarium, and offices. Uniformed Park Naturalists, especially trained to work with children, are on duty during the hours the building is open to answer questions and conduct programs.

THE MARYLAND NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

Adjacent to the District of Columbia, in Montgomery and Prince Georges Counties, Md., is an area of "planned" development. The Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission, which was created in 1927, by the Maryland General Assembly, has jurisdiction over this vast area of 906 square miles.

The major feature of this proposed plan is the "corridor concept" of development. This calls for population growth to be channeled into broad corridors extending out from the District of Columbia like the fingers on a hand. Separating the corridors would be broad wedges of less intensive development tapering off into farms, parks, woodland, and open space.

To help carry out this concept of open space, so essential to the well-being of an urban population, the Commission has adopted a Master Plan of Parks and Recreation Areas calling for the acquisition of approximately 40,000 acres of parks within the next 20 years.

Also part of this development is the seemingly remote 500-acre Wheaton Regional Park, almost in the center of the densely populated Montgomery County. It provides a variety of recreational opportunities.



Wheaton Regional Park

One of the features of this green haven is known as "Old MacDonald's Farm," designed to bring a touch of country flavor to half-a-million or more visitors each season. The farmlet, appropriately inhabited by cows, chickens, lambs, a pony mare and her tiny foal and all the other diminishing signs of rural life, was recently opened. In addition to the animals, MacDonald's Farm has a red barn, silo and windmill, a smokehouse loaded with hams and sausage.

Also installed in the 500-acre Wheaton Regional Park, near Kemp Mill and Randolph Roads, are 25 pieces of play equipment, a twin-jet aircraft, and a miniature 1865 railroad with a mile of tracks throughout the park.

For more passive relaxation, there are 300 picnic tables, 25 charcoal grills and six attractively painted metal shelters in the picnic area.

Nearby is a riding stable which, according to M-NCPPC, is the only indoor riding ring for public use on the east coast. There are 40 stalls, a show ring and four miles of woody riding trails, and visitors on weekends average 400 persons.

A new feature is the 5-acre Pine Lake, constructed late last year for fishing and boating, with special areas for shore fishing and for casting.

Already in use are tennis, handball and basketball courts, and six baseball fields. The Nature Center has been in use for several seasons, and school groups are booked to capacity there for educational tours.

CARTER BARRON AMPHITHEATER

Amid the beautiful surroundings of Rock Creek Park, Carter Barron Amphitheater was built in 1950 for the staging of the Paul Green Symphonic Drama, "Faith of our Fathers," in observance of the sesquicentennial celebration of the founding of the city of Washington, D.C.

At the conclusion of its use that season, the Amphitheater was turned over to the National Park Service of the Department of the Interior.

The Amphitheater is open each evening from early June through Labor Day. There is a paved parking space to accommodate over 1,000 automobiles. It was constructed at a cost of \$927,000.

Entertainment includes musicals, operettas, concerts and ballets featuring internationally famous stars. It is operated under a concession contract by Super Attractions, Inc., for the National Park Service.



SPECIAL EVENTS in the NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION

