
National Park Service
Cultural Landscapes Inventory

2015



Thomas Jefferson Memorial
Thomas Jefferson Memorial

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Inventory Summary

The Cultural Landscapes Inventory Overview:

CLI General Information:

Purpose and Goals of the CLI

The Cultural Landscapes Inventory (CLI) is an evaluated inventory of all significant landscapes in units of the national park system in which the National Park Service has, or plans to acquire any enforceable legal interest. Landscapes documented through the CLI are those that individually meet criteria set forth in the National Register of Historic Places such as historic sites, historic designed landscapes, and historic vernacular landscapes or those that are contributing elements of properties that meet the criteria. In addition, landscapes that are managed as cultural resources because of law, policy, or decisions reached through the park planning process even though they do not meet the National Register criteria, are also included in the CLI.

The CLI serves three major purposes. First, it provides the means to describe cultural landscapes on an individual or collective basis at the park, regional, or service-wide level. Secondly, it provides a platform to share information about cultural landscapes across programmatic areas and concerns and to integrate related data about these resources into park management. Thirdly, it provides an analytical tool to judge accomplishment and accountability.

The legislative, regulatory, and policy direction for conducting the CLI include:

National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (16 USC 470h-2(a)(1)). Each Federal agency shall establish...a preservation program for the identification, evaluation, and nomination to the National Register of Historic Places...of historic properties...

Executive Order 13287: Preserve America, 2003. Sec. 3(a)...Each agency with real property management responsibilities shall prepare an assessment of the current status of its inventory of historic properties required by section 110(a)(2) of the NHPA...No later than September 30, 2004, each covered agency shall complete a report of the assessment and make it available to the Chairman of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and the Secretary of the Interior... (c) Each agency with real property management responsibilities shall, by September 30, 2005, and every third year thereafter, prepare a report on its progress in identifying... historic properties in its ownership and make the report available to the Council and the Secretary...

Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Federal Agency Historic Preservation Programs Pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act, 1998. Standard 2: An agency provides for the timely identification and evaluation of historic properties under agency jurisdiction or control and/or subject to effect by agency actions (Sec. 110 (a)(2)(A))

Management Policies 2006. 5.1.3.1 Inventories: The Park Service will (1) maintain and expand the following inventories...about cultural resources in units of the national park system...Cultural Landscape Inventory of historic designed landscapes, historic vernacular landscapes,... and historic sites...

Cultural Resource Management Guideline, 1997, Release No. 5, page 22 issued pursuant to Director's Order #28. As cultural resources are identified and evaluated, they should also be listed in the appropriate Service-wide inventories of cultural resources.

Responding to the Call to Action:

The year 2016 marks the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service. A five-year action plan entitled, “*A Call to Action: Preparing for a Second Century of Stewardship and Engagement*” charts a path toward that second century vision by asking Service employees and partners to commit to concrete actions that advance the agency’s mission. The heart of the plan includes four broad themes supported by specific goals and measurable actions. These themes are: Connecting People to Parks, Advancing the NPS Education Mission, Preserving America’s Special Places, and Enhancing Professional and Organizational Excellence. The Cultural Landscape Inventory relates to three of these themes:

Connect People to Parks. Help communities protect what is special to them, highlight their history, and retain or rebuild their economic and environmental sustainability.

Advance the Education Mission. Strengthen the National Park Service’s role as an educational force based on core American values, historical and scientific scholarship, and unbiased translation of the complexities of the American experience.

Preserve America’s Special Places. Be a leader in extending the benefits of conservation across physical, social, political, and international boundaries in partnership with others.

The national CLI effort directly relates to #3, Preserve America’s Special Places, and specifically to Action #28, “Park Pulse.” Each CLI documents the existing condition of park resources and identifies impacts, threats, and measures to improve condition. This information can be used to improve park priority setting and communicate complex park condition information to the public.

Responding to the Cultural Resources Challenge:

The Cultural Resources Challenge (CRC) is a NPS strategic plan that identifies our most critical priorities. The primary objective is to “*Achieve a standard of excellence for the stewardship of the resources that form the historical and cultural foundations of the nation, commit at all levels to a common set of goals, and articulate a common vision for the next century.*” The CLI contributes to the fulfillment of all five goals of the CRC:

- 1) *Provide leadership support, and advocacy for the stewardship, protection, interpretation, and management of the nation’s heritage through scholarly research, science and effective management;*
- 2) *Recommit to the spirit and letter of the landmark legislation underpinning the NPS*

- 3) *Connect all Americans to their heritage resources in a manner that resonates with their lives, legacies, and dreams, and tells the stories that make up America's diverse national identity;*
- 4) *Integrate the values of heritage stewardship into major initiatives and issues such as renewable energy, climate change, community assistance and revitalization, and sustainability, while cultivating excellence in science and technical preservation as a foundation for resource protection, management, and rehabilitation; and*
- 5) *Attract, support, and retain a highly skilled and diverse workforce, and support the development of leadership and expertise within the National Park Service.*

Scope of the CLI

CLI data is gathered from existing secondary sources found in park libraries, archives and at NPS regional offices and centers, as well as through on-site reconnaissance. The baseline information describes the historical development and significance of the landscape, placing it in the context of the landscape'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 and generates spatial data for Geographic Information Systems (GIS). The CLI also identifies stabilization needs to prevent further deterioration of the landscape and provides data for the Facility Management Software System

Inventory Unit Description:

The Jefferson Memorial landscape is comprised of 19.2 acres of land immediately south of the Tidal Basin. With the neo-classical white marble memorial modeled after the Roman Pantheon as its focal point, this component landscape forms the southern end of the kite-shaped design plan for the city proposed by the McMillan Commission in 1902. The planting within the encircling roadway, now used solely by pedestrians, is predominantly evergreen with some small flowering trees and shrubs. Beyond the circular roadway, there are tall shade trees and cherry trees that are part of the ring of flowering cherries that encircles the Tidal Basin. The ring of cherry trees are the characteristic for which the landscape is most noted, and that which attracts thousands of visitors each spring.

The period of significance for the landscape spans the years from 1934 to 1943. During this period the design for the memorial and landscape was developed, the memorial was constructed, and the landscape was installed. The period ends with the dedication of the memorial on April 13, 1943, the 200th anniversary of Jefferson's birth.

Because the land has been continuously used as a memorial site since the period of significance, the integrity of this historic landscape is generally high. Lack of alteration to natural systems, spatial organization, land use, topography, and structures preserves the integrity of these characteristics, but changes in vegetation and circulation have resulted in their loss of integrity. Work recently completed or scheduled for completion by the end of 2000 addresses the need to restore the vegetation and circulation to a condition more closely resembling the original. Views and vistas, with the exception of the view to the Lincoln Memorial, have been retained. Additional research is needed to determine the

Thomas Jefferson Memorial

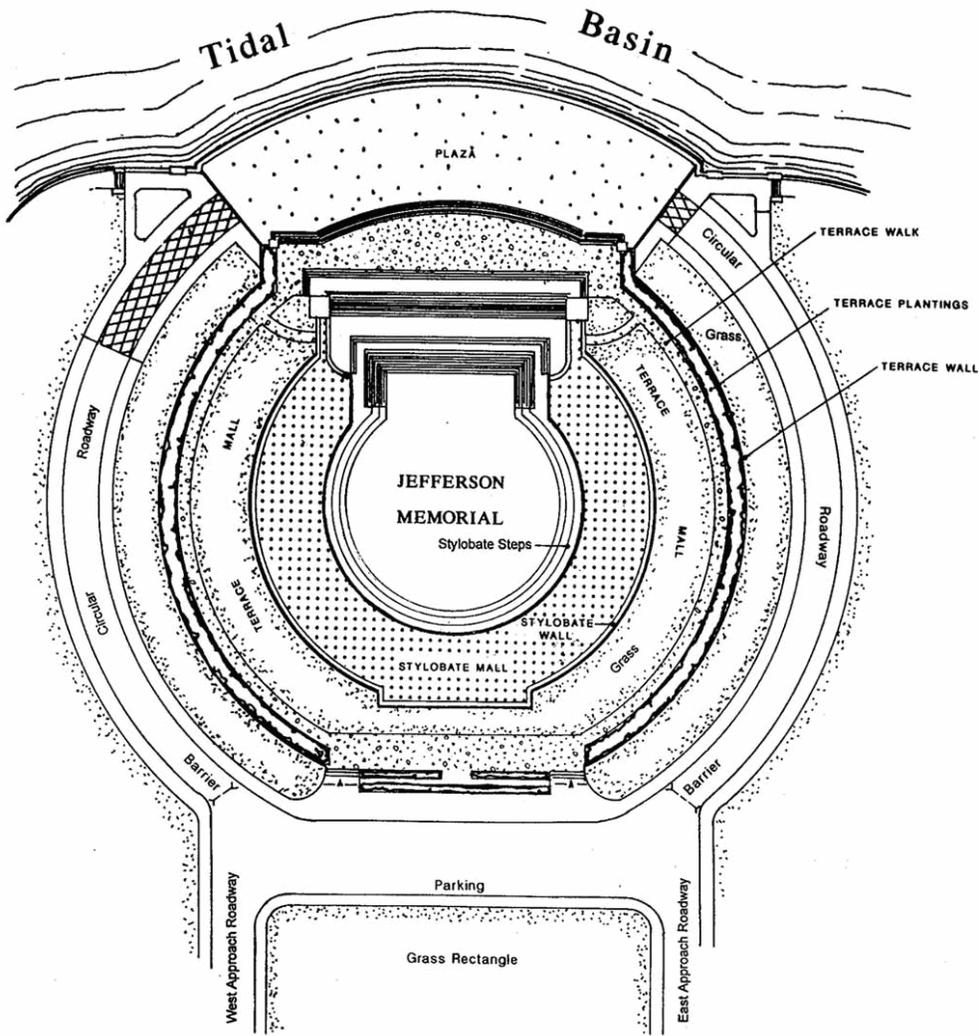
Thomas Jefferson Memorial

level of integrity of the small scale features on the site.

Thomas Jefferson Memorial

Thomas Jefferson Memorial

Site Plan



LEGEND

	STYLOBATE MALL		TERRACE PLANTINGS
	STYLOBATE WALL		TERRACE WALL
	TERRACE MALL		PLAZA
	TERRACE WALK		TRANSITION PAVING

Site plan from "Landscape Overview: The Thomas Jefferson Memorial" completed in May of 1996

Property Level and CLI Numbers

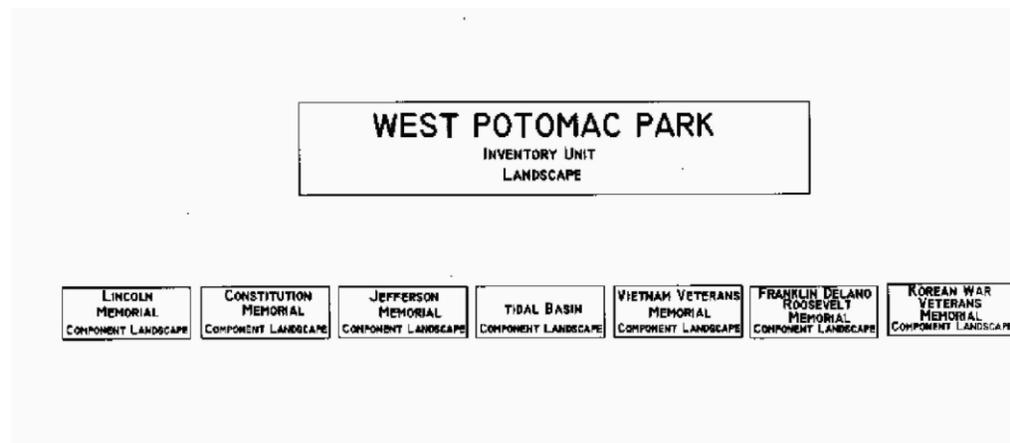
Inventory Unit Name: Thomas Jefferson Memorial
Property Level: Landscape
CLI Identification Number: 600004
Parent Landscape: 600004

Park Information

Park Name and Alpha Code: Thomas Jefferson Memorial -JEFM
Park Organization Code: 3491
Park Administrative Unit: National Capital Parks-Central

CLI Hierarchy Description

The Jefferson Memorial grounds constitute a single component landscape within West Potomac Park and administered by National Capital Parks - Central. For the purposes of this report, however, the memorial grounds are treated as an individual landscape, functioning as a single unit within the whole and therefore not divisible further into component landscapes. In addition, within this landscape there are a number of landscape features, as noted in the Analysis and Evaluation section.



Concurrence Status

Inventory Status: Complete

Completion Status Explanatory Narrative:

This Cultural Landscape Inventory was begun in 1998 as a back-log project. The majority of the information in this entry comes from the "Thomas Jefferson Memorial: Landscape Overview" by Sally Prothero and Audrey Tepper, completed by the National Park Service Denver Service Center in 1996. Information has been added on the period up to 2001 to update the landscape study to the present. All information pertaining to the Rehabilitation of the Support Facilities, completed in 1998, and the Restoration for the Entrance Steps and Plaza, completed in 1999 and-2000, comes from an interview with Stephen Lorenzetti, Chief of the Division of Resource Management at National Capital Parks - Central. Interviews were held in October 1998. Interviews were held in October 1999 to further update the study. Finally, interviews were made in January of 2001 to provide clarification.

Concurrence Status:

Park Superintendent Concurrence:	Yes
Park Superintendent Date of Concurrence:	09/14/2009
National Register Concurrence:	Eligible -- SHPO Consensus Determination
Date of Concurrence Determination:	08/16/2004

National Register Concurrence Narrative:

The State Historic Preservation Officer for the District of Columbia concurred with the findings of the Thomas Jefferson CLI on 8/16/04, in accordance with Section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act. It should be noted that the Date of Eligibility Determination refers to this Section 110 Concurrence and not the date of National Register Eligibility, since that is not the purview of the Cultural Landscapes Inventory.

Concurrence Graphic Information:



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
National Capital Region
Office of Lands, Resources and Planning
1100 Ohio Drive, S.W.
Washington, DC 20242

February 20, 2004

Memorandum

To: Cultural Landscape Inventory Coordinator, National Capital Region
From: State Historic Preservation Officer, District of Columbia
Subject: Statement of Concurrence, Thomas Jefferson Memorial Cultural Landscape Inventory

I, Lisa Burcham, District of Columbia State Historic Preservation Officer, concur with the findings of the Thomas Jefferson Memorial Cultural Landscape Inventory as submitted on February 20, 2004.


Lisa Burcham
District of Columbia
State Historic Preservation Officer


Date

Concurrence memo signed by the DC SHPO on 8/16/2004.



United States Department of the Interior

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

September 1, 2009

Memorandum:

To: Cultural Landscape Inventory Coordinator, National Capital Region
From: Superintendent, National Mall and Memorial Parks
Subject: Statement of Concurrence, Jefferson Memorial Cultural Landscape Condition Reassessment

I, John Piltzecker, Superintendent of National Mall and Memorial Parks, concur with the condition reassessment for the Jefferson Memorial cultural landscape:

CONDITION REASSESSMENT: 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 landscape condition reassessment for the Jefferson Memorial is hereby approved and accepted.



Superintendent, National Mall and Memorial Parks

9/14/09
Date

Concurrence memo signed by the NAMA Superintendent 9/14/2009.

Revisions Impacting Change in Concurrence: Change in Condition

Revision Date: 09/14/2009

Revision Narrative:

The condition of the cultural landscape was reassessed but remains unchanged (Good). Updates were made to the Condition chapter of the inventory.

Site visits and meetings with park staff in 2009 informed a condition reassessment for this Cultural Landscape Inventory. The Assessment Date refers to the date that the park superintendent concurred with the Condition Assessment.

Revision Date: 10/23/2015

Revision Narrative:

Concurrence document added FY 2016

Revision Date: 09/01/2001

Revision Narrative:

The Thomas Jefferson Memorial CLI was updated in 2001 to reflect subsequent alterations made to the site since 1998, the last CLI entry date. The superintendent concurred with the findings of this CLI in 2003 and the SHPO concurred in 2004.

Geographic Information & Location Map

Inventory Unit Boundary Description:

The Jefferson Memorial is located in West Potomac Park. The memorial grounds are bordered on the east and south by East Basin Drive, and on the north and west by the Tidal Basin to the Inlet and Outlet Bridges. The site lies approximately on axis with Maryland Avenue.

State and County:

State: DC

County: District of Columbia

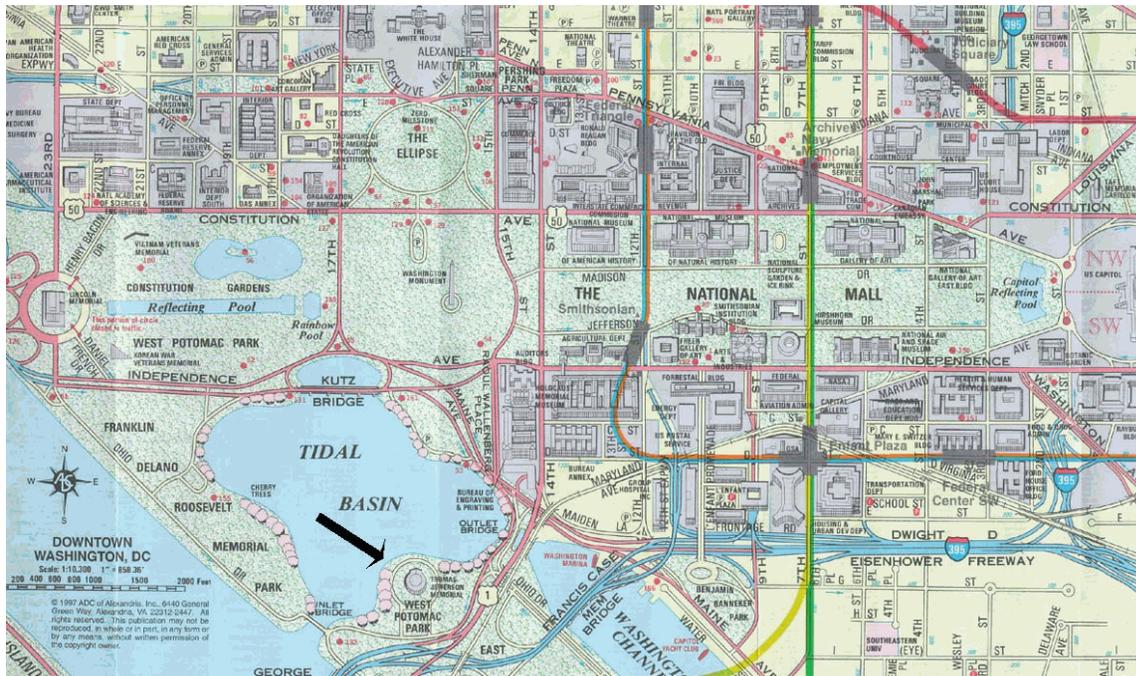
Size (Acres): 19.20

Boundary Coordinates:

UTM Zone:	18
UTM Easting:	323,348
UTM Northing:	4,305,415
UTM Zone:	18
UTM Easting:	323,346
UTM Northing:	4,305,677
UTM Zone:	18
UTM Easting:	323,041
UTM Northing:	4,305,441
UTM Zone:	18
UTM Easting:	323,644
UTM Northing:	4,305,710

Thomas Jefferson Memorial
Thomas Jefferson Memorial

Location Map:



Regional Context:

Type of Context: Cultural

Description:

The land, the memorial, and its designed landscape are all aspects of the human overlay on the land. At the 1791 meeting of Congress in Philadelphia, Washington, D.C. was chosen to be the nation's capital city. The L'Enfant Plan for Washington (1791) laid out the network of avenues diagonally over the city grid, and positioned important elements on axis with the central mall. The land on which the memorial sits was created as a result of river dredging to keep the Potomac River navigable after a second bridge was built in the vicinity of today's 14th Street Bridge. The memorial site is located at the northern end of the Potomac Flats, which stretched for about two miles parallel to the old river shoreline and created the Washington Channel. In 1897 Congress created Potomac Park, setting aside the area of the Tidal Basin and former flats for the recreation and pleasure of the people. The 1902 McMillan Commission refined the L'Enfant plan, creating the kite-shaped scheme in which the Jefferson Memorial now occupies the memorial site south of the White House, Washington Monument, and Tidal Basin. Beyond the broad expanse of the national mall to the north is the platted grid of the city. To the east lies a tangle of roads and bridges, then more platted streets.

Type of Context: Physiographic

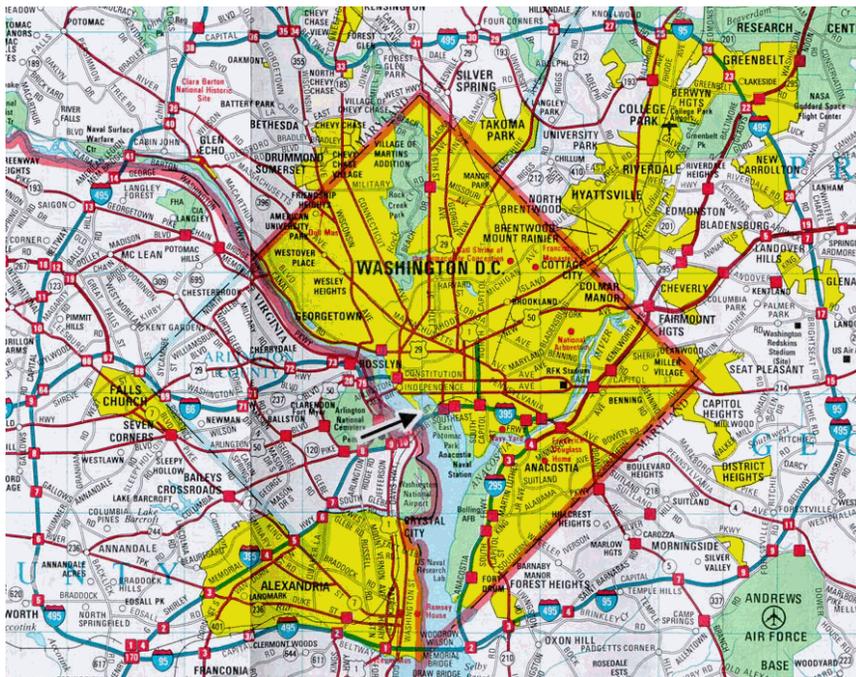
Description:

The created land on which the memorial is sited is flat, and just a few feet above both the Potomac River and the constructed Tidal Basin. The memorial was built on low, swampy land and on fill from river dredging. Not far to the southeast, the Anacostia River flows into the Potomac. Across the river to the west lie the rolling hills of Virginia. The surroundings of the landscape incorporate such physiographic features as Jenkin's Hill (now Capitol Hill) and the higher lands of Georgetown.

Type of Context: Political

Description:

Today the 19.2 acre site is part of the monumental core of the capital city, Washington D.C. The Jefferson Memorial landscape is visited by millions of people each year. It is located on Federal land and administered by the National Park Service as part of National Capital Parks - Central.



Management Unit: 332
Tract Numbers: none

Management Information

General Management Information

Management Category: Must be Preserved and Maintained

Management Category Date: 10/23/2003

Management Category Explanatory Narrative:

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

Maintenance Location Code: 33216001

Agreements, Legal Interest, and Access

Management Agreement:

Type of Agreement: Concession Contract/Permit

Expiration Date: 12/31/2010

Management Agreement Explanatory Narrative:

Guest Services, Inc. holds the concession for a food kiosk and gift shop. The food kiosk is restricted to selling only food items, but the gift shop sells a wide variety of products including souvenirs, film, postcards, T-shirts, maps and books.

Type of Agreement: Cooperative Agreement

Expiration Date: 05/03/2001

Management Agreement Explanatory Narrative:

The park has a cooperative agreement with the Parks and History Association to run a bookstore at the lower level of the monument. There they sell books, postcards and other educational and interpretative material.

NPS Legal Interest:

Type of Interest: Fee Simple Reservation

Public Access:

Type of Access: Other Restrictions

Adjacent Lands Information

Do Adjacent Lands Contribute? Yes

Adjacent Lands Description:

Adjacent lands contribute to the significance and integrity of the Jefferson Memorial and grounds. As is the southern point in the McMillan 'kite' plan, the relationship to the Washington Monument and White House on the north-south axis, and to the Mall with the Capitol to the east and the Lincoln Memorial to the west, places it firmly in the core of monumental Washington D.C. In addition, its relationship to other spaces and points in the East and West Potomac Parks is important. Visitors experience the Tidal Basin with its ring of cherry trees as part of the memorial grounds. On the west side of the Tidal Basin, the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial is a recent addition to the adjacent landscape that is somewhat visible from the Jefferson. It brings FDR visitors to water's edge where they have excellent views back to Jefferson. The baseball diamonds and polo field are only marginally visible from the Jefferson, but the sounds from them can be heard. Other adjacent lands that are non-contributing due to noise and visual impact are National Airport and the bridges to the south. These roadways also impede the natural connection to Hains Point and the Potomac River.

National Register Information

Existing National Register Status

National Register Landscape Documentation:

Entered Inadequately Documented

National Register Explanatory Narrative:

The Jefferson Memorial is included in the 1973 National Register nomination of the East and West Potomac Parks, but with very little documentation. Separate documentation of the Jefferson Memorial was added to the nomination in 1981, but this does not adequately address the landscape. However, an updated nomination is currently being prepared that hopefully will address its landscape features.

Existing NRIS Information:

NRIS Number:	73000217
Other Names:	Potomac Flats
Primary Certification:	Listed In The National Register
Primary Certification Date:	11/30/1973

National Register Eligibility

National Register Concurrence:	Eligible -- SHPO Consensus Determination
Contributing/Individual:	Contributing
National Register Classification:	District
Significance Level:	National
Significance Criteria:	A - Associated with events significant to broad patterns of our history
Significance Criteria:	C - Embodies distinctive construction, work of master, or high artistic values
Criteria Considerations:	F -- A property primarily commemorative in intent if design, age, tradition, or symbolic value has invested it with its own historical significance

Period of Significance:

Time Period:	CE 1934 - 1943
Historic Context Theme:	Expressing Cultural Values
Subtheme:	Architecture
Facet:	Period Revivals (1870-1940)
Other Facet:	None
Time Period:	CE 1934 - 1943
Historic Context Theme:	Expressing Cultural Values
Subtheme:	Landscape Architecture
Facet:	The City Beautiful Movement
Other Facet:	None
Time Period:	CE 1934 - 1943
Historic Context Theme:	Expressing Cultural Values
Subtheme:	Landscape Architecture
Facet:	Urban Planning In The Nineteenth Century
Other Facet:	None
Time Period:	CE 1934 - 1943
Historic Context Theme:	Expressing Cultural Values
Subtheme:	Painting and Sculpture
Facet:	The Second Generation 1920-
Other Facet:	None

Area of Significance:

Area of Significance Category:	Architecture
Area of Significance Subcategory:	None
Area of Significance Category:	Community Planning And Development
Area of Significance Subcategory:	None
Area of Significance Category:	Landscape Architecture
Area of Significance Subcategory:	None
Area of Significance Category:	Art
Area of Significance Subcategory:	None

Statement of Significance:

The Thomas Jefferson Memorial, designed on the basis of the Pantheon of Rome, is significant as America's foremost memorial to its third president, as an original adaptation of Neoclassical architecture, and as a key landmark in the monumental core of Washington, D.C., in accordance with the McMillan Commission plan of 1902. The Jefferson Memorial was listed as a contributing feature on the National Register of Historic Places nomination for East and West Potomac Parks. That nomination, written in 1973, was updated in 2000. Additional documentation on the Jefferson Memorial was submitted to the National Register in 1981. This landscape is historically significant under National Register criteria A and C. The period of significance for the memorial spans the years from 1934 to 1943. In 1934 Congress established the Thomas Jefferson Memorial Commission to create a permanent memorial to the third President. That memorial was dedicated on April 13, 1943, the bicentennial of Jefferson's birth. The period of significance for the Jefferson Memorial, 1934 to 1943, falls within the period of significance for East and West Potomac Parks, 1897 to 1943. (Dillon, National Register nomination, 1972)

(The following is adapted from the 1981 documentation of the Jefferson Memorial, submitted as a supplement to the existing 1973 National Register nomination.)

In 1934 Congress created the Thomas Jefferson Memorial Commission (TJMC). That same year the Commission of Fine Arts (CFA) considered possible sites for the monument, which at this point was still intended to take the form of a statue. The site chosen was located next to the Tidal Basin, at the

intersection of the White House and Maryland Avenue axes. This spot had been marked as the site of a great memorial by the McMillan Commission as early as 1901. The McMillan Commission envisioned a grand structure on the scale of the White House, Washington Monument, and Lincoln Memorial; either one large monument to a single individual or a pantheon in which statues of various American heroes would be displayed.

In 1937 the TJMC chose John Russell Pope as the architect of the Memorial. In the spirit of the McMillan Plan, Pope's design called for a monolithic pantheon of large dimensions facing north toward the White House. The Tidal Basin was to be transformed into a series of reflecting pools flanked by rectangular terraces outlined with formal rows of trees.

The CFA and the National Capital Parks and Planning Commission (NCPPC), however, brought forth a number of objections and called for alterations in the plan. Their objections were addressed by Daniel P. Higgins and Otto R. Eggers, who became the Memorial architects upon the untimely death of Pope in August 1937. Higgins and Eggers sought to alleviate the commission's concerns in two ways. First, they planned to move the monument 600 feet south of its original site and to decrease the size of the structure for compatibility with the other monuments. Second, they proposed to forgo Pope's designs for elaborate landscaping, thus leaving the Tidal Basin, the street plan, and the majority of cherry trees largely intact. This allowed the landscape of the Tidal Basin to retain its significance and integrity related to the 1912 cherry tree planting. Although these changes went far in pacifying the opponents of the plan, many members of the CFA still objected to the Pantheon design of the Memorial, favoring instead an open peristyle design. This change, however, met the resistance of the TJMC which took its case directly to President Franklin D. Roosevelt who ordered the construction to begin, thus overriding the authority of the CFA.

On December 15, 1938, the ground-breaking took place. Construction began in earnest the following year with John McShain, Inc. of Philadelphia as the contractor. Frederick Law Olmsted Jr. of Massachusetts was chosen as the project's landscape architect. Olmsted was the son of Frederick Law Olmsted Sr., father of landscape architecture in this country and a noted designer in his own right. As a member of the McMillan Commission and the CFA, he had influenced the early decisions about the location of the memorial.

On November 15, 1939, a ceremony was held in which President Roosevelt laid the cornerstone of the Memorial. Within months the superstructure began to take shape and sculptors were selected for the monument's carvings. In August 1940 the TJMC contracted Adolph A. Weinman to make a carving for the north portico pediment, and six months later it chose Rudolph Evans to sculpt the statue of Jefferson. On April 13, 1943, the bicentennial of Jefferson's birth, the Memorial was dedicated. (N.P.S., National Capital Region, 1981, section 8, pp. 1-2)

Chronology & Physical History

Cultural Landscape Type and Use

Cultural Landscape Type:	Designed	Other Type of Use or Function
Other Use/Function		
Monument (Building)		Both Current And Historic
Outdoor Recreation-Other		Both Current And Historic
Plaza/Public Space (Square)-Other		Both Current And Historic

Current and Historic Names:

Name	Type of Name
Potomac Flats	Historic
Thomas Jefferson Memorial	Current

Ethnographic Study Conducted: No Survey Conducted

Ethnographic Significance Description:

The Jefferson Memorial and grounds sit on land reclaimed from river dredgings. Consequently ethnographic information is not anticipated at this site.

Chronology:

Year	Event	Annotation
CE 1790 - 1897	Expanded	Washington, D.C. was chosen as the capital and the L'Enfant plan for the city layout was implemented. Siltation of the Potomac was addressed through dredging. From the dredgings land was built up and became the site of the memorial.
CE 1897 - 1934	Established	The park was created by act of Congress in 1897 and the 1902 McMillan Plan established the site as a future memorial location. Work continued on the Tidal Basin and in 1912 the first cherry trees were planted.
CE 1934 - 1943	Designed	The Thomas Jefferson Memorial Commission was created in 1934, with Pope starting the design in 1935, and Eggers and Higgins completing it. Beginning in 1938 Olmsted Jr. designed the landscape, with much of the work prepared by employee Henry V. Hubbard.
		Pope
		Olmsted
		John Russell Pope

Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr.

CE 1938 - 1943	Built	Ground-breaking took place in Dec. 1938, and construction began in early 1939. The cornerstone was laid in Nov. 1939; the dedication was on Jefferson's birthday, April 13, 1943.
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Franklin Delano Roosevelt

CE 1943 - 1998	Maintained	In 1947 the original plaster statue was replaced with bronze. Various projects have been undertaken to address settling and improve accessibility. Other work included supplementing or replacing vegetation, and installing irrigation.
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Physical History:

1790-1897

The following historical account is based primarily on the work of Prothero and Tepper in their report, "Landscape Overview: The Thomas Jefferson Memorial", completed in May of 1996.

The Native Americans that inhabited the lower Potomac Valley during the eighteenth-century are described by Dr. Stephen R. Potter in his book "Commoners, Tribute and Chiefs, the Development of the Algonquian Culture in the Potomac Valley." According to Potter, the Native Americans utilized this area, then part of "Tuber Creek" (as shown in the L'Enfant Plan of 1792) in many different ways. Tiber Creek, originally called Goose or Tuber Creek, was appropriately named since the estuary served as a stopping point for migratory waterfowl and the marshes supported many plant tubers. These wild roots were gathered for food during the summer months, while waterfowl including swans, cranes, geese, ducks and mallards, provided nourishment during the autumn and winter. Due to its marshy topography, however, occupation of the Potomac Valley was restricted to the higher ground, such as that later chosen for the site of the Washington Monument. In addition, a hunting and gathering culture as opposed to a semisedentary agricultural community would have been dominant in the area because the hard silty clays were not conducive to slash and burn subsistence cultivation (interview Potter, Feb 8, 1983 in Prothero and Tepper, 77).

In 1791, Washington D.C. was chosen by Congress at their meeting in Philadelphia as the site for the capital city. It was to be fourteen miles from George Washington's home at Mount Vernon, at the confluence of the Potomac and Anacostia Rivers. Most of the land was covered by dense forests, flood plain and rural farmland, with three towns - Georgetown, Bladensburg and Alexandria—forming a triangle around the relatively flat area where the rivers converged.

Responsibility for the design of the new city was given to Secretary of State Thomas Jefferson, together with two other city commissioners. Jefferson traveled widely in Europe, studying famous cities to gather ideas for the new capital. His own first sketch shows his approach to urban planning along the unimproved shoreline of the river. The President's house and the Capitol, located on the high ground and linked by promenades, providing views down the Potomac River, illustrate his understanding of the principles of Baroque eighteenth-century urban design. Yet even with Jefferson's and others' relative expertise, the engagement of a professional town planner became a necessity. George Washington, president of the newly formed United States, chose the French engineer officer, Pierre Charles L'Enfant. L'Enfant's plan shows his intended changes to the rivers edge and the positioning of important elements on axis in the central mall area commanding views over the Potomac to the west and south. George Washington, at once a visionary and a pragmatist, envisioned that the new city would develop as a major port with associated river commerce. Both the Washington (1815) and the Chesapeake and Ohio (1828) canals were built to accomplish this feat.

Though siltation of the Potomac River had always been a seasonal occurrence, with the deforestation and increase of farming activities upstream, came an increase of silt deposits.

Debris from upstream was carried and deposited in the shallow tidal areas around the developing city. Building projects, grading of streets and an increasing population of the city also resulted in deposits into the river to such an extent that parts of the river were impassable for commerce. As early as 1833, engineers proposed to remove the silt by dredging the river. In 1857 civil engineer Alfred Landon Rives submitted plans to reclaim 166 acres of mudflats near Long Bridge. Long Bridge, constructed in 1809, was the first bridge to have been built across the river in this area, occupying the same position as today's 14th St. Bridge. In order to help relieve the over-use of Long Bridge, Congress decided to build a second bridge—seventy-five feet downstream. Subsequently, the area between the bridges became so silted that it became known as "Potomac Flats", supporting a number of salt water grass species. In 1875 in an attempt to open the river to commerce, T. Abert from the Army Corp of Engineers, proposed to fill in Potomac Flats using the dredged silt from the reclamation operation to both reclaim land and to make the river navigable again. This work was continued by career Army officer, Major Hains, who replaced Abert in 1882. In his nine years of tenure, Hains completed the majority of dredging and reclamation. The area of reclaimed land totaled 600 acres in all, and was several feet above high tide and flood level. Two separate tracts of land were created. The most southerly was approximately two miles long and paralleled the old shoreline of the Potomac River, now known as East Potomac Park. The other, now known as West Potomac Park, was located to the west of the Washington Monument and separated Constitution Avenue (once B Street) from the water's edge. The fertility of the deposits upon these two areas caused a rapid growth of vegetation. Such rapid growth led to an increased need for maintenance and the suggestion that the land be better utilized.

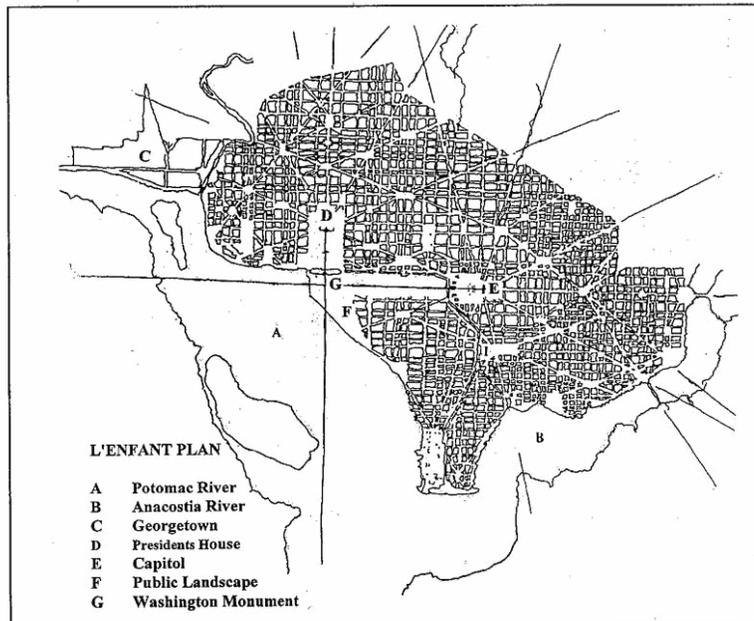
Between the new island and the old shoreline lay the deepened channel, providing access to wharves and docks. To the north, the other fill area extended nearly a mile westward from the old water line which had reached almost to the foot of the Washington Monument. Hains had directed that between these two areas there should be a tidal basin, separated from the river and the channel by two sets of gates. This design allowed water to enter the basin at high tide through an opening from the Potomac. When the tide began to fall, water seeking to drain from the basin would force the inlet gates to shut and the outlet gate onto the Washington Channel to open, thus flushing it with relatively clean water with each change of tide.

In 1893, Hains's replacement, Major E. L. B. Davis, advocated the area's development as a public park, stating:

“The improvement has now reached a stage where some attention needs to be given to the maintenance and preservation of the reservation. The rich soil, of which the greater part of the reclaimed land is composed, induces and fosters a rapid growth of high weeds, willows, and other trees and underbrush, which, in the summer season especially, render access to the various parts of the work quite difficult. This growth should be cleared up each year, until the reservation is ready to be laid out, graded, and sown with grass seed,” (Chapell 1973, 30).

Despite the wishes of many people who wanted the land sold for private use, Congress passed Senate Bill No. 3,307 on March 3, 1897, which established the area of the Tidal Basin and former flats as a public park for the recreation and pleasure of the people (Prothero and

Tepper, 5-9).



The L'Enfant Plan, 1792, shows the Mall opening to the Potomac River to the west and south.

1897-1934

Even as early as 1830, strict adherence to the L'Enfant plan in the design of the capital city had been abandoned. The Washington Monument had been built off-center from the White House's north-south axis, and the reconstructed Capitol rose above a mall that had become congested and spatially incoherent. The river's edge, which had previously adjoined the mall, was finally determined through the dredging and reclamation works. In 1901, in an effort to recapture the design intent of the earlier L'Enfant plan and in response to the enormous critical acclaim for the "White City" of the 1893 World Columbian Exhibition in Chicago, the McMillan Commission was appointed to study the layout of the city and develop a comprehensive plan for the Mall area, including Potomac Park.

In the McMillan Commission's plan, the layout of the Mall was converted from a urban composition characterized by open views of an infinite landscape to the south and west, to one enclosed by buildings with the five cardinal sites (the Capitol, White House, Washington Monument, Memorial Site and Lincoln Memorial Site) regulating the central layout and order. The designation of the north-south axis terminating in an as-yet unspecified monument site on the south shore of the Tidal Basin inevitably held great significance in the choice of a site for the Jefferson Memorial, thirty years later.

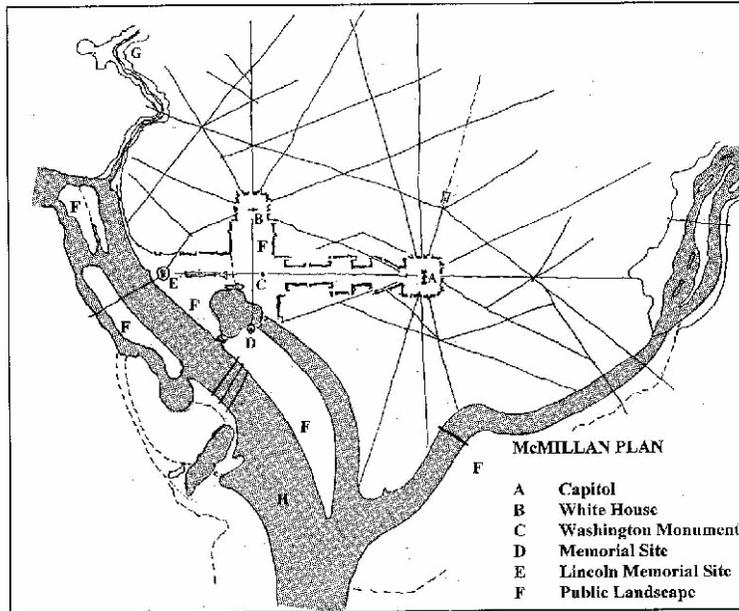
Work continued on raising the level of the land and, in 1901, thirty-one acres were transferred to the Office of Public Buildings and Grounds, which organized the clearance of natural

vegetation and graded the site, giving it a more tamed and controlled "park-like" appearance. They raised the Tidal Basin revetment wall, and built a forty-foot wide drive of macadam (layers of compacted crushed stone sprayed with tar, then rolled) along the east side of the reservoir. Between 1906 and 1908, a riverside drive was constructed from the foot of Seventeenth Street, southwest around the Tidal Basin to the inlet, and from the inlet north along the edge of the Potomac to 26th Street. Transportation to and from the site was also improved. A boat landing station was erected in the northwest corner of the Tidal Basin, and cinder footpaths and bridle paths were laid out near the roadway. The drive was provided with brick gutters, drains, and catch-basins, and lined with 313 trees, primarily elms. By 1907 the entire perimeter of the Tidal Basin was accessible to the public who used the area for walking, driving and horseback riding.

A railroad bridge, which had been authorized by Congress in 1901 and built by the Baltimore and Potomac Railroad Co. replaced the one situated at the northernmost point of East Potomac Park. Concurrently, the Secretary of War was authorized to build a highway bridge to the north of the railroad bridge. Both bridges, perceived as unsightly, were screened with trees in 1909 to make them less visible from the park. Forty-four poplars were planted near the Inlet Bridge to screen the highway and thirty-one poplars were installed near the railroad bridge (Kresscox Associates 1986, 45).

“George Brown, landscape gardener from the Office of Public Buildings and Grounds, gave several suggestions for more satisfactory screening plants, in recognition of the fact that preservation of views would become more important as East and West Potomac Parks continued to be developed and used. Among his recommendations were poplars, tulip trees, ash, oriental planes, American elms, sweet gum, American linden and maples,” (Kresscox Associates 1986, 45).

There is no record revealing whether such a variety of vegetation was planted. Extensive planting on site continued however. Approach roads to both ends of the Inlet bridge were built early in 1910. Included in the construction package were 181 flowering shrubs and three trees which were planted on the western approach, and 365 flowering shrubs on the eastern approach. Fifty-three willow trees were added to those along the Potomac riverfront. The cherry trees, for which the area is probably most well known, were donated to the city by the Mayor of Tokyo in 1911 and planted in 1912. A total of 3,020 were planted in West Potomac Park in three locations: the Tidal Basin, East Potomac Park and the Washington Monument grounds.



The McMillan Plan illustrates the Mall as a kite-shaped plan, with buildings at the four points and center. The Potomac channel is narrower due to dredging and fill operations.



South bank of the tidal basin prior to the construction of the Jefferson Memorial

1934-1943

On January 7, 1926, the 69th Congress in the House of Representatives introduced a resolution to authorize the erection of a memorial to Thomas Jefferson, the third president of the United States (Prothero and Tepper, pp. 9-15). Eight years later on June 26, 1934, Congress passed a Joint Resolution establishing:

“The Thomas Jefferson Memorial Commission, for the purpose of considering and formulating plans for designing and constructing a permanent memorial in the city of Washington, District of Columbia. Said Commission shall be composed of twelve commissioners as follows: Three persons to be appointed by the President of the United States, three Senators by the President of the Senate, three members of the House of Representatives, and three members of the Thomas Jefferson Memorial Foundation, Incorporated, to be selected by such foundation,” (73rd Congress Public Resolution - No. 49 H.J. Res 371).

The original bill went so far as to state the exact location of the memorial which was destined for the intersection of Constitution and Pennsylvania avenues, east of the front of the National Archives Building. In 1936, however, Congress granted the Memorial Commission complete power to decide upon the location of the memorial. The original site near the National Archives was deemed too small by President Roosevelt for such an important monument. Six other locations were subsequently considered by the commission, as described in a report by Gilmore Clarke and William Partridge, (April 9, 1937) consultants to the commission. The most favored of these involved the creation of an island for the memorial, in the middle of the Tidal Basin. Although this site was not ultimately chosen, it did establish the importance of having the memorial on axis with the White House and other cardinal points as designated in the L'Enfant Plan and as expressed in the McMillan Commission Plan of 1901. Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr. was himself a member of the Thomas Jefferson Memorial Commission and wrote a report in 1935 to the commission about the choice of sites. Concerning the south axis site, he stressed the importance of the visual relationship with the other axial compositions, namely the east-west connection between the Lincoln Memorial and the Capitol, and the north-south axis between the White House and the Washington Monument grounds.

John Russell Pope was the architect chosen by the commission in 1935. As an architect trained in the Beaux Arts tradition, his palette consisted primarily of classical style buildings. Pope had previously designed the National Archives building and Constitution Hall, both situated in Washington, D.C. He made several proposals for the Jefferson Memorial, including the scheme for the south axis site. His ambitious design constituted a formal treatment to the Tidal Basin and to the area north of it, calling for the construction of a large plaza-type island in the center of the basin. This proposal met with much criticism, highlighted in a report to the memorial commission by respected landscape architect Henry V. Hubbard. Hubbard stressed the proposal's inevitable high cost, the interference with the flushing activities of the basin, the loss of land and vegetation from East Potomac Park, and the over-bearing scale of the proposed development. Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr. also urged the commission to abandon this particular scheme in a telegram message of April 27, 1937.

“The Jefferson Memorial with its terraces as now designed would be so stupendous in appearance that in my opinion an adequate setting could probably never be created in the Tidal

Basin location hemmed in by Bureau of Engraving and printing and by railroad and highway embankments and bridges. Other vitally important problems as yet unsolved and possibly insoluble are involved in its relations to surroundings including Washington and Lincoln Memorials. Unless and until successful solutions for these unsolved problems are found and embodied in feasible and approved plans for the reconstruction of the surrounding park any precipitate commitment to building the latter as now designed would be a leap in the dark with failure more likely than success," (Telegram to Harlean James, American Planning and Civic Association from Frederick Law Olmsted Jr., April 22, 1937).

By 1937, after consultation with both the Commission of Fine Arts and the National Capital Park and Planning Commission (Note name change: 1924-National Capital Park Commission, 1926-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, 1952-National Capital Planning Commission), the memorial commission adopted a resolution which modified the plan with regard to the proposed location of the memorial.

"It places the memorial on the south bank of the Tidal Basin, diminishing the expense of the memorial and its setting, preserving and improving the present traffic approach to the Highway Bridge. The site on the south bank of the Tidal Basin, on a line south through the White House, has been regarded ever since 1901 as the proper site for a memorial of major importance. In relation to the Washington Monument, it gives the Jefferson Memorial a position in the south similar to the position of the Lincoln Memorial on the west, and completes the great central plan of the city, in which the Capitol and the White House occupy the other two cardinal points on the east and north of the Monument. From the Washington Monument grounds the Jefferson Memorial will be seen across the Tidal Basin, which will retain its irregular outline and natural beauty and in which the memorial and the cherry trees flanking it will be mirrored," (Report of the Thomas Jefferson Memorial Commission to 75th Congress 3rd Session House of Representatives, Document No. 699, May 31st, 1938).

In order for the Thomas Jefferson Memorial to be exactly aligned on the north-south axis, with the White House and to be located on the water's edge, it was necessary to fill in a section of the southeasterly corner of the Tidal Basin and slightly realign the sea wall.

Inspired by Thomas Jefferson's architectural writings, and designs such as the University of Virginia and Monticello, Pope's design of the circular shape and low dome for the memorial also reflected the classical form of the Pantheon in Rome, but he added a circular Ionic peristyle and a portico to the basic circular structure. (Yonkers 1983, 20). In presenting his plans to the memorial commission in March of 1938, Pope explained that:

"Immediate consideration is given to the evidence of Jefferson's aesthetic leanings as shown in works executed under his direction and also in his writings and drawings. Two forms of the classic type of building seem to have met with his approbation. The great prototypes of these forms are probably best illustrated by the Pantheon in Rome and the Villa Rotunda near Vicenza."

Reference to Jefferson was also made through the design of the entrances as clearly stated in

the following architectural critique:

“The four entrances stand open to the colonnade, symbolizing Jefferson's ideals that ‘life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness’ are the rights of all men,” (Yonkers 1983, 1).

Following Pope's death in 1937, his associates Otto R. Eggers and Daniel P. Higgins continued with the memorial work, despite protests that their appointment had been undemocratic and therefore "un-Jeffersonian" and a competition should have been held to choose Pope's successor.

On October 18, 1938, Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr. was officially appointed as landscape architect for the project. Thirty-seven years previously, while serving on the McMillan Commission, he had been involved in designing and planning the Mall and the rest of the Capital as part of the McMillan Commission Plan. He continued almost throughout his life as a consultant on various projects constructed on the Mall. Much of the work on the Jefferson project, however, was carried out by Henry V. Hubbard, who worked for Olmsted's office. The general plan showing layout and massing of foliage from the Olmsted office is on plan No. N.P.S. 76-402, PPJ 716, Oct. 10, 1938, revised Nov. 1938.

In order for construction to begin on site, a number of cherry trees located near the edge of the Tidal Basin had to be removed. Such an act proved extremely controversial, as this area of West Potomac Park had become famous for its much loved trees. Several women's groups organized petitions against their removal, while others took more direct action and chained themselves to trees, preventing the work force from continuing. In an attempt to quiet the press and dispel rumors that 600 trees were going to be lost, the National Park Service advised the Thomas Jefferson Memorial Commission of the much smaller number of trees actually involved.

“Of the Cherry trees within the circle of 600 feet diameter, which will include the area occupied by the Memorial proper and surrounding roads, forty-six cherry trees are to be moved, and 35 cherry trees cut due to the change in shoreline of the Tidal Basin to conform to the Olmsted Landscape plan approved by the Fine Arts, Parks and Planning and Jefferson Memorial Commissions. In summation this will make a total of 88 cherry trees to be cut and 83 cherry trees to be moved when the entire landscape plan is carried out,” (paraphrased from a memorandum for the president, from Stuart G. Gibboney, acting Chairman; Thomas Jefferson Memorial Commission, November 15, 1938).

This information was passed on to President Roosevelt who, at a press conference, sought to appease widespread public opposition to the proposed location of the monument, allowing construction to proceed (Prothero and Tepper, 8-21). A ground-breaking ceremony took place on December 15, 1938 at 2:30 p.m. Prior to the ceremony, at the request of the President, all the trees were cleared from the area of construction.

The memorial commission's report of December 19, 1938 reveals that Olmsted's proposed general landscape plan was complete and awaiting approval. [This plan, although not actually

specified as to its number, is presumably plan No. 716.] Olmsted and the Thomas Jefferson Memorial Commission then negotiated a contract for the detailed plans for the area in Potomac Park from the Tidal Basin to the railroad embankment. This was signed in June 1939, following the issuing of the National Park Service topographical survey of the area to Olmsted. Cost estimates were prepared by the Olmsted Brothers for the realignment of the Sea Wall, new roads, walks and landscaping in West Potomac Park as depicted in his landscape plan, dated October 10, 1939 (Prothero and Tepper, 21-28).

In 1939, it was decided by the National Park Service that the landscape surrounding the memorial should be divided into five separate areas for the organization of the construction and planting. By this time 10,000 cubic yards of fill had been delivered to the site with the intention of filling in a portion of the Tidal Basin to the west of the memorial site to enable construction to progress. Piles continued to be driven down into the bedrock for the superstructure of the monument. It was reported that there were difficulties in driving the caissons vertically, due to the presence of rotten rock which was overlying the hard rock. As a result piles had to be added. (Thomas Jefferson Memorial report of April 1939.) This was later reported to have been a contributory cause of the structural failures which occurred after construction, leading to a 1965 engineers' study and subsequent stabilization works.

By February 7, 1941, Olmsted had completed both detailed planting plans [No. 758] "Planting Outside the Circular Roadway" and [No. 770], "Planting Inside Circular" Roadway, together with associated planting lists, describing planting both the inside and outside of the circular drive surrounding the memorial. Both were criticized by all parties—the Commission of Fine Arts, the National Capital Parks and Planning Commission, and the Thomas Jefferson Memorial Commission—as being too complicated and too fussy, and for using too many different species for the scale of the project for which they were designed. Perhaps Olmsted's intention behind including such diversity of plants was to draw attention to those species which would have been featured in a garden at Monticello and possibly to celebrate Jefferson's skills as a botanist and plant collector. Yet Gilmore D. Clarke, Chairman for the Commission of Fine Arts, wrote of the design:

" . . . the areas outside of the Memorial circular drive [plan No 758] contains, in the opinion of the writer, too many different varieties of plant material, which will result in a scheme too gardenesque, too detailed, and comprising plants too small in character to be in proper scale with the environs. The writer believes that all areas outside of the outer drive should be planted with trees and grass only, including major and minor trees, the latter being cherry trees in accordance with the express wishes of the President. Trees in this large scale composition would serve to create a more permanent treatment, and one in better scale with the memorial. Limiting the planting of these areas as in the manner suggested would appear to create a more quiet and more dignified planting composition, in character with the building and, quite incidentally, make for a much simpler problem of maintenance, an important consideration in a public park where great crowds gather," (Letter to N. Drury, Director of the National Park Service, from Gilmore Clarke, Chairman, Commission of Fine Arts. March 4, 1941).

Clarke goes on to cite the road layout proposed to the south of the memorial as "inadequate,

and in character inappropriate" suggesting further investigation is needed.

"In view of the contemplated changes with respect to the rearrangement of park drives, incident to the construction of the Fourteenth Street and Maine Avenue grade crossing separation structures, the Commission advises that further study be given to the problem of circulation in the vicinity of the Jefferson Memorial, outside of the circular drive, including the two diagonal roads connecting this drive with the present park road passing south of the memorial. The commission considers the proposed scheme inadequate and in character inappropriate. . . . The whole problem of parking automobiles in the vicinity of the Jefferson Memorial appears to require further study, and in this connection, the commission would be pleased to discuss this matter with your representatives at such time as may be appropriate in the circumstances," (Letter to N. Drury, Director of the National Park Service, from Gilmore Clarke, Chairman, Commission of Fine Arts. March 4, 1941).

While the differences of opinion with regard to the planting plans continued, work progressed with the construction of the memorial structure. The Thomas Jefferson Memorial Report for June 1941 states that the memorial project was 97.7% complete and listed activities concerning the landscape that had been carried out that month including, "The pouring of 4,500 sq. ft. of concrete pavement at the front of the memorial; the installing of tile lines for lawn drains between the terrace and stylobate walls; Earth filling and grading. . ." (Report of the Thomas Jefferson Memorial Commission for the month of June, 1941).

In response to the criticism, in August of 1941, the proposed layout of the lawn and road area to the south of the memorial was further changed by the Olmsted office as can be seen in plan 768. The converging roads, criticized previously by the Commission of Fine Arts through the words of Clarke as being "inappropriate," had been replaced by parallel roads. These were subsequently approved by Eggers and Higgins in their letter to Olmsted of August 1941. They did not, however, approve of Olmsted's new proposal to extend the line of trees east and west of the "approach roads," across the line of Route 1, towards the shore of the Potomac. Their opinion was that, in contrast to the Lincoln Memorial, the setting of the Jefferson should be informal without long rows of trees. Furthermore, Eggers and Higgins advised:

"It is desirable to keep fairly narrow vistas of the Memorial in every case but the main one on the North" (Letter to F. L. Olmsted from Eggers and Higgins, New York, August 21, 1941).

Olmsted's reasoning behind his desire to have the lines of flanking trees was to link the southern axial space created by the trees, to the tree-flanked circular space surrounding the monument. He countered:

"The previous studies for such a rectangular treatment have made the space unpleasantly short in proportion to its width, a difficulty in large part overcome in the present plan by extending the flanking tree masses straight across the future dual highway and returning them across its southern axis (through which opening it would be possible in the remote future, if the obstruction of the railroad bridge is ever removed, to obtain from the memorial a long, narrow, axial view down the Potomac River)," (Letter to Mr. A.A. Demaray, Acting Director,

National Park Service and Acting Executive Officer, Thomas Jefferson Memorial Commission from F. L. Olmsted, Jr., August 8, 1941).

Therefore Olmsted's proposal to make the grass area to the south rectangular, by the realignment of the approach roads, was dependant upon extending the space visually through the planting of long lines of trees across the physical barrier of the road. Though the extended tree lines never occurred the lines of trees adjacent to the outer edge of the roads were planted, together with the rectangular grass area created by the newly-approved parallel roads.

By October 1941, another planting plan concerning the area within the circular roadway was received from the Olmsted office and finally approved by the various commissions. This was a much simpler design than the previous gardenesque schemes, using only thirteen, mainly evergreen, species. This presumably satisfied the Commission of Fine Arts who had deemed the earlier plans "too fussy" and too difficult to maintain in a place where large crowds gather. The planting plan (No.181a) for the area outside the circular road differed from the previously rejected scheme in that Olmsted omitted the colorful shrubberies and restricted the planting to a limited choice of trees, shrubs and groundcover plants. This was apparently not a satisfactory solution, as far as he was concerned. In correspondence with the National Park Service, Olmsted wrote of the newly accepted planting plans:

"As to the use of shrubbery outside of the circular drive in view of the undoubted desirability of minimizing the amount of maintenance work required for keeping the surroundings of the memorial in first class condition, and in view of defensible differences in opinion as to the most desirable aesthetic effects, I have agreed with the Chairman of the Commission of Fine Arts on the expediency of omitting from the planting outside of the circle all except the trees, provided that the soil is so prepared that shrubs may later be added if, as, and when it shall later appear that the trees alone (within the areas in the previous plans called for shrubbery also) are in fact insufficient to produce a satisfactory effect."

Indeed, the simple use of evergreens around classical structures set in the landscape had been widely practiced in Europe since the eighteenth century, and probably seemed more appropriate in this setting, appealing to the Commission of Fine Arts' classical tastes. Conifers had also been widely used throughout history in memorial plantings and cemeteries (Plan No. 179 Sheets 1 & 2 and 181a).

Implementation of the landscape plans began once they were approved by all parties concerned. The New England Tree Expert Company was successful in securing the landscaping contract for the area within the circular roadway, submitting a bid \$10,000 less than the next lowest bid. The Olmsted office, however, was not in agreement with the award of the contract as decried in a letter to the memorial commission from the National Park Service:

"A representative of this Office and also a representative of Olmsted's office have inspected the planting material bid on and our representative indicates that the material is well suited for the planting. The representative of Olmsted's office agrees with this viewpoint, but it is believed that he is not agreeable to the award of the contract to the low bidder, basing his

opinion on his judgement with reference to what the work should cost” (Letter from F.F. Gillen, Superintendent, National Park Service, to Mr. Stuart G. Gibboney, Chairman, Jefferson Memorial Commission, November 12, 1941).

There is no apparent evidence of any maintenance schedules for the area, of the intended shapes or forms of the planting, with the exception of the drawing showing the planting at maturity. This illustration seems to include the more complicated shrub planting, as described in the rejected plans, (Drawing Nos. 758 & 770). Indeed it was dated June 30, 1941 - before Olmsted had submitted his final plans. The exact form of the plant material specified was drawn on a plan called Plant Specimen Types (National Park Service drawing of October 10, 1941, Drawing No. 65-52-179-2).

Once the area immediately surrounding the monument within the circular roadway was planted, it received criticism from the National Park Service, the Thomas Jefferson Memorial Commission, and Eggers and Higgins for appearing "too thin." It was subsequently bulked up with additional plant material before the official dedication. For example, originally the scheme had no pine trees adjacent to the building, but after the criticism from Eggers and Higgins with regard to the scarcity of the foliage, the plans were revised. The additional planting is indicated in Plan No. 65-52-178, "Additional Planting", which shows the four groups of three additional white pines (*Pinus strobus*) and some minor rearrangement of the other shrub planting. Correspondence from Eggers and Higgins on this matter states:

“The planting gives one the impression of having been spread pretty thin over a large area. I know that funds for this part of the work were particularly limited but it disturbs me that even what we were able to buy is thin and scrawny and evidently not doing well. My particular case in point are the hollies at either side of the steps on the upper stylobate. I wanted a good heavy mass in this location. Instead the pines at the edge of the water tend to accentuate the thinness of the foliage of the groups of hollies” (Letter to the Olmsted Brothers from Otto R. Eggers, Eggers and Higgins, July 14, 1942).

Yet Olmsted was reluctant to thicken up the planting, as described by the letter from the National Park Service of July 20, 1942:

“We agree with the criticism offered by Mr. Eggers in reference to the planting between the stylobate mall and the Memorial proper. We believe that the selection of this material was unfortunate for this location, and we have made several attempts to get Mr. Olmsted to agree to thicken it up in order to form a denser mass, but Mr. Olmsted was not agreeable.” (Letter to Stuart G. Gibbony of the Thomas Jefferson Memorial Commission from F. F. Gillen, Sr. Asst. Superintendent of National Capital Parks - Central of the National Park Service; July 20 1942).

At this time Olmsted was suffering a period of ill health, and convalescing from an operation. He apologized for the fact that the planting was looking so thin. Subsequently he did agree to thicken up the planting, following consensus of opinion from all the other parties concerned that this was necessary. As well as the additional pines on the stylobate mall, some holly trees were replaced and added, and some rearrangement of the planting on the terrace was determined.

Plan No. 65-52-178 shows the rearrangements. It is not clear whether the additional plant material requested by the architects was purely for making the memorial planting look "mature" for dedication or whether they anticipated the eventual impact of the large trees on the stylobate mall close to the building.

The contract for the planting work in the area outside the circular roadway was carried out by H. L. Frost and Higgins Co. The progress of planting work was described as follows in the Commission's report for May, 1942:

“Landscaping inside the circular roadway included the planting of 1800 small cotoneasters, and 30 yew and thorn trees on the lower terrace and roadway levels, [and] 2,600 small leaved Japanese hollies on the lower terrace inside the granite wall. . . . Landscaping outside the circular roadway, included the planting of dogwoods, thorns, crabapple and a sprinkling of maples, hollies, lindens and oaks, 47 large American elms, 11 planes. Periwinkle ground cover was planted in the two triangular spaces adjacent to the East and West ends of the Granite sea wall. Fine grading and seeding of vista strip on the West area of the monument and the panel to the south of the monument was done. . . . Planting of cherry trees by the National Park Service,” (Thomas Jefferson Memorial Commission, Monthly report for May, 1942).

Various circulation issues, in addition to those of vegetation, arose regarding the construction of the memorial. Drainage of the circular roadway was a primary concern. Olmsted was in favor of sloping the encircling roadway away from the monument, so there would only have to be catch basins on the outer edge of the circular roadway, but the Thomas Jefferson Memorial Commission had other ideas. Anticipating the settlement problems, they thought it preferable to play safe and shape the road asymmetrically in profile, incorporating drainage on both sides of the road. They would not, therefore, be subsequently faced with the drainage problem if the initially higher inner side of the road settled below the level of the drains on the outside. This was particularly important in the area on the Tidal Basin side of the memorial as this was all new fill material. Settlement has been an important consideration since the start of the memorial's construction. The construction of the roadways and sidewalks to facilitate "jacking up" is one indication of how this inevitable phenomenon was intended to be overcome. ["Jacking up" is a method of combating settlement problems by raising the level of the pavement or roadway, by injecting grout under pressure beneath it. It is limited in its application to raising in relatively small elevation increments. There must be lateral confinement underneath the surface to contain the semi-liquid material used in order for this operation to prove successful.] This concern about settlement was documented in a letter to the Olmsted office from the Thomas Jefferson Memorial Commission.

“Regarding the additional catch basins on the inside edge of the circular road and the asymmetrical crowning of this road as now proposed, it is the feeling of the National Park Service that this offers a more practical solution as we all are aware that the roadway pavement is bound to settle and as a matter of fact, is designed to anticipate jacking up when settlement would be sufficient to warrant re-jacking the roadway slabs. Additional catch basins will insure adequate drainage no matter which way the settlement occurs. If the roads were all drained to the outside, as originally suggested by your office, in case greater settlement

occurred at the inside curb, no means would be available for draining. This was felt to be particularly important in the 40 foot section of the roadway on the basin side of the Memorial," (Letter from Newton B. Drury, Director and Executive officer, T.J.M.C. to the Olmsted Brothers, August 21, 1941).

Treatment of the sidewalks, roads and curbs with respect to the choice of materials to be used was discussed between the National Park Service and Gilmore Clarke of the Commission of Fine Arts in August, 1941. The original intention was to use granite for the curbs of the encircling road, but because they were \$10,000 more expensive than concrete, the latter was used instead. Similar budgetary restrictions were to apply to the approach walks both east and west of the memorial. It would have been cheaper to surface them in "straight concrete" but following complaints from the Commission of Fine Arts, it was agreed they would be surfaced in "black top" as they thought this was "less glaring and therefore more aesthetically pleasing." Parking was also a concern. For example, the road encircling the memorial is documented as being for "occasional use only," hence its width of only twenty-four feet, narrower than other roads to stop people from parking all around the edge (National Capital Parks and Planning Commission, meeting Sept. 29, 1938). In his letter dated August 8, 1941 Olmsted wrote:

"... attention is drawn to two other details on the blueprint (marked preliminary) of sheet 1 of the working drawings prepared in the Planning and Construction Division, which differ substantially from my grading study and which I failed to notice when I first examined the print last Saturday. One detail is the reduction in width of the approach roads from 27 to 24 feet. The width of 27 feet for these roads was adopted on my plan on the basis of a suggestion by Mr. Whitehead, agreed by Mr. Hubbard and others, that these roads should be wide enough to permit one row of parallel parking and two free lanes, whereas the circular road is deliberately made impracticable for any parking at any time," (Letter from F. L. Olmsted to Mr. A. E. Demaray, N.P.S., August 8, 1941).

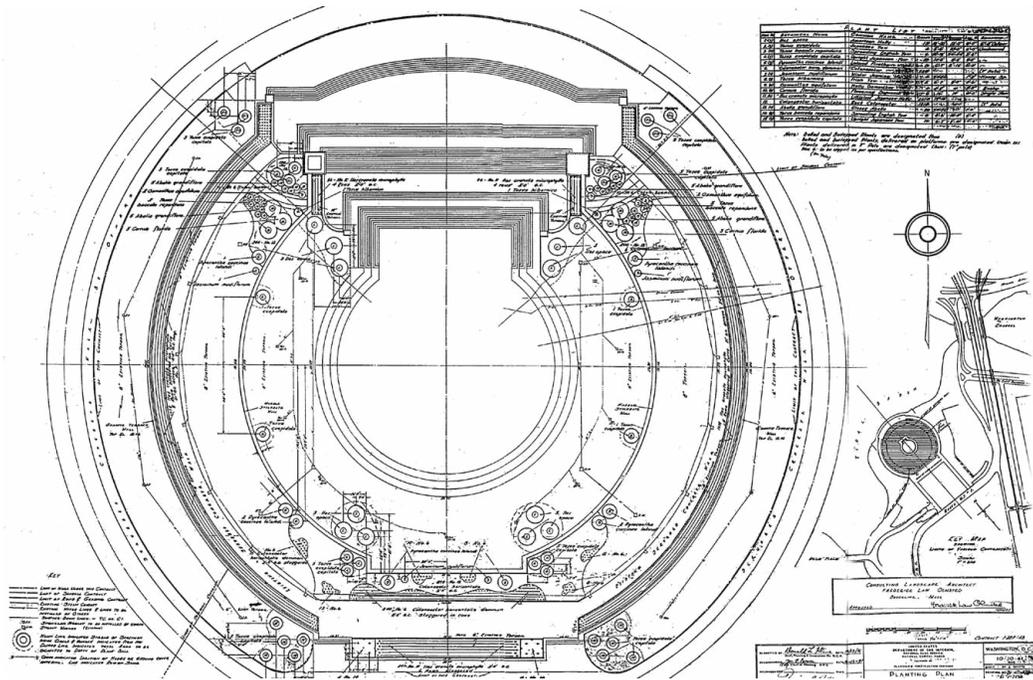
Although the circular road was designed to be impracticable for parking at any time, this proved to be an unsuccessful solution, and traffic control barriers were installed.

According to the Commission report of May 1942 the majority of the building and landscape work had been completed:

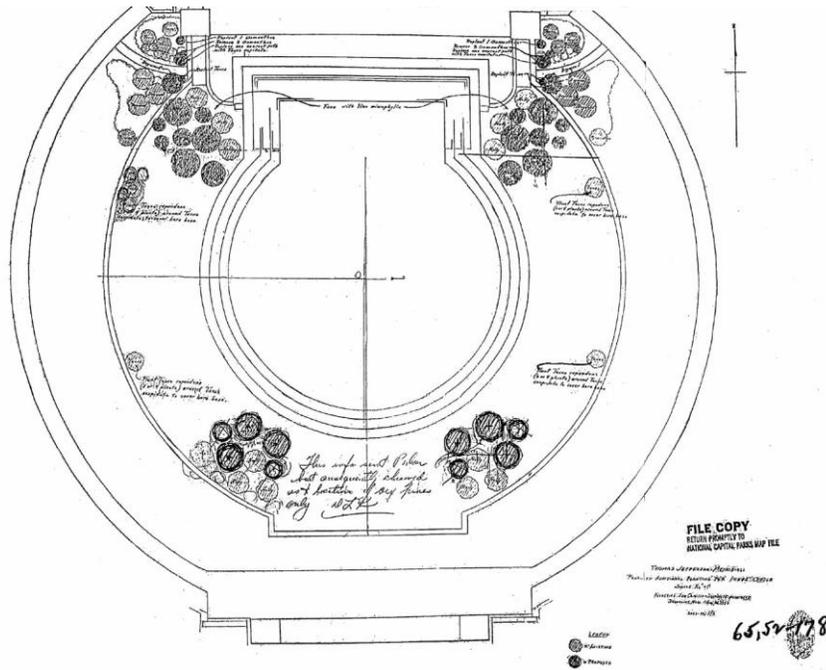
"The placing of asphalt surfacing on the concrete road base . . . the installing of drainage and water lines, and the placing and grading of topsoil on areas adjacent to the roadways . . . Seawall construction by Potts and Callahan was completed," (Thomas Jefferson Memorial Commission report, May 1942).

The sea wall, extending southwesterly to the Inlet Bridge, had to be realigned, both vertically and horizontally, by adding a course of stone and a six-inch, high concrete coping to bring it to its design elevation. Following this, the asphalt walkway was constructed alongside it, leading to the inlet and outlet bridges. It was completed in September, 1942. (Plan No. 754, 755, July 1940, Realignment of Seawall at Tidal Basin) The Jefferson Memorial was dedicated at 12:00 noon on Tuesday, April 13, 1943, on the 200th anniversary of Jefferson's birth (Prothero and

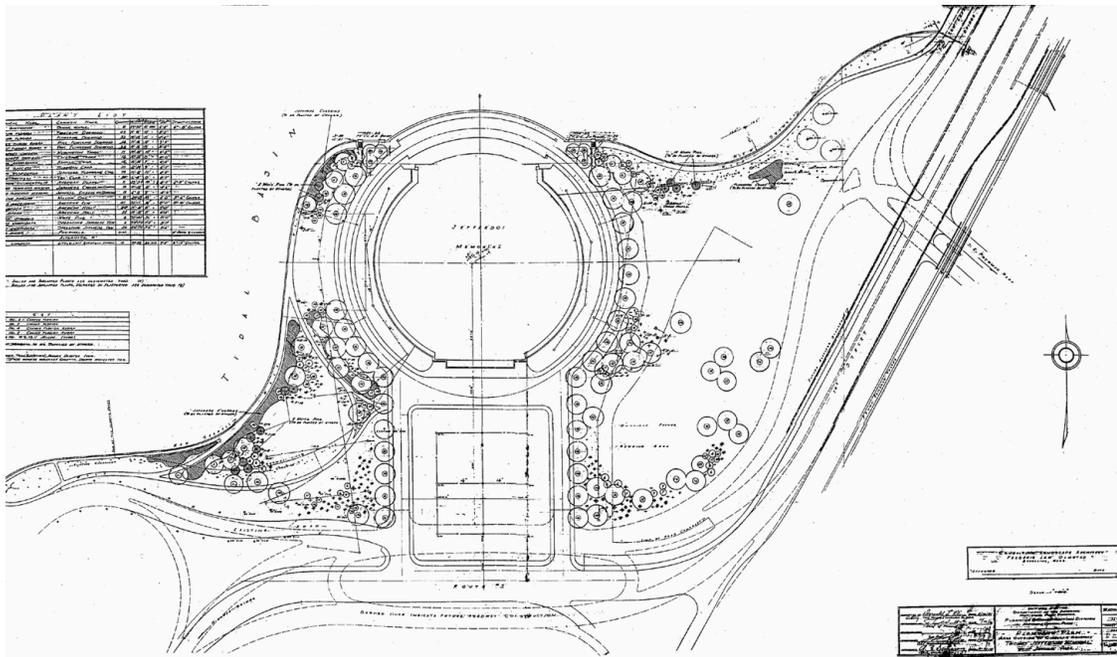
Tepper, 15-46).



This Olmsted planting plan for the area of the memorial inside the circular drive shows the vegetation clustered within the drive and walks in the four corners of the stylobate mall, terrace mall and lower level.

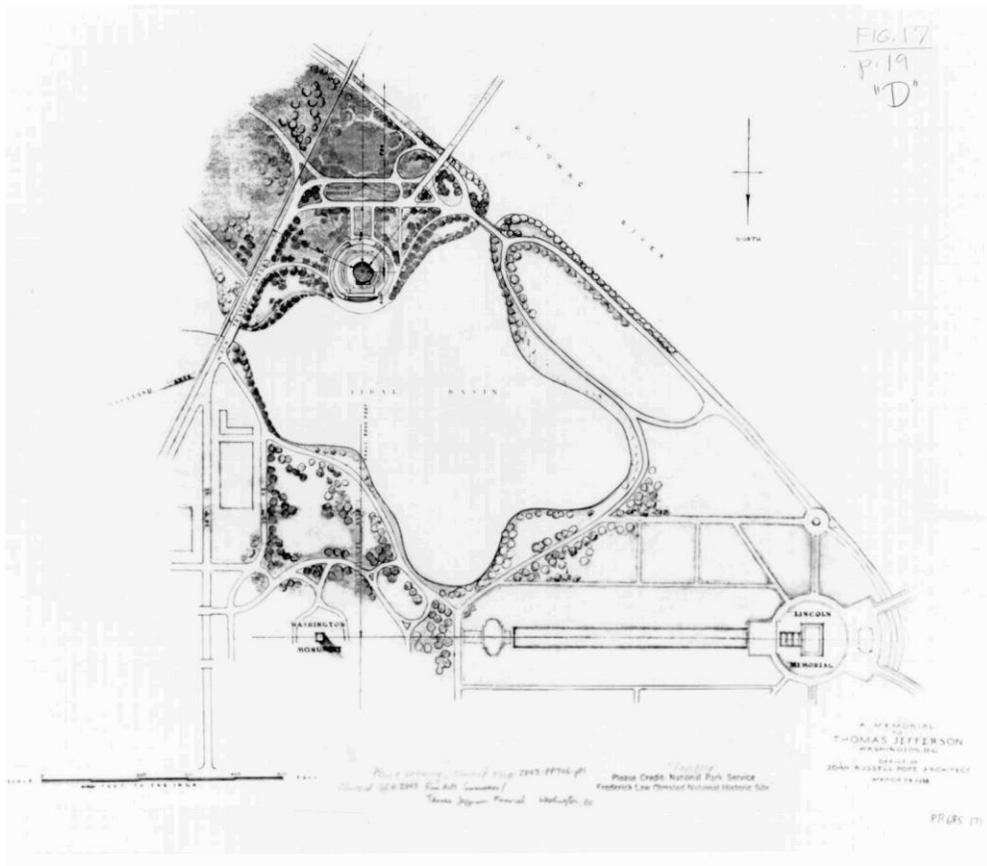


This Olmsted sketch, 1941, shows the additional plantings agreed upon because the original planting was perceived as 'too thin'.

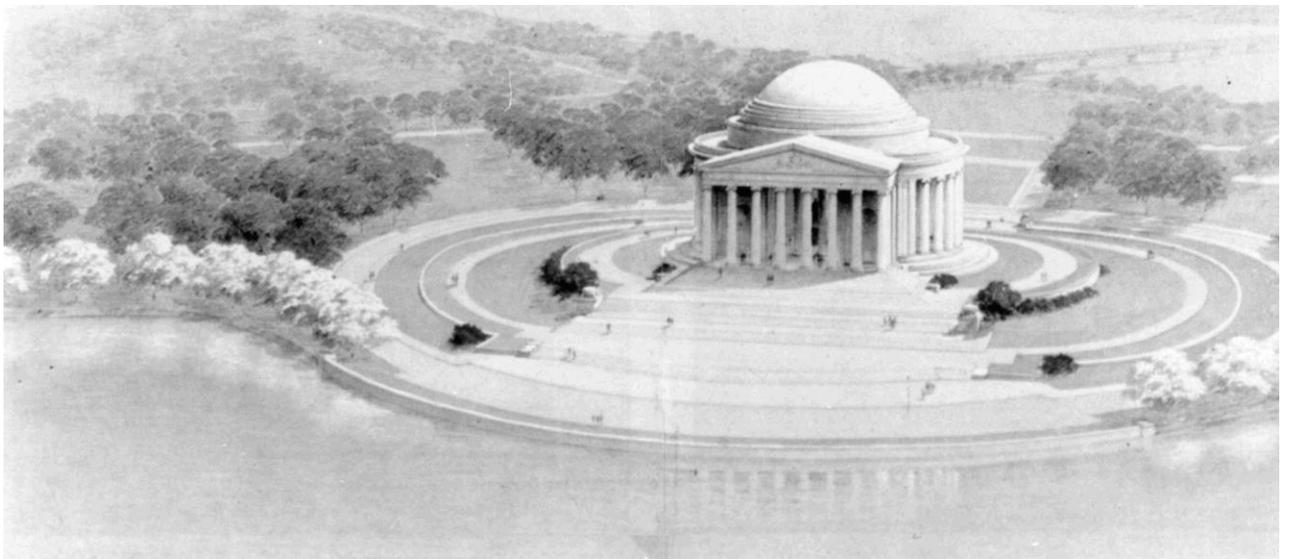


This 1941 Olmsted planting plan for outside the circular drive features small flowering trees with taller shade trees, all underplanted with grass.

Thomas Jefferson Memorial
Thomas Jefferson Memorial



Pope's site plan for the Jefferson Memorial, ca. 1938



Pope's perspective of the Jefferson Memorial, ca. 1938

1943-1998

In January of 1943 the vista between the Lincoln and Jefferson Memorials was discussed by the Commission of Fine Arts, the Thomas Jefferson Memorial Commission, and Eggers and Higgins. By the end of the month this vista was opened up through pruning of trees, enabling the visitor a narrow view from one memorial to the other. It was intended that this should be further opened up to improve the vista. [This is described further in the "Views and Vistas" section of the Analysis and Evaluation section of this report.]

As was true during construction, settlement remained a major problem. Quickly, the National Park Service began a program of periodic surveys and inspections which continue today. [Details of these findings are documented in the Storch Engineers (New Jersey) report of 1965.] In addition, research suggests that the main marble steps were first reset by the National Park Service the same year of the Memorial's dedication—the first in a series of repairs and reconstructions that have continued up to the present day. By 1965, settlement of the adjacent roadway and side walks of up to three feet had occurred and led to the commissioning of the "Storch Report," by the National Park Service which, due to the complexity of the problem, took five years to complete.

The Storch Report identifies the following settlements, among many, as being significant in the relationship between the structure and the appearance of the landscape:

“. . . By 1951, settlement of the fill adjacent to the NW corner of the main approach steps had caused severe cracking of the sidewalk between the roadway and the main Memorial approach steps. . . Due to settlement of fill adjacent to the main steps and at the southerly approach to the terrace steps, wooden steps were placed on the settled ground . . . bituminous concrete was used to fill opened sidewalk joints. . . The maintenance department made use of mud-jacking techniques in attempts to raise portions of the peripheral roadway, the adjacent sidewalk, the terrace walk and portions of the walk adjacent to the Tidal Basin,” (Storch Engineers, March 31, 1965, IV-8).

Various solutions to the problems briefly outlined above are described in the Storch report, sections VIII and IX, Recommendations For Rehabilitation. These recommendations preceded the most significant departure from Olmsted's original landscape design intent in the landscape—the replacement of the roadway adjacent to the Tidal Basin with a plaza, and a replanting scheme around the memorial.

The memorial was closed in October 1969 in order to carry out the stabilization program which included installing concrete reinforcing struts to arrest the subsidence, the re-construction of sidewalks, re-building the terrace walk, and substantial planting and grading. The peripheral roadway at the Tidal Basin and some of the curbs and sidewalks were replaced, using a lightweight, expanded slag sub-base in place of the previous one, to reduce subsequent compaction. Previously, a heavy sub-base had been used which had compacted the underlying silty clay. Steps at the north side, which had been steadily shifting since their construction, were re-set back to their original position.

Most prominently visible in this package of renovations was the replacement of the roadway on the Tidal Basin side of the memorial with a multicolored exposed aggregate and colored concrete plaza. The sub-structure was modified to stabilize the memorial and the newly designed plaza to the north was 'floated' by means of a concrete slab. This slab was supported by a viaduct-like system of supporting and horizontal reinforced concrete beams. It was completed on December 16, 1970.

The levels of this area were considerably altered in that the new plaza adjacent to the seawall has a higher finished grade than its predecessor. This alteration in levels between the old existing road and the new plaza meant that the remaining approach roads to the new plaza, shown in the plan, had to be ramped upwards toward the plaza in order for them to meet. Obviously this higher level makes for better drainage of the plaza as the run-off falls in the direction of the Tidal Basin and to the catch basins at the east and west of the plaza in the road. The smooth curve of the circular road around the memorial, however, was lost.

The NPS plan number 65-52-243 shows the location of the trees and shrubs in November 1964. Significantly, the spreading yew (*Taxus baccata repandens*) located in the north-east quadrant of the stylobate mall, present in the original plans, is shown to be missing by 1964. The glossy abelia (*Abelia grandiflora*), previously located at the north of the terrace walk is also gone. To the south of the memorial the original cotoneasters (*Cotoneaster horizontalis* and *C. horizontalis dammeri*) have been removed, as have some of the winter flowering jasmines (*Jasminium nudiflorum*).

Grassed areas around the memorial, which had undergone settlement between the original design implementation and the Storch Report of 1964, were filled to meet the level of the peripheral roadway, bringing them back to their original design grade. Some of the Japanese hollies (*Ilex crenata microphylla*) along the terraced walk were replaced in kind after the beds were filled with a lightweight fill. Levels on the stylobate mall were also brought to grade with supplementary fill. Topsoil was distributed in the grassed areas and limited amounts of mulch were placed in the shrub beds. After completion of the majority of the work in September 1970, the memorial was re-opened to the public. (Grading Plan, North Plaza, N.P.S. dwg No. 808/40001, 26/58).

During the 1970s, two major landscape projects were carried out at the Jefferson Memorial—an additional planting and the installation of an automatic irrigation system. The addition of several yews (*Taxus cuspidata* 'Nana') on the stylobate mall and the planting of fourteen zelkova (*Zelkova serrata*) in 1972 by the National Park Service, added weight to the existing plantings. The planting design, although a departure from Olmsted's original scheme, still respected the original narrow vistas to the east and west. Over time, however, the yews grew to such an extent that they interfered with the openness of the original planting. The yews also hung over the edge of the stylobate wall which caused staining and deterioration of the marble. In 1986, three-thousand-eight-hundred and six dwarf inkberry (*Ilex glabra compacta*) plants, which made up the hedge on the terrace mall, were replaced with an equal number of the Japanese holly cultivar 'Shamrock.' Three original white pines (*Pinus strobus*) were

removed around this time, and replaced with six foot high specimens.

An automatic irrigation system was installed in 1972 on the stylobate mall, in addition to the original "street washer" system which had been installed in 1941 that consisted of quick coupler valves for hose bib connections installed at grade in the stylobate and terrace mall area. Its purpose was to provide a source of water for hand irrigation by hose. The 1972 system was replaced in 1993. (See plan # 808/40002-A, 1/71, in the Einhorn Yaffee Prescott report, 'Jefferson Memorial Specific Tests and Evaluations of Stylobate Mall, 1992.'). An irrigation system was installed in the grass rectangle to the south of the memorial in 1985. On-site investigation reveals that the system does not function effectively.

In 1993 the restoration of the stylobate mall, which consists of the grassed elevated terrace that rings the base of the memorial, returned the planting in this area back to the original "as-built" design, as the first stage of landscape restoration. Einhorn Yaffee Prescott (Architecture and Engineering) worked with their consultants, Stephenson and Good (Washington, D.C.), on a study of the stylobate mall planting. The work was executed in 1993, and included the addition of a replacement irrigation system, documented in the Einhorn Yaffee Prescott report of 1992 (Prothero and Tepper, 51-72).

In 1998 the lower level of the memorial was rehabilitated and an improved exhibit and staff space installed. The restrooms were enlarged to include a family restroom, and two shops were added. In an effort to restore the integrity of the historic landscape, plantings installed for the Bicentennial celebration, primarily hollies, have been removed. Dogwood (*Cornus florida*) and yew have been planted in keeping with the Olmsted plan.

A restoration of the entrance steps and plaza, completed in 2000, focused on rehabilitating the surfaces of the memorial landscape. All marble stairs were reset and repaired. The circular road was raised and resurfaced with aggregate concrete colored to mimic the original asphalt. The north plaza was redone with the same material, and raised so that it is completely flush. Where there were once curbs, granite pavers were set in the surface. The 1970s planters were removed and safety lighting was installed along the seawall. The walkways and parking lot were resurfaced, and minor landscape changes implemented, (Lorenzetti, 1,2001).



This aerial shows the site layout and includes the north plaza as reconstructed in 1970.

Thomas Jefferson Memorial
Thomas Jefferson Memorial



This circa 1950 aerial photograph shows young vegetation on the site, and the bridge approach immediately to the south of the grassy rectangle, as it existed at the time.

Analysis & Evaluation of Integrity

Analysis and Evaluation of Integrity Narrative Summary:

The Thomas Jefferson Memorial acquires significance from its period of design and construction earlier in this century, 1934-1943. Because of its uninterrupted use as a commemorative landscape since that time, the memorial landscape maintains integrity in many areas. There is high integrity in the characteristics of natural systems, spatial organization, land use, topography, buildings and structures, and views and vistas. Characteristics that retain a moderate level of integrity are circulation and vegetation. More research is needed to determine integrity in the area of small-scale features.

Location: The major features that define the landscape are intact from the period of significance. The memorial with the statue of Jefferson, the Tidal Basin and cherry trees all retain their original locations.

Design: The site and its structures essentially retain their original design. There has been some loss of integrity, resulting from the reconstruction of the north plaza in 1970, changes to the planting plan, and alterations in surfacing materials. Despite these changes, the design of the memorial and its landscape retains a large portion of its historic integrity, and planned projects will restore some historically significant characteristics lost since 1943.

Setting: The landscape surrounding the Jefferson Memorial has retained its integrity of setting. The character of the place is similar to the period of significance, with a few incursions. For example, additional highways and bridges to the south, increased air traffic to Reagan National Airport, the closing of the parking lot, and the addition of trees inside the circular drive has had a negative, albeit minor, impact on the setting.

Materials: The character-defining materials of the memorial are relatively intact. Some changes have been made in the paving of the north plaza and circular drive, but these were addressed in the restoration project of 1999-2000 [see circulation section]. Some original vegetation remains on the site, and to some degree the original planting plan has been respected by replacement-in-kind.

Workmanship: The workmanship of the Jefferson Memorial maintains high integrity from its construction.

Feeling: The Jefferson Memorial maintains the feeling of the commemorative setting that existed at its dedication in 1943. Its visual relationship to the monumental core of the Federal city has been maintained, as well as the relationship to the Tidal Basin and Potomac. The negative impacts noted in Setting have also influenced the feeling, but are also minor impacts here.

Association: The memorial retains its association with the commemoration of Thomas Jefferson, the third President of the United States, for his contributions in the founding of our nation. The characteristics that convey the memorial's link to this important person are intact.

The majority of the information in this entry comes from the “Thomas Jefferson Memorial: Landscape Overview” by Sally Prothero and Audrey Tepper, completed by the National Park Service Denver Service Center in 1996. Information has been added on the period up to 1998 in an attempt to update the landscape study to the present. All information pertaining to the Rehabilitation of the Support Facilities, scheduled for completion in 1998, and the Restoration for the Entrance Steps and Plaza, scheduled for 1999-2000, comes from an interview with Stephen Lorenzetti, National Capital Parks - Central, Chief of the Division of Resource Management. The interview was held on October 2, 1998, with follow-up clarification in a telephone call on Oct. 15, 1998. An update interview was held in January 2001.

Landscape Characteristic:

Buildings And Structures

(The following is paraphrased on the National Register Nomination for East and West Potomac Parks by Robinson and Associates, Inc.)

The Jefferson Memorial (Contributing), located on the southeast shore of the Tidal Basin, was originally designed by John Russell Pope in 1937. Pope’s design was later modified by his successor firm belonging to principals Otto R. Eggers and Daniel P. Higgins. The memorial, modeled after the Roman Pantheon, was constructed between 1939 and 1943, and was dedicated in 1943. A circular open-air structure, the Jefferson Memorial features a shallow dome, a circular peripheral colonnade composed of 26 unfluted Ionic columns, 12 additional Ionic columns supporting the north portico, and 4 identical columns in each of memorial’s four monumental openings. The memorial is constructed of white Imperial Danby marble from Vermont, and it rests upon a series of granite and marble-stepped terraces. A flight of granite and marble stairs and platforms, flanked by granite buttresses, leads from the Tidal Basin. The stairs rise to an octastyle portico with a triangular pediment, which features a sculpture by Adolph A. Weinman, depicting the five members of the drafting committee of the Declaration of Independence submitting their report to Congress. A dentiled cornice with egg-and-dart molding surrounds the pediment, below which is a plain frieze.

The interior of the Jefferson Memorial is constructed of white Georgia marble with an axed finish, and the floor is made of pink Tennessee marble. Rudolph Evans’ bronze statue of Jefferson stands centered in the chamber on a black Minnesota granite pedestal, which is inscribed with the dates of Jefferson’s birth and death (1743-1826). The statue depicts Jefferson in mid-life holding the Declaration of Independence in his left hand. Four quotations from Jefferson’s writings are carved into the walls of the memorial. An excerpt from the Declaration of Independence, the document for which Jefferson is best known, is located on the southwest wall. The southeast wall features a statements on the evolution of law and the Constitution, which was taken from a letter written to Samuel Kercheval in 1816. The northwest wall is inscribed with a combination of six quotations taken primarily from Jefferson’s “1786 Notes on Virginia” and “Summary Views,” which illustrate his beliefs in the evils of slavery and the need to educate the masses. On the northwest wall is a quote from the “Act of Religious Freedom,” which was adopted in 1779 and eliminated the state church in Virginia; this quote expresses Jefferson’s views on freedom of religion. A fifth quote, “I have

sworn upon the altar of God eternal hostility against every form of tyranny over the mind of man,” taken from an 1800 letter from Jefferson to Benjamin Rush, is engraved on the freize encircling the memorial’s interior. The freize is topped by a dentiled cornice and a massive Indiana limestone dome. The dome’s interior is divided into two parts; the lower section has a coffered surface containing lights which illuminate the statue, and the upper section has a smooth, uninterrupted surface.

A few alterations have been made to the Jefferson Memorial since its dedication in 1947. Two phases of work were performed in preparation for the nation’s Bicentennial. In 1974-75, work was performed to repair minor structural defects. In 1975-76 repairs were made to benefit visitors, particularly the elderly and the handicapped, including heating, ventilating, and air conditioning repairs in enclosed portions of the memorial; providing toilet facilities; installing an elevator; and plumbing and electrical repairs. In addition, a small gift shop was installed in the northwest section of the memorial in what used to be a storage room; and a handicapped-access ramp, leading from the northwest side to a sidewalk on the western side of the memorial, was also installed. In the early 1990s, a team led by Einhorn Yaffee Prescott and Hartman-Cox Architects worked with the National Park Service on the first comprehensive repair effort at the memorial (Robinson and Associates, Inc., Section 7, 16-17).

The only other structure on the memorial grounds is the refreshment kiosk that houses the food concession southwest of the memorial at East Basin Drive. Typical of those built throughout the Mall just prior to the Bicentennial celebration, they are octagonal structures with windows on 5 sides, and tent-like copper, standing seam roofs. This one is constructed primarily of tan enamel coated metal. (see photograph)

Due to its continuous use as a memorial, the structure, which retains its original materials and design, has high integrity. Only the refreshment kiosk is a non-contributing structure.

Character-defining Features:

Feature: Information Kiosk on south

Feature Identification Number: 96447

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Feature: Refreshment Kiosk

Feature Identification Number: 96448

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Feature: Seawall

Feature Identification Number: 96449

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Stylobate Wall and Terrace Walls that create stylobate and terrace mall levels

Thomas Jefferson Memorial
Thomas Jefferson Memorial

Feature Identification Number: 96450
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Thomas Jefferson Memorial

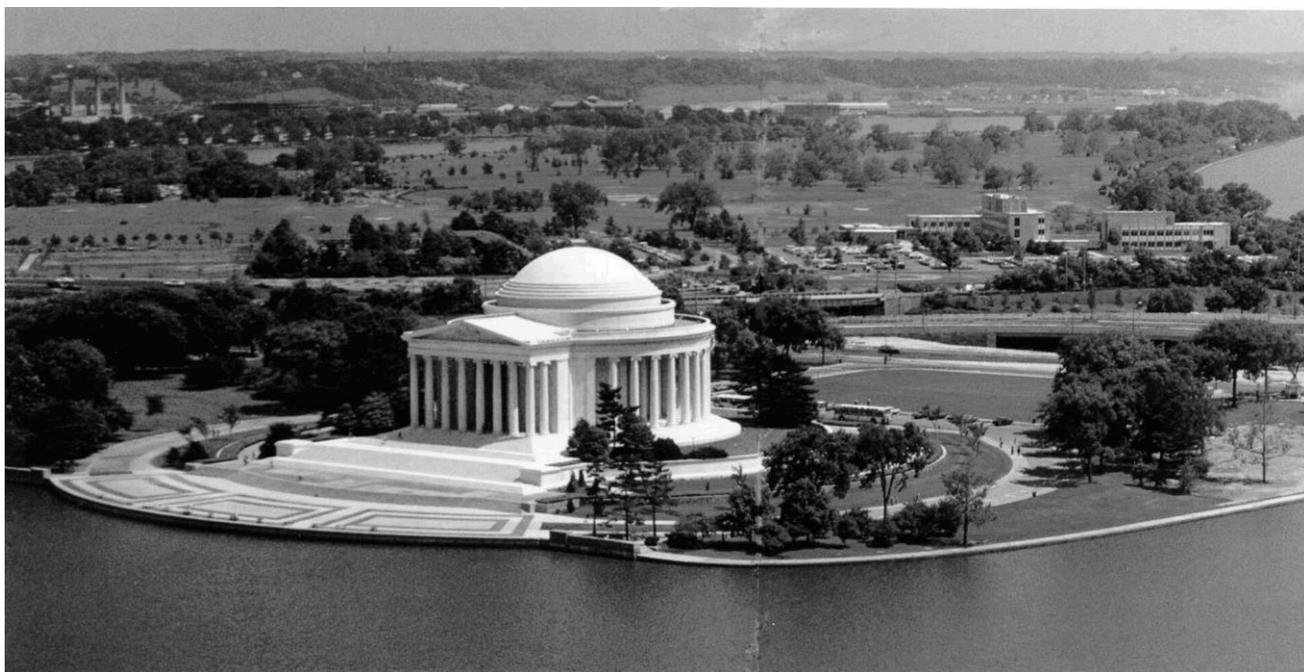
Feature Identification Number: 103029

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

LCS Structure Name: Jefferson Memorial - Res. 332

LCS Structure Number: 33216001

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



The memorial setting, circa 1980



The refreshment kiosk southeast of the memorial is a non-contributing structure.

Circulation

Vehicular Circulation

Access to the memorial is predominantly by vehicle, either by car, bus or Tourmobile, a National Park Service concession-operated sightseeing service. Public transportation is limited, with no bus service to the memorial and the nearest Metro station at the Smithsonian stop, a fifteen-minute walk away. Commercial bus tours to the memorial are numerous, especially visiting school groups during the school year. When the parking lot is open, barring closings due to security issues, most visitors to the Jefferson Memorial arrive via the approach roads to the parking lot to the south, where they park or are dropped off. Those roads are constructed of asphalt over concrete, and have granite curbs.

The issue of adequate parking has been under discussion since the memorial was built. Olmsted's plan, No. 778 ("Rider for Plan No. 702", Showing Alternative Location for Approach Roads and Their Flanking Trees), showed a future area for parking southeast of the memorial, and the same area to the east of the grass rectangle was revised in 1943 and 1949 by the National Capital Parks and Planning Commission and approved by the National Park Service. (Prothero and Tepper, 93)

The circular drive and plaza, originally designed for vehicular use, are now meant to be used exclusively by pedestrians. Despite the "No Entry" signs and gates at the south side of the circular drive, vehicles are often parked on the plaza. They are usually National Park Service vehicles, delivery vans, and Park Police cars and motorcycles. (Prothero and Tepper, 95) The

metal gates, which are not compatible with the other design features of the memorial's exterior, will be replaced in the Restoration of the Entrance Steps and Plaza, scheduled for 1999-2000. (Lorenzetti, 10/2/98)

Pedestrian Circulation

Some pedestrians arrive at the memorial from the east, coming from the paddle boat rental area around the Tidal Basin; others come from the Franklin Delano Roosevelt (FDR) memorial located on the west. The FDR Memorial also brings many pedestrians to the west edge of the Tidal Basin, where they have an excellent view across the water to the Jefferson Memorial. The path adjacent to the Tidal Basin on the west side is made up of sections of asphalt and concrete; the one to the east is largely asphalt. On both sides the paths abut the concrete cap on the seawall.

When the parking lot is open, most visitors to the Jefferson Memorial walk parallel to the approach roads on sidewalks of exposed aggregate concrete patched with asphalt. The majority tends to walk around the west side of the memorial. Some take the asphalt circular roadway, usually stopping to admire the vista north to the White House, and then climb the north steps to enter the chamber. The lowest set of the north entrance steps is made of granite; while those closer to the interior of the memorial are marble. Some visitors, including disabled visitors, take the ramp on the south side to the terrace mall level and around the memorial to the west. From there they then climb the north stairs, or enter the building and take the elevator to the chamber level. (Lorenzetti, 10/2/98)

The Memorial was made accessible to people with disabilities in 1975 as part of a project to commemorate America's Bicentennial. The ramp at the south was constructed between two planters, and an elevator was installed.

Originally visitors accessed restrooms through the east and west basement doors. The east door was subsequently closed, and all facilities were reached through the west basement door, focusing the majority of visitor services to the west side. There, a ramp was constructed in place of the steps to make the facilities accessible.

The construction completed in 1998 made the facilities accessible from both the east and west doors. The enlarged restrooms are located near the center of the lower level, not in their original locations near the doors, and a family restroom was added. Both east and west doors access the upgraded facilities, and a new elevator improves accessibility to the chamber level as well as the lower level. (Lorenzetti, 10/2/98, 1/2001)

Visitors regularly visit the refreshment kiosk to the southwest of the memorial, often while waiting for the Tourmobile. The nearby rectangle of grass is rarely used other than as a foreground setting for the memorial. Most visitors choose to sit under the trees and admire the views across the Tidal Basin and escape the heat from the summer's sun and the constant

noise and sight of the cars to the south. (Prothero and Tepper, 93-96)

Roadway, Plaza, and Steps

Due to the continual settlement since the memorial's construction, sections of the circular roadway were located at a considerably lower grade than the main plaza. In order for the plaza to meet the circular road section a "transition section" had to be constructed at the time of the plaza construction (1970s) as can be seen in "1995 Surfacing & Path Layout." (Prothero and Tepper, 124) In the work completed in 1999, the circular drive was raised and resurfaced in aggregate concrete in a color to mimic the original asphalt. (Lorenzetti, 10/2/98; 1/2001)

The current north plaza was installed in 1970. It is a multicolored plaza of exposed aggregate concrete and regular concrete colored a red-brown. It has been paved with several colors of concrete, and some patches have graffiti in them. The plaza forms the base of the front steps and replaced the original macadam road with curbing, gutters, and sidewalk, and the small concrete plaza. Thereafter vehicles were prohibited from driving around the memorial. (Prothero and Tepper, 124)

In the 1999-2000 project for the Restoration of the Entrance Steps and Plaza, a number of repairs to the circulation system were made. The north plaza was redone in the same colored aggregate concrete as the circular drive. The design more closely resembles the original design, but has a flush surface. The original curb-line of the circular driveway was marked with granite pavers. The same project addressed the main steps at the north, which were out of alignment in places, and have now been reset and repaired. The granite steps along the edge of the Tidal Basin leading to the northwest corner of the plaza have been repaired, and the asphalt ramps bypassing both sets of steps adjacent to the Tidal Basin have been widened and resurfaced. (Lorenzetti, 10/2/98, 9/30/2000, 1/2001)

Other Sidewalks and Paths

A sidewalk parallels East Basin Drive for most of its length within the memorial grounds. It is made of exposed aggregate concrete with a granite curb, and to the east is heavily used by bicyclists to get to the bicycle lane of the 14th Street Bridge.

Several informal paths existed on the site in 1998, that did not exist when the memorial was dedicated. To the west, an asphalt path added in 1986 runs from the Tidal Basin, starting approximately half way to the Inlet Bridge, across the lawn to the northwest corner of the parking area. On the east, four asphalt paths merge before crossing the Outlet Bridge. One path from the circular drive was added in 1986. The others, added later, include one from the southeast corner of the parking lot, and two from the Tidal Basin. Along the edge of the Tidal Basin to the east of the memorial, one well developed social trail runs behind the first row of cherry trees, and seems to represent a bypass created when the regular sidewalk is clogged

with pedestrians.

Materials

Surfacing material differs throughout the study area. Both concrete and asphalt repairs are prolific on the site. The variety of surfacing materials on the sidewalks, paths, roads and plazas creates a patchwork effect of different colors and textures, detracting from the landscape setting and the grandeur of the memorial itself. (Prothero and Tepper, 124)

Integrity

Considering circulation on the site as a whole, pedestrian circulation has retained integrity of use in the years since the construction. The materials and layout of the plaza have changed with succeeding renovation projects, and represent a loss of integrity. The circular drive was originally meant for vehicular use, which is no longer permitted, so this change of use represents a further loss of integrity. However the 1999 work that replaced the 1970s plaza design with a design and materials that more closely relate to the original has assisted in restoring integrity to this portion of the site. Other vehicular circulation at the approach roads and parking area retains historic integrity.

Character-defining Features:

Feature: Approach Roadways and Parking Lot to South

Feature Identification Number: 103030

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Circular Roadway and Sidewalks

Feature Identification Number: 103031

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: North Plaza

Feature Identification Number: 103032

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: North Steps to Memorial

Feature Identification Number: 103033

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Pedestrian and Bicycle Paths East of Memorial

Feature Identification Number: 103034

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Feature: Pedestrian Walk along Tidal Basin Edge

Feature Identification Number: 103035

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Pedestrian Walk around Memorial on Terrace Mall Level

Feature Identification Number: 103036

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Pedestrian Walk from West Tidal Basin to Northeast Corner of Parking Lot

Feature Identification Number: 103037

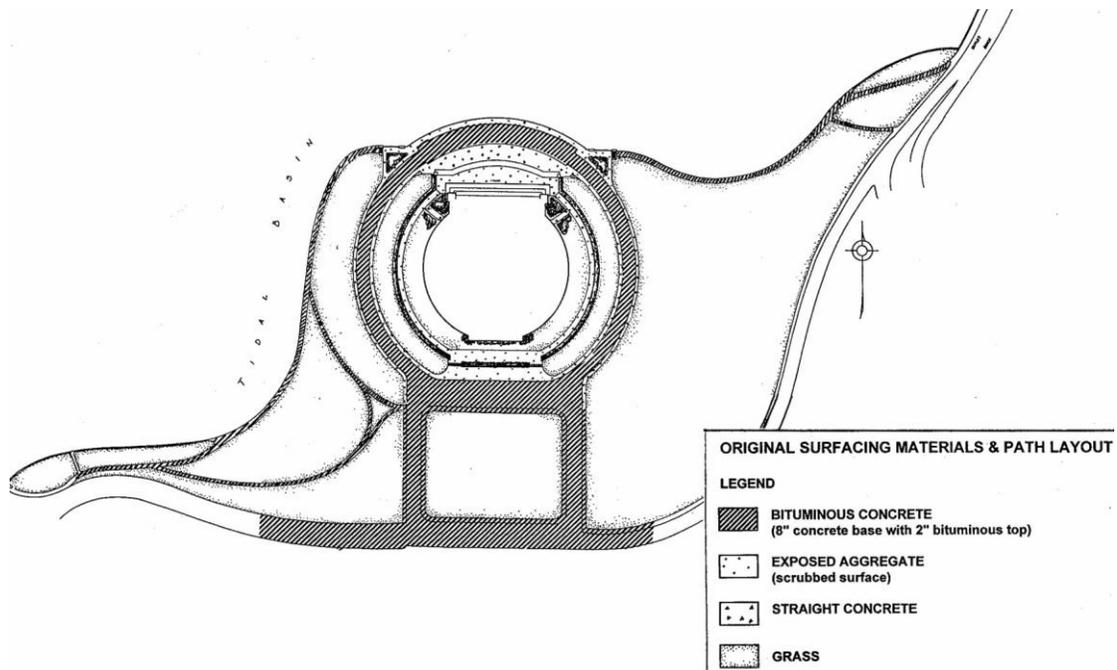
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Ramps around Steps in Walk at Edge of Tidal Basin

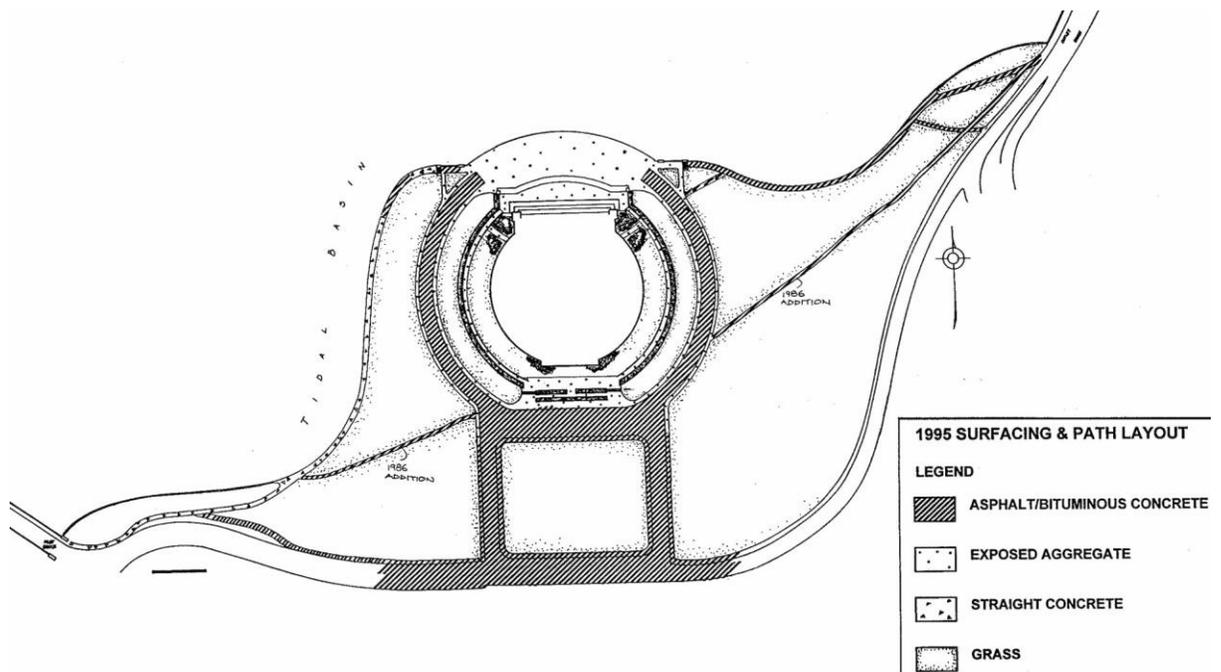
Feature Identification Number: 103038

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

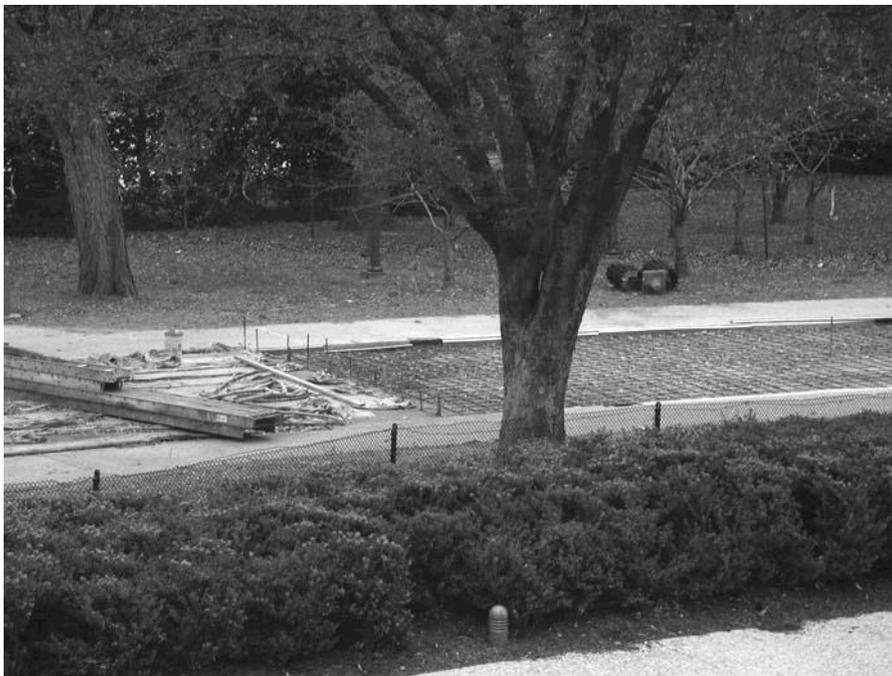
Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



This drawing indicates the original materials and layout of the circulation system on the memorial grounds.



This 1995 survey shows that some changes in surfacing materials had taken place since the completion of the memorial in 1943, and that the layout of the circulation system had been adjusted in the intervening years.



Reconstruction of circular terrace roadway, 2000



Parking lot to south of memorial, 2000



Pedestrian walk (facing east) immediately south of Jefferson Memorial, 2000

Constructed Water Features

Although the Tidal Basin is integral to the siting and the visitor's experience of the memorial, the water is not considered part of the Jefferson Memorial grounds, but part of West Potomac Park.

Land Use

With the establishment of the Federal city in 1791 and subsequent growth of the city, much of the tree cover was removed from the surrounding area. The Potomac became silted to such an extent that dredging was necessary. River transport became channelled as the land increased when the silt was removed from the river bed and dumped at the edge. After dredging was sufficiently completed to enable river activities to continue, the newly created land was left to become overgrown with native vegetation. In total, 739 acres of land was reclaimed from the river to the south of the Washington Monument grounds. Despite claims from private business that it should be sold off for development, the United States Congress passed Senate Bill 3,037 on March 3, 1897 which established that the entire area, including the Tidal Basin, formerly known as Potomac Flats, should become a public park. With increased access around the newly reclaimed land, the public started to use the area for recreation, especially riding, driving and parading around the newly created Tidal Basin. A boating hut provided additional recreational opportunities, and areas for fishing and swimming, such as the bathing beach adjacent to the future memorial site, became popular.

Swimming in the Tidal Basin continued until about 1925 when it was stopped by the newly-merged Office of Public Buildings and Grounds and Office of Public Parks of the National Capital. The reason for this was twofold; firstly, because of the health risks caused by the debris which floated in the Tidal Basin through the Inlet Bridge and second, due to the racist policies which limited the use of the beach to whites only. Rather than allow access to the beach for everyone, it was closed and returned to its former condition, a natural waters edge without sand. The liquid chlorine plant which was situated under the Inlet Bridge, supposedly to make the water safe, was no longer necessary.

In 1928, after the swimming was gone, a new boathouse with public rest rooms was built at the end of 17th Street. The site of the former beach was occupied by baseball fields and tennis courts.

Since the memorial's dedication in 1943, the grounds regularly used for festivals, public events, and ceremonies, and it is the destination for thousands of tourists visiting the Capital City. It ranks third among the monuments in terms of popularity; as many as two million visitors pass through the structure each year. At one time military bands gave free concerts at the Memorial, using the plaza as a stage and the steps for seating. Small groups still play there on occasion. Wreath-laying ceremonies are held annually on April 13th, the anniversary of Jefferson's birth.

The Annual Cherry Blossom Festival has been held at the site each spring since before the memorial was erected and continues to be a highlight in the calendar of events. The

ceremonial Japanese lantern associated with the festival is located just off Independence Avenue. (Prothero and Tepper, 78-80)

Some special events that were once held at the Jefferson Memorial no longer occur. Fish Day was a popular event organized by the National Park Service, which attracted several hundred children to the Tidal Basin. In recent years it has been moved to the pond at Constitution Gardens. Other small events such as informal races held on Wednesdays by federal employees are no longer organized regularly.

Another land use that has changed is vehicle parking. In the summer of 1998 the parking lot to the south was temporarily closed due to security considerations arising from bombings of American embassies overseas. The parking was reopened by 2001. It is not clear whether parking lot closures will occur again.

The site continues to be used informally for strolling, picnicking and other recreation, with the greatest intensity of use in the spring when the cherry trees are in blossom. It frequently serves as the backdrop for weddings and other photographs. Wedding ceremonies are also held on the west lawn. More active recreation on the site includes jogging and bicycling, and the eastern approach to the 14th Street bridge bicycle lane crosses the memorial grounds. The area is also used for numerous races, particularly in the spring and fall. In 1998 the Cherry Blossom 10-Miler attracted approximately 5,000 runners, and the Marine Corps Marathon with approximately 20,000 runners often goes by the memorial.

Despite the addition of recreation to the memorial landscape since its period of significance, the land use maintains high historic integrity as a commemorative landscape. (The above adapted from Prothero and Tepper.)

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



After the park was created, the future memorial site became a bathing beach until swimming was banned in 1925.



After swimming was outlawed, the area around the Tidal Basin was used for baseball fields and tennis courts as seen in the center and lower right corner of this 1930 photograph

Natural Systems And Features

The Jefferson Memorial is located in the Atlantic Coastal Plain. The climate in the

Washington, D.C. area is temperate and in planting zone 7. The site location is adjacent to the Potomac River, and thus in the Potomac watershed.

The Jefferson Memorial is situated within a completely engineered landscape, as a result of manipulation of the natural environment. The landform restructuring was originally carried out for purely practical reasons, namely the control of silt to enable the passage of river transport.

On March 3, 1897, legislation was passed establishing the area of the Tidal Basin and former flats as a public park for the recreation and pleasure of the people. Later the land was modified to satisfy aesthetic considerations in the formation of the memorial site. The silt that was dredged created the new river's edge and what was ultimately to become East and West Potomac Parks and the setting for the Thomas Jefferson Memorial. The species which would have grown on the banks and the flood plain of the Potomac before reclamation would have included, willow (*Salix*), bulrush (*Scirpus*), cattail (*Typha*), lizard's tail (*Saururus*), wild rice (*Zizania*), and other aquatic and bog plants. None of these plants exist in the vicinity today, due to the hard edge of the Tidal Basin wall and depth of water. (adapted from Prothero and Tepper, 76)

Due to the continuous use of the landscape as a memorial site since its period of significance, the natural systems maintain historic integrity.

Small Scale Features

Many styles of site furniture exist on the site today. They vary in age and condition and mostly detract from the appearance and setting of the Jefferson Memorial. Different components within the general landscape setting appear to have been added in a piecemeal fashion to suit the immediate needs of the time, rather than fit into a structured management plan for the area. Further research is needed into the original site furnishings, as little is currently known.

The roads around the Jefferson Memorial are designated "Park Roads and Drives", as classified in the Interagency Initiative for National Mall Road Improvement program's "Streetscape Manual," produced in August 1992. This classification, which provides guidance in the future design or restoration of the small scale features, states that,

"These roadways provide direct access to the open spaces, parks, monuments, memorials and museums in the area. The character of the streetscape should generally reflect park-like qualities and landscaping related to the surroundings." (Architectural and Engineering Sub Group, August 1992) The treatment of the roadway around the rectangular grassed area to the south of the memorial is outlined in the Streetscape Manual, but the manual does not deal with the Jefferson site as a whole, as the area immediately surrounding the memorial is considered to be part of the memorial structure itself.

Trash Receptacles and Storage Bins

There are several styles of trash receptacles at the Jefferson Memorial. Tulip-type trash and recycling receptacles are in the immediate vicinity of the memorial, whereas the wire basket is

distributed around the rest of the site. The tulip-type trash receptacle is standard for all downtown parks. Another style of receptacle, made of marble, is located on the north plaza steps. And a fourth type, a rectangular brown plastic receptacle, is located at the refreshment kiosk. There are also five wooden storage bins along the edge of the kiosk pad for use by the concessionaire. The one to the west is approximately 4' x 3' x 12'. The four to the north are the same height and width, and total about 27' in length.

Lighting

More research is needed to ascertain the historic lighting. In a 1948 photo, one Washington globe light is shown south of the memorial, but it no longer exists. Today there are, however, 12 Washington globe lights along East Basin Drive between the Inlet and Outlet Bridges. There are also eight tall metal poles around the memorial with flood lights mounted on them. There are three poles with ten light fixtures affixed to them to the northwest and three to the northeast. Those to the northeast are located among trees tall enough to mask their huge scale; those to the northwest rise above the trees. There is a pole with four lights to the southwest and one to the southeast, and both are masked by mature trees. Around the stylobate mall there are eight shorter poles of about 12' high with a single flood light mounted on each. These lights were installed in 1972, based on the design of Sylvan R. Shemitz and Associates. (Lorenzetti 1/2001)

The walk to the west along the edge of the Tidal Basin has 3 foot high lighted bollards, but there are none to the east. There are also no lights on the walks through the greater site. At-grade flush-mounted lighting was installed in late summer of 2000, at the seawall at the end of the plaza.

Signage

The existing signage at the memorial focuses on regulations regarding alcohol, fishing, and especially parking. Parking restriction signs are placed at close intervals around the grass rectangle. The Streetscape Manual states that this issue will be the subject of a separate study; therefore it is not addressed in detail here. The only interpretive information provided at the memorial is found at an information kiosk located on the south plaza. It is entitled "Welcome to Washington," and focuses on the entire mall area rather than on the Jefferson Memorial.

Barriers/Fencing

Soil compaction adjacent to the paths is apparent and obviously a problem. Post and chain fencing is located at the corners where the circular drive meets the parking lot, and along the west entry road and parking area. The post and chain barriers are set back enough from the path to allow the visitor to wander onto the edges, causing wear. (Prothero and Tepper, 119-121)

Other

An electrical box rises from the center of the plaza at water's edge.

Integrity

It is difficult to assess the integrity of the existing small-scale features on the site without knowing more about those that were in place when the memorial was dedicated. In general, the historical integrity of the current features appears to be low. (The above is based on Prothero and Tepper.)

Character-defining Features:

Feature: Flood Lights

Feature Identification Number: 103039

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Feature: Lighted Bollards

Feature Identification Number: 103040

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Feature: Post and Chain Fencing

Feature Identification Number: 103041

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Feature: Regulatory Signage

Feature Identification Number: 103042

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Feature: Tulip and Wire Trash Cans

Feature Identification Number: 103043

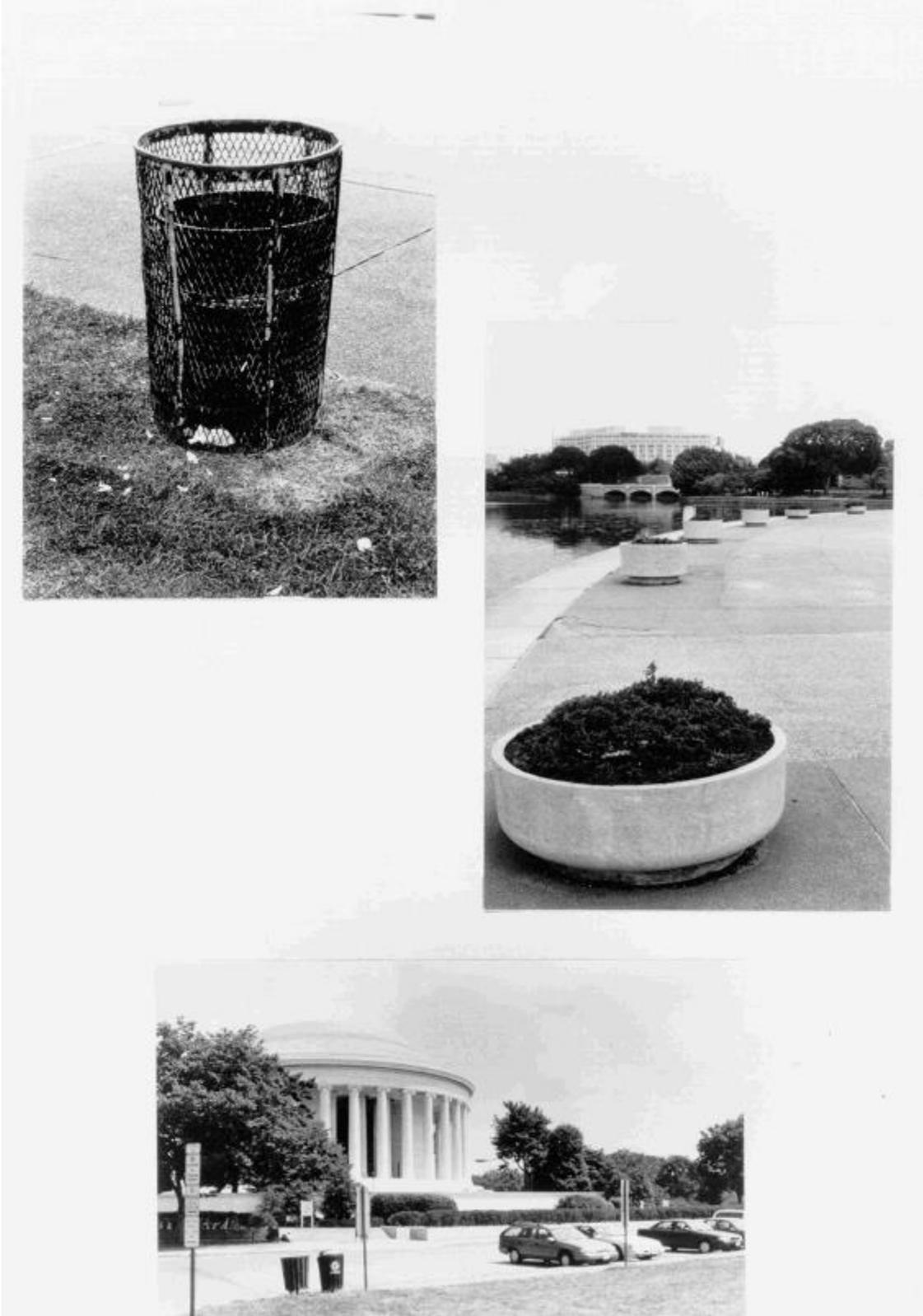
Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Feature: Washington Globe Lights

Feature Identification Number: 103044

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:





Wire basket receptacles, abundant parking signs and 1970s concrete planters (which were removed in 2000), photograph ca. 1995



Flood lights west of Memorial, 2000



Marble trash receptacles, 2000

Spatial Organization

The Jefferson Memorial occupies the fifth and last of the cardinal sites as detailed in the McMillan Plan of 1901. Two great axes, which were laid down in the L'Enfant Plan of 1792, ran southward from the White House and west from the Capitol culminating at the Potomac River. These axes became the focus for the McMillan Commission's plan as it pinpointed the last of the cardinal points, on the north-south axis, as being the site for a future memorial, thus completing the five point composition for the city center. (See McMillan Plan diagram for the Capital City in history section.)

On a more local scale, the memorial is situated on the south bank of the Tidal Basin at the southeast corner of West Potomac Park. This expanse of open water emphasizes the distance between the memorial and the other elements of the city, giving it a feeling of openness and informality, far removed from the rigidity of the axial location on which it is actually sited. Despite its close proximity to the river, the same park-like setting is not experienced on the south side of the memorial due to the proximity of Interstate 395, a multi-lane highway. This not only blocks the visual link with the river but creates a physical barrier to the open access of East Potomac Park.

Spatial Arrangement within Memorial Grounds

Within the memorial grounds themselves, the composition of the immediate ground plan becomes less rigid the further the distance from the memorial. The surrounding architectural plantings of shrubs and trees within the circular roadway (terrace mall hedge and the encircling

colonnade of zelkova trees), together with the rectangle of grass, give way to the informal parkland composition of trees set in grass.

The Jefferson Memorial grounds maintain integrity as one of the cardinal points from the McMillan Plan. For the immediate grounds, the Jefferson Memorial maintains the integrity of its historic spatial organization.

Topography

The original topography of the site was river and its edge wetlands. Since the land was created through dredging, the memorial site is essentially flat with two rings of retaining walls supporting two terrace levels that make the memorial feel like it is located on a knoll. Some minor grading has been done for the roads and to facilitate drainage. The graphics of the topography before construction in 1938, and in 1988 as surveyed by Greenhorne & O Mara, show the modeling that took place to create the memorial site. They also illustrate the alterations made to the edge of the Tidal Basin to place the memorial directly on axis with the White House. (Prothero and Tepper, 27). Sometime after the dedication, a berm of 3-4' in height was added along the west side of the Tidal Basin, approximately 25' from the sidewalk. It is used to channel water to a drop inlet and has been planted with cherry trees. Settling, a problem since the construction of the memorial, has been addressed at various times over the years, and was addressed in the work done in 2000. Despite the alterations made to address the settling problem and the additional berm, integrity of the topography on the memorial grounds remains high.

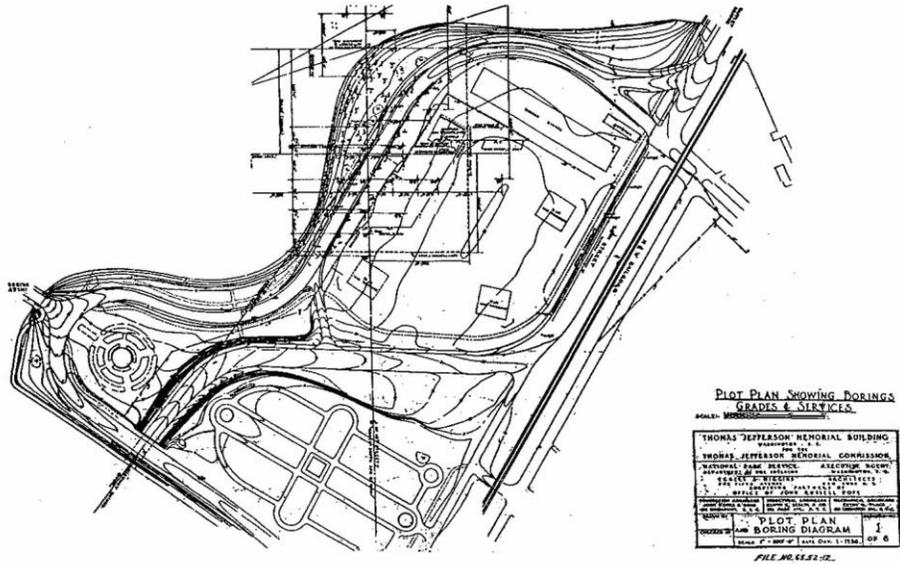
Character-defining Features:

Feature: Stylobate Mall and Terrace Mall Levels, created by retaining walls in wedding-cake arrangement

Feature Identification Number: 103045

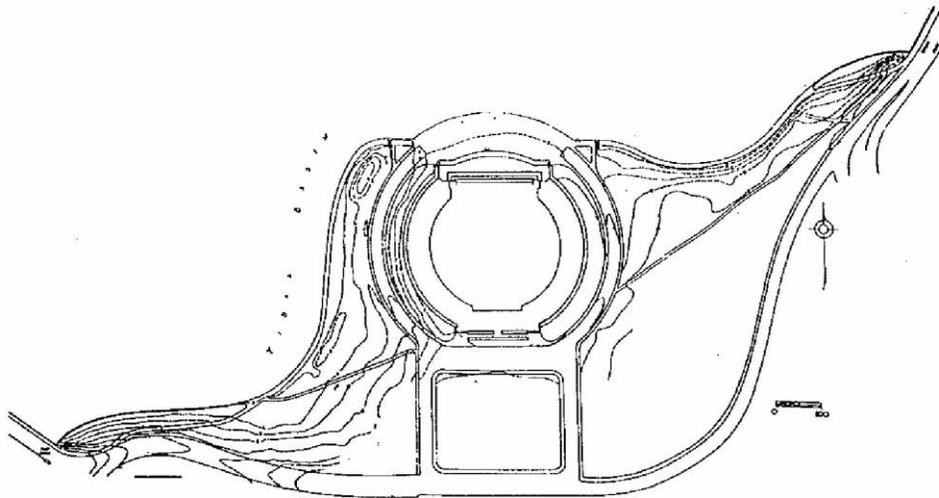
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



SURVEY 1938

topography of the site before the memorial was constructed.



This 1988 survey shows that some changes in the topography took place in the construction of the Jefferson Memorial. In particular, note the changes to the site along the edge of the Tidal Basin.

Vegetation

The species that would have grown on the banks and the flood plain of the Potomac before reclamation would have included willow (*Salix*), bulrush (*Scirpus*), cattail (*Typha*), lizard's tail (*Saururus*), wild rice (*Zizania*), and other aquatic and bog plants. None of these plants exist in the vicinity today, due to the hard edge of the Tidal Basin wall and depth of water. (Many of these species do exist, however, on the banks of the nearby Anacostia River at the Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens.) (Prothero and Tepper, 76)

After reclamation and before the memorial was built, the area of newly created parkland was planted with trees and lawn. Japanese cherry trees were planted on the site in 1912 when the Mayor of Tokyo presented three thousand cherry trees to the city. They have been supplemented by subsequent plantings. (Prothero and Tepper, 103)

The Olmsted planting plan that was installed at the time of construction featured a simple design within the circular driveway that was predominantly evergreen with limited flowering trees and shrubs. It featured clustered groups of trees and shrubs to the north and south of the memorial on both sides of the north steps and on both sides of the south view line. The plan included yews (*Taxus*), American hollies (*Ilex opaca*), Japanese hollies (*Ilex crenata*), abelias (*Abelia grandiflora*), osmanthus (*Osmanthus* sp.), firethorns (*Pyracantha coccinea*) and cotoneasters (*Cotoneaster horizontalis* and the *Cotoneaster horizontalis dammeri*), with dogwoods (*Cornus florida*) and winter jasmine (*Jasminum nudiflorum*) added for color. Because the planting was perceived as "too thin", white pines (*Pinus strobus*) were added to the stylobate mall, and some other replantings and additions took place before the dedication.

Outside of the circular drive, the planting featured small flowering trees with taller shade trees underplanted with grass, and limited shrub and ground cover. The taller trees edged the circular drive and approach driveways, except to the north and east vistas. The other plantings are clustered at the four cardinal points outside of the circular drive, and where the approach roads intersect with East Basin Drive. The plantings focused on dogwood, crabapple (*Malus*), cherry (*Prunus*), and elm (*Ulmus*). Also included were maple (*Acer*), hawthorn (*Crataegus*), plane (*Platanus*), oak (*Quercus*), holly, pine, yew, and periwinkle (*Vinca minor*).

Changes to the Original Planting Design since Construction

The planting around the memorial today no longer reflects what was specified in the original plans although some of it, namely that on the stylobate mall, has been restored. This restoration was based on the 1942 additions to Olmsted's original planting plan, which included the pine trees on the stylobate mall to correct the original "thin planting" for which Olmsted was criticized.

The original planting was found on two plans, one showing planting inside the circular roadway, the other showing planting outside. These can be compared with today's survey to see how the original designs have been altered. (See Olmsted Planting Plans, ca. 1942. History Section, pg.

14.)

The major designed change in the planting in the memorial's immediate vicinity occurred in the 1970s, when additional yews (*Taxus cuspidata* 'Nana') were planted on the stylobate mall. The ring of zelkovas (*Zelkova serrata*) was planted inside the circular road, where none existed originally. These have grown to maturity and have become an accepted part of the current landscape. However they will not be replaced when they die. Olmsted remarked to F. F. Gillen of the Commission of Fine Arts that:

“Kline had some sketches of planting masses showing some large (deciduous) trees on the lower circular terrace, I didn't discuss planting much, but remarked that the more I studied it the more I was inclined to keep large trees at a considerable distance from the memorial. It is not the kind of thing to nestle among large trees - the columns being only 41 feet tall, trees as big as the comparatively young elms near it would mask much of it in too many important views if not kept at a greater distance than in Kline's sketches.” (Olmsted, July 24, 1941)

In addition to the zelkovas, an evergreen layer of American hollies has been added along East Basin Drive since the 1970s.

The additional yews were the focus of the landscape restoration work that took place in 1993, as part of the stylobate mall repairs. This involved the removal of the historically incorrect planting, which restricted the established vistas, especially those east and west. Original yews, which suffered greatly from the level changes due to the repeated addition of fill over the years to combat settlement, were removed and replaced. Due to the replacement of a collapsed storm sewer, an original white pine and a holly located to the east of the main steps were removed and replaced.

Today, some of the original "as-built" planting remains historically correct in terms of species and location. Much has been lost, however; generally the flowering shrubs and tree species, namely abelia, dogwood, winter jasmine and osmanthus which were planted on the lower terrace. In their place are several yews and a few hollies. Many of the yews have grown to such an extent that they have to be pruned severely to keep them back from the paths. This makes the yews look more formal than intended on the path side, while on the other side it grows in its intended, more natural form. To the south of the memorial, the cotoneasters have been lost, leaving yew (*Taxus cuspidata capitata*) and firethorn. The original periwinkle, which was planted beneath the groups of three pines at the north of the memorial, was replaced with grass fairly early in the memorial's history.

In 1986 the dwarf inkberry (*Ilex glabra compacta*) hedge along the terrace walk was replaced with a hedge of the cultivar 'Shamrock', which exists today. While these plants are generally in good condition, their form is becoming less compact and with further growth will probably start to look 'leggy', making for a less dense hedge.

The elm trees, which existed to the southwest of the memorial at the time of construction, were the victims of regrading that took place to raise the ground levels due to settling. (Prothero and Tepper, 103-105)

In 2000 the Bicentennial planting of hollies south of the doors to the lower level were removed. More flowering dogwoods and yews were planted, going back to the original Olmsted plan for the site.

With the recent changes to the plantings, the original concept of the plantings at the Jefferson Memorial grounds has regained high integrity since the original installation prior to the memorial's dedication. The addition of the zelkovas inside the circular driveway, however, represents a decrease in the integrity of the vegetation. (The information above is based on the work of Prothero and Tepper.)

Character-defining Features:

Feature: Turf

Feature Identification Number: 175570

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Existing Plantings from original Olmsted Plans, including evergreens, dogwoods and winter jasmine inside circular drive, and dogwoods, crabapples, cherries elms, and other shade trees outside of drive

Feature Identification Number: 97227

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Ring of Cherry Trees around Tidal Basin, originally planted in 1912

Feature Identification Number: 101372

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Zelkovas inside Circular Drive

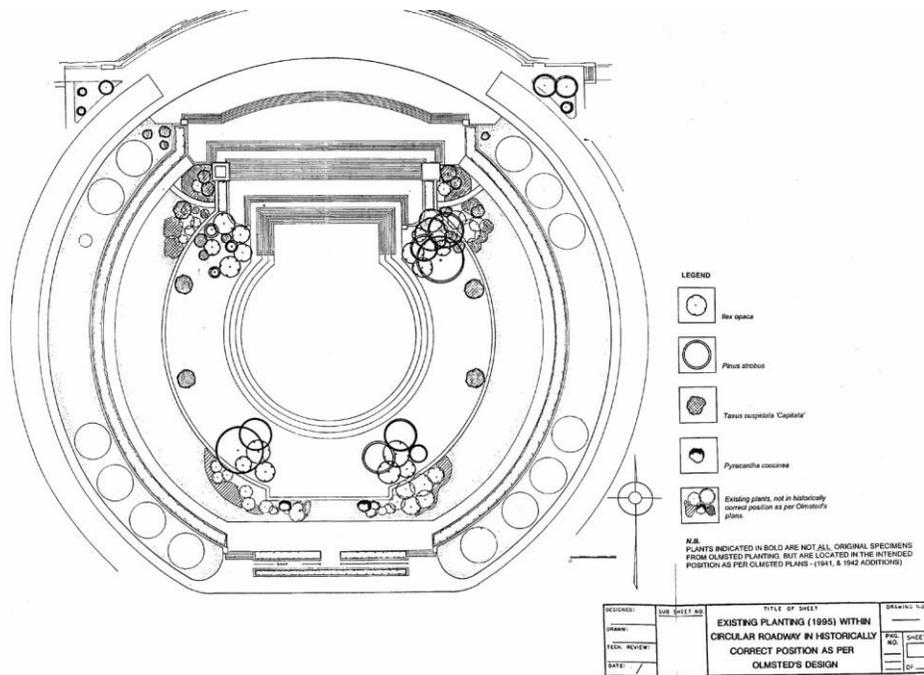
Feature Identification Number: 101373

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:

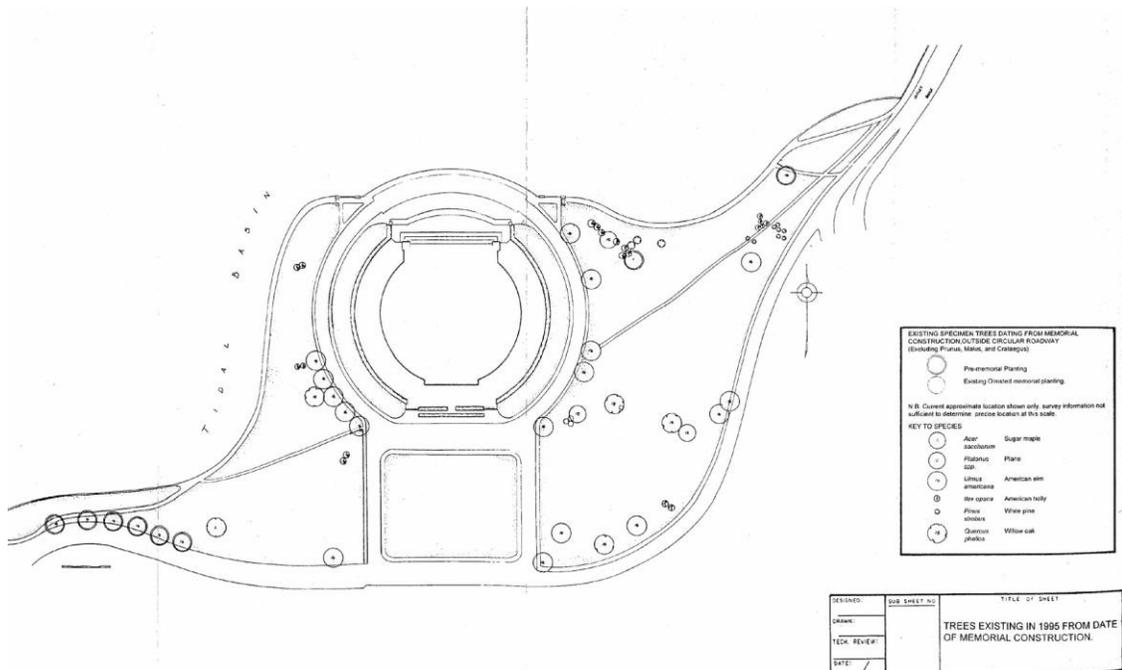


Plantings at western terrace mall entrance, 2000



Existing planting (1995) within the circular roadway that are in historically correct positions as per the Olmsted design, although they are not all original specimens.

Thomas Jefferson Memorial
 Thomas Jefferson Memorial



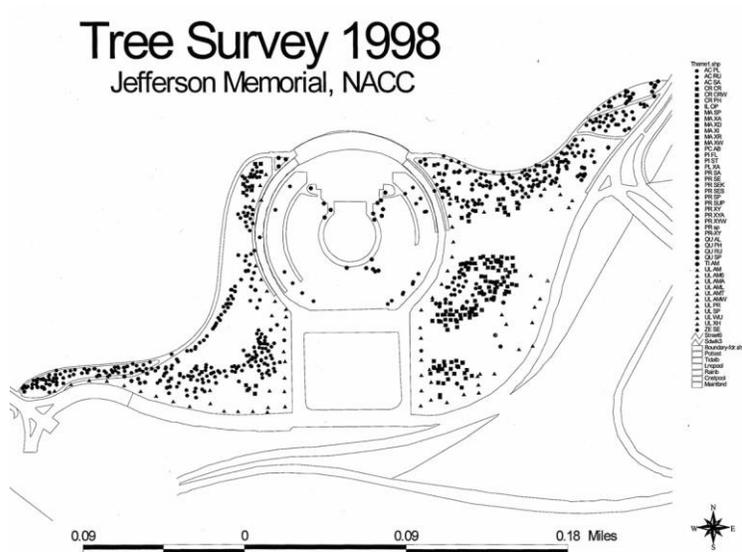
Trees existing in 1995 that date from the construction of the memorial.



Plantings to the south of the memorial in 1948 included pyracantha, hollies, pines, and cotoneaster.



Mature plantings south of the memorial in 1995.





Vegetation south of the Memorial, 2000



Zelkovas along path southwest of Memorial, 2000

Views And Vistas

(The following is paraphrased from Prothero and Tepper.)

Vistas and views are described separately in this section. Views are classified as being whatever can be seen from a certain place. Vistas, more specifically defined, are consciously designed focused views culminating in a specific point or building.

Vistas - To and From the Memorial

L'Enfant first conceived the initial inspiration for the dominant axial arrangement of the buildings of primary importance around the Mall (and therefore the formal vistas between them) in his 1792 plan of the Capital City. The Renaissance and Baroque style of European cities inspired his design, as the two great central axes were formed to look south and west across the Potomac.

The gradual departure from his plan in the following years brought about the necessity to develop a new plan for the city center in order that it might regain some cohesive structure.

The departure from the L'Enfant plan, together with the newly created lands reclaimed from the dredging of the river, influenced the McMillan Commission of 1902 to redesign the central area, reinforcing the axes and the vistas. Its plan displayed a confident architectural approach with the familiar five point composition regulating the formal linkage and views of these cardinal points. The perspective view illustrated the intended views between them, despite the southernmost still being a vacant plot of land.

Once the site for the Jefferson Memorial was chosen, there was never any question about its visual relationship with the White House. In fact, President Roosevelt ordered trees to be cut so the view of the memorial from the White House would be enhanced. The visual relationship between the Lincoln and Jefferson Memorials was discussed by the Thomas Jefferson Memorial Commission and the Commission of Fine Arts in January 1943, as is briefly documented in the Site History Narrative section of this report. The subject of such a vista was raised long before then, as can be seen by Olmsted's observations to the National Capital Park and Planning Commission in July 1935. He writes:

"Any monument of great national importance placed on the axis of the White House south of the Washington Monument grounds will have great aesthetic significance and impressiveness only if it is visually related, in an aesthetically satisfactory way, and very strongly and obviously, to the two great axial compositions already largely developed, (a) on the east-west axis through the Capitol, the Washington Monument and the Lincoln Memorial, and (b) on the north-south axis, from the White House to the Washington Monument grounds.

"Without such an effective visual relationship directly and strongly impressive upon people moving about on the ground, the mere fact that a great monument happened to occupy a position on the mathematical projection of the White House axis would have only an abstract

symbolic significance of relationship with little esthetic importance except perhaps as seen from the air or the top of the Washington Monument." (Olmsted, July 22, 1935)

As previously mentioned in the report, the vista was opened up to the Lincoln Memorial following detailed discussion as to the line of the vista - whether it should run from portico to portico, as favored by F. F. Gillen of the National Park Service, or from the center of the mass of the two buildings as favored by Fiske Kimball of the Commission of Fine Arts. Kimball's arguments were from a design purist's standpoint rather than the practicality of the visual effect as seen through the casual visitor's eye. He said:

"I must say that I would consider the vista line should be from the center of the Jefferson Memorial to the center of the Lincoln Memorial, instead of in accordance with the alternative suggestion. The mass of each of these buildings will always be more important than any particular point on their facades. Here we have two buildings, each inscribed in a circle, and I do not well see how the vista should follow any other line than a radius of that circle. Certainly this is the case with every similar formal vista abroad, and is already the case with other vistas leading to the Lincoln Memorial." (Kimball, Jan. 14, 1943)

Further correspondence between the commissions, the National Park Service and architects, Eggers and Higgins, highlights the compromise that both effects should be achieved by a gradual widening of the opening. Furthermore, it was agreed that so long as the north shore of the Tidal Basin remained informal, the borders of the vista, at least near the shore of the Tidal Basin, should be of irregular outline. (Prothero and Tepper, 81-83)

The vista between the Lincoln and Jefferson Memorials was opened up by the pruning of trees at the end of January, 1943, enabling the visitor a narrow view of one memorial from the other. (Prothero and Tepper, 51)

Today the Lincoln Memorial is barely visible from the Jefferson Memorial. In summer, the top of the Lincoln Memorial can be seen above the trees. The view is slightly more apparent in the winter. The location of the wall at the Korean War Veterans Memorial emphasizes the line between the Lincoln and Jefferson Memorials, however, this connection is only visible from the air.

The vista to the White House is clearly visible from the steps of the Jefferson Memorial. Similarly, Jefferson's statue is clearly visible from the Truman Balcony of the White House. (Prothero and Tepper, 83)

Views to the Memorial

The construction of the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial in West Potomac Park and the removal of selected trees has created another framed view of the Jefferson Memorial from the bank of the Tidal Basin. This vista, too, was part of the McMillan Plan, and was realized in

1997, when the FDR memorial project was completed. In the drawing "Cherry Tree Additions" from 1954, it refers to the vista towards the Jefferson from the west. In 'detail B' it states:

"It is believed that this vista serves no useful purpose and that a continuous line of cherry blossom along the edge of the Basin is most important. No tall trees should be permitted in this space."

There are some flowering crab and cherry trees in this vicinity today, but the narrow vista towards the west of the memorial is still maintained. The vista looking towards the east side of the memorial is also apparent.

Views from the Memorial

Olmsted's desire to create a long open view towards the Potomac on the south side of the Memorial, as documented in his letter to the Thomas Jefferson Memorial Commission dated August 8, 1941, was clearly unrealizable even then due to the obstruction of the railroad bridge, present in its current location since 1901. The view was, however, of fairly open parkland (mostly East Potomac Park) towards the bridge and could be seen at least as late as the 1950s.

Now dominating the southerly aspect from the memorial is the elevated Interstate 395, which leads up to the 14th Street Bridge and parallels the railroad bridge. The highway structure considerably foreshortens the original view southward, and the noise and sight of the traffic has a seriously deleterious effect on the visitor enjoyment of the memorial. The intrusion of the road is intensified when standing higher up inside the memorial, or on the stylobate mall. In addition the road, as viewed from the memorial, is not well screened with trees.

The rectangular grassed area immediately south of the memorial is similarly dominated by the presence of the automobile. Parking to the rear of the memorial was part of the original plan. This visual intrusion, therefore, seems inevitable when considering that the design was conceived before the 'golden age of the automobile' when the car was not seen as a problem as it is today. Surely this, before any interruption by the railroad bridge, would have made Olmsted's ideals of pastoral views towards the Potomac slightly less romantic.

The open view across the Tidal Basin to the north has not changed dramatically since the 1940s in terms of structural changes to the landscape. However, the view due north is interrupted by the parking lot opposite the plaza along the north edge of the Tidal Basin. While this parking area has been in existence since the memorial's construction, the increase in the number of vehicles using the space has made it a conspicuous intrusion in an otherwise pleasant and uncluttered view across the water. (Prothero and Tepper, 86-90)

Today historical integrity of the views and vistas dating to the period of significance remains high. To the north, vistas to the White House and Washington Monument, and the view across the Tidal Basin all remain, along with vistas to the east and west of the memorial. Only the vista to the Lincoln Memorial has been compromised.

Character-defining Features:

Feature: View across Tidal Basin to Cherry Trees

Feature Identification Number: 101374

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: View south to Interstate 395 and 14th Street Bridge

Feature Identification Number: 101375

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Feature: View West to Potomac River past Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial

Feature Identification Number: 101376

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Vista North to White House and Washington Monument

Feature Identification Number: 101377

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Vista to Lincoln Memorial

Feature Identification Number: 101378

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Vistas to East and West of Memorial

Feature Identification Number: 101379

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



View to Washington Monument from Jefferson Memorial, 2000



View west to Inlet and ring of cherry trees from Jefferson Memorial, 2000

Condition

Condition Assessment and Impacts

Condition Assessment: Good

Assessment Date: 09/14/2009

Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:

The condition of the cultural landscape was reassessed but remains unchanged (Good).

Site visits and meetings with park staff in 2009 informed a condition reassessment for this Cultural Landscape Inventory. Accordingly, updates were made to the Condition chapter of this document. The Assessment Date refers to the date that the park superintendent concurred with the Condition Assessment.

At the time of reassessment, the condition determined for the site is unchanged, and remains Good. This determination takes into account the current condition of buildings and structures, natural systems and features, circulation, spatial organization, land use, cluster arrangement, topography, vegetation, views and vistas, and small scale features at the Thomas Jefferson Memorial.

Condition Assessment: Fair

Assessment Date: 10/21/2015

Condition Assessment: Good

Assessment Date: 10/23/2003

Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:

Thomas Jefferson Memorial landscape is managed by the National Mall and National Parks (NAMA)

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

Impacts

Type of Impact: Adjacent Lands

External or Internal: Both Internal and External

Impact Description: To the south, highways and bridge approaches and planes arriving and departing from Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport all negatively impact the site.

Type of Impact: Flooding

External or Internal:	External
Impact Description:	Periodic flooding impacts the historic circulation systems on the site, especially the path that runs directly adjacent to the Tidal Basin. Temporary pathways have been added to reroute pedestrians off the affected historic paths, while the park explores options necessary to address this issue.
Type of Impact:	Pollution
External or Internal:	External
Impact Description:	Air pollution is causing damage to the materials of the memorial and steps, and impacts growth of vegetation on the site.
Type of Impact:	Soil Compaction
External or Internal:	Internal
Impact Description:	Soil compaction is a problem along the edges of existing walkways, where it prevents grass from growing. Post-and-chain fencing has been installed to keep pedestrians to the pathways. This measure has alleviated some of the soil compaction impact.
Type of Impact:	Structural Deterioration
External or Internal:	Internal
Impact Description:	Structural deterioration is an on going problem at the Jefferson Memorial. The memorial is constructed on landfill and this has led to a long history of settlement problems. The only parts of the memorial affected are the tidal basin walls directly in front of the plaza and the plaza itself. The park is examining ways to address this problem and has, in the meantime, stabilized these areas.
Type of Impact:	Visitation
External or Internal:	Both Internal and External
Impact Description:	The high volume of visitation exacerbates all of the impacts to the site. One particular impact is related to the permanent closing of the historic parking lot. The existing directional signs on the monument grounds direct people as if they were arriving from the parking lot. Many visitors no longer arrive this way; the directions are often wrong or at least confusing. The park is planning a re-signing of the area as part of a pedestrian

wayfinding project for the National Mall and East Potomac Park.

Type of Impact: Operations On Site
External or Internal: Internal
Impact Description: Concrete Jersey barriers have been erected in various places on the site for security reasons. These barriers have a negative effect on the visual impact of the site.

Stabilization Costs

Cost Date: 12/01/1994
Level of Estimate: C - Similar Facilities
Cost Estimator: Regional Office

Landscape Stabilization Cost Explanatory Description:

The LCS stabilization costs include \$50,000 for the memorial and \$200 for the statue.

Treatment

Treatment

Approved Treatment: Undetermined

Approved Treatment Costs

Level of Estimate: C - Similar Facilities
Cost Estimator: Park/FMSS

Bibliography and Supplemental Information

Bibliography

- Citation Author:** Yonkers, Teschia Ann
Citation Title: Shrine of Freedom: Thos. Jefferson Memorial
Year of Publication: 1983
Source Name: Library Of Congress/Dewey Decimal
Citation Number: 83-90860
- Citation Author:** Prethro, Sally and Audrey Tepper
Citation Title: Landscape Overview: Thomas Jefferson Memorial, Washington, D.C.
Year of Publication: 1996
Source Name: Other
- Citation Author:** Storch Engineers
Citation Title: "Report on Supplement Condition Survey for Peripheral Approaches and Appertenant Structures - Thomas Jefferson Memorial, East Potomac Park"
Year of Publication: 1969
Source Name: Other
- Citation Author:** Robinson & Associates, Inc. with Architrace P.C. Architects
Citation Title: East and West Potomac Parks, Washington, D.C.: National Register Nomination - Preliminary Draft
Year of Publication: 1997
Source Name: Other
- Citation Author:** Dillon, Helen
Citation Title: East and West Potomac Parks; Nomination
Year of Publication: 1972
Source Name: Other

Citation Author: N.P.S., National Capital Region
Citation Title: Thomas Jefferson Memorial
Year of Publication: 1981
Source Name: Other
Citation Type: Narrative
Citation Location: Not a nomination; documentation of existing Register property.

Citation Author: Kathryn Fanning
Citation Title: American Temples: Presidential Memorials of the American Renaissance
Year of Publication: 1997
Citation Publisher: dissertation, University of Virginia - UMI Microfilms
Source Name: Other

Supplemental Information

Title: Stephen Lorenzetti, National Capital Parks - Central, Chief, Division of Resource Management, Interview

Description: This interview was conducted on Oct. 2, 1998, with follow-up clarification in a phone conversation from Oct. 15, 1998. Interviews were also held in 9/2000, 10/2000 and 1/2001 to provide further updates and clarifications.