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National Park Service  
Cultural Landscapes Inventory  
2010



President's Park South  
President's Park

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## Inventory Unit Summary & Site Plan

### Inventory Summary

#### The Cultural Landscapes Inventory Overview:

##### CLI General Information:

###### Purpose and Goals of the CLI

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

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

###### Scope of the CLI

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

treatment guidelines for the cultural landscape.

### **Inventory Unit Description:**

Occupying a total of 52 acres in the center of Washington, DC, President's Park South has comprised the grounds south of the White House (also historically known as either the President's House or the Executive Mansion) of the American President since 1791 (Mackintosh 1980: 7.3). Situated in the heart of the nation's capital, the park is bordered on its north side by State Place, South Executive Avenue, and Hamilton Place; to the east by 15th Street, NW; to the south by Constitution Avenue, NW; and to the west by 17th Street, NW. Descending in a gradual, gently sloping lawn south from the White House Grounds, the park features the Ellipse at its center, Sherman Park in the northeast corner, and the First Division Monument in the northwest corner. On either side of the Ellipse, near the border with 15th and 17th Streets, a variety of deciduous trees and some conifers serve to frame the sweeping vista looking south toward the Washington Monument and Jefferson Memorial. The Ellipse itself is contained by an elliptical-shaped roadway and associated sidewalk, which touches E Street, NW, on the north side. To the south, it connects to Constitution Avenue, NW, via a short entrance road (a segment of 16th Street, NW), while curving paths and roadways (commonly known as doglegs) link it to the northeast, southeast, and southwest corners of the surrounding city block. A network of walkways to the west of the Ellipse connects the sidewalk around the main road to the 17th Street and E Street sidewalks. The Ellipse itself measures some 1,050 feet east-west and 900 feet north-south, and the associated sidewalk runs around its inner edge. The Ellipse roadway meets South Executive Avenue across the north rim of the Ellipse, with E Street running from South Executive east to 15th Street and from South Executive west to 17th Street across the side panels of the Ellipse. The overall layout of the park is symmetrical along the primary north-south axis that extends directly south from the White House; however, the asymmetrical arrangement of various buildings, small-scale features, vegetation, and circulation routes throughout the park prevent any formally geometrical interpretation of the landscape (see Figure 1). Pedestrian access to the site is through various paths leading from the sidewalks of Constitution Avenue, 15th Street, 17th Street, E Street, and South Executive Avenue. Authorized vehicle access is permitted only through the 16th Street entrance to the Ellipse roadway, which contains parking spaces for authorized permit holders. Authorized vehicles also enter through the 15th and 17th Street entrances to E Street, NW.

The land that would one day be designated as President's Park South was identified by Pierre Charles L'Enfant in 1791 as the site for a park associated with the White House. He envisioned a swath of green connecting the White House with the National Mall, and he dubbed this greensward "President's Park." Specifically, the whole of President's Park included all of the land now occupied by the White House Grounds, Lafayette Park, the sites of the U.S. Treasury Building and the Eisenhower Executive Office Building (EEOB), and President's Park South. The National Park Service (NPS) continues to use the designation of President's Park in reference to this larger landscape. This tract, which totaled approximately 82 acres, was purchased by the federal government in 1792, and became an official part of what is now U.S. Reservation 1, or what was known as Appropriation 1 until around 1884. The White House was built that same decade, and the land around the residence began to take shape under the guidance of John Adams and Thomas Jefferson. However, the landscape to the south, or what would one day become the Ellipse, remained relatively untouched; a damp, undeveloped landscape descending south to the swampy mouth of Tiber Creek. Conversion of this stream to the Washington City Canal between 1810 and 1815 did little to improve the appearance of this area, since the adjacent

land remained untouched. Despite high hopes for the canal as a channel for shipment through the city center, it soon degenerated into an open sewer. By 1851, renowned landscape designer Andrew Jackson Downing was hired to prepare a new development plan for both the National Mall and President's Park, with hopes of transforming these areas into a site for public use and enjoyment. Downing's plan called for the creation of a circular parade ground, the first progenitor of the present day Ellipse, as well as an associated network of curving walks and shade trees stretching outward toward the borders of President's Park South.

Downing's sudden death delayed the realization of his vision and heavy use of the park during the Civil War (1861-65) resulted in severe damage to what few improvements were in place on President's Park South prior to the outbreak of hostilities. By the time of the Civil War, these improvements included a whitewashed plank fence erected around the perimeter of the parade ground. Despite the extremely poor treatment experienced during the war years, this fence remained in place until the 1870s or early 1880s, lending the designation of "White Lot" to the area that it encompassed. This term did not fall out of favor until the latter 1880s, by which time the circular parade ground had been transformed into a true ellipse, prompting the federal government to begin referring to this area simply as "the Ellipse." Earnest development of President's Park South as a whole also did not take place until the 1870s and 1880s, when the site was reshaped into a public park through intensive grading, tree plantings and circulation networks. During these years, the Ellipse was filled and sculpted to create a gentle slope down to Constitution Avenue, or what was then known as B Street, NW. As the ground became increasingly developed, an extensive drainage system was installed and bridle paths were laid out around the main Ellipse road. The landscape became still further refined with the advent of the McMillan Plan in 1901, which made a series of plans and proposals based on Pierre L'Enfant's original 1791 design of the city. During the twentieth century, the park was reinvented as the site for a number of monuments and memorials, whose placement within President's Park South ensured their visibility to the public and appreciation by generations of Americans. With the exception of the National Christmas Tree, the locations chosen for each of these features were restricted to areas outside of the central Ellipse, allowing this area to remain the same open lawn originally envisioned by Andrew Jackson Downing.

As a landscape closely associated with the Presidents of the United States, Andrew Jackson Downing, several other preeminent landscape practitioners, and nationally renowned sculptors, President's Park South is a unique resource with national significance. More specifically, it meets National Register Criteria A, B, and C for its contribution to broad patterns of American history and landscape design, association with the lives of persons significant to our past, and its representation of the distinctive styles and specific characteristics of some of the nation's foremost planners, designers, landscape architects, and sculptors. In addition, several of the landscape features within President's Park South also meet Criterion Consideration F for their exceptional commemorative value. The historic period of significance for the park is defined as 1791 through 1947, lasting from the initial establishment of L'Enfant's plan identifying this tract as the heart of the federal city, to the completion of the primary north-south axial design laid out by both L'Enfant and the McMillan Plan; a vista captured at last with the clearing of the 150-foot wide view south to the newly-constructed Jefferson Memorial. President's Park South has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places since May 6, 1980.

Today, the cultural landscape of President's Park South is in good condition, and retains a high level of integrity to its historic period of significance. The open vista from the White House to the Washington Monument and the Jefferson Memorial, framed by trees, remains intact, bordered on either side by additional trees marking the outer perimeter of the Ellipse sidewalk. The circulation patterns throughout the Ellipse retain many of the characteristics originally designed by Andrew Jackson Downing. A collection of historic memorials and elements still stand throughout the park landscape, including the Butt-Millet Memorial Fountain, the Bulfinch Gatehouses, the Ellipse Meridian Stone, Sherman Statue, the First Division Monument, the Zero Milestone, the Second Division Memorial, the Original Patentees of the District of Columbia Memorial, and the National Christmas Tree.



## Site Plan

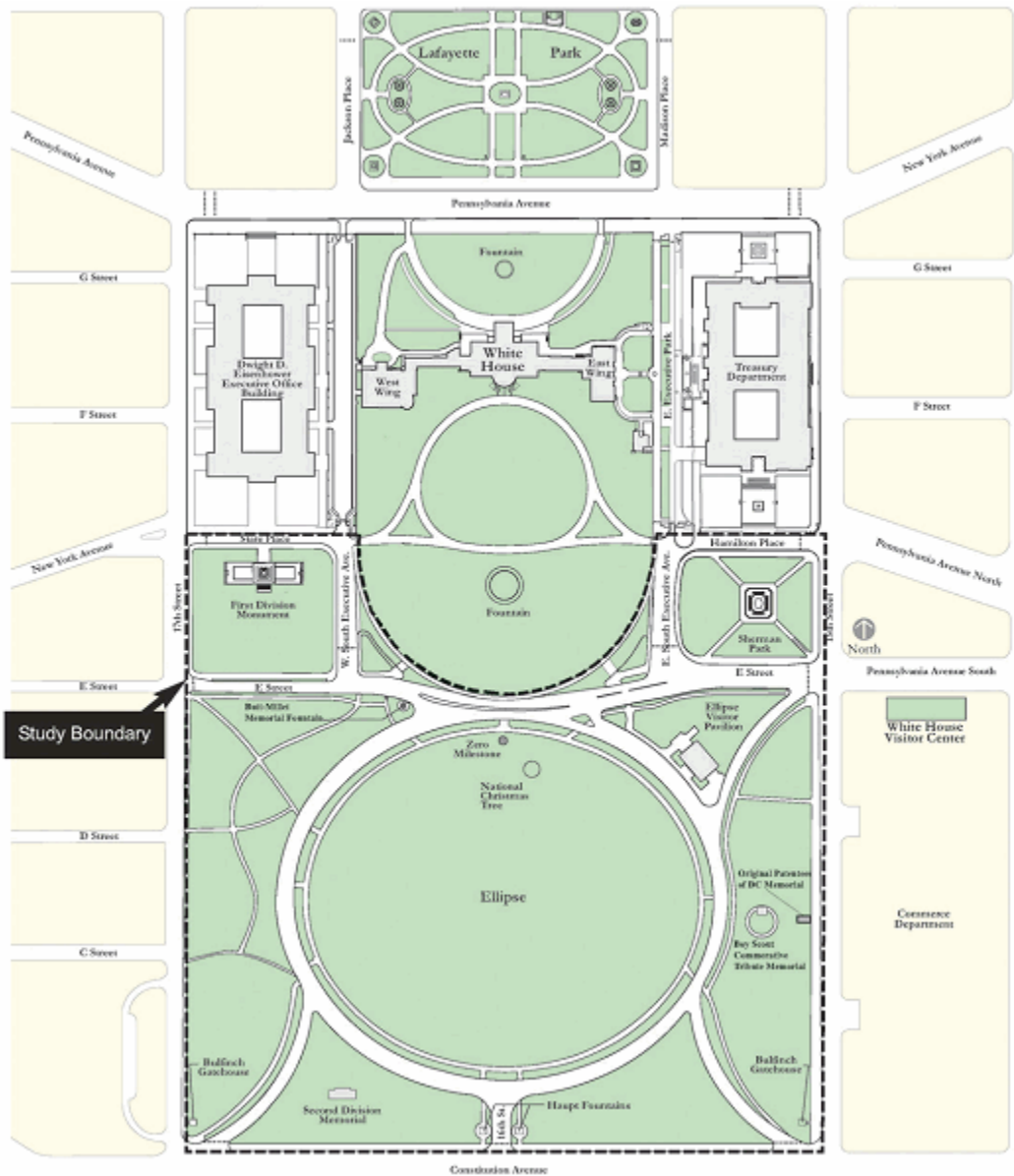


Figure 1: President's Park South Site Plan (Office of the NPS Liaison to the White House, January 10, 2010)

## Property Level and CLI Numbers

<b>Inventory Unit Name:</b>	President's Park South
<b>CLI Identification Number:</b>	975602



**Parent Landscape:** 600208

### Park Information

**Park Name and Alpha Code:** The White House (President's Park) -WHHO  
**Park Organization Code:** 3951  
**Park Administrative Unit:** The White House (President's Park)

### CLI Hierarchy Description

This CLI represents a continuation of the documentation of President's Park, a parent cultural landscape that includes the White House Grounds, Lafayette Park, the sites of the U.S. Treasury Building and the Eisenhower Executive Office Building, and President's Park South. President's Park South, in turn, contains the component landscapes of the Ellipse, the First Division Monument, and Sherman Park. The First Division Monument and grounds are located in the northwest corner of the park and are enclosed by 17th Street, State Place, South Executive Avenue, and E Street. Sherman Park stands east of the First Division Monument on the other side of the White House Grounds, in the northeast corner of President's Park South, and is bounded by South Executive Avenue, Hamilton Place, 15th Street, and E Street. Occupying the area directly south of the White House Grounds, the Ellipse is bounded by E Street, South Executive Avenue, 15th Street, Constitution Avenue, and 17th Street.

President's Park South began with the vision of Pierre Charles L'Enfant in 1791, and has since been shaped by a number of United States presidents and prominent landscape designers. Its use as a public parade ground and scenic destination for walking and driving did not begin until the latter half of the nineteenth century, when it finally made the transition from a low-lying, poorly-drained slope to a level expanse of public park. Beginning with the design of Andrew Jackson Downing, the landscape evolved into a graceful, open central Ellipse lined with majestic elms and surrounded by curving walks and groves of trees. By the turn of the twentieth century, the park became a popular spot for memorial structures and features of various types and styles, even as the central Ellipse continued to be used recreationally. The combined memorial, recreational, and festive uses of the site, together with its national symbolism, have ensured its popularity through generations of visitors. Its various elements, anchored by the central Ellipse, form a distinctive and cohesive landscape separate from the surrounding city, White House grounds, and nearby Washington Monument grounds. The boundary of this cultural landscape therefore reflects its historic meaning and association.

## Concurrence Status

**Inventory Status:** Complete

### Completion Status Explanatory Narrative:

This CLI represents a continuation of the documentation of President's Park South. Both primary and secondary sources were consulted in generating the Chronology section, while site investigations and additional research were used to inform the Analysis and Evaluation section. Dr. Susan Calafate Boyle's Cultural Landscapes Report for the White House and President's Park (2001) includes a comprehensive historical narrative for the site, and can be consulted for a full physical history. This document was drawn from throughout the course of the current project. Additional archival research was conducted in the Cultural Resource Files of the National Capital Region (NCR). Site investigations were conducted by the National Capital Region Cultural Landscapes Program (CLP).

The inventory was completed in 2010 by Emily Donaldson, National Capital Region Landscape Historian. The following National Park Service staff also provided valuable insight during the inventory process: Ann Bowman Smith, National Park Service Liaison to the White House; David Krause, Archivist; Tobin Tracey, Assistant Director, Design and Construction; Scott Tucker, Manager, President's Park; and Wookun Kim, Horticulturist, President's Park. Support was also provided by the staff of the National Capital Region, including Perry Wheelock, Chief of Cultural Resource Preservation Services; Maureen Joseph, Regional Historical Landscape Architect; and Martha Temkin, CLI Coordinator.

### Concurrence Status:

**National Register Concurrence:**

Eligible -- SHPO Consensus Determination

## Geographic Information & Location Map

### Inventory Unit Boundary Description:

Also known as a portion of U.S. Reservation 1, President's Park South comprises 52 acres of land to the south of the White House (see Figure 2). The site boundary runs along Constitution Avenue, NW, on the south side, 17th Street NW, to the west, and 15th Street, NW, to the east. To the north, it follows the path of (from west to east) State Place, South Executive Avenue, and Hamilton Place.

Included in this site are the component landscapes of the Ellipse, First Division Monument, and Sherman Park; an area that has reflected the layout of park land to the south of the White House since it was originally set aside by Pierre L'Enfant in 1791.

President's Park South

President's Park

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**State and County:**

**State:** DC

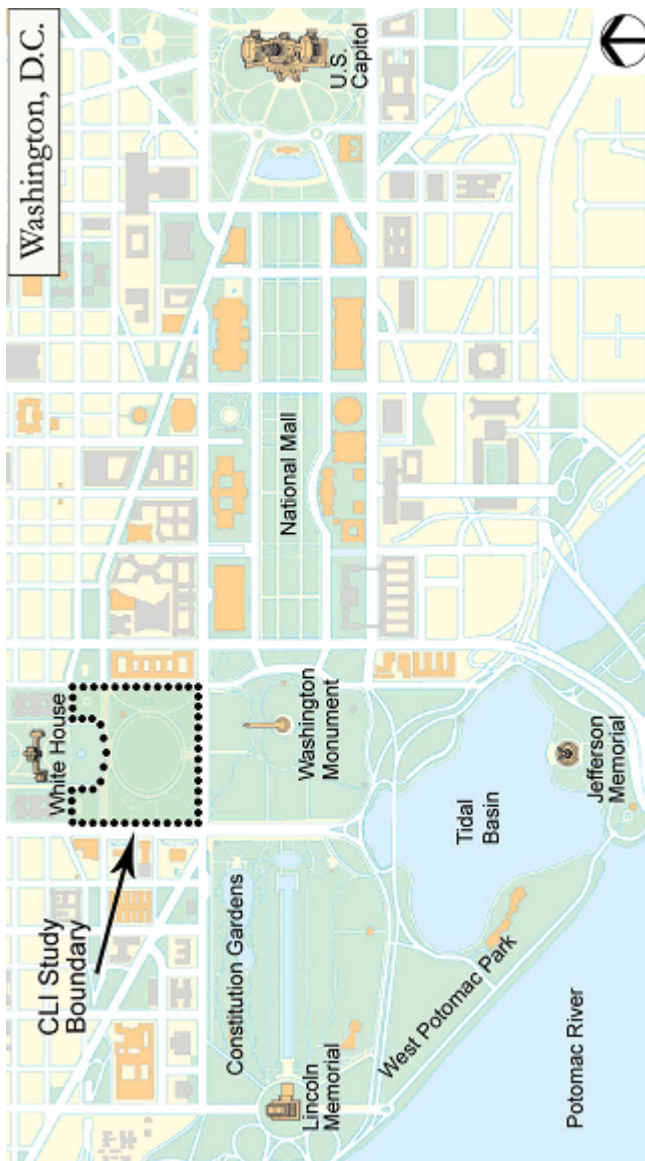
**County:** District of Columbia

**Size (Acres):** 52.00

**Boundary UTMS:**

<b>Source:</b>	USGS Map 1:100,000
<b>Type of Point:</b>	Point
<b>Datum:</b>	NAD 83
<b>UTM Zone:</b>	18
<b>UTM Easting:</b>	323,132
<b>UTM Northing:</b>	4,306,774
<b>Source:</b>	USGS Map 1:100,000
<b>Type of Point:</b>	Point
<b>Datum:</b>	NAD 83
<b>UTM Zone:</b>	18
<b>UTM Easting:</b>	323,144
<b>UTM Northing:</b>	4,307,249
<b>Source:</b>	USGS Map 1:100,000
<b>Type of Point:</b>	Point
<b>Datum:</b>	NAD 83
<b>UTM Zone:</b>	18
<b>UTM Easting:</b>	323,646
<b>UTM Northing:</b>	4,307,136
<b>Source:</b>	USGS Map 1:100,000
<b>Type of Point:</b>	Point
<b>Datum:</b>	NAD 83
<b>UTM Zone:</b>	18
<b>UTM Easting:</b>	323,637
<b>UTM Northing:</b>	4,306,758

**Location Map:**



*Figure 2: President's Park South Location Map (NCR CLP 2010)*

**Management Unit:** WHHO

**Tract Numbers:** U.S. Reservation 1

## Management Information

### General Management Information

**Management Category:** Must be Preserved and Maintained

**Management Category Explanatory Narrative:**

President's Park South has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places since May 6, 1980. As a landscape strongly associated with the White House and nearly the same age as the nation itself, President's Park South has national significance, and must be preserved and maintained. The Management Category Date is the date that the CLI was approved by the National Park Service Liaison to the White House.

**NPS Legal Interest:**

**Type of Interest:** Fee Simple

**Explanatory Narrative:**

President's Park South is the property of the federal government and is officially managed by the National Park Service as part of the National Park System.

**Public Access:**

**Type of Access:** Other Restrictions

**Explanatory Narrative:**

Public access to at least a part of President's Park South is unrestricted throughout the year. Access to certain areas is either permanently or temporarily restricted at different times of year, depending on the needs of the National Park Service and the United States Secret Service. With the exception of official and service vehicles, access to E Street is restricted to pedestrian use via the sidewalks, with entry points on either side of the Zero Milestone. These crossing points are closed to the public as needed for security reasons. The walks on the north and west of Sherman Park and the sidewalks on the north and east of the First Division Monument are frequently closed to the public for security reasons by temporary metal bike racks. Some areas of the Ellipse open lawn area and the adjacent side panels are fenced off on a seasonal basis for turf restoration.

### Adjacent Lands Information

**Do Adjacent Lands Contribute?** Yes

**Adjacent Lands Description:**

The lands adjacent to all sides of President's Park South contribute to the historic character of the site. The park is situated in a neighborhood with five historic districts and over 60 historic sites that are listed as significant by either the National Register of Historic Places or the District of Columbia Historic Preservation Office. To the east and west, the city circulation routes of 15th and 17th Streets, NW and their associated buildings form a corridor that has framed the park since the development of this area during the late nineteenth century. Among the more prominent buildings marking this area are (from north to south) the Corcoran Gallery of Art, American Red Cross National Headquarters, Daughters of the American Revolution Continental Memorial Hall and Constitution Hall, and Organization of American States Building (see Figure 3). All of these buildings align along 17th Street, NW, to the west of President's Park South. On the opposite side, the Department of Commerce Building extends along the full block between Constitution and Pennsylvania Avenues on 15th Street NW, across from the Ellipse. The structures facing onto the site from east and west were designed with respect to the broad, green landscape of President's Park South, and thus contribute to its historic character.

In addition, since its earliest conception, the whole of President's Park has been defined to the north by the White House and Lafayette Park; and to the south by a similar lateral boundary, at first formed by Tiber Creek, later by the Washington Canal, and finally by B Street or Constitution Avenue. On the other side of this road extend the Washington Monument grounds. Although not physically part of the President's Park South landscape, the White House, Washington Monument, and the Jefferson Memorial all contribute to the character of this site because of the historically significant north-south view that connects them. Indeed, the 1943 completion of the Jefferson Memorial in a direct line with the White House, followed by the completion of the clearing of the 150-foot-wide viewshed between them in 1947, realized the axial north-south vista that had been previously envisioned in some form by L'Enfant in 1791 and by the McMillan Plan of 1901. Thanks to its preservation in a number of landscape designs over the years, these iconic views to the White House, Washington Monument, and Jefferson Memorial are still among the defining characteristics of the park. As a result, the maintenance of an open view between these points is crucial to the historic integrity of President's Park South.





*Figure 3: Looking west across the north edge of the Ellipse toward DAR Continental Memorial Hall (left), the American Red Cross National Headquarters (center), and the Corcoran Gallery of Art (right) (NCR CLP February 4, 2010)*

## National Register Information

### Existing National Register Status

#### National Register Landscape Documentation:

Entered Inadequately Documented

#### National Register Explanatory Narrative:

President's Park South was listed on the National Register of Historic Places on May 6, 1980. The boundaries for the current inventory are the same as those addressed by this nomination. However, the National Register nomination failed to identify a finite historic period of significance for the site, and does not fully address the characteristics and features present in the cultural landscape.

As structures with independent significance to our nation's history, the Sherman Monument (Civil War Monuments of Washington, D.C., 9/20/1978) and the Bulfinch Gatehouses and Gateposts (U.S. Capitol Gatehouses & Gateposts [former], 11/30/1973) are either listed as part of a multiple-property nomination or individually listed on the National Register.

The area that encompasses the President's Park South CLI is also documented in the L'Enfant Plan of the City of Washington National Register nomination, accepted by the Keeper on April 24, 1997. This nomination found that the overall design of Washington, DC, was significant under Criteria A, B, and C, with a period of significance from 1770 to 1942. Specific areas of significance are identified as community planning and development, landscape architecture, politics and government, and transportation. (Leech and Barthold 1997: 8.0). The listing criteria, period of significance, and specific areas of significance are therefore nearly identical for both the L'Enfant Plan of Washington National Register nomination and the parameters established in this CLI. Moreover, the following features associated with President's Park South are listed as contributing resources within that nomination: "Contributing to the Structure: Reservations" – Reservation No. 1: President's Park; "Contributing to the Structure: Major Streets" – Constitution Avenue (City Canal, B Street North); "Contributing to the Structure: North-South Streets" – 15th and 17th Streets, NW; "Contributing to the Structure: East-West Streets" – E Street, NW; "Contributing associated Vista" – the primary north-south vista between the White House and the Jefferson Memorial. (Leech and Barthold 1997: 7.3, 7.14, 7.17, 7.18, 7.22).

### National Register Eligibility

<b>National Register Concurrence:</b>	Eligible -- SHPO Consensus Determination
<b>Contributing/Individual:</b>	Contributing
<b>National Register Classification:</b>	Site
<b>Significance Level:</b>	National

**Significance Criteria:** A - Associated with events significant to broad patterns of our history

**Significance Criteria:** B - Associated with lives of persons significant in our past

**Significance Criteria:** C - Embodies distinctive construction, work of master, or high artistic values

**Criteria Considerations:** F -- A commemorative property

**Area of Significance:**

<b>Area of Significance Category:</b>	Conservation
<b>Area of Significance Category:</b>	Landscape Architecture
<b>Area of Significance Category:</b>	Entertainment - Recreation
<b>Area of Significance Category:</b>	Education
<b>Area of Significance Category:</b>	Other

**Statement of Significance:**

Application of the National Register of Historic Places Criteria for Evaluation to the cultural landscape of President's Park South reveals that this site is nationally significant. Its association with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history meets Criterion A. In particular, the park is significant as an important element of Pierre Charles L'Enfant's 1791 plan for Washington, DC, and as the primary remnant of Andrew Jackson Downing's 1851 landscape design for the National Mall and President's Park. This landscape meets Criterion B for its association with the lives of persons significant in our past, specifically George Washington, who picked the location for both the new Federal City and the White House and adjoining park (Seale 2008: 16-17). This also includes those who worked to develop the general landscape design for the White House and vicinity, including Presidents Thomas Jefferson and John Quincy Adams. In addition, the President's Park South landscape meets Criterion B for its association with the White House, or the primary residence of all United States presidents, since President John Adams moved there in 1800. Lastly, this landscape meets Criterion C for representing the distinctive characteristics of the planning and design for the City of Washington drawn up by city planner Pierre Charles L'Enfant (1791), and later by landscape designer Andrew Jackson Downing (late 1870s and early 1880s) and landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr. (1930s).

## President's Park South

### President's Park

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In its symbolic meaning and ongoing significance to the United States and its history, President's Park South is a unique site. As a result, the period of significance must capture the ongoing development of this property, not only as an historic entity but as an extant and historically significant park. The period of significance for President's Park South, as currently defined, is therefore 1791 to 1947. This period lasts from the initial establishment of Pierre Charles L'Enfant's plan for the federal city and the determination of locations for major landscape elements such as the White House, to the design of other primary components of the current site, including Lafayette Park; the U.S. Treasury Building; the Eisenhower Executive Office Building; the Ellipse; the Sherman Statue; the First Division Monument; the Second Division Memorial; Butt-Millet Memorial Fountain; Zero Milestone; the placement of the National Christmas Tree on the Ellipse; and the major circulation routes such as the elm-lined Ellipse roadway, the entrances to the Ellipse from the adjacent roadways, State Place and Hamilton Place, South Executive Avenue, E Street south of Sherman Park, Constitution Avenue, and 15th and 17th Streets. It ends with the construction of the Thomas Jefferson Memorial and the subsequent clearing, by 1947, of the primary vista marking the north-south axial design of the 1901 McMillan Plan.

Due to the significance of this landscape and the number of memorials it contains, several of the landscape features within the site also meet Criterion Consideration F. These are the components of monument landscapes with primarily commemorative intent whose design, age, tradition, or symbolic value merit their own exceptional significance. These are the monuments, monument extensions, and associated landscape features approved by Congress and constructed since 1947, namely the 1964 Boy Scout Commemorative Tribute; the 1957, 1977 and 1995 additions to the First Division Monument; and the 1962 additions to the Second Division Memorial.

Because this CLI classifies the original portions of the First Division Monument and Second Division Memorial as contributing features within President's Park South, their subsequent additions are also considered to be contributing to the landscape even though the additions themselves postdate the period of significance. In each case, the size, scale, location, massing, materials, and commemorative value demonstrated in the new construction serves to augment and enhance rather than overshadow or detract from the historic designs of the monument and memorial. However, despite its individual significance under National Register Criterion Consideration F, the Boy Scout Commemorative Tribute is considered a non-contributing feature to the President's Park South cultural landscape. This is because its construction occurred wholly outside of the landscape's period of significance (1791-1947).

## Chronology & Physical History

### Cultural Landscape Type and Use

**Cultural Landscape Type:** Designed

**Current and Historic Use/Function:**

**Primary Historic Function:** Recreation/Culture-Other

**Primary Current Use:** Recreation/Culture-Other

<b>Other Use/Function</b>	<b>Other Type of Use or Function</b>
Other-No Other Category Exists	Both Current And Historic

**Current and Historic Names:**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Type of Name</b>
Parade Ground	Historic
Smithsonian Park	Historic
President's Park South	Both Current And Historic

**Ethnographic Study Conducted:** No Survey Conducted

### Chronology:

Year	Event	Annotation
2200 BC	Inhabited	By this date, the Savannah River people are living along the major rivers east of the Blue Ridge Mountains (Bedell et al. 2009: 20).
1500 BC	Inhabited	The region of the District of Columbia is first inhabited by humans around this time (Bedell et al. 2009: 34).
AD 1400 - 1450	Settled	The first Conoy, American Indians of the Piscataway tribe, arrive on the inner coastal plain to settle along the Potomac River (Hodge 1907).
AD 1608	Farmed/Harvested	By this date, the Conoy groups living along the eastern shore of the Potomac River are cultivating corn, fishing, hunting, and making ceramics. The total population, centered around Nacotchtank village, numbers between 400 and 500 people (Potter 1993: 11; Bushong 1990: 9).

	Explored	Early European visitors describe the area around the future District of Columbia as a lightly wooded, marshy flatland marked by vegetation such as sweet gum, oak, and hickory (Joseph and Wheelock 1999: 13).
AD 1632	Land Transfer	King Charles I grants all of the land comprising the future site of Washington, DC, to George Calvert, Lord Baltimore, and to his heirs and successors (McNeil 1991: 35).
AD 1650 - 1700	Settled	European settlers establish themselves in the DC area, and soon clear much of the land for the cultivation of tobacco (Potter 1993).
AD 1658	Established	Lord Baltimore creates Charles County, which reaches along the Potomac River 'as high as the settlements extend' (Gahn 1936: 12). Present-day Washington, DC, including President's Park South, falls within this boundary (McNeil 1991: 35).
AD 1696	Established	Prince George's County, Maryland, is established from lands formerly contained within Charles County (McNeil 1991: 35).
	Land Transfer	William Hutchinson patents a 150-acre tract known as The Vineyard. The southwest corner of present-day President's Park South is included in this parcel (McNeil 1991: 42, 51).
AD 1703	Land Transfer	Ninian Beall patents 225 acres of land known as Beall's Levels. The majority of present-day President's Park South lies within this tract (McNeil 1991: 42, 44).
AD 1722	Land Transfer	John Allison receives a patent for a 70-acre tract of land known as Elinor, which includes sites of the future White House, U.S. Treasury, and possibly the northern portion of the Ellipse area (Horner 2010: 8-53; McNeil 1991: 42, 45).
AD 1723	Land Transfer	John Allison sells the Elinor parcel to David Burnes (Horner 2010: 8-53; McNeil 1991: 42, 45).

President's Park South  
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AD 1761	Land Transfer	Burnes' Discovery, an 88 1/2-acre resurvey of a portion of Beall's Levels, is patented by James Burnes, son of David Burnes. The southernmost portion of present-day President's Park South may be included in this new tract (McNeil 1991: 42, 44).
AD 1764	Land Transfer	James Burnes purchases 29 acres within The Vineyard, a portion of which comprises the southwest corner of present-day President's Park South (McNeil 1991: 42, 51).
AD 1774	Land Transfer	David Burnes, son of James Burnes and grandson of the aforementioned David Burnes, patents a tract containing 172 acres that had up until this time been a part of Beall's Levels and contiguous vacant land. He names it Resurvey on Part of Beall's Levels. Most of present-day President's Park South falls within this new tract of land (McNeil 1991: 42, 50-51).
AD 1776	Established	Montgomery County, Maryland, is established from lands formerly contained within Charles County (McNeil 1991: 35).
AD 1790	Planned	Congress passes the Residence Act, authorizing President Washington to select a location for the new capital measuring ten square miles or less on the Potomac River. The land contained within the modern-day borders of Washington, DC, is ceded by Prince George's County and Montgomery County, Maryland (Boyle 2001: 14).
AD 1791 - 1792	Land Transfer	The federal government officially takes possession of the various tracts of land comprising Washington, DC, through signed agreements and deeds of trust with the original proprietors. Among these men is the younger David Burnes, who has by this time acquired the Burnes familial holdings of Burnes' Discovery, Elinor, Resurvey on Part of Beall's Levels, and the Vineyard. Taken as a whole, these four parcels constitute all of the land within present-day President's Park South, and Burnes conveys this property to the federal government (McNeil 1991: 42, 44, 45, 50-51).
	Designed	Plans drawn up by Pierre Charles L'Enfant and Andrew Ellicott depict the grounds south of the planned president's palace as a 'garden park' overlooking the Potomac River. (Boyle 2001: 18; L'Enfant 1791; Ellicott 1792).



AD 1791 - 1802	Established	George Washington appoints a three-man body to serve as his 'Commissioners for the District of Columbia.' Over the next decade, this group was responsible for supervising the surveying and planning of the district, establishing city squares, selling city lots, opening streets, and constructing public buildings and grounds (Dowd 1992: 1).
AD 1792	Planned	<p>In November, the L'Enfant plan is finally engraved, with the changes made by Ellicott incorporated (Boyle 2001: 19).</p> <p>The United States government purchases the approximately 82-acre parcel identified by L'Enfant's plan as the location for the new presidential palace. The tract is bought from two separate landowners, David Burnes (to the south) and Samuel Davidson (to the north). It is designated as Appropriation Number 1 (later known as U.S. Reservation 1). This parcel is bounded by H Street, 17th Street, Tiber Creek, and 15th Street, and excludes blocks 167 and 221, which are today situated on either side of Lafayette Park (Boyle 2001: 20).</p>
AD 1796	Planned	George Washington selects sites for the Treasury and War Office, to the east and west of the White House (Boyle 2001: 30).
AD 1792 - 1800	Built	James Hoban's design for the President's House is selected by George Washington. The cornerstone is laid on October 13, 1792, and construction of the house continues for the next eight years (Boyle 2001: 21).
AD 1798 - 1800	Built	The Treasury and War Office are constructed to either side of the White House, according to the designs drawn up by British architect George Hadfield (Boyle 2001: 30).
AD 1800	Established	In November the federal government relocates to Washington, DC, from Philadelphia. John Adams is the first president to occupy the President's House (the White House) (Boyle 2001: 21).
AD 1802 - 1806	Altered	President Thomas Jefferson replaces the three commissioners of the District of Columbia with the single position of 'Superintendent of the City of Washington' (Dowd 1992: 1).

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AD 1803	Built	By this time, a rail fence stands around at least the north side of the White House (Boyle 2001: 22).
AD 1805	Designed	Benjamin Latrobe designs an additional structure as an appendage to the U.S. Treasury. Construction on this new building, known as the Treasury vault, soon follows (Boyle 2001: 31).
AD 1807	Planned	In a note to President Thomas Jefferson on March 17, architect Benjamin Latrobe mentions his idea to directly link the 'pleasure ground at the President's house' with the 'park which reaches to the river and which will probably also be planted, and perhaps be open to the public' (Boyle 2001: 23).
	Planned	To increase privacy for the presidential family, Jefferson and Latrobe construct an 8-foot-high stone wall around the perimeter of the mansion, to replace the existing rail fence. The new fence encloses the site almost entirely, to north and south and probably to east and west of the main house (Boyle 2001: 24).
	Altered	In a series of additional alterations to the landscape, Jefferson adds curving, or what were later described as circular, drives to the north and south of the White House, a southern entrance gate with a stone arch on Pennsylvania Avenue, and a number of trees. Two 'knowlls' described at this time were probably part of the embankment created for the new road south of the house (Boyle 2001: 25-26).
AD 1810 - 1833	Built	The Washington Canal is constructed according to the plans prepared by Benjamin Latrobe, extending across the city to the mouth of Tiber Creek (Boyle 2001: 30, 42, 61).
AD 1814 - 1818	Established	The White House is badly burned by the British during the War of 1812 and President James Madison moves to temporary quarters when he returns to Washington. The President's House is reconstructed by James Hoban. Reconstruction begins in 1815 and is still unfinished when President James Monroe takes occupancy in October 1817. The President's House is officially reopened to the public on New Year's Day 1818 (Boyle 2001: 44-45).

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AD 1816	Built	The Treasury and War Department buildings are reconstructed to the east and west of the White House (Boyle 2001: 63-64).
AD 1817 - 1867	Altered	The office of Superintendent of the City of Washington is replaced with that of the Commissioner of Public Buildings (Dowd 1992: 1).
AD 1818	Built	A new State Department building is constructed to the north of the Treasury, and a new War Department building is constructed north of the old building, which becomes the Navy Department building (Boyle 2001: 63).
AD 1824	Altered	The road near what was probably the president's southeast gate is surfaced with a mixture of sand, tar, and gravel. This is the first known attempt to pave any of the driving surfaces in the vicinity of President's Park South (Boyle 2001: 47).
AD 1833	Destroyed	The Treasury Building is destroyed by a fire (Boyle 2001: 43).
AD 1836 - 1869	Built	The new Treasury Building is built, using a design by Robert Mills that blocks the view of the White House along Pennsylvania Avenue from the Capitol (Boyle 2001: 43).
AD 1845 - 1850	Built	The Commissioner of Public Buildings notes the 'enclosing of the reservation south of the President's house with posts and railing of wood' ([Annual] Report, commissioner of Public Buildings, Dec. 12, 1845). This is probably a reference to a white picket fence surrounding the area that later became the Ellipse (Boyle 2001: 61).
AD 1849	Established	The new commissioner of public buildings, Ignatius Mudd, describes the irregular, uneven surface of the 49 acres that lay between the Washington Canal and 'the President's enclosures' south of the White House. He remarks that he was only able to do very limited and marginal grading of this area, for the purpose of enclosing it. He also plants it with trees. These alterations were meant to improve the drainage south of the mansion, which at the time received waste water directly from the house (Boyle 2001: 62).

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AD 1851	Planned	Landscape architect Andrew Jackson Downing develops a plan for the City of Washington's public grounds that is later recognized as the first design for a large-scale public park in the United States that was at least partially implemented. His drawings lay out the Ellipse as a circle (Boyle 2001: 77, 84).
	Built	Under Downing's supervision, extensive work is carried out on what will later become the Ellipse. Some of the work relates to drainage in this area, which is exceptionally poor. Activities include grading, draining, and excavations for a pond (Boyle 2001: 98-99).
AD 1852	Established	The area south of the White House, or the vicinity of the future Ellipse, is observed to be 'low and marshy,' and in need of filling, grading, and planting in order to properly protect the president's health (Boyle 2001: 99).
AD 1852 - 1853	Built	Following Downing's death, work slows but continues on the Ellipse (Boyle 2001: 98).
AD 1852 - 1854	Built	William D. Brackenridge oversees the early implementation of Downing's plan to construct a 'Parade or President's Park' in the area now occupied by the Ellipse. The design shows an open round space with a row of elms trees on the inner side, and an intricate system of winding walks frame the sides and corners of the open space. Contemporary reports state only that this ground was improved by 1854, presumably indicating that parade ground and associated walks were laid out according to Downing's plan (Boyle 2001: 101, 107).
AD 1854	Planted	Many thousand trees and shrubs are planted on the Ellipse. This includes a likely substantial part of 3,000 trees ordered for the White House and south grounds this year (Boyle 2001: 98, 101).
	Destroyed	Social reformer Dorothea Dix succeeds in having the partially-completed pond in the Ellipse area filled in for health reasons. This action is ordered by Secretary of the Interior Robert McClelland (Boyle 2001: 99-100)

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AD 1855	Expanded	When work begins on construction of the south and west wings of the Treasury Building, earth removed during the excavations is possibly used to create a mound on the south side of the Jefferson stone wall. These activities take place in preparation for removal of this wall and extension of the grounds to the south (Boyle 2001: 90, 103).
AD 1860	Damaged	By this year, the Downing landscape design for the Ellipse area has been damaged by poor drainage. Sewers and drains no longer function properly, vegetation will only grow erratically, and increased funding for the upkeep of this area is recommended (Boyle 2001: 102).
AD 1861 - 1865	Destroyed	During the Civil War, the Ellipse and Lafayette Park areas are used as a military barracks, parade grounds, and for animal grazing. Anywhere from two to four barracks occupy the site at this time. By the end of the war, both of these areas have become 'almost a desert' (Boyle 2001: 98, 103).
AD 1861 - 1871	Established	During these years and possibly the 1850s as well, the Ellipse is known as 'the White Lot.' This name is derived from the white-washed plank fence that surrounded it on three sides, and was utilized through the early 1880s (Boyle 2001: 102).
AD 1863	Built	An iron railing and two iron gates are built south of the Treasury Building, in conjunction with the addition of the south and west wings. These gates were located along the 15th Street entrance to the building, the current Hamilton Place (Boyle 2001: 103-04).
AD 1863 - 1865	Built	The Treasury Photograph Lab is built in the future vicinity of Sherman Park, close to where the General Sherman Statue is later erected. This building continues to stand until construction on the statue and monument begins, around 1898 (Boyle 2001: 149; Office of the NPS Liaison to the White House, Personal Communication, June 18, 2010; Thursby 1999).
AD 1866	Built	Initially proposed in 1852, East Executive Avenue is completed this year (Boyle 2001: 123).

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AD 1867	Altered	The office of commissioner of public buildings is abolished, and management of federal buildings and grounds in the capital becomes the responsibility of the War Department's Office of Public Buildings and Grounds (Boyle 2001: 124).
AD 1870	Altered	17th Street is regraded and paved (Boyle 2001: 104).
AD 1870 - 1877	Built	The destruction caused during the Civil War prompts the reconstruction of President's Park South. Material from the excavation for the State, War, and Navy Building provides additional fill for the area known as the 'White Lot.' Additional soil and refuse is purchased and graded as it arrives on site. Overall, the site condition is improved, 'with clusters of fine trees here and there, and a beautifully kept greensward' (Boyle 2001: 147).
AD 1871	Built	Initially proposed in 1852, West Executive Avenue is completed this year, and connects to East Executive Avenue via the South Executive Avenue. Some of the fill from the construction operations is used for filling in the White Lot, or the Ellipse (Boyle 2001: 123, 126).
AD 1871 - 1888	Built	The new State, War, and Navy Building is constructed to the west of the White House. Dirt from this project provides fill for the developing White Lot to the south. Upon completion, this structure is the city's largest office building, with 2 miles of corridors and 553 rooms (Boyle 2001: 156).
AD 1871 - 1872	Built	New stables are built within the Ellipse, on 17th Street opposite E Street. This building has a fence in the forecourt and two piers in the entryway. Subject to periodic maintenance, repairs and additions, this structure would remain intact until 1911 (Boyle 2001: 126).
	Graded	Construction activities along [East] Executive Avenue cause some disturbance to the grounds south of the White House, but afterwards this area is promptly repaired. These 'inclosed grounds' are then graded, sown with grass seed and oats, and rolled (Boyle 2001: 127).
AD 1873	Altered	The Washington Canal is converted into a trunk sewer or culvert, and B Street is created where it used to be (Boyle 2001: 147; Leach and Barthold 1993).

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AD 1873 - 1878	Graded	During this period, extensive filling and grading take place in the grounds south of the White House, or the Ellipse area then known as the White Lot. Excavations for the massive State, War, and Navy Building probably help to provide some of the necessary fill material (Boyle 2001: 147).
AD 1874 - 1875	Planted	More trees are planted in the White Lot as well as in the 'inclosed' grounds south of the White House (Boyle 2001: 128).
AD 1877	Established	A visitor reports that the White Lot has a 'pleasantly varied surface, with clusters of fine trees here and there, and a beautifully kept greensward' (Boyle 2001: 147).
	Planned	A Plan for the President's Park South, Excluding Lafayette Park depicts the Ellipse and associated bridle paths in detail, with plantings in each of the quadrants and elms lining either side of each of the roads. The 16th Street extension between B Street and the Ellipse road is also illustrated for the first time (Plan for the President's Park, Excluding Lafayette Park: 1877).
AD 1877 - 1878	Restored	The Chief of Engineers report of 1878 notes that most of the White Lot has been filled and an improvement plan modeled 'after the project of Downing' has begun, implying that the essence of Downing's plan was realized in some form. For the first time the open, round space depicted by Downing's plan is shown and described as an 'ellipse' in the center of the grounds (Boyle 2001: 148).
AD 1878 - 1879	Planted	Contracts for filling, grading, and sowing the Ellipse are carried out. Additional fill is brought in to the grounds adjacent to 17th Street so that they were at a grade to receive topsoil (Boyle 2001: 148).
AD 1879 - 1880	Planted	A thick row of evergreen trees is planted around the stables on 17th Street south of the State, War and Navy Building, to screen them from the ornamental grounds south of the White House (Boyle 2001: 131).
AD 1880	Graded	The entire Ellipse area is graded, covered with topsoil, and seeded (Boyle 2001: 148).



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	Built	The western half of the 50-foot-wide roadway around the Ellipse is completed (Boyle 2001: 149).
	Built	Two gatehouses designed for the Capitol grounds by Charles Bulfinch and installed in 1828 are placed in storage in 1874, and later installed at the southeast and southwest corners of the Ellipse. At the same time, a gatepost made from the same stone is also placed in the southeast corner of the Ellipse and two more are installed on the south side of B Street, known today as Constitution Avenue (Boyle 2001: 149).
AD 1881	Built	The central area of President's Park South is graded and sown in lawn seed and winter rye. The elliptical drive is completed, with elms lining both sides of the road. On the west side, outside the drive, grading, topsoiling and planting are still underway (Boyle 2001: 149).
AD 1882	Built	The unfinished roadbeds and walks on the east side of the Ellipse are surfaced and rolled. In a small area in the southeastern corner, the roads and walks are staked and excavated. Meanwhile, drainage work around the Ellipse continues (Boyle 2001: 149).
AD 1882 - 1883	Planted	Trees and shrubs are planted in the northeastern and southwestern sections of the Ellipse. This includes about 1,000 trees and shrubs transplanted from other reservations throughout the city (Boyle 2001: 149).
	Built	The southwestern corner of the Ellipse is completed, including circulation (Boyle 2001: 149).
	Expanded	The stables on the White House Grounds are again enlarged (Boyle 2001: 132).
	Built	A new roadway is completed between 17th Street and the newly-completed B Street, NW, including cobblestone gutters and stone (Boyle 2001: 149).
AD 1883 - 1884	Built	Nearly 3,000 additional feet of stone guttering is added to the Ellipse area (Boyle 2001: 150).
	Planted	A total of 312 more trees are planted on the Ellipse, mostly in the western half of the grounds (Boyle 2001: 150).

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AD 1884 - 1885	Built	Settees are installed on the Ellipse (Boyle 2001: 150).
	Planted	Numerous evergreen and deciduous trees are maintained and planted on the Ellipse (Boyle 2001: 150).
AD 1885 - 1886	Graded	The ground around the president's stables is raised about 18 inches. Roadways are repaired around the Ellipse, and drainage is maintained (Boyle 2001: 150).
AD 1886 - 1887	Planted	In the western part of President's Park South, 450 flowering shrubs and 180 deciduous and evergreen trees are planted (Boyle 2001: 150).
	Built	A gravel-surfaced walk is built from the intersection of D and 17th Streets to the main road around the Ellipse, covering an area of about 1,500 square feet (Boyle 2001: 150).
AD 1887	Damaged	The grass of the Ellipse is damaged when it is used for a military drill (Boyle 2001: 150).
AD 1887 - 1888	Maintained	Extensive repairs are made to the main drive around the Ellipse (Boyle 2001: 150).
AD 1889 - 1890	Built	The first Ellipse Meridian Stone is installed on March 8, 1889. It is intended to lie at the center of the Ellipse, directly south of the center of the main block of the White House, and therefore along one of the planned prime meridians of the United States. Unfortunately, the stone is misplaced slightly, and in late 1889 or early 1890 it is removed. In January 1890, a second larger Ellipse Meridian Stone is installed, presumably at the correct location (Ellipse Meridian Stone, LCS Structure No. 01-17, retrieved March 18, 2010).
	Built	Work on the section of the Ellipse to the south of the State, War, and Navy Building continues, including work on the new main drive later known as State Place (Boyle 2001: 151).
	Maintained	The Bulfinch Gatehouse in the southeast corner of the Ellipse grounds is repaired and reroofed after its copper roof is stolen (Boyle 2001: 151).

	Removed	An old wooden stable, or shed, on 17th Street is taken down and rebuilt at the rear of the nearby president's stable. The former site of this shed is filled and graded (Boyle 2001: 151).
	Built	Seven high iron lampposts are installed on the outer edges of the road around the Ellipse (Boyle 2001: 151).
AD 1890	Established	The grounds south of the White House are described as 'giving an unobstructed river vista' (Boyle 2001: 135).
AD 1890 - 1891	Altered	Parts of the road around the Ellipse are surfaced with unscreened gravel (Boyle 2001: 151).
	Planted	A number of young trees are planted around the Ellipse, to fill in the remaining gaps (Boyle 2001: 151).
AD 1891 - 1892	Altered	The road south of the State Department is resurfaced with fresh gravel (Boyle 2001: 151).
	Altered	Fifteen deciduous and evergreen trees are removed from the southern part of the Ellipse and transplanted to the northwest corner, along with 22 large flowering shrubs (Boyle 2001: 151).
	Planted	Seven American elms are planted along the east side of 17th Street, west of the Ellipse (Boyle 2001: 151).
AD 1893 - 1894	Maintained	The Bulfinch Gatehouse at the corner of 17th and B Streets, in the southwest corner of the Ellipse, undergoes maintenance and repairs (Boyle 2001: 151).
AD 1894	Established	By this date, seven electric lamps light the roadway around the Ellipse (Boyle 2001: 152).
AD 1895	Removed	A large number of trees and shrubs are removed from the Ellipse during the construction of a large sewer line between 15th and 17th Streets (Boyle 2001: 152).
AD 1895 - 1896	Rehabilitated	Repairs are made to the landscape of the Ellipse following the removal of plantings for the sewer construction (Boyle 2001: 152).

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AD 1896	Planned	Danish-American sculptor Carl Rohl-Smith wins a design competition for a memorial to be erected in honor of Civil War General William T. Sherman. A site just south of the Treasury is chosen for the monument (Boyle 2001: 152).
	Destroyed	A hurricane on September 29 destroys a large number of trees on the White House Grounds, including some of the finest and oldest trees; similar damages are likely incurred on the Ellipse as well (Boyle 2001: 137).
AD 1896 - 1897	Built	A new walk is built on the Ellipse (Boyle 2001: 152).
AD 1897	Built	Construction on the Corcoran Gallery of Art, to the west of the Ellipse, begins (Boyle 2001: 153).
AD 1897 - 1898	Maintained	Various parts of the Ellipse are maintained. The worn areas of the gravel roadway are repaired. Eight dead trees are cut down, and others are trimmed. Repairs are made to the two Bulfinch Gatehouses (Boyle 2001: 153).
	Built	A new apron of cobblestones is laid across the end of the new asphalt street pavement at the entrance to the Ellipse from 17th Street, opposite E Street (Boyle 2001: 153)
AD 1898	Removed	To the south of the Treasury, the Treasury Department greenhouse and photographic building are removed in preparation for the construction of the General Sherman Statue at this site (Boyle 2001: 153).
	Planted	Extensive plantings are put in around the president's stables, to further screen it from view (Boyle 2001: 153).
AD 1898 - 1903	Built	The General Sherman Statue and surrounding roadways, walkways, granite edging and retaining wall are built, including Alexander Hamilton Place and the portion of E Street east of the White House Grounds. The monument is dedicated on October 15, 1903. Trees line the north and east sides of the site, along the adjacent streets (Thursby 1999).
AD 1899 - 1900	Built	A roughly mile-long bridle path is installed around the outer edge of the Ellipse, to help facilitate equestrian use of the park (Boyle 2001: 154).

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AD 1900	Built	A large, angular sculptor's studio is built to the west of the current General Sherman Statue, to provide temporary housing for the sculptor and a site for the work (Boyle 2001: 154).
	Maintained	The gravel and asphalt roads and paths throughout President's Park South are repaired (Boyle 2001: 154).
AD 1900 - 1901	Built	The iron fence originally at the General Sherman Statue site is removed and replaced with granite coping (Thursby 1999: 8).
AD 1902 - 1903	Maintained	New bridle paths and granolithic pavements are maintained on the Ellipse (Boyle 2001: 205).
	Built	A road and walkway is built on the south and west sides of the General Sherman Statue grounds, outside of the granite coping around the statue (Thursby 1999: 8).
AD 1903	Planned	A landscaping plan for the area around the General Sherman Statue is prepared by Colonel Thomas W. Symons, Superintendent of the Office of Public Buildings and Grounds (Thursby 1999: 10).
AD 1903 - 1904	Built	Thirty settees are installed on the eastern side of the Ellipse (Boyle 2001: 205).
AD 1903 - 1905	Built	Following completion of the General Sherman Statue in 1903, this vicinity is designated 'Sherman Plaza,' and landscaping begins. Development of the site includes the installation of four gas lamp posts directly across from the corners of the statue's base; a system of curving, 8-foot-wide sidewalks leading from each corner of the site to a circular walkway around the statue; lawns outside of the path system; and a 20-foot-diameter flower bed in each of the four quadrants inside the paths of the site (Boyle 2001: 205; Thursby 1999: 10).
AD 1904	Built	A plan in the Annual Report of the Chief of Engineers shows a 'Street South of the Treasury Department' and the General Sherman Statue, at what later became the site of the E Street extension (Boyle 2001: 205).
AD 1904 - 1905	Planted	A bed of tropical plants is planted in the northeast corner of the Ellipse (Boyle 2001: 205).

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AD 1905	Built	Two 'Victory' figures sculpted by Michael Tonnetti are temporarily installed at the south entrance to the Ellipse, presumably at Constitution Avenue, or on the approximate future site of the Haupt Fountains (Boyle 2001: 205). Two other statues are also installed in the park at the same time: 'Genius of Architecture' and 'Genius of Ceramic Art' by Bruno L. Zimon (United States Army, Corps of Engineers 1905). All four statues are removed from the park in subsequent years, probably sometime in the early twentieth century.
AD 1905 - 1906	Planted	In May 1905, 30 evergreens and 50 deciduous shrubs are planted in Sherman Park. A total of 176 additional shrubs are added the next year (Thursby 1999: 10).
	Built	A six-foot wide walkway is built around the edge of the Ellipse (Boyle 2001: 205).
	Removed	A total of 92 trees on the east and south sides of the Ellipse are removed due to overcrowding (Boyle 2001: 205).
AD 1905 - 1923	Planted	During these years, a number of elm, maple, and spruce trees are added to the lawn areas around the General Sherman Statue (Thursby 1999: 10).
AD 1907 - 1908	Maintained	Resurfacing of the paving on the Ellipse is completed, and the asphalt paving on West Executive Avenue is repaired (Boyle 2001: 205).
AD 1908 - 1909	Maintained	The surface of the main roadway on the north side of the Ellipse is recoated. Repairs also continue on the asphalt surface of West Executive Avenue (Boyle 2001: 205).
	Built	Post and wire fencing is installed on the west side of the Ellipse to prevent trespassing on the grass (Boyle 2001: 206).
	Expanded	The old bridle path on the Ellipse is cleaned and a new branch is added (Boyle 2001: 206).
AD 1908 - 1910	Built	The Organization of American States Building is constructed to the west of the Ellipse (Boyle 2001: 206).

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AD 1909 - 1910	Maintained	The roads throughout the Ellipse are maintained. More than 25,000 square yards of macadam roadway are cleaned of dust and horse droppings, and coated with an asphaltic oil. Roads leading from the main Ellipse road to the northeast and southwest corners of the grounds are covered with broken stone and rolled (Boyle 2001: 207).
AD 1910	Built	The Daughters of the American Revolution Memorial Continental Hall is constructed to the west of the Ellipse (Boyle 2001: 206).
	Established	On May 17, the Commission for Fine Arts is established `to advise upon the location of statues, fountains, and monuments in the public squares, streets, and parks in the District of Columbia, and upon the selection of...artists for execution of the same (Boyle 2001: 190).
AD 1910 - 1911	Maintained	Repairs to the macadam roads and bridle paths throughout the Ellipse continue (Boyle 2001: 207).
	Built	Six new wooden bridges are built to carry the bridle paths over the gutters throughout the Ellipse. The Marine Band gives concerts on portable bandstands installed on the Ellipse each Saturday during the summer and on Easter Monday (Boyle 2001: 207).
AD 1911	Removed	The White House stables to the south of the State, War, and Navy Building, or south of the future site of the First Division Monument, are removed (Boyle 2001: 207).
AD 1912 - 1913	Planted	A large shrubbery bed is laid out to the south of the State, War, and Navy Building, including 110 shrubs to block out `trespass paths` in this area (Boyle 2001: 207).
AD 1913	Built	A fountain is installed on the Ellipse just east of the recently removed president`s stables, to commemorate the loss of Maj. Archie Butt and Francis Davis Millet aboard the Titanic in 1912 (Boyle 2001: 207). A foot path curves southwest from a point along Executive Avenue just north of the memorial, to meet up with the main Ellipse drive (DSC TIC 868/89801; DSC TIC 868/80029).
AD 1913 - 1914	Maintained	Repairs are made to the roadways throughout the Ellipse, and improvements are made to the area around Sherman Park (Boyle 2001: 207).



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AD 1914 - 1915	Planted	Seven large evergreen trees are planted around the Butt-Millet Memorial Fountain (Boyle 2001: 207).
	Maintained	The mosaic floor around the General Sherman Statue is repaired, and the joints in the pedestal and steps are cleaned and repointed (Boyle 2001: 207).
AD 1915	Built	The national headquarters building for the American Red Cross is constructed to the west of the Ellipse (Boyle 2001: 206).
AD 1916 - 1917	Removed	Twelve old trees are removed from the Ellipse grounds (Boyle 2001: 207).
	Planted	122 deciduous trees and 156 deciduous shrubs are planted in the Ellipse area (Boyle 2001: 207).
	Built	Water lines are laid to provide water to the new trees and shrubbery on the Ellipse (Boyle 2001: 207).
AD 1918 - 1919	Planted	56 deciduous shrubs are planted in the northeastern part of Sherman Park and pavement on the east side of the monument is repaired (Boyle 2001: 208).
	Planted	Three large evergreen trees, six large deciduous shrubs and thirty small deciduous shrubs are dug up and replanted around the Butt-Millet Memorial Fountain (Boyle 2001: 208).
	Built	A new volleyball court is built somewhere on the Ellipse (Boyle 2001: 208).
AD 1919 - 1920	Built	A new walk is laid out leading from the Butt-Millet Memorial Fountain to the corner of 17th Street and New York Avenue, or in a diagonal path across the grounds adjacent to the future First Division Monument (Boyle 2001: 208).
AD 1921	Built	The Ellipse Meridian Stone installed in January 1890 is removed and replaced with the current Ellipse Meridian Stone, a small 18-inch square granite block` inscribed `U.S. Meridian 1890` (Ellipse Meridian Stone, LCS Structure No. 01-17, retrieved March 18, 2010).

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AD 1923	Built	On June 4, the Zero Milestone is unveiled at the northern edge of the Ellipse, along the north-south meridian of the District of Columbia (Boyle 2001: 208).
	Established	The first National Community Christmas tree is put up in the middle of the Ellipse. The tree is presented to President Coolidge by Middlebury College (Boyle 2001: 209).
AD 1923 - 1924	Built	A site south of the State, War, and Navy Building is selected for the planned memorial to the dead of the First Division, American Expeditionary Forces in the World War, and construction is complete by September 30, 1924. On October 4, President Calvin Coolidge dedicates the First Division Monument as the 'World War Memorial to the Dead of the First Division' (Boyle 2001: 208-09; Fernandez-Duque 2002).
AD 1924	Planted	A Norway spruce is planted on the west side of Sherman Park as the first living National Christmas Tree. The new tree and event site are relocated from the Ellipse. The Sherman Park site serves as the location for the National Christmas Tree during the succeeding 9 years (Boyle 2001: 209).
	Altered	In preparation for the dedication of the First Division Monument, the landscape surrounding the column is cleared and two rows of trees are planted along the central axis, emphasizing the view south to the Washington Monument grounds (Fernandez-Duque 2002: 4, 7).
AD 1925	Planted	The ground around the First Division Monument is sodded with grass, and a yew hedge is planted at the top of the mound on all four sides of the column (Boyle 2001: 209; Fernandez-Duque 2002: 6).
AD 1926	Built	Granite steps are built on the north side of the First Division Monument, to provide access to the paved area at its base (Boyle 2001: 209).
AD 1926 - 1932	Built	The Commerce Department Building is constructed between 14th and 15th Streets and Pennsylvania and Constitution Avenues. Upon completion, it is the largest government structure in the country (Boyle 2001: 269).

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AD 1926 - 1927	Planted	Plants are added to the hedge around the base of the First Division Monument, to fill in the gaps on the west, south and east sides where steps had originally been proposed (Boyle 2001: 209).
AD 1928	Planned	On January 24, Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr. offers his advice on changes to planting on the White House Grounds, including President's Park (Boyle 2001: 197).
AD 1930	Planted	By this year, a hedge is growing on the slopes around the base of the First Division Monument (Fernandez-Duque 2002: 6).
AD 1931	Planned	Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr. writes a brief report to the Commission of Fine Arts on the relationship of Sherman Park to E Street. Among other things, the report recommends the widening and realignment of E Street to the west of 15th Street (Boyle 2001: 240).
AD 1932 - 1934	Planned	The National Park Service, Branch of Plans and Design, prepares design drawings for alterations to Sherman Park based on the suggestions of landscape architects Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr., and Gilmore D. Clark (Thursby 1999: 11).
AD 1933	Established	President Franklin Roosevelt signs Executive Order 6166 on June 10, 1933, which returns jurisdiction of the national capital parks, including President's Park, to the Department of the Interior under the Office of the National Parks, Buildings and Reservations. In 1934 the name is changed back to the National Park Service (O'Brien 2001: 405).
	Built	In accordance with the recommendations of Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr., E Street is extended, though it does not yet reach all the way to 17th Street (Boyle 2001: 267).

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AD 1934	Altered	<p>The full redesign of Sherman Park, mostly likely drawn up by landscape architect Irving W. Payne, is executed by the National Park Service. The new design includes the following changes: 12-foot-wide diagonal walks replace the original 8-foot-wide circular ones; the shape of the walk around the base of the statue is altered from a circle to a rectangle; low evergreen hedges are planted around the perimeter of the central, rectangular walk; two rows of willow oaks are planted on the west side of the plaza, balanced by one row of willow oaks on the east and north sides; two American elms are planted on the south side of the site; the area outside the central walkway around the statue is regraded to create a more uniform slope; and five new street lamps are added to the south and west perimeters of the park. All pre-existing shrubs are removed, but the trees are retained. No trees are planted in the central panels, along the primary north-south axis (Thursby 1999: 11).</p>
	Moved	<p>The National Christmas Tree is relocated to Lafayette Park, where it alternates between two different Fraser firs to east and west of the front of the Jackson Statue. It remains here until 1939 (Boyle 2001: 266; National Park Service 2010; Office of the NPS Liaison to the White House, Personal Communication, June 18, 2010).</p>
AD 1935	Planned	<p>Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr. prepares a report, 'Report to the President of the United States on Improvements and Policy of Maintenance for the Executive Mansion Grounds.' The report provides a landscape history and formulates plans specifically for the White House Grounds, emphasizing the importance of L'Enfant's vistas to the north and south, and schedules the removal and addition of plantings to complement this concept. The report also makes general recommendations regarding the traffic in the vicinity of the White House (Boyle 2001: 239; Office of the NPS Liaison to the White House, Personal communication, July 26, 2010).</p>
	Removed	<p>In the spring, a partial clearing of the south vista from the White House begins upon Olmsted's recommendations (Boyle 2001: 259).</p>

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AD 1935 - 1936	Built	Following much controversy concerning its location, a Memorial to the Dead of the Second Division of the United States Army in World War I is erected near the corner of Constitution Avenue and 17th Street. A grass lawn surrounds the monument, which is designed by James Earle Fraser and John Russell Pope (Boyle 2001: 268; White 2005: 8-9).
AD 1936	Built	A granite memorial to the Original Patentees of the District of Columbia and donated by the Daughters of the American Colonists is erected on the Ellipse on 15th Street, about halfway between E Street and Constitution Avenue. The monument is designed by Carl Mose (Boyle 2001: 268).
AD 1937 - 1938	Altered	The old iron fencing enclosing the south lawn of the White House, installed in 1873, is replaced with a style of fence matching that originally installed to the north along Pennsylvania Avenue in 1818 (Boyle 2001: 259).
AD 1938 - 1939	Restored	With funds from the Works Progress Administration, the National Park Service restored the two Bulfinch Gatehouses (Boyle 2001: 268).
AD 1939	Moved	The National Christmas Tree event is relocated to an area just south of the center of the Ellipse, where it stays until 1941 (Boyle 2001: 266).
	Established	The National Park Service assumes custody of the First Division Monument, which until this time had been managed by the First Division Monument Association (Fernandez-Duque 2002: 6).
AD 1940	Built	The extension of E Street is carried through all the way to 17th Street, possibly as part of a collaborative effort of the National Park Service and the District of Columbia Highways Division (Boyle 2001: 267).
AD 1941	Moved	In December, the National Christmas Tree is relocated to the White House Grounds, just inside the south fence, at the request of President Roosevelt (Boyle 2001: 260). Two oriental spruce trees originally planted in 1925 are transplanted to this location on the south grounds, to be used on alternating years as the National Christmas Tree (Boyle 2001: 261).

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AD 1942 - 1943	Built	A two-story temporary barracks is constructed on the grounds immediately south of the First Division Monument. It houses special troops to protect the president during World War II and occupies the entire plaza, resulting in the removal of a number of trees and the 8-foot-wide concrete walk running through the park from 17th Street to the intersection of E Street and East Executive Avenue (Fernandez-Duque 2002: 7; Boyle 2001: 267; DSC TIC NCP 23-159).
AD 1943	Built	Construction of the Jefferson Memorial, designed in 1937 and begun in 1939, is completed and dedicated. The addition of the Jefferson Memorial provides a southern terminus for the primary north-south vista anchored on the northern end by the White House (Boyle 2001: 270).
AD 1944	Removed	Recommendations are made for the removal of trees from the Ellipse and Washington Monument grounds that obstruct the view from the White House to the Jefferson Memorial. These plans are carried out, likely sometime during the Truman administration (Boyle 2001: 271).
AD 1947	Rehabilitated	The National Park Service completes two rehabilitation projects on the Ellipse: the installation of new lighting, including the replacement of old light standards and the addition of new ones; and the regrading and resurfacing of the Ellipse roadways, including drainage repairs (Office of the NPS Liaison to the White House, Personal communication, June 1, 2010).
AD 1953	Moved	The National Christmas Tree is moved again, back to the Ellipse. A cut tree is used until 1973 (Boyle 2001: 312; Office of the NPS Liaison to the White House, Personal Communication, June 18, 2010).
AD 1954	Removed	By May, the temporary barracks south of the First Division Monument are removed (Boyle 2001: 268).
	Rehabilitated	Following removal of the temporary barracks structure, the National Park Service rehabilitates the park around the First Division Monument, cleans the monument itself, and regilds the statue (Fernandez-Duque 2002: 8).

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AD 1955 - 1963	Damaged	At some point during this period, vandals break off the top half of the sword held by the artillery soldier on the southeast corner of the Sherman Statue, as well as the saber of the cavalry soldier standing in the northeast corner and the badge of the Army of the Tennessee (Thursby 1999: 10).
AD 1956	Built	A wide path at grade with the main terrace is added to the north side of the First Division Monument (Fernandez-Duque 2002: 8).
	Altered	In preparation for the World War II extension to the First Division Monument, the ground west of the column is filled in order to raise the grade to the proper level. A tree well is added to the west side of the south steps of the monument (Fernandez-Duque 2002: 9).
AD 1957	Altered	In May, walks are laid in the park around the First Division Monument. A work shed is removed, and the grounds are restored to green space (Fernandez-Duque 2002: 9).
	Expanded	An extension is added to the west side of the First Division Monument, in honor of First Division soldiers who fought in World War II. It is dedicated on August 24 (Fernandez-Duque 2002; Boyle 2001: 312).
AD 1960 - 1969	Planted	Azaleas are added to President's Park South (Thursby 1999: 12).
AD 1961	Established	Public Law 87-286 is passed by Congress and firmly defines the responsibilities of the National Park Service with respect to the White House, to be administered under the Act of August 25, 1916, the Park Service Organic Act. At this time the National Park Service takes over care and maintenance for the White House Grounds (Boyle 2001: 302).
AD 1961 - 1962	Expanded	Following the necessary approvals and the acquisition of funding, two panels with flagpoles are added to the dais on either side of the Second Division Memorial. The panels recognize the Second Division dead of World War II, on the west side, and the Korean War, on the east side (Boyle 2001: 312; White 2005: 11).

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AD 1962 - 1963	Planted	During the Kennedy administration, masses of holly, rhododendron, and mountain laurel are planted just inside the south fence of the White House Grounds, in accordance with Olmsted, Jr.'s recommendations and in order to increase privacy. The primary north-south vista is left open, however (Boyle 2001: 303).
AD 1963 - 1994	Built	A temporary visitors kiosk is installed on the northeast side of the Ellipse (Boyle 2001: 351).
AD 1964	Built	The Boy Scout Commemorative Tribute is installed on the east side of the Ellipse, off of 15th Street about halfway between Constitution Avenue and E Street. It marks the site of the First National Boy Scout Jamboree in Washington, in 1937 (Boyle 2001: 298, 312).
AD 1965	Planned	As part of Mrs. Johnson's beautification program, a planting plan is developed for the northwest quadrant of the Ellipse, by the corner of 17th and E Streets and just south of the First Division Monument. The plan calls for the planting of marigolds, followed by Toronto mums. A gravel walk stretching from the northwest to the southeast curves slightly across this quadrant (Boyle 2001: 312).
	Planted	In accordance with Mrs. Johnson's landscape plans to beautify the District of Columbia, a large, 181-foot long flower bed in the shape of a numeral one is planted south of the First Division Monument, just east of the monument's south steps. Plantings in later years include red tulips in spring and red begonias in summer (Fernandez-Duque 2002: 9).
AD 1965 - 1969	Planned	Plans are proposed for two fountains to be placed in the northwest and northeast quadrants of the Ellipse as part of Mrs. Johnson's beautification plans (Boyle 2001: 313; Goode 2008: 112).
AD 1966	Established	On October 15, the National Historic Preservation Act is passed (Public Law 89-665; 16 U.S.C. 470). The act requires the inventory of federally-owned historic properties and establishes the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, State Historic Preservation Offices, and the National Register of Historic Places.



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	Planned	This year's beautification plans for the northwest quadrant of the Ellipse includes Joannette mums and petunias (Boyle 2001: 312).
AD 1966 - 1967	Built	New sidewalks are constructed along the Ellipse road, and fresh sod is laid (Boyle 2001: 314).
AD 1967 - 1968	Maintained	The walks in the northwest quadrant of the Ellipse are reconstructed (Boyle 2001: 314).
AD 1968	Built	As part of Mrs. Johnson's landscape plans to beautify the District of Columbia, two fountains are donated by, and named for, Enid Annenberg Haupt. The fountains are installed on the south edge of the Ellipse, at the 16th Street and Constitution Avenue entrance. The fountains are designed by Nathaniel Owings (Boyle 2001: 313).
AD 1969	Planned	A new lighting plan for the Ellipse proposes an increase to 136 street lights (Boyle 2001: 314).
AD 1973	Planted	A live National Christmas Tree is planted on the north edge of the Ellipse, close to the Zero Milestone but just east of the central north-south axis (Boyle 2001: 348).
AD 1974 - 1976	Altered	The National Park Service replaces the marble mosaic floor of the General Sherman Statue, which has undergone constant repairs since its installation. The new floor uses a terrazzo imitation rather than the original material, but recreates the old design (Boyle 2001: 350; Thursby 1999:10).
AD 1975	Planned	In February, a landscape development plan is prepared for the grounds around the Second Division Memorial. It specifies the planting of hollies as well as a floral display around the base of the monument (White 2005: 11).
AD 1976	Damaged	A five-foot-wide bronze American eagle with outspread wings is stolen from the base of the north side of the General Sherman Statue (Office of the NPS Liaison to the White House, Personal Communication, June 18, 2010).
AD 1977	Expanded	A second addition is built onto the east side of the First Division Monument, in honor of the First Division soldiers who fought in the Vietnam War. A mirror of the World War II extension on the west side, it is dedicated on August 20 (Fernandez-Duque 2002: 9).

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AD 1977 - 1978	Planted	A 34-foot Colorado blue spruce is planted in the Ellipse in November 1977, lit by President Jimmy Carter as the National Christmas Tree that December, and blows down in January 1978 (Arbelbide 2001).
AD 1978	Planted	A 30-foot Colorado blue spruce is donated as the new National Christmas Tree, and planted in place of the previous tree (Boyle 2001: 348).
AD 1979	Built	The John Saul plaque is relocated to its current location along the E Street sidewalk on the northeast side of the 15th Street panel adjacent to the Ellipse (Boyle 2001: 349) (Boyle 2001: 349).
AD 1980	Rehabilitated	Maintenance work is carried out on the Second Division Memorial, including the restoration of the gold leaf on the sword sculpture and lettering, and the repointing of all masonry (White 2005: 11).
AD 1983	Altered	East Executive Avenue and Alexander Hamilton Place are closed to all but official traffic as a temporary measure, to test the idea of full closure (Boyle 2001: 342).
	Planted	In October, a new set of azaleas are added to the Sherman Park landscape (Boyle 2001: 350).
AD 1984	Built	New Millet-style lampposts are added to Sherman Park (Boyle 2001: 350).
AD 1985 - 1987	Altered	East Executive Avenue and Alexander Hamilton Place are permanently closed to all but official vehicles, and are converted to a pedestrian walk. Willow oaks are planted, and a pedestrian walkway with round planters is installed (Boyle 2001: 342; Leach and Barthold 1993).
AD 1987	Altered	The trash receptacles along East Executive Avenue are replaced with a more secure model (Boyle 2001: 343).
AD 1990 - 1993	Built	Ornamental metal security bollards are installed on the perimeter sidewalk's curb along the White House fence from the West Executive Avenue gate entrance, along South Executive Avenue, to the East Executive Avenue gate entrance. The project is completed in multiple phases (Office of the NPS Liaison to the White House, Personal communication, July 26, 2010).

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AD 1990 - 1999	Maintained	Throughout these years, the National Park Service cleans the bronze and granite components of the General Sherman Statue every three years. The bronze pieces are also waxed (Thursby 1999: 10).
AD 1991	Rehabilitated	Sherman Park undergoes major rehabilitation work, including replacement of deteriorated sidewalks with precast concrete London pavers and granite trim. Twelve new cast-iron Millet-style light fixtures are installed, in addition to park benches, trash receptacles, and drinking fountains. Flowers and plants around the monument are also reinstalled (Boyle 2001: 350).
AD 1993	Rehabilitated	The Second Division Memorial is cleaned and the gold leaf on the sword sculpture and lettering is once again restored (White 2005: 11).
AD 1994	Built	A new visitor pavilion is added to the northeast area of the 15th Street side panel adjacent to the Ellipse (Boyle 2001: 336).
	Removed	Around this year, the tennis court is removed from the southeast area of the 15th Street side panel adjacent to the Ellipse (Office of the NPS Liaison to the White House, Personal communication, June 1, 2010).
AD 1995	Altered	E Street traffic is limited to only two east bound lanes as a result of the May 1995 U.S. Department of the Treasury Decision to restrict public vehicular traffic adjacent to the White House after the terrorist attack in Oklahoma City in April 1995. West South Executive Avenue and State Place are closed to public vehicular traffic at the same time for the same reason (Office of the NPS Liaison to the White House, Personal communication, July 26, 2010).
	Built	A plaque to 27 soldiers who died in Desert Storm is added to the terrace east of the First Division Monument landscape (Fernandez-Duque 2002: 11).

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AD 1996 - 2000	Altered	The Federal Highway Administration develops a proposal to widen E Street to accommodate two-way traffic and restore westbound traffic to the E Street corridor. The roadway width is maintained across the site. Areas of South Executive Avenue to the east and west of the Zero Milestone area are converted to planted beds with the curbs of South Executive Avenue maintained in black granite through the planting area. The two-way traffic proposal is accepted and constructed; the street reopens to vehicle traffic in November 2000 (Office of the NPS Liaison to the White House, Personal communication, July 26, 2010).
AD 2001	Rehabilitated	E Street, and the 16th Street entrance to the Ellipse, are closed to public vehicular traffic after the terrorist attacks of 9/11 in New York, Pennsylvania, and at the Pentagon in Washington, DC (Office of the NPS Liaison to the White House, Personal communication, July 26, 2010).
	Rehabilitated	The First Division Monument is rehabilitated. The statue, Victory, is cleaned and regilded, the bronze tablets are cleaned and waxed, and the granite is repaired and cleaned. The cobblestone plaza is also repointed (Fernandez-Duque 2002: 11).
	Preserved	A Cultural Landscape Report on the White House and President's Park South is completed by Susan Calafate Boyle (Boyle 2001).
	Built	A cast iron fence is constructed around the base of the National Christmas Tree in order to protect it from the severe soil compaction taking place at the site (PMIS 27638).
AD 2001 - 2002	Removed	Six horse shoe pits are removed from the southeast corner of the Ellipse (Office of the NPS Liaison to the White House, Personal communication, June 1, 2010).

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AD 2001 - 2003	Rehabilitated	<p>For security reasons, a permanent vehicular barrier line is completed along the south side of the White House between 15th Street and 17th Street. As part of that project, decorative ornamental bollards are installed along the south and west perimeter of the First Division Monument grounds. The bollards link to new vehicular gates that are installed at the entrance to State Place from 17th Street and at the intersection of West South Executive Avenue with E Street (Office of the NPS Liaison to the White House, Personal communication, July 26, 2010).</p>
	Rehabilitated	<p>For security reasons, a permanent vehicular barrier line are completed along the south side of the White House between 15th Street and 17th Street. As part of that project, granite clad retaining walls are installed along the south and east perimeter of Sherman Park with decorative ornamental bollards being placed as pedestrian access points. The retaining walls and bollards link to new vehicular gates that are installed at the entrance to Hamilton Place from 15th Street and at the intersection of East South Executive Avenue with E Street. Additionally, several precast concrete planters are added to the east ends of E Street and Hamilton Place. Low stone walls are built on the east and south sides of Sherman Park, and a double-headed iron drinking fountain is installed on the northwest corner of the park. Six horse shoe pits are removed from the southeast corner of the Ellipse (Office of the NPS Liaison to the White House, Personal communication, July 26, 2010).</p>
	Rehabilitated	<p>A permanent security hard-line is completed along the south side of the White House between 15th Street and 17th Street. As part of that project, vehicular gates and gate houses are constructed at State Place and 17th Street; at the intersection of West South Executive Avenue and E Street; at the intersection of East South Executive Avenue and E Street; and at Hamilton Place and 15th Street (Office of the NPS Liaison to the White House, Personal communication, July 26, 2010).</p>

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AD 2002 - 2003	Rehabilitated	A full rehabilitation of the Second Division Memorial is carried out, including the replacement of caulking between the granite sections, cleaning of the entire monument, repainting of the flagpoles, and the regilding and realignment of the eagle finials (White 2005: 11).
AD 2003	Damaged	The landscape around the First Division Monument is heavily damaged during Hurricane Isabel, including a number of the historic lindens (Office of the NPS Liaison to the White House, Personal Communication, June 18, 2010).
AD 2004 - 2008	Rehabilitated	The Ellipse and its side panels' grounds are rehabilitated including the installation of an irrigation system; replacement of all lamp poles and traffic panel poles; replacement of drinking fountains; replacement of park benches; rehabilitation of the Haupt Fountains' electrical and plumbing components; cleaning of the Butt-Millet Memorial Fountain and replacement of its plumbing components; and the replacement of sidewalks, including the elliptical-shaped sidewalk (Office of the NPS Liaison to the White House, Personal communication, July 26, 2010).
AD 2005	Maintained	The sewer line from the Ellipse Visitor Pavilion is replaced (PMIS 117505).
	Restored	The five-foot-wide bronze American eagle with outspread wings, previously stolen from the south side of the General Sherman Statue base, is replaced with a new sculpture by Gordon S. Kray. The soldier figure at the southwest corner of the statue is balanced and secured (Office of the NPS Liaison to the White House, Personal communication, June 18 and August 11, 2010).
AD 2006	Maintained	The State Place roadway is milled and repaved, including the replacement of brick gutters, concrete crosswalk pavers, and granite curbing (PMIS 126545).
AD 2007 - 2008	Altered	The lead-based paints on the interior surfaces of the Bulfinch Gatehouses were encapsulated. The interiors were repainted historic colors based on paint analysis prior to encapsulation (PMIS 110942).

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AD 2008	Rehabilitated	Repairs are made to the post-and-chain fencing installed throughout the Ellipse, to protect elm root zones from passing pedestrians (PMIS 63597).
AD 2009	Maintained	The security bollards along the perimeter of the park are repainted (PMIS135433).
AD 2009 - 2010	Rehabilitated	The Boy Scout Commemorative Tribute Memorial is rehabilitated. Work includes the installation of new pumps and piping; cracked marble panels in the pool basin are replaced with new tiles to match the original; the bronze statues are cleaned and polished; benches on the plaza surrounding the pool are repaired; and drainage problems are addressed. Additionally, a short, paved walk is built between the Ellipse sidewalk and the Boy Scout Memorial, in response to issues with social trails and worn turf (Office of the NPS Liaison to the White House, Personal communication, June 1 and July 26, 2010).
	Rehabilitated	Following damages sustained during Hurricane Isabel in 2003, a rehabilitation project restores the original planting plan for the lindens in the vicinity of the First Division Monument. The project also involves the correction of drainage problems on the monument plaza, replacement of deteriorated sidewalks, replacement of the site's irrigation system, provisions for maintenance vehicle access to the site, and maintenance on the statue base and plaza elements - including repairing stone, cutting and pointing masonry joints, resetting stones, and waxing memorial plaques. Work on the triangle east of the monument site and directly adjacent to the White House south grounds fence includes new irrigation and plantings (Office of the NPS Liaison to the White House, Personal communication, June 18 and July 26, 2010).

## Analysis & Evaluation of Integrity

### Analysis and Evaluation of Integrity Narrative Summary:

#### INTRODUCTION

This section provides an evaluation of the physical integrity of the cultural landscape at President's Park South by comparing the landscape characteristics and features present during the period of significance (1791-1947) with current conditions. Landscape characteristics are the tangible and intangible aspects of a cultural landscape which express its historic character and integrity, and which allow visitors to understand the history of a site. Each characteristic or feature is classified as either a contributing or non-contributing element of the site's overall historic significance.

Landscape characteristics are classified as contributing if they were present during the property's period of significance, and non-contributing if they were not present during that period. Non-contributing features may in some cases be considered "compatible," if they are determined to fit within the physical context of the historic period and match the character of contributing elements in a way that is sensitive to the construction techniques, organizational methods, or design strategies of the historic period. Features designated as "incompatible" are those that are not harmonious with the quality of the cultural landscape, and whose existence can lessen the historic character of the property.

This section also includes an evaluation of the property's integrity in accordance with National Register criteria. The National Register recognizes seven aspects of integrity: location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. Several or all of these aspects must be present for a site to retain historic integrity. To be listed on the National Register, a property must not only be shown to have significance under one of the four criteria, but also should be demonstrated to retain integrity to the period of significance.

#### HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE

##### Landscape Characteristics and Features

Contributing landscape characteristics identified for President's Park South are topography, natural systems and features, views and vistas, spatial organization, circulation, vegetation, buildings and structures, land use, constructed water features, cultural traditions, small scale features, and archeological sites.

The topography of the President's Park South cultural landscape has remained almost entirely unaltered since the site was developed using Andrew Jackson Downing's designs in the late nineteenth century. Originally a low lying, marshy area leading down to Tiber Creek, the land now occupied by the Ellipse was filled and shaped into a gentle slope leading down to what became B Street, and was later renamed Constitution Avenue, NW. Thus, today's park terrain achieves the same effect that it did during the historic period of significance.



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The views and vistas of President's Park South have changed only minimally since the historic period of significance. The primary one among these is the north south viewing corridor running between the White House, the Washington Monument grounds, and the Jefferson Memorial. Other views of the adjacent buildings and memorials, as seen intermittently through the trees, also formed a part of the historic landscape. As a result, the views and vistas of President's Park South retain a high level of historic integrity.

The spatial organization of President's Park South has on the whole changed very minimally since the historic period of significance. The central, open focus of the Ellipse itself anchors a landscape framed by lines of elms, memorials, and groves of trees. Thus, although the addition of the Visitor Pavilion and surrounding paved areas northeast of the central Ellipse do not match the intent of the historic designs, the overall spatial organization retains a high level of integrity to the period of significance.

The circulation patterns of President's Park South have long been one of the defining features of this cultural landscape. The Ellipse road and associated walks and roads, in particular, have distinguished this area and beckoned visitors since the late nineteenth century. Following the implementation of the original 1851 plan of Andrew Jackson Downing, the various roads, walks and bridle paths of the park shaped the landscape before the memorials began to appear. Many of the original paths laid out by these circulation routes remain unchanged today, with the crucial exception of the E Street extension from South Executive Avenue to 17th Street, which was completed in 1940 (Boyle 2001: 267). One particularly rare 1887 feature of the site is a piece of bluestone sidewalk along 17th Street. As a result, the overall circulation patterns in President's Park South retain a high level of integrity to the historic period of significance.

One of the most important surviving features of the historic landscape of President's Park South is the vegetation; in particular, the American elms (*Ulmus americana*) lining the Ellipse and associated roads. The placement of these trees comprised a part of the design proposed by Andrew Jackson Downing in 1851, and a number of the original trees, planted in the latter 1800s, still stand. The groves of canopy, shade, and evergreen trees to the south, east, and west of the Ellipse have also changed only minimally since the historic period of significance. This vegetation helps to frame the central north south vista between the White House and the Jefferson Memorial, while also emphasizing the open character of the Ellipse lawn. Vegetation in the vicinity of Sherman Park, the First Division Monument, and the Second Division Memorial has also remained relatively unchanged, although some alterations have taken place over the years. On the Ellipse lawn, the National Christmas Tree remains an important feature within the park, as it has for much of the last century. As a result, the vegetation of President's Park South retains a high level of historic integrity, overall.

The number and configuration of buildings and structures in President's Park South has changed very minimally since the historic period of significance. In 1880, two stone gatehouses originally designed for the grounds of the U.S. Capitol by Architect of the Capitol Charles Bulfinch were relocated to the southeast and southwest corners of the Ellipse. Known as the Bulfinch Gatehouses, these small structures are the only extant nineteenth century buildings still present within the borders of President's Park South. The First Division Monument, Second Division Memorial, and Sherman Statue were

erected in the early twentieth century. They further distinguish the landscape and in some cases serve as the anchors for annual commemorative events. Moreover, their distinctive styles and designs speak to their unique and historic value. In more recent years, some additions have been made to both the First Division Monument and the Second Division Memorial. The Visitor Pavilion near the northeast corner of the Ellipse is also a more recent addition that responds to the needs of visitors by supplying information related to the White House and President's Park. The Visitor Pavilion and various guardhouses and other modern security related structures constitute the only non contributing buildings within President's Park South and, while noticeable, do not rival the historic buildings, monuments, and memorials. Consequently, the buildings and structures of the park retain an overall high level of integrity to the historic period of significance.

The uses of President's Park South have been both long range and highly varied over the years. Originally intended as a garden park or greensward adjacent to the White House and later as a parade ground, the site's proximity to the White House and downtown Washington, DC, made it attractive for other purposes as well, including demonstrations and celebrations.. Over the past century its development has shifted slightly, as it became populated with a number of memorials and other structures. Today, the park continues to serve a number of ceremonial, recreational, festive and other purposes. Thus, the land use of this site has changed only minimally over the years, and retains a high level of integrity to the historic period of significance.

The constructed water features of President's Park South have changed in several ways since the historic period of significance. In the early stages of park development, this landscape was marked by numerous drains and gutters installed to help control the naturally poor drainage of the site. The Butt Millet Memorial Fountain later became the first memorial on the Ellipse, setting a lasting precedent for the placement of other memorials in President's Park South. The installation of three more constructed water features, the pool of the Boy Scout Commemorative Tribute and the Haupt Fountains, after the historic period of significance altered the original layout of the park and populated the landscape with features not originally envisioned by its designers. Moreover, the stone gutters along the roads of the Ellipse are now gone. As a result, the constructed water features of President's Park South retain a moderate level of historic integrity.

The annual tradition of lighting the National Christmas Tree in President's Park South began in 1923. Over the years, this event developed into the Christmas Pageant of Peace and gradually changed with the addition of a number of associated holiday festivities. Nonetheless, the lighting ceremony itself, known since 2007 as the Lighting of the National Christmas Tree, remains an important yearly event, the beginnings of which date to the historic period of significance. As a result, the cultural traditions of the park retain a moderate level of historic integrity.

Many of the small scale features of the current President's Park South cultural landscape were not present during the historic period of significance. Exceptions to this rule include the Zero Milestone, Original Patentees of the District of Columbia Memorial, and the U.S. Capitol Gatepost. Many other small scale features are compatible with the historic uses and function of the site as a public park. Certain features of the historic landscape have meanwhile disappeared, such as the volleyball court,

baseball fields, and horseshoe pits. Thus, the small scale features of the park retain an overall moderate level of integrity to the historic period of significance.

The archeological sites of President's Park South have remained almost entirely unchanged since the early twentieth century due to the largely undisturbed state of the landscape. Previous excavations on the Ellipse have indicated that the park grounds are comprised primarily of fill from the extensive grading operations of the late nineteenth century. However, areas of undisturbed or minimally disturbed historic deposits still exist, primarily on the northern portion of the site. Consequently, the existing archeological resources of this landscape retain a moderate level of historic integrity.

#### The Seven Aspects of Integrity

1. Location is the place where the historic property was constructed. The physical location of President's Park South, a portion of U.S. Reservation 1, has remained unchanged since Pierre Charles L'Enfant began his designs for the property in 1791. Thus, the location of the site retains a high level of integrity to the historic period of significance.
2. Setting is the physical environment of a cultural landscape or historic property. The setting of President's Park South has remained unchanged since 1947. The park still stands between the White House and the Washington Monument grounds, and is bordered on either side by city streets and large, historic buildings including the Department of Commerce and the Daughters of the American Revolution Continental Memorial Hall. The tree lined avenues of 15th and 17th Streets, as well as Constitution Avenue, continue to anchor the park on its east, west and south sides. To the north, the curving path of South Executive Avenue still marks the southernmost boundary of the White House Grounds and meets the Ellipse roadway at the northernmost portion of the Ellipse. Consequently, the historic setting for President's Park South has remained intact over the years, and retains a high level of integrity.
3. Design is the composition of elements that create the form, plan, space, structure, and style of a cultural landscape or historic property. The general designs laid out by Pierre Charles L'Enfant, Andrew Jackson Downing, the McMillan Plan, and Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr. have over the years created a landscape that represents elements of each, as well as a number of overall themes. For instance, the primary north south vista envisioned by L'Enfant in 1791 is still one of the defining characteristics of the park. The form and composition of the Ellipse, the impetus of which originated with the execution of Downing's 1851 plan, is another crucial component of this landscape. The introduction of a number of monuments and memorials to the park in the twentieth century further defined its physical form and spaces. More importantly, their layout correlated roughly with the ideas articulated by the McMillan Plan of 1901, and were confirmed by Olmsted's set of 1930s recommendations. The central Ellipse road and associated roads and walkways still fill the city blocks between Constitution Avenue and the White House and 15th and 17th Streets, NW. In the northeast and northwest quadrants on either side of the south White House Grounds, the First Division Monument and Sherman Park balance each other and create a separation between this more open space of the park and the two large administrative buildings to the north, as they have for almost a

century. The design of President's Park South therefore retains a high level of integrity to the historic period of significance.

4. Materials are the physical elements of a particular period, including the construction materials, paving, plants, and other landscape features. Many of the materials historically present at President's Park South have disappeared, such as the original paving and stone guttering of the Ellipse road. However, some historic trees on the outside of the Ellipse remain, and the great majority of the materials contained in the various monuments and memorials of the park are the same ones that were used in their original construction. The 1887 bluestone sidewalk along 17th Street also survives. As a result, the materials in this cultural landscape retain a moderate level of integrity, and remain an important part of its historic character.

5. Workmanship is the physical evidence of the crafts of a particular period. The workmanship used in the creation of President's Park South is mostly evident in the monuments and memorials of the site, whose composition remains largely as it was at the time of construction. The classical style and materials of the Bulfinch Gatehouses and the ornamentation and numerous relief sculptures on the memorials and statues throughout the park speak to the nineteenth and early twentieth century artists who created them. Unfortunately, the current mosaic in the floor of the Sherman Statue base is only a replica of the original, although it admirably captures the spirit of the original. Much of the other artwork present throughout the park has remained unchanged since the early twentieth century. Thus, the workmanship of the President's Park South cultural landscape retains a high level of integrity to the historic period of significance.

6. Association is the direct link between an important historic event or person and a historic property. The close connection between the landscape of President's Park South and such famous landscape designers and city planners as Pierre Charles L'Enfant, Andrew Jackson Downing, and Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr. is still evident in the layout and design of the park, primarily in the views and in the elm lined Ellipse and associated roads and walkways. It is easy to imagine the open, grassy expanse that became the Ellipse as a parade ground and barracks during the Civil War. Meanwhile, the National Christmas Tree remains the site of the annual tree lighting ceremony, a tradition begun by President Calvin Coolidge in 1923. Surviving structures such as the First Division Monument, Sherman Statue, Bulfinch Gatehouses, and Butt Millet Memorial Fountain continue to evoke the park's importance and meaning to the nation and its history. The President of the United States still looks south on the Ellipse and surrounding landscape, as have generations of presidents before him. As a result, the association of President's Park South retains a high level of integrity to the historic period of significance.

7. Feeling is the ability of a historic property to evoke the aesthetic or historic sense of a past period of time. The feeling achieved by President's Park South has changed somewhat since the historic period of significance. Use of the Ellipse road and associated routes leading from the nearby city streets as a parking area impacts the overall impression of the site as a park landscape. Temporary security buildings and other security features installed over the past decade have also negatively affected the park aesthetic and sense of history. Proximity to the White House and a connection to the President of

the United States has long been one of the defining elements of this landscape, and the primary draw for visitors. However, layers of security fences and barriers that block the open view north to the residence obscure and erode this crucial link. Still, the distinctive character of the elm lined Ellipse and associated roads and walkways, as well as the primary north south viewing corridor, continue to distinguish this historic site. Thus, the feeling of President's Park South retains a moderate level of integrity to the historic period of significance.

## CONCLUSIONS

This CLI finds that the President's Park South cultural landscape retains a high level of integrity for its period of significance, 1791 to 1947. Since that time, the cultural landscape has undergone only minimal alterations. Those changes that have taken place are largely reversible, and therefore do not present a genuine threat to the site's overall integrity. The original design intent, though evident, can still better be captured through a renewed commitment to this purpose, particularly in considering the installation of further security measures and other site developments. Despite the currently compromised historic character of some areas of the cultural landscape, President's Park South continues to embody the history and spirit of both a city and a nation.

### **Landscape Characteristic:**

#### **Topography**

##### Historic Conditions

When the young United States government purchased U.S. Reservation 1 (then known as Appropriation 1) in June of 1792, the future President's Park South was an area of uneven terrain descending to the banks of Tiber Creek. Former owners David Burnes and Samuel Davidson had before this point probably made only minimal alterations to the area in the process of crop cultivation (Toner 1874) (see Figure 4). George Washington first chose the spot then known as Burnes Farm knoll, or "Elinor," as the location for the White House and construction began on the new presidential site (Seale 2008: 16-17). In the years that followed, changes made to the topography of the President's Park South landscape transformed what was originally a low, marshy land along Tiber Creek into a gently sloping public park (LeeDecker and Bedell 2007: 5-6).

##### ELLIPSE

Filling of the southernmost portion of the Ellipse took place during the final stages of construction on the Washington Canal, and was probably complete by 1833. However, in the years that followed, this area remained poorly drained and undeveloped, as sewers from both the White House and the nearby public buildings continued to empty here (LeeDecker and Bedell 2007: 8). Drainage conditions in what soon became known as the White Lot were still unimproved in the succeeding decades. The name, White Lot, was derived from the white-washed plank fence that bordered the park on three sides beginning in the 1850s. This name was used through the 1880s, when the Ellipse was completed and assumed its present name.

As early as 1849, Ignatius Mudd, then commissioner of public buildings for Washington, D.C., described the unimproved land between the White House Grounds and Tiber Creek as an irregular, uneven, and poorly-drained surface that was difficult to grade (Boyle 2001: 62). In the early 1850s, it was described as “low and marshy” and in dire need of development due to concerns about the spread of malaria. The initial work focused on Andrew Jackson Downing’s ambitious plans to grade and infill the low-lying places, but excavations for a large artificial pond began as well. Although its precise location has never been ascertained, the topography indicates that this pond was probably located on the northern part of the present Ellipse. The reasoning behind its creation is likewise unknown, but it was not part of Downing’s original design. In 1852, Congressman James Brooks of New York stated that it was undertaken as a cost-cutting measure, it being cheaper to hollow out the pond than to cart in dirt to build the area up. At any rate, the pond would have acted as an ideal breeding ground for mosquitoes, thereby increasing rather than decreasing the risk of malarial infection. Amid growing public health concerns, most importantly the continued well-being of President Franklin Pierce, the partially completed pond was infilled in 1854 at a cost of more than \$6,000. Some filling of the north edge of the future Ellipse area was carried out in the following year with the excess material created by construction of the south and west wings of the Treasury Building (Boyle 2001: 98-101, 147).

Use of the park for barracks and a stockyard during the Civil War obliterated most, if not all, of the plantings, exacerbated the existing drainage issues, and helped to motivate change in the years that followed. The implementation of Downing’s designs for the area were resumed by 1873, when extensive filling and grading operations took place using fill from the construction of the nearby State, War and Navy Building (now renamed the Eisenhower Executive Office Building). With the massive amounts of soil, household refuse, construction debris, and street sweepings transported here, a gentle grade down to the Washington Canal, or what was later Constitution Avenue NW, gradually began to take shape. By 1877, the White Lot reportedly had a “pleasantly varied surface,” and the major grading and filling operations were completed by 1880 (Boyle 2001: 147; LeeDecker and Bedell 2007: 12).

#### SHERMAN PARK

Another area whose topography was modified during the historic period of significance was the vicinity of Sherman Park. During construction on this site in 1899, the Office of Public Buildings and Grounds invited “individuals and companies to deposit earth fill around the [General Sherman Statue] pedestal in order to raise the grade of the site” (Thursby 1999: 7). According to its design, the ultimate intent for this site was “to create a large, level space so the monument would be the focus of attention” (Thursby 1999: 7). To accomplish this goal, the elevation in the southeastern portion of the monument grounds was increased to the level of the northwestern portion, thus removing a natural slope from this area of the park (Thursby 1999: 7).

On May 21, 1931, landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr., then a former member of the Commission of Fine Arts and a current member of the National Capital Park Planning Commission, issued a short report, really a set of typed notes, on the landscape of Sherman Park. He focused primarily on the site's topography, which he felt sloped "down with a rather unpleasant rapidity from the statue to the top of a retaining wall, at which the level drops abruptly to the adjoining sidewalk" (Olmsted 1931: 1). When Sherman Park was redesigned four years later, its topography was altered to provide a more uniform and less precipitous slope (Thursby 1999:11).

#### FIRST DIVISION MONUMENT

Some of the first evidence of alterations to the topography on the west side of the White House Grounds, or the area south of today's Eisenhower Executive Office Building, was associated with the relocation of the president's stables to this site between 1871 and 1872 (Boyle 2001: 126). The ground around these stables, or in the vicinity of the present intersection of 17th Street, NW, and E Street, was raised roughly eighteen inches between 1885 and 1886 (Boyle 2001: 150). From 1889 to 1890 an old wooden stable or shed that stood nearby on 17th Street was taken down and added to the larger stables, and the site where it formerly stood was filled and graded to what was probably a fairly level surface (Boyle 2001: 151). The stables were razed in 1911, and the topography of this area changed again in 1924, when a low, flat terrace was completed during construction of the First Division Monument (Boyle 2001: 191; "First Division Monument, Washington, D.C.," December 3, 1924: 527).

#### Existing Conditions

In 1956, the ground west of the First Division Monument was filled in preparation for the World War II extension on that side, and a tree well was added to the west side of the monument steps (Fernandez-Duque 2002: 9). Similar filling operations took place during the addition of the Vietnam War extension, which also incorporated two more tree wells in the slope to the east of the monument shaft (Office of the NPS Liaison to the White House, Personal communication, June 1, 2010). However, these represent the sole alterations to the park's topography since the historic period of significance. In other respects, the grading throughout President's Park South has remained almost entirely unchanged since the early twentieth century. The Ellipse itself remains a broad, flat expanse of open turf, while the surrounding areas of the park still represent the landscape created by the filling operations of the late nineteenth century. As a result, the topography of President's Park South retains a high level of integrity, and contributes to the historic character of the cultural landscape.

#### Character-defining Features:

Feature:	Level ground throughout the Ellipse area
Feature Identification Number:	143843
Type of Feature Contribution:	Contributing

Feature: Gently sloping ground in the vicinity of Sherman Park and First Division Monument

Feature Identification Number: 143997

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

**Landscape Characteristic Graphics:**

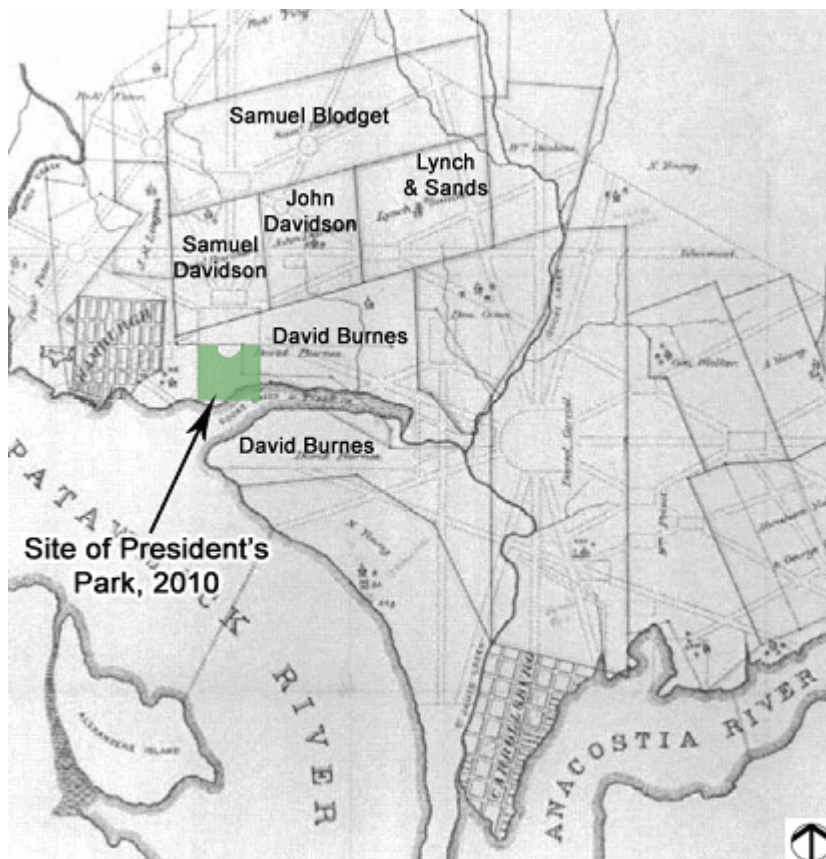


Figure 4: Sketch of Washington in Embryo, Viz.: Previous to the Survey by Major L'Enfant. Compiled from the rare historical researches of Dr. Joseph M. Toner. Comps. E. F. M. Faeltz and F. W. Pratt, 1874. (Library of Congress, Geography and Maps Division)

**Natural Systems and Features**

**Historic Conditions**

When the current vicinity of President's Park South was first acquired by the federal government in 1791, it was a natural, damp tract of land adjacent to Tiber Creek. Indeed, the north shore of the Tiber cut straight across the southern portion of the future Ellipse area. Leading straight through the center of the capital, this creek served as the drainage for roughly half of the downtown area and emptied into a shallow tidal estuary in the Potomac River at 17th Street. Due to its low-lying character, President's Park South readily collected water, prompting the early settlers of the District of Columbia to declare it unfit for habitation



(LeeDecker and Bedell 2007: 6).

Just up the hill stood the White House, overlooking the creek and draining straight into its sluggish waters for decades. Between 1810 and 1833, the original designs drawn up by Pierre Charles L'Enfant led to the transformation of Tiber Creek into the Washington Canal (L'Enfant 1791) (see Figure 5). During this period, the portion of Tiber Creek that originally occupied the southern portion of the future Ellipse was filled, and the new canal soon became the depository for not only the city's runoff, but its sewage and refuse. Drainage issues on what had become known as the White Lot continued during the Civil War, only aggravated by the site's use as a barracks and a stockyard (LeeDecker and Bedell 2007: 8).

The canal was subsequently converted into a trunk sewer in 1873, and by 1880 had become a part of B Street, NW (later known as Constitution Avenue) (Boyle 2001: 147). From 1882 to 1884 more than 3,000 linear feet of stone guttering was laid throughout the Ellipse area for the purpose of collecting and channeling runoff from the higher ground to the north (Boyle 2001: 149-50, 207).

As a result, although some natural systems and features existed in the park near the beginning of the historic period, by the end of this period the development of the land had reshaped any previous, natural drainage systems.

#### Existing Conditions

Similar to the case at the end of the historic period of significance, no natural systems or features remain in President's Park South. As a result, little has changed in this respect since the early twentieth century.

**Landscape Characteristic Graphics:**

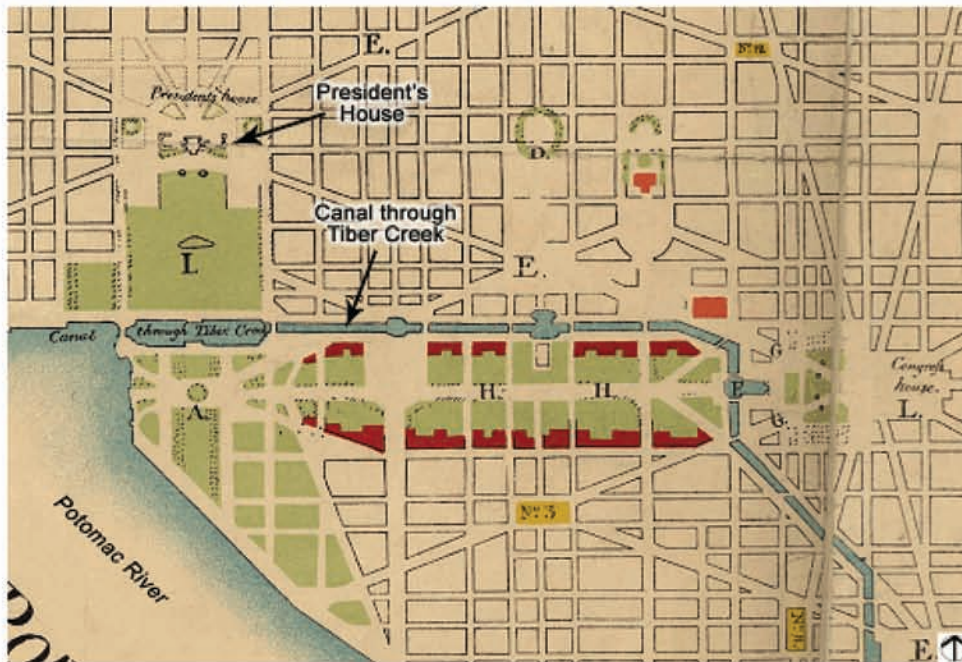


Figure 5: Detail from Pierre Charles L'Enfant's 1791 plan of the City of Washington  
(Library of Congress, Geography and Maps Division)

**Views and Vistas**

**Historic Conditions**

Views and vistas were among the most important features of the first plan of Washington, DC, drawn by Pierre Charles L'Enfant in 1791. Modeled after the European style, with radial configurations laid out over a grid pattern of circulation, his design emphasized certain ceremonial and long range views. Modified by Andrew Ellicott in 1792, L'Enfant's plan depicted the grounds south of the White House as a "garden park" overlooking Tiber Creek and the Potomac River by way of a long vista framed on either side by vegetation (Boyle 2001: 18; Ellicott 1792) (see Figure 6). In one of the earliest accounts of the resulting view, Abigail Adams wrote the following to her daughter, Abigail Adams Smith, on November 21, 1800: "The river, which runs up to Alexandria, is in full view of my window and I see the vessels as they pass and repass" (Massachusetts Historical Society). Since that time, the White House has stood atop the highest point of ground, thereby becoming the focal point for this principal axis to the south. By 1818, four squat brick buildings bordered the vista: the State and Treasury Departments to the east and the War and Navy Departments to the west (Boyle 2001: 63). In the latter half of the nineteenth century, the paired structures were respectively replaced by the modern Treasury Building and the Eisenhower Executive Office Building. Over the course of this evolution Andrew Jackson Downing's concept for the "Parade or President's Park," as he called it, expanded upon L'Enfant's original concepts and further refined this view through the use of an open, sloping lawn on the grounds south of the White House that was flanked on either side by groves of trees (Boyle 2001: 101, 107). As the Ellipse itself was brought to completion in the late 1800s, it was planted with hundreds of additional trees (Boyle 2001: 151,

207 8).

By 1890, at least a part of L'Enfant's vision for President's Park South had been realized. That year, the grounds south of the White House were described as "giving an unobstructed river vista" (Boyle 2001: 135). Moreover, this sight line worked both ways, affording an onlooker standing near the center of the Ellipse an unobstructed view of the presidential mansion to the north (Washington, DC, Public Library 1900) (see Figure 7). However, before long both the southern view toward the water and the northern view toward the White House began to erode through the enthusiastic growth of vegetation throughout the park. For example, looking south and slightly east in 1898, the Washington Monument was partially obscured by trees growing along either side of Constitution Avenue (Groesbeck and Temkin 2009: 65). The grounds directly to the south of President's Park South were probably partially blocked by the same lines of trees. Where visibility was still possible, the outlook south from the Ellipse became better defined in the 1910s and 1920s by the development of the surrounding city streets and the construction of such monumental pieces of architecture as the Organization of American States Building, the Daughters of the American Revolution Continental Memorial Hall and Constitution Hall, the American Red Cross National Headquarters, and the Commerce Department Building. On the whole, however, a relaxed approach to the maintenance of tree growth had by this time led to a major obstruction of L'Enfant's primary north south vista.

In response, vegetation throughout the park was reassessed throughout the 1930s, using the recommendations of Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr. as a foundation. During this period, the Sherman Park landscape was redesigned, and beginning in 1935 the vista looking south from the White House was cleared, starting with the White House grounds (Thursby 1999: 11; Boyle 2001: 259). The extension of E Street also took place during the 1930s, first from 15th Street to South Executive Avenue, and then all the way through to 17th Street (Boyle 2001: 267). The completion of this project marked a crucial shift in the views throughout the park. Namely, it established a new east west viewing corridor and created a distinct divide in the continuous north south vista that had formerly been interrupted only by gently curving walks and roads (Fernandez Duque 2002: 6).

In 1923, the otherwise open lawn of the Ellipse was marked for the first time by the presence of the National Christmas Tree. Several different trees located throughout the larger President's Park landscape filled this role until the National Christmas Tree permanently returned to the Ellipse in 1954, and in so doing became a defining feature of President's Park South (Boyle 2001: 209).

In October 1935, the Olmsted Brothers landscape architecture firm submitted a report describing the current conditions and future proposals governing the care and management of the White House grounds. Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr. was the principal author, and throughout the report he took great pains to emphasize the paramount importance of the north south vista, which he specifically defined as being "about 150 feet wide on the axis of the White House" (Olmsted Brothers 1935: 51). The full extent of this axial north south vista, or what L'Enfant

had originally envisioned as the north cross arm of the National Mall, was finally realized in 1943 with the completion of the Jefferson Memorial. Constructed in a direct line with the White House, it was the Jefferson Memorial, and not the Washington Monument, that provided a final southern terminus for L'Enfant's grand vista (Groesbeck and Temkin 2009: 66). By 1947, all offending vegetation had been cleared and the vista was fully open (Boyle 2001: 264). Photographs from that year illustrate the placement of trees along the north edge of the central Ellipse lawn, with an opening around the location of the Zero Milestone (Office of the NPS Liaison to the White House, Personal communication, June 1, 2010).

Meanwhile, the views south from the First Division Monument were interrupted by a two story temporary barracks installed in 1942 to house special troops assigned to protect the president, the White House, and the Treasury during World War II. It was over a decade before this structure was removed and the landscape returned to its original, more open character (Boyle 2001: 267; Coffin 1996: Appendix B; Fernandez Duque 2002: 7).

#### Existing Conditions

Four primary historic views remain in effect today. The first, and most important, is the long vista linking the White House, Washington Monument, and Jefferson Memorial. The National Park Service has worked assiduously to maintain this iconic corridor between these preeminent sites, although in a few places the views south toward the Jefferson Memorial are partially obscured. Nonetheless, the axial relationship originally envisioned by L'Enfant, implemented by the McMillan Commission, and saved by Olmsted is clearly evident and remains one of the defining attributes for the entirety of Washington, DC's, monumental core (see Figure 8). This primary viewing corridor is still interpreted as being approximately 150 feet wide throughout President's Park South, as identified in the Olmsted Brothers report of 1935. Today, the NPS strives to maintain the same arrangement of trees and a carefully preserved, large scale opening directly south of the White House that could be seen in 1947 (Office of the NPS Liaison to the White House, Personal communication, June 1, 2010; Kim 2010) (see Figure 9).

Each of the three remaining primary historical views is associated with one of the major monuments or memorials located within President's Park South. After the 1950s, the First Division Monument landscape "lost the coherent plan of the long vista established in the 1920s and 1930s" due to the position and associated lateral walks of the E Street extension (Fernandez Duque 2002: 7). However, important views south from the monument to E Street and north to the south steps of the Eisenhower Executive Office Building still exist. A similar situation holds for Sherman Park, except in this case the view is limited to a northerly sight line toward the Treasury Building's south portico. Finally, the perspective north from Constitution Avenue toward the Second Division Memorial remains the principal means of viewing that memorial.

Throughout the park, other views of the adjacent buildings and memorials, as seen intermittently

through the trees, have remained intact since the early twentieth century. These include views east to the Department of Commerce Building on 15th Street, and west to the American Red Cross National Headquarters, the Organization of American States Building, the Corcoran Gallery of Art, and the Daughters of the American Revolution Continental Memorial Hall and Constitution Hall on 17th Street. Looking north through the trees from the panels on either side of the Ellipse, visitors can still catch glimpses of the Sherman Statue and the First Division Monument. Looking south from Sherman Park grants filtered views of the Washington Monument and Ellipse, while the same perspective from the First Division Monument affords a more open vantage of the Ellipse lawn and adjoining shaded walks. The latter view was restored after the temporary barracks were removed in 1954 (Boyle 2001: 268). Looking south from the center of the Ellipse to its southwest corner, the flaming sword of the Second Division Memorial can be seen, and looking north from the corner of 17th Street and Constitution Avenue also allows for a fine view of the memorial. Turning ninety degrees to face west along Constitution Avenue brings the Bulfinch Gatehouses into view. In the same layout that was established during the early twentieth century, the more permanent planting of the National Christmas Tree is the only outstanding feature included in views looking out from the inner Ellipse, and does not affect the primary north south vista. As features of the landscape that were either not explicitly planned by the designers of President's Park South or have developed since the close of the historic period of significance, these views cannot be considered contributing resources. However, in general they are pleasant and wholly suitable for the open, monumental atmosphere that the landscape embodies, and therefore they are considered compatible with the historic aspects of the park.

Additionally, even from some of the most popular and significant standpoints in the park, views north to the White House are frequently filtered by not only vegetation but also security features. For instance, looking north from just beside the Zero Milestone, the visitor looks through five layers of fencing to the White House: a black rod fence on the edge of the walk, a black post and chain fence, a concrete security barrier with attached metal fencing, black bollards with a linking chain, and the final iron fence around the perimeter of the south White House lawn (see Figure 10). Since all of these fences except the formal iron fence south of the White House Grounds did not form a part of the landscape during the historic period of significance, this view of multiple layers of fencing does not contribute to the historic character of the park. Views to the Visitor Pavilion, added in 1994 to the northeast corner of the Ellipse, also do not contribute to the historic character of the landscape.

Nonetheless, the views and vistas of President's Park South on the whole have changed only minimally since the historic period of significance. As a result, the views and vistas of the site retain a high level of integrity, and contribute to the historic character of the cultural landscape.

**Character-defining Features:**

Feature: Primary north-south vista linking the White House, Washington Monument, and Jefferson Memorial

Feature Identification Number: 143999

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing



Feature: Views north from the First Division Monument to the Eisenhower Executive Office Building and south to E Street

Feature Identification Number: 144001

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: View from Sherman Park north to the Treasury Building

Feature Identification Number: 144003

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: View from Constitution Avenue north to the Second Division Memorial

Feature Identification Number: 144005

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

**Landscape Characteristic Graphics:**

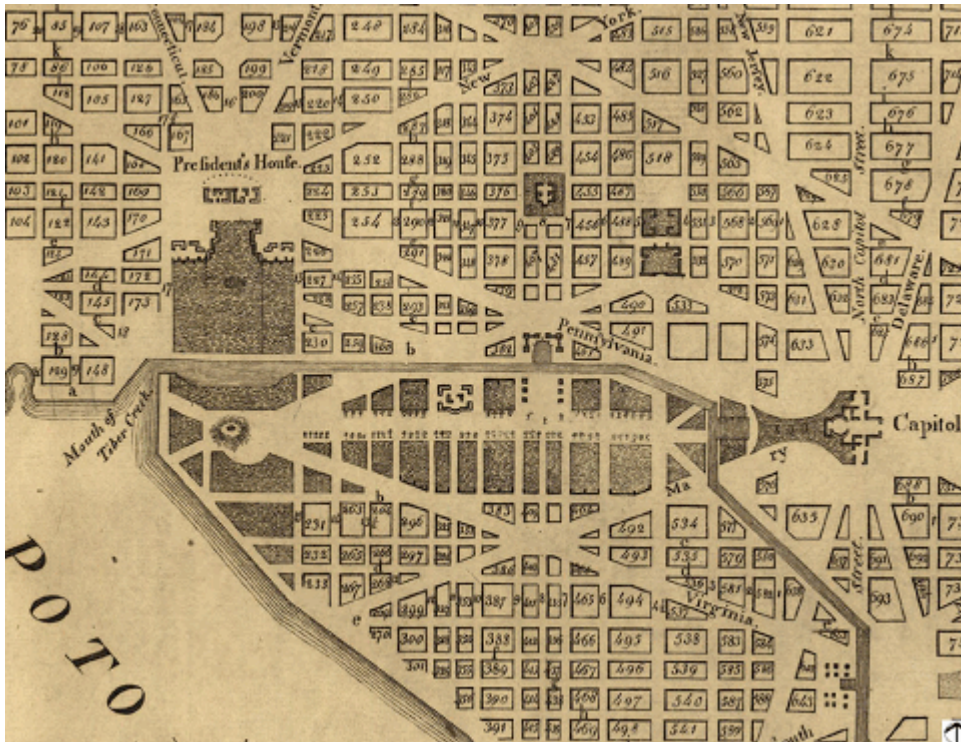


Figure 6: Detail from Andrew Ellicott's 1792 plan of the City of Washington (Library of Congress, Geography and Maps Division)



*Figure 7: Circa 1900 aerial view of President's Park South, looking north (Washington, DC, Public Library, Washingtoniana Division)*



*Figure 8: Primary vista looking south from the north edge of the Ellipse, toward the Washington Monument and Jefferson Memorial (NCR CLP February 4, 2010)*



*Figure 9: Aerial view of President's Park South, looking north (Office of the NPS Liaison to the White House, June 1, 2010)*





*Figure 10: Primary vista looking north from the Zero Milestone, toward the White House (NCR CLP February 4, 2010)*

### **Spatial Organization**

#### **Historic Conditions**

As depicted in the 1791 L'Enfant and 1792 Ellicott plans, President's Park South is a low lying and originally marshy rectangular area contained by the surrounding city streets to the south of the White House (see Figure 6). In the years that followed, this landscape became increasingly defined, first by Thomas Jefferson's addition of the first wall bordering the south grounds of the White House in 1807, and later by the more pointed development of this area into a public park (Boyle 2001: 24). However, the space and its boundaries did not clearly become illustrated until the 1850s, when the design of Andrew Jackson Downing inspired the elm lined Ellipse and associated network of walks (Downing 1851) (see Figure 11). By the 1870s, a new fence line marked the border of the park, and soon the landscape was further defined by the construction

of South Executive Avenue. Thus, by the 1880s the general spatial organization of the park was established: an Ellipse shape fit into a rectangular space carved by curving roads and walks, with a roughly rectangular shaped quadrant on each side of the White House grounds to the north (see Figure 7).

This landscape became increasingly populated with permanent structures and small scale features in subsequent decades, beginning with the installation of the Bulfinch Gatehouses in 1880 (Boyle 2001: 149). Although various stages of planning envisioned a more symmetrical layout, the placement of these features followed a fairly creative design that correlated more closely with the viewsheds and asymmetrical circulation patterns than with the other structures present at the site. The Bulfinch Gatehouses are situated on an east west axis parallel to Constitution Avenue. At the time of its installation on the west side of the Ellipse, the Butt Millet Memorial Fountain marked the point where the Ellipse road and South Executive Avenue curved away from each other. The location of the First Division Monument helped to balance Sherman Park to the east, on the opposite side of the White House Grounds, while the Second Division Memorial was built slightly removed from the north south axis established by the Eisenhower Executive Office Building and the First Division Monument (Fernandez Duque 2002: 3). The Zero Milestone was low enough that it was allowed to be placed directly south of the White House, at the northern most point of the Ellipse.

#### Existing Conditions

Today, the spatial organization of President's Park South remains much as it was before 1947. The central circulation pattern of the Ellipse road and walks is framed by lines of elms, while groves of trees mark the east and west sides of the Ellipse. Memorial sites in the northeast, northwest, and southwest corners of the site further define those spaces and emphasize the open, sweeping character of the Ellipse itself. The permanent placement of the National Christmas Tree is the only feature encroaching on the wide expanse of the Ellipse lawn.

Still, the dense concentration of paths, pavement, and the Ellipse Visitor Pavilion immediately across the roadway from the northeast edge of the central Ellipse lawn does not match the site's historically open character and primary focus on circulation and curving lines. Similarly, the location and size of the Boy Scout Commemorative Tribute is inconsistent with the park's layout as it was intended by historic landscape designers. As a result, the spatial organization of the area east and northeast of the Ellipse is not consistent with the park's nineteenth century design. However, the overall spatial organization of President's Park South retains a high level of integrity to the period of significance, and therefore contributes to the historic character of the cultural landscape.

#### Character-defining Features:

Feature: Open lawn of the Ellipse, framed by elms and groves of trees

Feature Identification Number: 144007

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

President's Park South

President's Park

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Feature: Memorial sites outside of the inner Ellipse lawn

Feature Identification Number: 144009

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Cluster of circulation patterns and the Ellipse Visitor Pavilion on the northeast corner of the Ellipse

Feature Identification Number: 144011

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Boy Scout Commemorative Tribute

Feature Identification Number: 144013

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

IDLCS Number: 7295

LCS Structure Name: Boy Scout Commemorative Tribute

LCS Structure Number: 01-13

**Landscape Characteristic Graphics:**

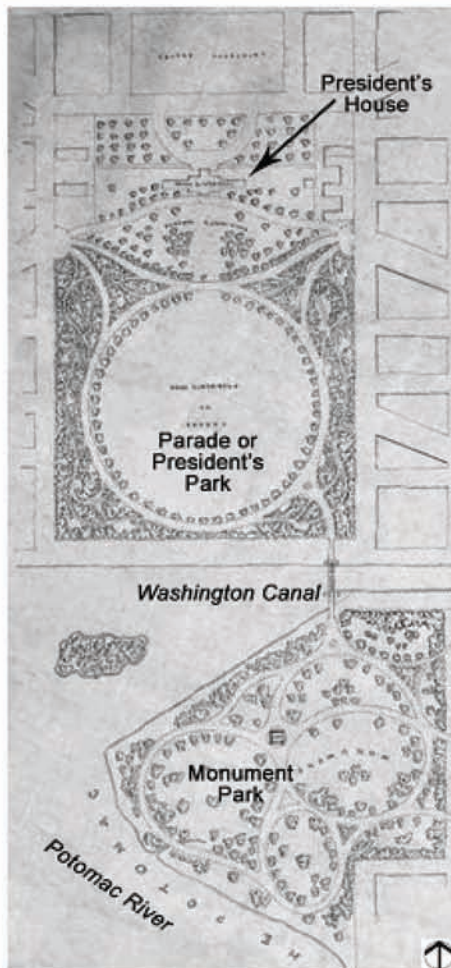


Figure 11: Detail from A. J. Downing's 1851 plan for the public grounds of Washington, DC (Copy of original plan to accompany the Annual Report of the Chief of Engineers, 1867; National Archives, Cartographic and Architectural Records, Record Group 77)

**Circulation**

**Historic Conditions**

Since the mid nineteenth century, the circulation of President's Park South has evolved gradually over time to reflect the placement of memorials on site and the increasing public use of the landscape.

**ELLIPSE**

The 1791 and 1792 L'Enfant and Ellicott city plans depict the area between the White House and Tiber Creek as an open, grassy terrace whose sole piece of ornamentation appears to be a large fountain or pool (L'Enfant 1791; Ellicott 1792) (see Figures 5 and 6). Several decades passed before any true effort was made to develop this area into a designed landscape. Though they did not emerge until later, the general form of the circulation routes on the north edge of

President's Park South were first hinted at in the 1830s, when President Andrew Jackson established a "bell shaped" configuration of drives on the south lawn of the White House. (Boyle 2001: 53). Plans for the future layout of the Ellipse area itself followed in 1851, when landscape architect Andrew Jackson Downing developed a plan for the City of Washington's public grounds, including President's Park South. This design was the first plan for a large scale public park in the United States that was at least partially implemented (Horner 2010: 8.57). On the land south of the White House grounds, Downing depicted a circle. Following his sudden death soon afterwards, work on the project lagged, but Downing's original designs were taken up by his assistant, William D. Brackenridge. The earliest stages of implementation began, but were soon interrupted by the Civil War (Boyle 2001: 101, 107). One illustrated version of what was probably emerging in some form during the late 1850s and early 1860s can be seen in Albert Boschke's 1861 map of this area, showing an elliptical shaped road with curving bridle paths on either side (Boschke 1861) (see Figure 12).

After the completion of the Washington City Canal along the southern border of the site in the early 1800s, a tow path that served as a road was established along the length of this edge. In the years following the Civil War, the stagnant and deplorably dirty canal was converted into a trunk sewer, B Street was created, and the tow path was probably absorbed into either the new road or later sidewalks (Boyle 2001: 147; Leach and Barthold 1993). Work on the grounds south of the White House resumed, and by 1880 the western half of the 50 foot wide Ellipse road was completed. The 1877 Plan for the President's Park, Excluding Lafayette Park also depicts the short section of 16th Street leading north to the Ellipse from B Street (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers 1877).

The elm lined elliptical drive was completed in 1881. Over the next few years, the roadbeds and walks associated with the Ellipse road were excavated, surfaced and rolled, including the roads leading in from the southeast, southwest, and northeast corners (Boyle 2001: 149). From 1882 to 1884, these circulation patterns were complemented with more than 3,000 feet of stone guttering to help minimize the ongoing drainage issues at the site (Boyle 2001: 149 50, 207). Additional curving walks were added to the west side of the Ellipse in 1886, soon followed by extensive repairs to the main Ellipse drive in 1887 (Boyle 2001: 150). Some of the new walks at this time were made of bluestone, as evidenced by the surviving bluestone sidewalk along 17th Street.

Unscreened gravel surfacing was added to some parts of the Ellipse in 1890, and fresh gravel was added to the newly finished State Place the following year. Another curving walk was added to the Ellipse in 1896, and in 1897 areas of worn gravel were repaired and a new apron of cobblestones was added to the end of the asphalt street pavement at the 17th Street entrance to the Ellipse (Boyle 2001: 152 3). A roughly mile long bridle path was built around the outer edge of the central Ellipse lawn in 1899 to help facilitate more structured recreational and equestrian use of the popular park.

Repairs and maintenance continued throughout the first decade of the 1900s, and a 1904 plan

depicts a “Street South of the Treasury Department” and the Sherman Statue in roughly the same location as today’s E Street extension (Boyle 2001: 205). In 1905, a six foot wide walkway was built around the edge of the open Ellipse lawn, establishing the sidewalk around the perimeter for the first time, and a new bridle path was established in 1908 (Boyle 2001: 205). In 1912, a number of social trails (paths established by visitors taking shortcuts or other non intended routes across a landscape) emerging in the vicinity of the future First Division Monument site prompted the planting of a large shrubbery bed in this area to block out trespassers (Boyle 2001: 207). These social trails were created through the repeated and constant tread of park visitors cutting across the turf, and were further discouraged by the construction of formal bridle paths leading between points of interest. By the time the Butt Millet Memorial Fountain was completed in 1913, a foot path curved southwest from a point along South Executive Avenue just north of the memorial before meeting up with the Ellipse road (DSC TIC 868/89801; DSC TIC 868/80029). Another walk was soon installed to provide access to the new fountain from the Ellipse. Still, given the popularity of this area, social trails were almost certainly an ongoing issue throughout the park, as evidenced in historic photographs (Harris and Ewing 1917) (see Figure 13).

An important shift in the landscape took place in the 1930s, when landscape architects Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr. and Gilmore D. Clark recommended the widening, realignment, and extension of E Street to the west of 15th Street and south of Sherman Park (Boyle 2001: 240, 267; Olmsted 1931: 1). Both men were giants in their profession and key advisors to the federal government. Olmsted was among the initial appointees to the Fine Arts Commission, having served from 1910 to 1918, and his recommendations regarding E and 15th Streets also carried the weight of his membership in the National Capital Park Planning Commission (1926 32) (Klaus, 2000: 273). Likewise, Clarke became a member of the Fine Arts Commission in 1932, and served as chairman from 1937 to 1950 (Annese 2000: 60). Subsequent to their proposal, the E Street extension was completed to South Executive Avenue in 1933. This modification of the landscape created a key division in the layout of President’s Park South. In addition, it made way for the subsequent continuation of the road all the way to 17th Street by 1940, a project possibly completed in collaboration with the National Park Service and the District of Columbia Highways Division (Boyle 2001: 267). As described in the Design Guidelines for the White House and President’s Park:

“Although Olmsted discouraged the use of East and West Executive Avenues as major traffic routes, his work concerning the reconfiguration of E Street and the vicinity of Sherman Park, and the final use of State Place as an element of the east west traffic route across the site further reinforced the bisection of President’s Park. Plans for extending E Street through the property appear on maps as early as 1932... With the connection of E Street to freeway systems on the west in the 1960s, a major arterial thoroughfare bisected L’Enfant’s site.” (National Park Service 1997: 138)

Although Olmsted advocated for the extension of E Street to the south of Sherman Park, there is no evidence to suggest that he favored continuing E Street all the way west to 17th Street.

Instead, it seems that he would have disapproved of just such an action. In the 1935 Olmsted Brothers report on the White House Grounds, he disparages “the interruption of the axial lawn [south of the White House] by a conspicuous band of transverse roadway cutting it in two in the middle as seen from the White House, [and] the duplication of the lateral roads on each side of the axis” (Olmsted Brothers 1935: 5). This description refers to the bisection of the enclosed south lawn of the White House by the non public road leading between State Place and Hamilton Place, and based upon his recommendations this road was sunk into the existing grade so as to hide it from view to the maximum extent compatible with the overall welfare of the White House Grounds. Cutting E Street completely through between 15th and 17th Streets created precisely the type of distracting lateral line across the primary north south axis between the White House and Jefferson Memorial that Olmsted took great pains to avoid on the White House Grounds.

While it is true that Andrew Jackson Downing’s 1851 plan for the public grounds of Washington includes a curved roadway running between 15th and 17th Streets, NW, this route is not analogous to current day E Street. Downing’s curved roadway bows outward to the south where it meets the circular road enclosing what he termed the “Parade or President’s Park,” the progenitor of the Ellipse. This curved roadway was itself defined by the then furthest extent of the slightly curved White House grounds to the south. In 1807 President Thomas Jefferson established this boundary by erecting a ha ha wall, at which time a dirt path or road was also created running parallel to and immediately south of the ha ha in order to provide a means of travel between the original Treasury and War Department Buildings without having to cut across the south lawn of the White House (Boyle 2001: 24 26). It is likely that the earliest inklings of State Place and Hamilton Place also date to this Jefferson era path/road, thereby providing the earliest link between 15th and 17th Streets through President’s Park.

Because of Downing’s untimely death, many aspects of his plan were never carried out, and most of those were modified, the most obvious being the transformation of his circular parade into an elliptical parade. This particular modification seems to have been most probably brought about by the extension of the south lawn of the White House in the early 1870s. Under this new arrangement, South Executive Avenue met the Ellipse in much the same way that Downing originally proposed to have the curving path/road meet his circular parade ground further to the north and still connecting to both 15th and 17th Streets in close proximity to Downing’s original proposal. Therefore, the present circulation route from 17th Street to State Place to South Executive to Hamilton Place to 15th Street (and back) seems to be the successor to Downing’s plan to connect 15th and 17th Streets. Based on this analysis, E Street would not be the successor to Downing’s plan for a transverse road, and therefore would not qualify as a contributing resource based upon an association with his plan for the public grounds of Washington.

However, one portion of E Street, the short section between 15th Street and the confluence of South and East Executive Avenues, is significant for reasons unrelated to the Downing plan and should be considered a contributing resource. This section was created ca. 1900 during the

construction of Sherman Park as one of the four roadways used to define the boundaries for the component landscape around the Sherman Statue. Because Sherman Park is contributing, and because this section of E Street was created contemporaneously with and according to the original plan for the park, the road itself is a contributing resource.

Moreover, the original footprint of Sherman Park was altered in the 1930s according to recommendations made by landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr. in 1931. Therefore, the shape of the park and the route of E Street south of it is not precisely the same as when they were first created ca. 1900. However, because this change was brought about due to recommendations from Olmsted, who was at the time the foremost landscape architect in the United States, the alteration in the route of that section of E Street south of the park is itself also significant under National Register Nomination Criterion C because it represents the “work of a master.” Consequently, that section of E Street presently ranks as a contributing resource for the President’s Park South landscape.

The same argument cannot be made for the section of E Street to the west that runs south of the First Division Monument. This section was first proposed as a walkway ca. 1919 and executed as such about one year later. It was not until the late 1930s that this walkway was converted to a road and named E Street (Boyle 2001: 267). Neither the walkway nor road seems to have been implemented with any regard to either the monument itself or any other historical aspect of President’s Park South. Rather, they seem to have been born out of necessity, first for pedestrian traffic and later for automobiles. It is true that the current section of E Street south of the First Division Monument dates to the period of significance for President’s Park South, but because of the reason for its construction, it does not qualify as a contributing resource in an analysis of the cultural landscape of the park.

In conclusion, only that section of E Street south of Sherman Park, between 15th Street and the confluence of South Executive Avenue and East Executive Avenue, should be classified as a contributing resource for President’s Park South.

The last major work dating to the period of significance occurred in 1947, when the National Park Service regraded, resurfaced, and repaired the drainage along the roads throughout the Ellipse (Office of the NPS Liaison to the White House, Personal communication, June 1, 2010).

#### SHERMAN PARK

The circulation at Sherman Park originally featured a network of curving, 8 foot wide walkways leading from each corner of the site to a central, circular walkway around the General Sherman Statue. These were installed soon after completion of the monument, in 1904 and 1905 (Boyle 2001: 205; Thursby 1999: 10).

Between 1902 and 1903 a road and walkway were built on the south and west sides of the statue grounds, just outside of the granite coping surrounding the park, thus extending East



Executive Avenue and "Park Drive Way" (the eastern segment of E Street) to meet at a new corner just outside the south White House Grounds (Thursby 1999: 8).

The curving layout of walks with a circular center plaza area was replaced in 1934 by a system of diagonal, 12 foot wide walkways feeding into a central rectangular walk around the statue (Thursby 1999: 11).

#### FIRST DIVISION MONUMENT

Early development of the First Division Monument landscape was closely related to the construction of the Butt Millet Memorial Fountain in 1913. By 1919, a new walk was installed leading from the fountain to the corner of 17th Street and New York Avenue, or cutting diagonally southeast across the future grounds of the First Division Monument (Boyle 2001: 208). This walk provided access to the site following construction of the monument in 1924, and was later depicted as an 8 foot wide concrete walk; but it was removed when a two story temporary barracks was built here in 1942 (Fernandez Duque 2002: 7; Boyle 2001: 267; DSC TIC NCP 23 159).

#### Existing Conditions

##### ELLIPSE

##### Roads

Several important changes have been made to the circulation patterns in President's Park South since the mid twentieth century. One of the more substantial modifications took place in the 1960s, when a curving road, commonly referred to as a dogleg, connecting the Ellipse road to 17th Street was removed (Office of the NPS Liaison to the White House, Personal communication, June 18, 2010). Between 1985 and 1987, East Executive Avenue and Hamilton Place were permanently closed to all but official and service vehicles. Portions of these roads were converted into a wider pedestrian sidewalk. (Boyle 2001: 342; Leach and Barthold 1993). Vehicular access to E Street is also restricted to official and service vehicles, as it has been since the year 2000.

Today, the Ellipse road still loops gracefully around a central lawn to the south of the White House Grounds. Associated roads curve in from the northeast, southeast, and southwest corners of the park, and at its uppermost point the Ellipse road is only separated from South Executive Avenue by a narrow median. The corner roads are no longer open to public vehicular traffic. The only vehicle access onto the Ellipse is from 16th Street, and this entrance is limited to authorized vehicles only. Despite these access restrictions, as one of the earliest defining features of the President's Park South landscape, and a concept envisioned by Andrew Jackson Downing, the Ellipse road and associated roads contribute to the historic

character of the cultural landscape.

Along the north edge of Sherman Park and the First Division Monument grounds, State Place and Hamilton Place still define the upper boundary of President's Park South. State Place underwent repairs in August of 1979, and more recently was milled and repaved in 2006. All brick gutters, concrete crosswalk pavers, and granite curbing was also replaced at this time (PMIS 126545). As extensions of the original road across the south grounds of the White House, both of these roads contribute to the historic character of this cultural landscape.

The E Street corridor that was completed all the way to 17th Street by 1940 still cuts across the northeast and northwest corners of the Ellipse in President's Park South (Boyle 2001: 267). Although elliptical, curving drives separated the White House grounds from the park lands to the south by the 1860s, the introduction of a straight line in this location during the 1930s was inconsistent with Downing's early, curving designs and the overall circulation patterns of the park. Consequently, the extension of E Street "did not affect the [1st Division] monument grounds; however, the separation from the Ellipse marked the beginning of the erosion of the long vista so valued by the Commission of Fine Arts (Fernandez Duque 2002: 6). The introduction of this new route through President's Park South therefore represents the prioritization of the urban circulation patterns over the design features of the cultural landscape. In the conflict between upholding the original concepts of L'Enfant and the demands of twentieth century automobile traffic, the latter won out and compromised the historic design of the park. As a result, the E Street corridor west of the Ellipse road and extending west to 17th Street does not contribute to the historic character of President's Park South.

#### Walks

As for the walks in the park, they have undergone only minimal alterations since the historic period of significance. In 1966, new sidewalks were put in along the Ellipse road, and the walks in the northwest quadrant were reconstructed in 1967 (Boyle 2001: 314). Between 2004 and 2008 all sidewalks within the Ellipse area, including the elliptical shaped sidewalk, were replaced and relaid with precast, exposed aggregate concrete pavers. This work, however, did not relocate the historic circulation routes themselves (Office of the NPS Liaison to the White House, Personal communication, July 26, 2010). Consequently, a network of curving asphalt or concrete walks follows the Ellipse and associated roads, and marks the landscape to the west much as it did historically. These walks therefore contribute to the historic character of the park.

A short, narrow paved walkway runs north from the Zero Milestone to connect with the Ellipse road. At present, this walkway is inaccessible, closed off to the north by an iron post and chain fence and to the south by a gate set within a short, metal rod fence that runs along the elliptical shaped roadway from a point directly south of the Butt Millet Memorial Fountain to another point approximately equidistant on the east side. As a feature added after the period of significance, the short walkway between the Zero Milestone and the Ellipse road does not

contribute to the historic character of President's Park South.

In 1994, walks and a terrace paved in concrete and granite was installed around the new Visitor Pavilion on the northeast edge of the central Ellipse lawn. The terrace is accessed by shallow concrete steps, and additional concrete pavers connect it to the surrounding Ellipse walks. As a recent addition to the landscape, this terrace and its associated walks do not contribute to the historic character of the park.

The wide concrete sidewalk along Constitution Avenue, as well as the sidewalks along 15th and 17th Streets, have long defined the border of the site and therefore contribute to the historic character of the landscape. In particular, the section of bluestone sidewalk along 17th Street, installed in 1887 and identified by the List of Classified Structures, also contributes to the historic character of the site (Office of the NPS Liaison to the White House, Personal communication, June 18, 2010). The remaining portions of these sidewalks are composed of the same precast, exposed aggregate concrete pavers used within the Ellipse area.

A sidewalk of concrete pavers rings the central, oval shaped pool of the Boy Scout Commemorative Tribute. In response to issues with social trails and worn turf, a short paved walk was built between the Ellipse sidewalk and the Boy Scout Memorial in 2009 (Office of the NPS Liaison to the White House, Personal communication, June 1, 2010) (see Figure 14). As more recent additions, neither of these walks contribute to the historic character of the cultural landscape.

Around the circular concrete step beneath the octagonal base of the Butt Millet Memorial Fountain is a narrow concrete walk, which links up on the east side with the nearby Ellipse walk. This path was installed shortly after the fountain was built, and was later paved. It therefore dates to the period of significance, and contributes to the historic character of the cultural landscape (see Figure 15).

Surrounding the base of each of the Haupt Fountains, a brick pedestal extends into a circular brick terrace and walks that connect on either side to the sidewalks along Constitution Avenue and the Ellipse. As features added to the landscape in 1969 with no commemorative purpose or broader relationship to the original landscape designs for President's Park South, these terraces do not contribute to the historic character of the cultural landscape.

#### Temporary Roads and Social Trails

A temporary gravel road in the northeast quadrant of the Ellipse seasonally provides vehicular access for set up of the Lighting of the National Christmas Tree event. Due to the general absence of paved walks crossing through the landscape east of the Ellipse, a number of social trails are formed each summer by visitors cutting across the grass. As contemporary alterations to the landscape, these trails do not contribute to the historic character of the site.

Due to the general absence of paved walks crossing through the landscape east of the Ellipse, a number of social trails are formed each summer by visitors cutting across the grass. As contemporary alterations to the landscape, these trails do not contribute to the historic character of the site.

#### SHERMAN PARK

Today, Sherman Park still retains the 1934 layout of diagonal, 12 foot wide walkways leading to a central, rectangular walk around the statue. The plaza surrounding the General Sherman Statue was repaired between 1974 and 1976, replacing the marble mosaic floor with a terrazzo imitation that recreates the original design (Boyle 2001: 350; Thursby 1999:10). Having fallen into a deteriorated condition, the walks throughout the park were replaced with precast, exposed aggregate concrete London pavers and granite trim in 1991 (Boyle 2001: 350). As they did historically, the walks approach the statue at different grades depending on the topography, with a set of stairs incorporated into the path from the southeast corner. Along the park's outer edge, the sidewalks of 15th Street, E Street, South Executive Avenue and Hamilton Place define the site. Although these features themselves do not contribute to the site due to their recent replacement, the layout of the walks throughout Sherman Park contribute to the historic character of President's Park South. The E Street sidewalk is the only feature that does not contribute, due to its inconsistency with the historic designs for both Sherman Park and President's Park South.

#### FIRST DIVISION MONUMENT

Following the removal of the temporary barracks on the First Division Monument grounds in 1954, a series of alterations were made to this corner of President's Park South. In 1956, a wide path at grade with the main terrace of the monument was added on its north side, just off of State Place (Fernandez Duque 2002: 8). However, the landscape was not fully restored until 1957, when walks were laid in the park around the monument, a last work shed was removed, and the grounds were returned to green space (Fernandez Duque 2002: 9).

Today, the monument still stands on a terrace overlooking a diagonal path leading southeast from 17th Street to E Street. As an element described and depicted in the landscape before 1947, and recently reinstated as an official path, the layout of this path contributes to the historic character of the park. It is of precast, exposed aggregate concrete construction of the kind used throughout the Ellipse area and along Constitution Avenue and 15th and 17th Streets. The wide walk to the north of the monument and at grade with the terrace, though compatible with the monument, does not contribute to the historic character of the President's Park South landscape due to its more recent construction.

The sidewalks of 17th Street, State Place, E Street and South Executive Avenue flank the First Division Monument on all sides, and in 2009 and 2010, the National Park Service repaired and replaced deteriorated portions of these sidewalks (Office of the NPS Liaison to the White

House, Personal communication, July 26, 2010). All except the E Street walk contribute to the historic character of the landscape, since these circulation routes have defined this site since before the monument was built.

**Character-defining Features:**

Feature:      Ellipse road

Feature Identification Number:      144813

Type of Feature Contribution:      Contributing

IDLCS Number:      249247

Feature:      Three curving roads connecting the southeast, southwest, and northeast corners of the park to the Ellipse road

Feature Identification Number:      144815

Type of Feature Contribution:      Contributing

Feature:      South Executive Avenue

Feature Identification Number:      143933

Type of Feature Contribution:      Contributing

Feature:      State Place

Feature Identification Number:      143935

Type of Feature Contribution:      Contributing

Feature:      Hamilton Place

Feature Identification Number:      143937

Type of Feature Contribution:      Contributing

Feature:      E Street, NW, south of Sherman Park between 15th Street, NW, and the confluence of South and East Executive Avenues

Feature Identification Number:      144491

Type of Feature Contribution:      Contributing

Feature:      E Street, NW, west of the Ellipse road to 17th Street, NW

Feature Identification Number:      144493

Type of Feature Contribution:      Non Contributing

Feature:      Curving walks throughout the Ellipse

## President's Park South

### President's Park

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Feature Identification Number: 143949

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Walk leading to and encircling the Butt-Millet Memorial Fountain

Feature Identification Number: 144021

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Diagonal walks in Sherman Park

Feature Identification Number: 143953

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Diagonal walk across the grounds south of the First Division Monument

Feature Identification Number: 144023

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Exposed aggregate concrete walks connecting the east and west extensions to the central paved terrace of the First Division Monument

Feature Identification Number: 144025

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: 16th Street extension between Constitution Avenue and the Ellipse Road

Feature Identification Number: 144027

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Historic bluestone sidewalk along 17th Street

Feature Identification Number: 144029

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 249229

Feature: Sidewalks along Constitution Avenue, 15th Street, and 17th Street NW

Feature Identification Number: 144031

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Sidewalks along South Executive Avenue, State Place, and Hamilton Place

Feature Identification Number: 144045

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

President's Park South

President's Park

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Feature: E Street sidewalk south of Sherman Park

Feature Identification Number: 143967

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Short, narrow paved walkway connecting the Zero Milestone with the Ellipse road

Feature Identification Number: 144495

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Paved path leading from Ellipse sidewalk to Boy Scout Commemorative Tribute

Feature Identification Number: 144497

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Temporary gravel road installed on the Ellipse for the annual Lighting of the National Christmas Tree

Feature Identification Number: 144051

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: E Street sidewalk east of the Ellipse road to 15th Street, NW

Feature Identification Number: 144499

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Ellipse Visitor Pavilion terrace and associated walks

Feature Identification Number: 144055

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Social trails on east side of Ellipse

Feature Identification Number: 143979

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

**Landscape Characteristic Graphics:**



*Figure 12: Detail of Albert Boschke's Map of the District of Columbia, Surveyed in the Years 1856, 1857, 1858 & 1859, showing a planned or proposed arrangement for President's Park South (Library of Congress, Geography and Maps Division)*





*Figure 13: Girl Scouts on the Ellipse in 1917 (Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division, Harris and Ewing Collection)*



*Figure 14: Looking east toward the Boy Scout Memorial on the Ellipse (NCR CLP February 4, 2010)*



*Figure 15: Looking east from just south of E Street, toward the Butt-Millet Memorial Fountain (NCR CLP February 4, 2010)*

## **Vegetation**

### **Historic Conditions**

Although described by one early 1790s observer as an “immense and gloomy wilderness suitable for despotic governments but not for the United States,” the more than two centuries of work and development that followed have transformed the landscape of President’s Park South into a popular destination and national icon (Leach and Barthold 1993).

### **ELLIPSE**

#### **Ellipse Lawn and Outer Groves**

For more than a century, a sweeping grass lawn has marked the center of the Ellipse, leaving this area open for public use and the viewing of the primary vista north to the White House and south to the Jefferson Memorial. This basic open character was plainly visible in the earliest plans for the site, by both L’Enfant and Downing, though the actual development of this area for public use was not completed until the late nineteenth century. In 1791, L’Enfant envisioned this landscape as a “garden park” with axial views and an elliptical body of water near the north side, to the south of the White House Grounds (Boyle 2001: 18) (see Figure 5). Downing took a step further in 1851 when he illustrated the landscape with vegetation to complement this concept. His plan illustrates the "Parade or President's Park" as an open round space with a

row of trees on its inner side (Boyle 2001: 101, 107) (see Figure 11). Although the exact configuration of this vegetation during the 1850s is unknown, for the first time the key design concepts that were eventually realized in the Ellipse landscape began to become a reality.

A collection of twelve pear and eleven apple trees supplied to the White House in 1853 were probably planted in what is now President's Park South, possibly joining some elms that had already been planted there (Boyle 2001: 89). In the winter of 1854, following Downing's death, some 3,000 trees were purchased for planting on the grounds of the White House and throughout President's Park South. The quantity of trees that actually survived from this planting is unknown, but was probably somewhat less than this number, since a popular saying of the time instructed landscape designers to "Plant thick. Thin quick" (Boyle 2001: 101).

The lines of trees and other plantings outlined by Downing's plan had apparently been installed by 1860, but the landscape itself still suffered from ongoing drainage issues. Unfortunately, much of the vegetation and other features of the site were subsequently obliterated during the several years of use associated with the Civil War, during which time a number of temporary structures and high mounds were installed (Boyle 2001: 101-02). The years of intensive grading and infilling that followed the close of the war only served to further ruin whatever improvements might have survived, and the full extent of this destruction was not fully remedied until 1881, when the central area of President's Park South was sown in lawn seed and winter rye. That same year, the Ellipse road was completed and both sides of it were planted with lines of American elms (*Ulmus americana*). Meanwhile, on the west side of the Ellipse, outside the main drive, grading, topsoiling, and planting were still underway (Boyle 2001: 149). Plantings throughout the Ellipse continued in the succeeding years. Trees and shrubs were installed in the northeast and southwest corners of the park in 1882, including some 1,000 trees and shrubs that were transplanted from other reservations (Boyle 2001: 149). In 1883, 312 more trees were planted on the Ellipse, mostly in its western half, and numerous evergreen and deciduous trees were maintained and planted in the park the following year (Boyle 2001: 150). Work continued on the western portion of the Ellipse in 1886, when 450 flowering shrubs and 180 deciduous and evergreen trees were planted. The remaining gaps throughout the park were filled with a number of young trees installed around the Ellipse in 1890 (Boyle 2001: 150-51).

The process of vegetating the landscape continued in the 1890s, as park views and shaded areas were manipulated. In 1891, seven more American elms were planted along the east side of 17th Street, to the west of the Ellipse. That same year, fifteen deciduous and evergreen trees were removed from the southern part of the Ellipse and transplanted to the northwest corner, along with 22 large flowering shrubs (Boyle 2001: 151). In 1895, during construction of a large sewer line across the Ellipse between 15th and 17th Streets, a large number of these carefully planted trees and shrubs had to be removed and then replanted during landscape repairs following completion of the project (Boyle 2001: 152). A hurricane struck on September 29, 1896, and apparently destroyed some fifty of the finest and oldest trees on the grounds of the White House, and probably exacted similar damages throughout the Ellipse. At least 125 other trees in the area were damaged during the storm (Boyle 2001: 137). Maintenance work and

repairs followed in 1897, when eight dead trees were cut down and others were trimmed (Boyle 2001: 153).

By the early twentieth century, most of the large scale plantings on the Ellipse had ceased, and projects became more focused on smaller changes and the maintenance of existing trees, shrubs, and turf. In 1904, a bed of tropical plants was installed in the northeast corner of the Ellipse; and in 1916 twelve old trees were removed from the Ellipse grounds, even as 122 deciduous trees and 156 deciduous shrubs were planted in the same area. In 1914, seven large evergreen trees were planted around the fountain. To this were added three more large evergreens, six large deciduous shrubs, and thirty small, transplanted deciduous shrubs in 1918 (Boyle 2001: 207-08).

After so many years of extensive planting projects, the advice of landscape architects was finally sought with reference to the Ellipse in the late 1920s. In a hint of things to come, Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr., who was then serving as a member of the National Capital Park Planning Commission, offered his advice on changes to plantings on the White House Grounds in a note written on January 24, 1928, paying special attention to the improvement of views looking south from the residence (Boyle 2001: 197, 240). Soon afterwards, in 1935, he created a formal plan for the redesign of the White House Grounds that emphasized the clearing of a 150 foot wide viewing corridor on the south lawn. In the spring of that year, a partial clearing of the south vista from the White House to the Washington Monument grounds began in accordance with Olmsted's recommendations (Boyle 2001: 259). Concurrent with the construction of the Jefferson Memorial, this vista was extended south to its site along the Potomac River's Tidal Basin. By the time the memorial was completed in 1947, all of the obstructing trees within President's Park South had been removed, allowing for a clear viewing corridor all the way north to the White House and back. (Boyle 2001: 271; Office of the NPS Liaison to the White House, Personal communication, June 1, 2010).

#### National Christmas Tree

The tradition of having a tree for the holidays began in 1923, when President Coolidge illuminated a cut, 48 foot Balsam fir (*Abies balsamea*) donated by the President of Middlebury College with 2,500 electric bulbs. This original tree stood somewhere near the middle of the Ellipse, a location personally approved by First Lady Grace Coolidge (Boyle 2001: 209; National Park Service 2010). The location of the tree was subsequently shifted, in 1924, to a living Norway spruce in Sherman Park. In 1933, two Fraser firs (*Abies fraseri*) were planted on the east and west sides of the front of the Jackson Statue, in Lafayette Park. Beginning in 1934, these were used as the National Christmas Tree in alternating years until 1939, when the tree was moved back to a site just south of the center of the Ellipse (Boyle 2001: 266; National Park Service 2010). Both that year and for Christmas 1940, cut rather than living trees were used for the first time in more than a decade. In December of 1941, the National Christmas Tree was moved once more at the request of President Roosevelt, who wanted to offer a "more homey" ceremony closer to the White House (Boyle 2001: 260; National Park Service 2010). Two

oriental spruce trees (*Picea orientalis*), grown elsewhere since 1925, were transplanted to a location just inside the fence enclosing the south grounds of the White House, to be used as the National Christmas Tree on alternating years (Boyle 2001: 261; National Park Service 2010). During World War II, in 1942, 1943 and 1944, the National Christmas Tree was decorated, but not lit due to security concerns. The President continued to give remarks at the event or from his home in Hyde Park, New York. In 1945, lighting of the tree resumed after the three year hiatus (National Park Service 2010).

#### Second Division Memorial

Upon its completion in 1936, the Second Division Memorial stood in the middle of a grass lawn (Boyle 2001: 268; White 2005: 8 9). The memorial itself was apparently quite self contained, and design of the landscape around it was not a priority when it was originally installed. Design drawings for the structure depict the memorial standing on an open grass lawn to the south and a vague backdrop of trees to the north (White 2005).

#### SHERMAN PARK

The original design for Sherman Park focused on an open layout with quadrants of flowerbeds and lawn divided by a circular network of paths. Lawns were planted outside the park's system of walkways between 1904 and 1905, and a flower bed measuring twenty feet in diameter was planted in each of the four quadrants contained by the walks (Boyle 2001: 205; Thursby 1999: 10). A fairly dense concentration of vegetation was subsequently installed around the park. A total of thirty evergreens and fifty deciduous shrubs were planted there in 1905, followed by 176 more shrubs by the end of 1906 and 56 deciduous shrubs from 1918 to 1919. By 1923 a number of elm, maple, and spruce trees had also been added (Thursby 1999: 10; Boyle 2001: 208).

In 1924, the first living National Christmas tree, a Norway spruce (*Picea abies*), was planted on the west side of Sherman Park. Although the first National Christmas tree had stood the previous year in the middle of the Ellipse, this new living tree was dubbed the National Community Christmas Tree, and remained as such until 1933 when two trees in Lafayette Park assumed the title (Boyle 2001: 209; National Park Service 2010).

As a result of the heavy planting activities in the park since its construction, the growth of vegetation throughout the site had by the 1920s resulted in dramatic changes to its character. The original open, sweeping views were gone, now replaced by a dense concentration of vegetation around the statue that lent the site a less formal look (Thursby 1999: 11). Moreover, Olmsted considered the existing plantings to be generally "scrappy, confused, and trivial." Apart from a few plants, presumably trees, along 15th Street, there was little vegetation that he deemed worth saving (Olmsted 1931: 1). In response to this decline, a set of new designs were drawn up, based upon the recommendations of landscape architect Thomas C. Vint, Chief of Plants and Design for the National Park Service (DSC TIC NCP 23 91). These plans were

accepted by the Commission of Fine Arts on January 18, 1934, and over the course of that year the National Park Service worked to implement them. A double row of willow oaks (*Quercus phellos*) was planted along the west side of the site, which probably necessitated the removal of the Norway spruce that had formerly served as the National Christmas Tree. Additionally, single rows of willow oaks were planted on the east and north sides of Sherman Park. A low evergreen hedge also lined the outer perimeter of the new rectangular path around the statue, while two American elms (*Ulmus americana*) were installed on the south side of the park, to complement a cluster of the same trees then standing on the south side of E Street. All pre existing shrubs were removed from the landscape, and no trees were planted in the central panels north and south of the statue, in order to retain the primary north south, open axis of the site (Thursby 1999: 11).

The 1934 redesign of Sherman Park substantially altered the character of the 1920s landscape, but served to restore the simple, open feel depicted in the original site plans.

#### FIRST DIVISION MONUMENT

Little is known about the landscape surrounding the current site of the First Division Monument before the late nineteenth century. By the 1870s, however, efforts to shape this space began to emerge in connection with the development of President's Park South. In 1879, a thick row of evergreen trees was planted around the president's stables located on 17th Street south of the State, War and Navy Building, for the purpose of screening the building from the ornamental grounds south of the White House (Boyle 2001: 131). This screen was rendered still more robust in 1898, when extensive plantings were installed around the stables (Boyle 2001: 153).

Subsequent to the stables' removal from this location in 1911, a large bed of shrubbery was planted throughout the area south of the State, War, and Navy Building, purportedly to block the social trails (Boyle 2001: 207).

The construction of the First Division Monument in 1923 brought substantial change to this landscape. In preparation for its dedication, the vicinity of the structure was cleared and two rows of linden (*Tilia* sp.) trees were planted along the central north south axis of the site, thus emphasizing the view south to the Washington Monument ground (Horydczak 1920; Fernandez Duque 2002: 4, 7) (see Figure 16). Following its completion, the ground around the monument was sodded with grass, and a yew (*Taxus* sp.) hedge was planted at the top of the mound on each of its four sides (Boyle 2001: 209; Fernandez Duque 2002: 6). By 1926, additional plants were added to this hedge to fill in gaps on the west, south, and east sides of the structure, where steps had originally been proposed (Boyle 2001: 209). A healthy hedge was growing on the slope around the monument in 1930 (Fernandez Duque 2002: 6).

The landscaping in the area immediately south of the monument was disrupted with the construction of the temporary barracks in 1942 (Fernandez Duque 2002: 7; Boyle 2001: 267). However, a rehabilitation plan for Sherman Park dated July 6, 1954, shortly before the barracks

was removed, depicts eighty extant trees on the site, (National Park Service: 1954). Given these conditions, it would seem that serious effort was made to situate the building so as to harm the landscape as little as possible.

#### Existing Conditions

#### ELLIPSE

##### Ellipse Lawn and Outer Groves

The open lawn at the center of the Ellipse has changed only minimally since 1947. Still, the struggle for privacy at the White House has continued. Although their installation followed Olmsted's recommendations and did not interrupt the primary north south vista, great masses of holly (*Ilex* sp.), rhododendron (*Rhododendron* sp.), and mountain laurel (*Kalmia latifolia*) were planted just inside the south fence of the White House grounds in 1962 (Boyle 2001: 303).

On the Ellipse itself, the central lawn continues to be defined by the characteristic planting of American elms on either side of the Ellipse and other associated roads. Careful maintenance practices have helped to keep many of the historic specimens alive and well; however, a number of these trees have over the years been removed due to disease. American elms lost in this way have been replaced with new elms. Outside the Ellipse, adjacent areas are marked by large groups of mostly native canopy trees, ornamental or shade trees, and some shrubs that together serve to frame the central north south viewing corridor. The groves of trees to the east and west of the Ellipse include hackberry (*Celtis occidentalis*), white oak (*Quercus alba*), red maple (*Acer rubrum*), basswood (*Tilia americana*), and yellow buckeye (*Aesculus flava*). These areas also include the non native Japanese pagoda tree (*Styphnolobium japonica*), hedge maple (*Acer campestre*), Norway maple (*Acer platanoides*), horse chestnut (*Aesculus hippocastanum*), Japanese zelkova (*Zelkova serrata*), saw tooth oak (*Quercus accutissima*), Japanese elm (*Ulmus japonica* x *wilsoniana*), and English elm (*Ulmus carpinifolia*). Groups of bald cypress (*Taxodium distichum*) growing in each of the outer four corners of the Ellipse help to stabilize the poorly drained soil, while evergreens standing in the area west of the Ellipse help to shield the central lawn from the busy city streets nearby. Evergreen species in this area include American holly (*Ilex opaca*), Colorado blue spruce (*Picea pungens*), white pine (*Pinus strobus*), fir (*Abies* sp.), and the non native Siberia fir (*Abies sibirica*). A few flowering trees and shrubs also grow to the east and west of the Ellipse. These include the non native cornelian cherry (*Cornus mas*), star magnolia (*Magnolia stellata*), and the non native crape myrtle (*Lagerstroemia indica*). Large trees mark the Constitution Avenue panel south of the Ellipse with particular density, and a number of older trees are present on the south, east and west side panels (see Figure 3). The only planting on the open Ellipse lawn is the National Christmas Tree which is planted in the northeast quadrant of the Ellipse, close to the northern edge of the Ellipse. The location of the National Christmas Tree was not set in its current place until 1978 (Boyle 2001: 348).



A 2008 tree inventory of the Ellipse found that approximately forty trees are missing from this area, as illustrated in earlier planting plans, and fifteen yews (*Taxus* sp.) are missing from the First Division Monument landscape. A project is currently being processed for the replanting of these trees in the locations illustrated by planting plans (PMIS 146609).

The lawn throughout the Ellipse has remained fairly stable throughout the years, thanks to ongoing sodding and maintenance. English ivy (*Hedera helix*) has been removed from the landscape over the past three years, and other invasive plants have been well controlled thanks to ongoing maintenance (Wookun Kim, Personal communication, June 9, 2010). However, water still pools at the southern most areas of the Ellipse after heavy or prolonged periods of rain. Due to the high volume of pedestrian traffic and the recreational use of President's Park South, the turf is periodically fenced off for restoration.

#### National Christmas Tree

The National Christmas Tree returned to the Ellipse in 1954, where a series of evergreens has continued to represent this rite ever since (Boyle 2001: 312; Office of the NPS Liaison to the White House, Personal communication, June 18, 2010). 1954 was also the first year that the lighting ceremony was dubbed the Christmas Pageant of Peace. The event was moved from a celebration on Christmas Eve to a date three weeks earlier. In the interim a series of presentations by community organizations and other groups took place on the stage located on the Ellipse, and a "Pathway of Peace" lined with smaller trees representing each state, territory, and the District of Columbia was open to visitors (National Park Service 2010). In the first years after the removal of the National Christmas Tree to the Ellipse, a cut tree was used; but in 1973 a living tree was installed. Both it and its successor died quickly, prompting the National Park Service to conduct careful research into finding a hardier tree species that was better suited to the climate and conditions of the capital. A 30 foot tall, living Colorado blue spruce was planted in 1978, the generous donation of Mr. and Mrs. William E. Myers of York, Pennsylvania (Boyle 2001: 348). That tree is now 46 years old and stands on the north edge of the central Ellipse lawn, close to the Zero Milestone and slightly removed to the east of the central north south axis (Boyle 2001: 348; National Park Service 2010). The annual ceremony held here is now known as the Lighting of the National Christmas Tree.

#### Backup National Christmas Tree

The so called backup National Christmas Tree, originally intended as a substitute for the National Christmas Tree should it encounter serious health issues and deteriorate, stands to the southwest of the Ellipse road, immediately east of where the path from the 17th Street and Constitution Avenue intersection meets the Ellipse sidewalk. Although it is compatible with the overall cultural landscape, this backup tree was not included in historic plans for the site, and therefore does not contribute to its historic character. Moreover, it did not develop well and it would not be an adequate replacement for the National Christmas Tree should the need arise.



#### Second Division Memorial

A landscape development plan was finally prepared for the grounds around the Second Division Memorial in February of 1975. It called for the planting of hollies (*Ilex* sp.) and an ornamental floral display around the base of the monument (White 2005: 11). Judging from the current layout of the landscape, these recommendations were followed and have been maintained ever since. Today, the north side of the memorial is planted with American holly (*Ilex opaca*) and clipped hedges of Japanese holly (*Ilex crenata*). The flower beds at the base of the monument are seasonally planted with ornamental displays of pansies (*Viola* sp.), while select annuals grow on the east and west edges of the memorial.

#### Ellipse Visitor Pavilion

The shrubs, ornamentals and other vegetation associated with the landscape immediately around the Ellipse Visitor Pavilion have been installed since the construction of this building in 1994 and do not form a part of any of the historic site designs. As a result, this vegetation does not contribute to the historic character of President's Park South.

#### SHERMAN PARK

A number of the majestic willow oaks (*Quercus phellos*) and American elms (*Ulmus americana*) planted during the 1934 redesign of Sherman Park still survive today, and these sizeable trees dominate the park's four grassy quadrants much as they did historically. Two rows of these canopy trees stand on the park's west side, while a single row stands to the east. As remnants of the historic landscape, these trees contribute to the historic character of the park.

In other respects, however, the vegetation of the site has changed dramatically over the years. During rehabilitation of the park in 1991, all pre existing flowers and shrubs were removed and reinstalled (Boyle 2001: 350). Today's vegetation reflects these replantings. Along the walkways around the General Sherman Statue, rows of low boxwood (*Buxus microphylla*) shrubs flank beds of Japanese holly (*Ilex crenata*), which were planted in 1991. Ornamental flower beds are located on the outer side of the hedge in each of the site's four quadrants. Beds of azalea (*Rhododendron* sp.) stand on either side of the corner entrances to the park; an addition that was probably made in the 1960s, as part of Lady Bird Johnson's movement to beautify the District of Columbia (Thursby 1999: 12; Boyle 2001: 350). Consequently, although the site is marked by a number of older trees that contribute to its historic character, much of the other ground cover has been recently added. The vegetation of Sherman Park therefore retains an overall moderate level of integrity.

## FIRST DIVISION MONUMENT

The current vegetation of the First Division Monument grounds has changed slightly since the period of significance, in part due to the two extensions that have taken place since 1947. In 1954, following the removal of the temporary barracks structure south of the monument, the National Park Service began the process of rehabilitating the park landscape to its historic layout (Fernandez Duque 2002: 8). Preparations for the World War II extension to the west of the monument in 1956 included the addition of a dry laid stone tree well on the west side of the south steps leading to the monument (Fernandez Duque 2002: 9). When the Vietnam extension was added to the opposite side of the monument in 1977, two identical tree wells were added to the southern slope, as a mirror to the first (Office of the NPS Liaison to the White House, Personal communication, June 1, 2010). All three of these wells were planted with large hardwood or canopy trees, and prevented root suffocation in the steep slope.

As part of Lady Bird Johnson's landscape plans to beautify the District of Columbia, a planting plan was developed for the area to the south of the First Division Monument, by the corner of 17th and E Streets. In 1965, this plan called for the planting of marigolds (*Tagetes* sp.) followed by Toronto chrysanthemums (*Chrysanthemum* sp.). The 1966 plan for the same area featured Joannette chrysanthemums (*Chrysanthemum* 'Joannette') and petunias (*Petunia* sp.) (Boyle 2001: 312).

Lady Bird Johnson's beautification program also included a large, 181 foot long flower bed shaped like a numeral one and planted to the south of the First Division Monument and east of the south steps in 1965. Since then, this bed has been reduced in size and plantings have included red tulips (*Tulipa* sp.) in the spring, and red begonias (*Begonia* sp.) in summer (Fernandez Duque 2002: 9).

Today, the extensions on either side of the monument also include large, flat planting beds. To the south of the monument, a number of basswood trees (*Tilia americana*) provide shade without blocking the views of the Ellipse and the Washington Monument to the south (see Figure 17). Some of these trees were damaged during Hurricane Isabel in 2003, but were replanted after the original planting plan for the site during a rehabilitation project in 2009 (Office of the NPS Liaison to the White House, Personal communication, June 18, 2010). The monument itself is still surrounded by a yew (*Taxus* sp.) hedge, much as it was historically. As features of the landscape that existed during the period of significance, the yew hedge and smaller trees south of the monument contribute to the historic character of President's Park South. Other, more recently added vegetation does not contribute to the cultural landscape. This includes the numeral one flower bed and the ornamental plantings at the corner of 17th and E Streets. It also includes the canopy trees in the tree wells on the south slope, which were not part of the original design for the monument landscape, but are compatible.

**Character-defining Features:**

Feature:	Rows of willow oaks along the west, east, and north sides of Sherman Park
Feature Identification Number:	144095
Type of Feature Contribution:	Contributing

## President's Park South

### President's Park

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Feature: Two American elms on the south side of Sherman Park

Feature Identification Number: 144097

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Low hedge around the outer perimeter of the central, rectangular walkway of Sherman Park

Feature Identification Number: 144099

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Cultural tradition of the National Christmas Tree and its location within the boundaries of President's Park South

Feature Identification Number: 144101

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 45508

Feature: Open central Ellipse lawn

Feature Identification Number: 144103

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Large deciduous, shade or canopy trees to the east, west, and south of the Ellipse

Feature Identification Number: 144105

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Large evergreen trees to the west of the Ellipse

Feature Identification Number: 144107

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Yew hedge around the First Division Monument

Feature Identification Number: 144109

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Lindens around the First Division Monument

Feature Identification Number: 144111

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Azalea beds at the corner entrances to Sherman Park

President's Park South

President's Park

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Feature Identification Number: 144113

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Japanese holly in Sherman Park

Feature Identification Number: 144115

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Backup National Christmas Tree

Feature Identification Number: 144117

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Holly, American holly, and flower beds on the grounds of the Second Division Memorial

Feature Identification Number: 144119

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Flower bed in the shape of a one south of the First Division Monument

Feature Identification Number: 144121

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Basswood in the lawn south of the First Division Monument

Feature Identification Number: 144123

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Ornamental plantings at 17th and E Streets

Feature Identification Number: 144125

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Landscaping and vegetation associated with the Ellipse Visitor Pavilion

Feature Identification Number: 144127

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing



**Landscape Characteristic Graphics:**



*Figure 16: View looking north toward the First Division Monument ca. 1920s (Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division, Theodore Horydczak Collection)*



*Figure 17: Looking south from the First Division Monument (NCR CLP February 4, 2010)*

## **Buildings and Structures**

### Historic Conditions

#### ELLIPSE

#### Bulfinch Gatehouses

In 1828, two sandstone gatehouses designed by architect Charles Bulfinch were erected at the west entrance to the U.S. Capitol grounds, on First Street. Eight piers with identical sculptured friezes were also installed nearby. Bulfinch was the first native-born professional architect in the United States, and helped originate the Early Republican or Federal style of architecture through his work in Boston between 1790 and 1825. Appointed architect of the U.S. Capitol Building in 1817, he shouldered the task of rebuilding after the destruction wrought by the 1814 British invasion of Washington, DC (Goode 2008: 117). The gatehouses he designed for the grounds of the Capitol were described by fellow Washington architect Robert Mills as “grand entrances...highly ornamented for watch houses” (Mills 1834: 4-5).

When the re-landscaping of the Capitol grounds began in 1874 under the direction of Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr., the Bulfinch Gatehouses and associated features were removed. In 1880, the three Bulfinch Gateposts were relocated to Constitution Avenue (see description in section on small-section features), or what was then known as B Street, NW. The two gatehouses were rebuilt in the southeast and southwest corners of the Ellipse, near the corner of

Constitution Avenue and 15th Street, NW, and Constitution Avenue and 17th Street, NW (Goode 2008: 117).

The Bulfinch Gatehouses are basically identical in construction and design. Both are one-room, Neoclassical structures built of Aquia Creek sandstone that measure approximately fifteen feet square and twelve feet high. Each building features an arched doorway flanked by engaged Tuscan columns that are also repeated on the rear walls, and a single window of six over six wooden sash is centered in both sidewalls. Within the heavy, bracketed entablature, a central panel frieze of sculpted foliage with an acanthus leaf and rosette motif comprises the most ornamental element of the design. This panel is located above the entrance and sits atop a continuous frieze of carved Greek guilloche design that runs around the perimeter of the gatehouse, just below the level of the flat roof. Decorative quoins protrude outward at each of the four corners and are divided into seven horizontal bands (Goode 2008: 117; HABS DC-31).

Two inscriptions cut into the east façade of the 15th Street gatehouse mark the high water lines reached during the great floods of 1877 and 1881. Subsequent to these calamities, the Bulfinch gatehouses underwent a series of repairs. In 1889, the 17th Street building was repaired and outfitted with a new roof after the old copper roof was stolen. That on 15th Street underwent repairs and maintenance work in 1893. Both gatehouses received further repairs in 1897 (Boyle 2001: 151-53). By the 1930s, they had settled slightly, and in response the National Park Service fully restored both structures in the winter of 1938-9 (Goode 2008: 117).

#### Second Division Memorial

The Second Division Memorial is a large, granite portal originally erected in honor of the Second Division soldiers of the U.S. Army who gave their lives in World War I, between 1917 and 1919. Approved by an Act of Congress on March 3, 1931, it was privately funded and dedicated by the Second Division Memorial Association on July 18, 1936 (White 2005: 1-5).

The location for the memorial was a matter of prolonged debate in the early 1930s, as various parties voiced concerns about crowding the Ellipse with military monuments. As described by one source, “there were concerns that if the Second Division, as well as the First Division dedicated in 1924, had memorials on the Ellipse, other groups would begin to lobby for the same privilege” (White 2005: 7). Although originally approved for placement in Arlington National Cemetery, Congress broadened the location to include all of Washington, DC, in its 1931 act of authorization. The final site determination was made by the Commission of Fine Arts, which had also considered locations in Rock Creek Park, East Potomac Park, and directly south of the Butt-Millet Memorial Fountain on the Ellipse (White 2005: 5-8). At the time, the establishment of a single national monument to World War I was also discussed, while the Commission of Fine Arts had apparently already “allotted sites on the east half of the Ellipse to the Fourth Division Memorial and the Original Patentees of the District Memorial” in 1935 (White 2005: 8). This was indeed the location chosen for the Original Patentees of the District of Columbia Memorial in 1936, but the proposed Fourth Division Memorial was never realized.

In defense of the final site chosen for the Second Division Memorial, Charles Moore of the Commission of Fine Arts insisted that both this structure and the First Division Monument were “designed specifically for their sites in President’s Park” (White 2005: 8). The Second Division Memorial was ultimately erected at a site north of Constitution Avenue (then known as B Street) between 16th and 17th Streets, in a spot surrounded by grassy lawn. It was designed and created by two prominent and internationally-recognized artists: architect John Russell Pope and sculptor James Earle Fraser (Ronsisvalle 1985: 42; White 2005). A flaming, gilded bronze sword measuring eight feet tall guards the entrance to the portal, a symbol of the Allied forces’ defense of Paris from the German advance (Horydczak ca. 1920-50) (see Figure 18). The granite for the structure came from Stony Creek, Connecticut, and two wreaths were carved to flank the gateway entrance. The insignia of the Second Division, the head of an Indian chief on a star, was proudly embossed on the sword’s hilt. The names of the Second Division’s World War I battles were inscribed on either wing of the portal, while the granite pedestal supporting the central sculpture reads “To Our Dead 1917-1919.” All lettering for the memorial was V-cut and filled with gold leaf (Mackintosh 1980: 7.2; White 2005).

#### SHERMAN PARK

##### Clark Mills’ Studio

In 1849, a furnace and artist’s studio were erected to the south of the Treasury Building at 15th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, the current site of Sherman Park. These facilities were occupied by sculptor Clark Mills, who had recently been commissioned to create a sculpture of former President and Major General Andrew Jackson. Mills’ bronze masterpiece depicts Jackson in his military role and is the first equestrian statue created in the United States. It was dedicated on January 8, 1853 at the center of Lafayette Park, where it remains to this day. All of Mills’ work, including the finished statue and several failed attempts, was carried out over the intervening four years at his foundry in the northeast corner of what is today President’s Park South (Goode 2008: 469).

##### Treasury Photograph Lab

Sometime during the Civil War, the U.S. Treasury Photographic Lab was built on the future site of Sherman Park. This relatively small but ornamental Victorian building was used to develop the photographs taken to serve as backup copies of the original designs for the hundreds of courthouses, post offices, and other government structures designed throughout the United States by the Office of the Supervising Architect of the Treasury. The photographic lab and was constructed some time between July 1862 and September 1865. A greenhouse used by the Treasury Department is also said to have been located in the vicinity. Both structures were taken down shortly before construction of the General Sherman Statue and surrounding park, or around 1899 (Boyle 2001: 149, 153; Office of the NPS Liaison to the White House, Personal communication, June 18, 2010; Thursby 1999: 7).



### General Sherman Statue

The General Sherman Statue was dedicated on October 15, 1903, in honor of Union General William Tecumseh Sherman, whose march through Georgia to capture Savannah remains equally one of the most famous and most notorious events of the American Civil War. Located in the square at northeast corner of President's Park South, and bounded by Hamilton Place, 15th Street, E Street, and East Executive Avenue, the statue and surrounding plaza together form Sherman Park (Mackintosh 1980: 7.1). This particular site was chosen for the statue because General Sherman is said to have stood there while reviewing Civil War troops returning from the battlefield in 1865 (Thursby 1999: 2).

Approved by Act of Congress July 5, 1892, the statue was erected jointly by the United States government and the Society of the Army of the Tennessee. General Sherman commanded the Army of the Tennessee during the Civil War, became Commanding General of the U.S. Army in 1869. The monument was designed by architect Carl Rohl-Smith and, following his untimely death in 1900, his wife Sara Rohl-Smith. It features a fourteen-foot, bronze equestrian statue of the Civil War-period Sherman facing north, mounted on a granite pedestal standing at the center of a square platform. Still one of the most elaborate monuments in Washington, the General Sherman Statue includes a variety of sculpted elements. On the south side of the statue is a bronze eagle, and to the east is a bronze group of figures called "Peace." This group is balanced on the west side with a corresponding cluster of bronze figures called "War." Four bronze relief tablets depicting various scenes and eight overlapping relief medallions are located around the lower half of the column supporting the statue. At each corner of the terrace around the central column, a life-size soldier stands facing outward as a symbolic representation of the army's four branches: infantry, artillery, cavalry, and engineers (Thursby 1999; Ronsisvalle 1985: 45).

Although Carl Rohl-Smith supervised the initial work on the monument, a number of artists contributed to the effort following his death. The equestrian statue of Sherman himself was created by Lauritz Jensen; the soldier statues, by Sigvald Asbjornsen; the eight low-relief portrait medallions, by Theo A. Ruggles Kitson; the War and Peace groups, by Stephen Sinding; and the eagle, by Gordon S. Kray (Thursby 1999: 8-9).

From each cardinal direction, a flight of seven stone steps leads up to the terrace around the statue. A mosaic measuring some six feet wide paves the landing below these steps, and from there descends to the surrounding pavement via two more steps. The mosaic is inlaid with the names of all of Sherman's battles.

Landscaping plans for Sherman Park were developed in early 1903 by Colonel Thomas W. Symons, who at the time was serving as Superintendent of the Office of Public Buildings and Grounds (Thursby 1999: 10). Following its completion later that year, the General Sherman Statue and vicinity were designated as "Sherman Plaza," and landscaping began (Boyle 2001:

205; Thursby 1999: 10). From 1913 to 1915 a number of improvements were made to Sherman Park, including repairs to the mosaic floor around the statue's base. The joints in the pedestal and steps were also cleaned and repointed at this time. The pavement on the east side of the monument was repaired between 1918 and 1919 (Boyle 2001: 207).

Beginning in 1932, the National Park Service's Branch of Plans and Design prepared a series of drawings for alterations to Sherman Park, based on the suggestions of landscape architects Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr., and Gilmore D. Clark (Thursby 1999: 11). These plans eventually led to the redesign of the entire park in 1934, subsequent to designs recommended by NPS landscape architect Thomas C. Vint. These new designs mostly affected the landscape around the monument, however, and did not impact the statue itself.

#### Sculptor's Studio

During construction of the General Sherman Statue, a large, angular sculptor's studio was built to provide a sheltered location for the creation of the site's various sculptures, as well as housing for the sculptors (Boyle 2001: 154). It was in place on the southwest corner of the site by June 1898, and a temporary track used to study the plaster models of the various statues outdoors in the sunlight was also installed (Thursby 1999: 7). As a feature related to creation of the statue and unrelated to the landscape design for the site, the sculptor's studio was presumably removed soon afterwards, during the completion of Sherman Park.

#### FIRST DIVISION MONUMENT

##### President's Stables

After the president's stables burned down on February 10, 1864, new stables were built along today's West Executive Avenue, near the original Navy Department Building and probably just outside the present White House Grounds (Boyle 2001: 91-93, 126). With construction of the new State, War, and Navy Building in 1871, the stables were relocated again; this time to a site in the Ellipse area, on 17th Street, NW, opposite E Street and at the south edge of the future First Division Monument grounds. A fence surrounded the forecourt of the new building, and two piers stood in the entryway (Boyle 2001: 126).

The stables were enlarged between 1882 and 1883, and underwent repairs throughout the 1880s (Boyle 2001: 132-33). By the late 1880s an old wooden stable, or shed, that stood nearby was taken down and rebuilt as an addition to the main stables (Boyle 2001: 151). The stables were torn down in 1911, and this area was planted with a large bed of shrubbery to prevent trespassing the following year (Boyle 2001: 207).

##### First Division Monument

The First Division Monument features a winged, bronze statue of Victory standing atop a

column crafted from a single piece of pink Milford granite, together measuring eighty feet high. Approved by Congress and President Warren Harding on December 16, 1921, the monument was dedicated on October 4, 1924 (Fernandez-Duque 2002: 1-2; Ronsisvalle 1985: 15). At this event, President Calvin Coolidge delivered a speech to more than six thousand veterans, including General John Pershing and General Charles Summerall. As seen in a 1920s photograph taken shortly after its completion, the monument stands directly south of the Eisenhower Executive Office Building and north of the Ellipse, at State Place and 17th Street, NW (Horydczak ca. 1920) (see Figure 16). It was erected in honor of the soldiers of the First Division of the American Expeditionary Force who gave their lives for their country during World War I, whose 5,599 names are inscribed on a series of bronze plates at the base of the memorial. The monument also bears the names of the Division's various campaigns and battle honors. Artist Daniel Chester French designed the fifteen-foot tall statue of a Winged Victory. The allegorical figure stands on a sphere and carries a flag in her right hand. Cass Gilbert designed the monument (Fernandez-Duque 2002: 1-6).

A set of granite steps were added to the north side of the First Division Monument in 1926 in order to provide access to the paved area around its base (Boyle 2001: 209). In 1939, the National Park Service assumed custody of the monument, which had previously been managed by the First Division Monument Association (Fernandez-Duque 2002: 6).

As stated by one source, the First Division Monument "is a symbol of American valor and the sacrifice of soldiers on the fields of battle. The design of the monument is an example of the early twentieth-century shift away from representation of a single event or individual in memorials" (Fernandez-Duque 2002: 12). A number of the other memorials erected in President's Park South later that century followed this precedent, including the Second Division Memorial, the Boy Scout Commemorative Tribute, and the Original Patentees of the District of Columbia Memorial.

#### Temporary Barracks

In 1942, construction began on a two-story temporary barracks immediately south of the First Division Monument. This structure housed the special troops charged with protecting the president during and after World War II. Occupying the entire area south of the monument, it seriously impinged upon the designed landscape but did not result in its complete destruction (Fernandez-Duque 2002: 7; Boyle 2001: 267). The barracks were removed in the spring of 1954 (Boyle 2001: 268).

#### Existing Conditions

Almost all of the buildings and structures present in the historic landscape of President's Park South still exist today, and therefore retain a high level of integrity and contribute to the historic character of the site.

## ELLIPSE

### Bulfinch Gatehouses

In 1950, the National Capital Sesquicentennial Commission affixed a bronze plaque with a brief history of the Bulfinch Gatehouses to each structure's front façade. Later, on September 6, 1973, the Bulfinch Gatehouses were individually listed on the National Register of Historic Places (Dillon 1973). During 2007 and 2008 the lead-based paints on the interior surfaces of the Bulfinch Gatehouses were encapsulated. The interiors were repainted historic colors based on paint analysis prior to encapsulation (Office of the NPS Liaison to the White House, Personal communication, August 11, 2010). Today, they continue to stand in the southeast and southwest corners of President's Park South, and are some of the earliest surviving features of the landscape. Only minor differences exist between the two buildings, and these can probably be attributed to the 1938-39 restoration. For instance, the gatehouse at 15th Street is situated on a cement foundation and has its columns sunk into the adjacent pavement, while its counterpart on 17th Street rests atop a cobbled brick foundation and its columns are supported by aboveground cement blocks. Despite such irregularities, both gatehouses retain a high level of historic integrity, and contribute to the historic character of President's Park South.

### Second Division Memorial

Although the Second Division Memorial was erected to honor the fallen soldiers of World War I, the division's involvement in wars over the succeeding decades necessitated further commemoration of their dead. With this in mind, two additional panels with low granite walls and flagpoles were added to either side of the original monument and dedicated on June 20, 1962 (White 2005: 10-11). These panels recognize the Second Division battles of World War II, on the west side, and the Korean War, on the east side (Boyle 2001: 312; White 2005: 11). Today the memorial commemorates those who served and died in the Second Division through all three wars (White 2005: 1).

Several projects to maintain the memorial have been undertaken since the last addition was made. In 1980, the gold leaf on the sword sculpture and lettering were restored, and all masonry was repointed. In 1993, the memorial was cleaned and the lettering and gold leaf on the sword sculpture were again restored, and the entire structure was rehabilitated between 2002 and 2003. This project included the replacement of the caulking between sections of granite, the cleaning of the entire monument, the repainting of the flagpoles, and the regilding and realignment of the eagle finials (White 2005: 11). In large part thanks to its ongoing maintenance, the memorial retains a high level of integrity to the historic period of significance. As an element of President's Park South that correlates with the historic use and design of the overall landscape, and that was created by prominent architect John Russell Pope and renowned sculptor James Earle Fraser, this structure contributes to the historic character of the site (Ronsisvalle 1985: 42; White 2005: 11). Lights used in illuminating the flagpole at night

have also been installed since 2005.

#### Ellipse Visitor Pavilion

In 1976, a visitor kiosk was installed in the northeast corner of the Ellipse as part of the Bicentennial celebrations in order to better meet the needs of a growing number of visitors. In 1994, a new Ellipse Visitor Pavilion replaced this structure as well as an associated souvenir sales kiosk, a refreshment stand, and an underground restroom facility (Boyle 2001: 349). Technically a temporary structure, the pavilion is a one-story stucco structure located along the main drive on the northeast corner of the Ellipse and designed by Mary Oehrlein and Associates. The low-pitched, hipped roof is supported by twenty-four cast-stone columns and surrounded by a cast concrete and granite terrace that connects to the surrounding network of Ellipse walks. Shallow concrete steps lead up to the terrace, which is surrounded by low concrete walls. The building includes restroom facilities, a gift shop, and a snack bar, as well as a reception area for visitor information. The pavilion is not only a fairly recent addition to the landscape, but it is inconsistent with the historic designs for this part of President's Park South. As a result, it does not contribute to the historic character of the cultural landscape (Boyle 2001: 351).

#### Temporary Security Booths

Three white, one-story temporary security booths stand on the east end of the E Street corridor near 15th Street, two larger booths and one smaller sentry box. Standing opposite one of the larger among these, at the intersection of E Street and East Executive Avenue, is a fourth large temporary booth of similar construction. Two more temporary security booths, a sentry box and a larger booth, are located at the west end of E Street at 17th Street.

As features added to the site since 2001, these temporary buildings do not contribute to the historic character of the cultural landscape.

### SHERMAN PARK

#### General Sherman Statue

On several occasions in the second half of the twentieth century, Sherman Park became the target of vandalism. At some point between 1955 and 1963, vandals broke off the top half of the sword held by the artillery soldier on the southeast corner of the statue and stole the saber of the cavalry soldier situated in the northeast corner of the monument, in addition to the badge of the Society of the Army of the Tennessee (Thursby 1999: 10). Long an element vulnerable to deterioration, the marble mosaic floor of the monument was again repaired between 1974 and 1976. As part of the work, the original marble was replaced with a terrazzo imitation that followed the old design (Boyle 2001: 350; Thursby 1999: 10). The five-foot-wide American eagle with outspread wings that once stood on the south side of the statue base was removed

by vandals in 1976. It was recently replaced with a bronze eagle created by Gordon S. Kray and installed in 2005 (Office of the NPS Liaison to the White House, Personal communication, June 18, 2010).

Further repairs took place throughout the Sherman Park landscape in 1991, as part of a major rehabilitation project (Boyle 2001: 350). Since 1990, the National Park Service has cleaned the bronze and granite components and waxed the bronze pieces of the General Sherman Statue every three years (Thursby 1999: 10). In 2005, the five-foot bronze American eagle with outspread wings, previously stolen from the south side of the statue was replaced with a new sculpture by Gordon S. Kray. The soldier figure at the southwest corner was balanced and secured (Office of the NPS Liaison to the White House, Personal communication, August 11, 2010).

Thanks in part to the ongoing maintenance schedule, the monument has changed relatively little since its construction in 1903, and still stands at the center of the small park east of the White House grounds and south of the Treasury Building. Some minor spalling is evident in the surface and edges of the two granite steps leading up to the mosaic floor, while the floor itself has some cracks around the corner pedestals. On the whole, however, the statue retains a high level of integrity, and contributes to the historic character of the park.

#### FIRST DIVISION MONUMENT

Following the removal of the temporary barracks south of the First Division Monument in 1954, the National Park Service cleaned the structure and regilded the Victory statue (Fernandez-Duque 2002: 8).

Since its original construction in 1924, the First Division Monument has undergone three separate additions. On August 24, 1957, a terrace extension bearing the names of the 4,365 First Division soldiers lost in World War II was built out to the west from the central column. The names of the fallen are inscribed on bronze tablets in exedra form, while a small stele, or slab, lists the First Division's World War II campaigns. Designed by Cass Gilbert, Jr., son of the architect for the original World War I monument, the World War II addition was authorized by an Act of Congress approved on June 24, 1947. The dedication ceremony for this section of the monument was presided over by General Clarence Huebner, who had served as commander of the First Division during World War II (Fernandez-Duque 2002: 7-9; Ronsisvalle 1985: 15-16).

On August 23, 1974, another Act of Congress authorized a second addition to the First Division Monument, on its east side. A terrace similar to the 1957 addition was erected here and dedicated in 1977 to honor the dead of the First Division, United States Forces in Vietnam. This extension, like the earlier one, bears the names of the fallen on bronze tablets in exedra form (Ronsisvalle 1985: 16; Mackintosh 1980: 7.2).

The addition of a plaque to the twenty-seven First Division soldiers who died in Operation Desert Storm was made to the monument in 1995. It stands on the terrace east of the column, just inside the planting bed in the Vietnam extension (Fernandez-Duque 2002: 11).

The First Division Monument was rehabilitated in 2001. This project included the cleaning and regilding of the Victory statue and the cleaning and waxing of the bronze tablets. The granite was also repaired and cleaned while the cobblestone plaza was repointed (Fernandez-Duque 2002: 11).

**Character-defining Features:**

Feature: Bulfinch gatehouse near the corner of Constitution Avenue and 15th Street,  
NW

Feature Identification Number: 144129

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 11987

Feature: Bulfinch gatehouse near the corner of Constitution Avenue and 17th Street,  
NW

Feature Identification Number: 144131

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 11988

Feature: General Sherman Statue

Feature Identification Number: 144133

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 7300

Feature: Design of the terrazzo plaza surrounding the General Sherman Statue

Feature Identification Number: 144135

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 7300

Feature: First Division Monument

Feature Identification Number: 144137

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 7296

Feature: Second Division Memorial

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Feature Identification Number: 144139

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 12908

Feature: Boy Scout Commemorative Tribute

Feature Identification Number: 144227

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

IDLCS Number: 7295

LCS Structure Name: Boy Scout Commemorative Tribute

LCS Structure Number: 01-13

Feature: Ellipse Visitor Pavilion

Feature Identification Number: 144141

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: E Street security booths

Feature Identification Number: 144143

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

**Landscape Characteristic Graphics:**



*Figure 18: Circa 1936-50 view of the Second Division Memorial, looking north from Constitution Avenue (Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division, Theodore Horydczak Collection)*



## Land Use

### Historic Conditions

In large part due to their national visibility, the various component landscapes of President's Park South have been used for a number of different purposes over the years, of which only a sampling are described in the following paragraphs. Beginning with the federal government's initial purchase of the property in 1792, these acres were open to the use and disposal of the American public. Prior to that point, the land had probably been used by local groups of Native Americans, and was owned by several different landowners of European descent. By 1792, it was the property of David Burnes (also spelled Burns), who used it as pastureland for his livestock and possibly some crop cultivation (McNeil 1991: 42, 43, 45).

In the plans drawn up by Pierre Charles L'Enfant and Andrew Ellicott, the grounds south of the future White House are depicted for the first time as a garden park overlooking the Potomac River (L'Enfant 1791; Ellicott 1792) (see Figure 5 and 6). Walks are illustrated connecting the White House to the Capitol, and the land known today as President's Park South stretches down from the White House toward Tiber Creek (Boyle 2001: 18). By 1807, more elaborate ideas began to develop regarding this piece of land. In a note to President Thomas Jefferson on March 17, architect Benjamin Latrobe mentioned his inspiration to create a direct link between the "pleasure ground at the President's house" with the future Potomac Park and Washington Monument grounds area (Benjamin Latrobe to Thomas Jefferson, March 17, 1807; Boyle 2001: 23).

Despite these various plans for a pleasure ground, the vicinity of the future President's Park South was not fully distinguished as a separate space until Jefferson had an 8-foot-high stone wall erected around the perimeter of the grounds south of the mansion. This new, substantial barrier defined the perimeter of the White House grounds for the first time as a space apart from President's Park (Boyle 2001: 24).

Beginning with the initial development of President's Park South into a more developed landscape according to Andrew Jackson Downing's 1851 plan, it became an increasingly popular spot for public recreation, including walking, horseback riding, carriage riding, and later automobile driving, along the various roads and walkways (Boyle 2001: 98-99).

In subsequent years, the vicinity of President's Park South was used for a broad variety of public events and activities, with the open lawn of the Ellipse proving particularly attractive. During the Civil War, from 1861 to 1865, this area was utilized as a military barracks, parade ground, stockyard, and grazing area. As described by one source, "the open common was commandeered by the Union troops and used as a corral for cattle and horses" (Leach and Barthold 1993). Anywhere from two to four barracks were located in this area at the time, and by the end of the war the so-called "White Lot," or Ellipse, was described in the Annual Report

of the Commissioner of Public Buildings as “almost a desert” (Boyle 2001: 98, 103; Pousson and Hoepfner 1995). The grass of the Ellipse was once again damaged when it was used for a military drill in 1887 (Boyle 2001: 150). Despite the damage caused by these activities, military drills continued to take place here, as yeomen of the Navy and high school cadets were photographed during exercises on the Ellipse in 1919 (Harris and Ewing 1919a; Harris and Ewing 1919c) (see Figure 19). The Knights Templar held their annual field day here on October 21, 1925 (Harris and Ewing 1925). Meanwhile, other areas of the park were put to utilitarian uses as well. For example, horses and livestock were grazed on the Ellipse throughout its history, including during the Civil War.

By 1910, the Marine Band was giving concerts on portable bandstands installed on the Ellipse, held each Saturday morning during the summer and on Easter Monday (Boyle 2001: 207). The accessibility and highly visible quality of this area continued to attract a range of public events in subsequent years. For instance, “Fourth of July Tableau” events were held here in 1918 and 1919. These occasions featured dancers and a collection of living statues in flowing robes and full regalia, representing a range of classical figures such as “Victory” and “Columbia” (Harris and Ewing 1918; Harris and Ewing 1919b) (see Figure 20).

The Ellipse was increasingly employed for a range of recreational activities during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, from drives and walks to games. In 1918, three grass tennis courts were laid out in the southeast corner of the Ellipse, just inside the curving walk near 15th and B Streets. That same year, a new volleyball court was also installed in the southwest corner (Boyle 2001: 208). A set of photographs from 1939 show visitors playing horseshoes on the east side, and field hockey inside, the Ellipse (Williams and Forbes 1939) (see Figure 21). By 1942, baseball games were being held on several diamonds inside the Ellipse on summer afternoons, and especially on Sundays (Collins 1942).

As evidenced by the number of built features throughout the landscape, President’s Park South has been a popular site for the construction of monuments and memorials since the late nineteenth century. These include the Butt-Millet Memorial Fountain, the Sherman Statue and surrounding park, the Zero Milestone, the First Division Monument, the Original Patentees of the District of Columbia Memorial, the Second Division Memorial, the Boy Scout Commemorative Tribute, and the John Saul Plaque. The park’s proximity to the White House, the Washington Monument grounds, and the heart of the District of Columbia’s monumental core have made it one of the capital’s top visitor destinations.

In addition, President’s Park South was used as a ceremonial ground for the National Christmas Tree beginning in 1923. Although the tree was relocated several times over the years, use of the park for this purpose was a tradition throughout much of the historic period of significance. The tree was located in Lafayette Park from 1934 to 1938, on the Ellipse in 1939 and 1940, and within the south White House Grounds from 1941 to 1953 (Boyle 2001: 260, 312; National Park Service 2010; Office of the NPS Liaison to the White House, Personal communication, June 18, 2010).

### Existing Conditions

The Ellipse area is frequented by visitors from throughout the country and the world. Tuesday through Saturday tours of the White House are staged from the vicinity of Sherman Park. During the day, a series of vendors selling food, clothing, and souvenirs line up their temporary booths along the sidewalks of 15th and 17th Streets, NW. First Amendment demonstrations have also occurred on the Ellipse over the years, some of which have been quite large in attendance. These First Amendment demonstrations are part of the cultural history of President's Park South and are still held on the Ellipse (Office of the NPS Liaison to the White House, Personal communication, August 11, 2010).

Around 1994, the old tennis courts were removed from the Ellipse, and by 2002 all six horseshoe pits had also been taken out of the southeast corner (Office of the NPS Liaison to the White House, Personal communication, June 1, 2010). The old volleyball court installed here in 1918 is now gone, and although the inner Ellipse no longer contains any formal baseball fields, softball teams use the area heavily throughout the warmer months of the year. Other local athletic events also take place regularly on the Ellipse, including soccer. Although not all of these particular activities were specifically documented in the park during the period of significance, as one of the property's long-term uses this recreational component contributes to the historic character of the cultural landscape.

Currently, vehicular access onto the Ellipse road is possible only by way of 16th Street, and access is restricted to authorized vehicles. There is parking available along the Ellipse road for these vehicles as well as on the three short segments of road branching off toward the intersections of 17th Street, NW, and Constitution Avenue; 15th Street, NW, and Constitution Avenue; and 15th Street, NW, and E Street. These restrictions and limited parking facilities are relatively new functions of the park, and consequently they not contribute to the historic character of the cultural landscape.

In 1954, the National Christmas Tree was relocated back to the Ellipse, and has remained there ever since. Its site near the north edge of the central Ellipse lawn and slightly off-center from the central north-south viewing corridor continues to be used for annual ceremonies in celebration of the holidays. As a result, the use of President's Park South for the National Christmas Tree and its associated events contributes to the historic character of this cultural landscape.

Public events continue to take place on the Ellipse each summer. On July Fourth, the vicinity of the southern half of the Ellipse is opened to the public for festive activities and demonstrations. Special events are only permitted inside the Ellipse. For example, for the wreath-laying ceremonies at the First Division Monument, the associated proceedings take place on the 17th Street side panel of the Ellipse area and only the wreath is carried into the monument area. Annual Veterans Day and Memorial Day ceremonies are held at the First Division Monument

and the Second Division Memorial (Fernandez-Duque 2002: 12; National Park Service 1997: 54). Sherman Park and the General Sherman Statue are not currently used for any commemorative events.

Other scheduled events and observances also take place periodically on the Ellipse, including celebration of the White House Easter Egg Roll held each year on the Monday following Easter Sunday. During some administrations, the Ellipse has held entertainment and celebratory elements of the program; during other administrations the Ellipse is used as the staging area for the thousands of people who attend the day's events. Other scheduled events and observances include parades along Constitution Avenue, which use the southern portion of the Ellipse and celebrate St. Patrick's Day, the Cherry Blossom Festival, the Safety Patrol, and the Fourth of July each year. The prime location of the Ellipse attracts many spectators to the view the parades (Office of the NPS Liaison to the White House, Personal communication, August 11, 2010).

In keeping with the commemorative intent of the various monuments and memorials in President's Park South, these uses retain integrity to the period of significance, and contribute to the historic character of the cultural landscape.

Although commemorative use is also made of the Boy Scout Commemorative Tribute on the east side of the park, due to the more recent construction of this monument and its incongruity with the overall historic landscape design, this use does not contribute to the historic character of President's Park South.

**Character-defining Features:**

Feature: Recreational use of the entire park

Feature Identification Number: 144145

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Commemorative use of the First Division Monument

Feature Identification Number: 144147

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 7296

LCS Structure Name: First Division Monument

LCS Structure Number: 01-06

Feature: Commemorative use of the Second Division Memorial

Feature Identification Number: 144149

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 12908

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LCS Structure Name: Second Division Memorial

LCS Structure Number: 01-07

Feature: Commemorative use of the Butt-Millet Memorial Fountain

Feature Identification Number: 144151

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 7298

LCS Structure Name: Butt-Millet Memorial Fountain

LCS Structure Number: 01-09

Feature: Commemorative use of the Zero Milestone

Feature Identification Number: 144153

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 11925

LCS Structure Name: Zero Milestone

LCS Structure Number: 01-10

Feature: Commemorative use of the Original Patentees of the District of Columbia  
Memorial

Feature Identification Number: 144155

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 7297

LCS Structure Name: Original Patentees of D.C. Monument

LCS Structure Number: 01-08

Feature: Ceremonial use of the National Christmas Tree

Feature Identification Number: 144157

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 45508

LCS Structure Name: National Christmas Tree

LCS Structure Number: 01-15

Feature: Fourth of July and other such celebrations on the Ellipse

Feature Identification Number: 144515

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Parking on the Ellipse

Feature Identification Number: 144161

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Commemorative use of the Boy Scout Commemorative Tribute

Feature Identification Number: 144517

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

IDLCS Number: 7295

**Landscape Characteristic Graphics:**

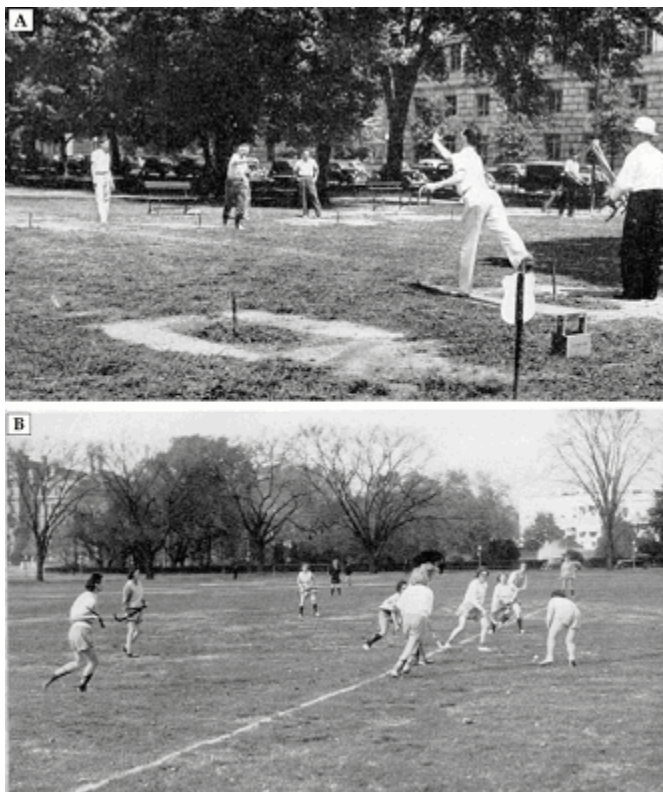


*Figure 19: The District of Columbia's Public High School Cadets march on the Ellipse in 1919 (Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Collection, Harris and Ewing Collection)*



*Figure 20: July 4, 1919 Tableau on the Ellipse featuring 'Liberty,' 'Columbia,' and dancers  
(Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division, Harris and Ewing Collection)*





*Figure 21: Recreation on the Ellipse in 1939: A. Horseshoes on the east side panel and B. Field Hockey inside the Ellipse road (James B. Williams and Ian Forbes, *Fees and Charges for Public Recreation* (Washington, DC: US Government Printing Office, 1939))*

### **Constructed Water Features**

#### **Historic Conditions**

#### **ELLIPSE**

The earliest suggestion of a water feature in President's Park South appeared in the plans created by Pierre Charles L'Enfant in 1791 and Andrew Ellicott in 1792 (L'Enfant 1791; Ellicott 1792) (see Figures 5 and 6). Due in part to the deplorable drainage conditions of the White Lot throughout the nineteenth century, Andrew Jackson Downing's original design for the park was modified after his death to include a pond. This feature was dredged and partially completed in the early 1850s, but following intense criticism related to the health concerns of having a stagnant body of water adjacent to the White House, it was filled in 1854 (Boyle 2001: 99-101; LeeDecker and Bedell 2007: 8). Social reformer Dorothea Dix even went so far as to describe this feature as "Downing's Death Hole" in 1852 (Boyle 2001: 99). Consequently, the realized development of the site did not include a pond (see Figure 11)

From 1882 to 1884, more than 3,000 linear feet of stone guttering was laid throughout the Ellipse area for the purpose of collecting and channeling runoff from the higher ground to the north (Boyle 2001: 149-50, 207). The size of these gutters and those that followed was



probably quite substantial, since six wooden bridges were built to carry the Ellipse bridle paths over the gutters in 1910 (Boyle 2001: 150, 207). With the goal of finally helping to resolve the drainage issue, underground sewers were built throughout the Ellipse starting in the 1880s, by which time the grading and infilling of the Ellipse had been completed (Boyle 2001: 147-49). Major sewers were built along B Street and 17th Street, NW, and two large lines were also installed across the Ellipse in the 1890s, in addition to a smaller brick sewer (LeeDecker and Bedell 2007: 12). In 1916, water lines were also laid to provide water to new trees and shrubbery on the Ellipse (Boyle 2001: 207).

#### BUTT-MILLET MEMORIAL FOUNTAIN

The Butt-Millet memorial fountain is one of the oldest extant features erected in President's Park South. It was built just across the Ellipse roadway off the northwest edge of the central Ellipse lawn and south of the White House Grounds, or directly east of the former location of the president's stables that had been removed from 17th Street, NW, in 1911 (Boyle 2001: 207). Completed in 1913, the fountain's construction was authorized by an Act of Congress approved on August 24, 1912 (Ronsisvalle 1985: 8-11). The Butt-Millet Memorial Fountain is a marble and granite structure funded and erected by private citizens in honor of their friends, Major Archibald W. Butt, Military Aide to Presidents Theodore Roosevelt and Taft, and Francis Davis Millet, a painter and member of the Commission of Fine Arts. Both men were lost in the sinking of the Titanic in 1912.

The fountain reliefs were carved by sculptor Daniel Chester French, while the fountain itself was designed by architect Thomas Hastings (Mackintosh 1980: 7.2). At its center an eight-foot marble shaft rises from an octagonal basin, bearing two low-relief panels representing Art and Military Valor. Each of these features honors one of the men to which the fountain was dedicated; art for Millet, and military for Butt. Sixteen carved rosette panels adorn the octagonal base, which is surmounted by a circular fountain dish with a memorial inscription around its rim (Mackintosh 1980: 7.2). One bas-relief of an artist standing on an Ionic capital and holding a palette and brush represents "The Fine Arts," while a warrior representing "Military Valor" wears medieval armor and holds a sword and shield (Barsoum 2006). The basin of the fountain stands on an octagonal base of aggregate concrete.

#### Existing Conditions

##### ELLIPSE

Drainage on the current-day Ellipse continues to be an issue. Although the historic stone gutters are gone, the current roads are equipped with more recently-installed drainage systems. Meanwhile, the lawn of the Ellipse has been outfitted with drains or drop inlets that collect excess storm water from the open, grassy areas. These features have been installed since the historic period of significance, and do not contribute to the historic character of the park.

#### BUTT-MILLET MEMORIAL FOUNTAIN

The Butt-Millet Memorial Fountain was nearly relocated when E Street was extended to 17th Street between 1939 and 1940. Today it remains in its original location, but is nestled in the angle between the western extension of E Street and the northwest quadrant of the Ellipse road, near the intersection of these two roads with South Executive Avenue. A single, circular concrete step surrounded by a narrow concrete path leads up to the base (see Figure 15).

As one of the earliest constructions in President's Park South and a feature that has remained virtually unchanged over the years, the Butt-Millet Memorial Fountain has a high level of integrity to the historic period of significance, and contributes to the historic character of President's Park South.

#### BOY SCOUT COMMEMORATIVE TRIBUTE

The Boy Scout Commemorative Tribute, also known as the Commemorative Tribute to the Boy Scouts of America, was dedicated on November 7, 1964, and stands just east of the Ellipse road. It is one of the few Washington memorials to a living cause, and marks the site of the First National Boy Scout Jamboree, held in Washington in 1937 (Goode 2008: 115). Like other memorials on park land, its construction was authorized under Public Law 86-111, passed July 28, 1959 (I.J. Castro to Secretary of the Interior, Boy Scouts Memorial memorandum, November 2, 1964, National Capital Region files). Designed by architect William Henry Deacy and carved by sculptor Donald DeLue, its creation was financed by individual contributions from Boy Scouts and their leaders. The memorial features a sunken, 40-foot long elliptical pool of moving water intended to simulate "a stream with its sounds of flowing and babbling water" without the use of a fountain (Charles M. Heistand, Dedication of the Commemorative Tribute to the Boy Scouts of America, November 7, 1964, National Capital Region files). Around the pool is a ring of concrete-paver sidewalk, and on the north edge stands a seven-foot high, bronze Boy Scout who strides south ahead of two classically draped, 12-foot bronze figures of American Manhood and Womanhood. The face of the pedestal bears the Boy Scout Oath, while the pool itself is surrounded by a commemorative inscription (Mackintosh 1980: 7.3; Ronsisvalle 1985: 8). The memorial was financed by the contributions of those Boy Scouts whose names are inscribed on scrolls set within the pedestal (Goode 2008: 115).

Although this feature was added with the approval of Congress and the Commission of Fine Arts, it does not contribute to the historic character of President's Park South. Its location is on the whole a reflection of the limited space available for the construction of memorials in this prominent area during the 1960s, rather than any realization of the original design concepts outlined for the park by L'Enfant and Downing.

## HAUPT FOUNTAINS

Two fountains donated by Enid Annenberg Haupt, editor of Seventeen Magazine, stand on either side of the small section of 16th Street, NW, that is located between the Ellipse and Constitution Avenue. Both were erected in 1968 by First Lady Johnson's Committee for a More Beautiful Capital. Sources differ regarding who designed the fountains. Boyle and others state that they were the work of architect Catherine Henry, but the National Register nomination for President's Park South cites Nathaniel Owings as the architect (Boyle 2001: 393; Leach and Barthold 1993; Mackintosh 1980: 7.3). Weighing in at 55 tons, each of the Haupt Fountains consists of a large slab of Minnesota rainbow granite measuring eighteen feet square and nearly a foot thick. The rock is the oldest in the United States, or 3.5 billion years old, and the design of each slab shows the structure of the original stone (Barsoum 2006). Jets of water shoot from the large dish on top of each, carved into the polished stone by sculptors Gordon Newell and James Hunolt. Each basin is framed by a brick pedestal that extends into a circular terrace paved in brick. Purely decorative features in every respect, these fountains serve to frame the formal south entrance to the Ellipse and President's Park South (Mackintosh 1980: 7.3; Boyle 2001: 393; National Park Service 1997: 153). Identical plaques reading "Gift of Enid Annenberg Haupt 1968" are set into the brick terraces immediately south of both fountains.

Although these features were added with the approval of the Commission of Fine Arts, they are not a memorial and do not contribute to the historic character of President's Park South. Their location is largely a reflection of the 1960s use of this highly visible public site for artistic expression, rather than any realization of the design concepts outlined for the park by L'Enfant and Downing. Their framing effect on the primary north-south corridor, though it helps to emphasize the view, more importantly commits a constructed style to this vista that contrasts with the original soft, broad edges created by bordering trees.

**Character-defining Features:**

Feature: Butt-Millet Memorial Fountain

Feature Identification Number: 143983

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 7298

LCS Structure Name: Butt-Millet Memorial Fountain

LCS Structure Number: 01-09

Feature: Boy Scout Commemorative Tribute Pool

Feature Identification Number: 143985

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

IDLCS Number: 7294

LCS Structure Name: Boy Scout Commemorative Tribute Pool

LCS Structure Number: 01-14

Feature: East Haupt Fountain

Feature Identification Number: 144165

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

IDLCS Number: 7302

LCS Structure Name: Haupt Fountain - East

LCS Structure Number: 01-12

Feature: West Haupt Fountain

Feature Identification Number: 144167

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

IDLCS Number: 7301

LCS Structure Name: Haupt Fountain - West

LCS Structure Number: 01-11

Feature: Lawn drains

Feature Identification Number: 143989

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

## **Cultural Traditions**

### **Historic Conditions**

The tradition of celebrating the holiday season in President's Park with the lighting of a National Christmas tree began in 1923, when President Calvin Coolidge illuminated a cut, 48-foot Balsam fir somewhere near the middle of the Ellipse with 2,500 electric bulbs (Boyle 2001: 209; National Park Service 2010). The president (or, in some cases, vice president) continued to light this tree, also known as the National Christmas tree, on an annual basis through 1940. The site for the tree was moved to the south White House Grounds in 1941, and was decorated but not illuminated from 1942 through 1944.

### **Existing Conditions**

#### **NATIONAL CHRISTMAS TREE**

In 1954, the National Christmas Tree was relocated back to the Ellipse, and the lighting ceremony was officially dubbed the Christmas Pageant of Peace. Although previously celebrated on Christmas Eve, the pageant was moved to a date three weeks earlier. In the interim, a series of presentations by community organizations and other groups took place on a stage located on the Ellipse, while a "Pathway of Peace" lined with smaller trees representing each state, territory, and the District of Columbia was open to visitors (National Park Service



2010). By 1994, what was now known as the Lighting of the National Christmas Tree incorporated a yule log named "Ye Olde Yule Log," to warm chilled hands; a nativity scene; and music (Boyle 2001: 349). In addition to these elements, today's ceremony normally includes singing and holiday greetings (National Park Service 2010).

As a cultural tradition begun on the Ellipse in the early twentieth century and continued into the present day, the annual lighting of the National Christmas Tree contributes to the historic character of President's Park South.

#### OTHER HOLIDAY SYMBOLS AND CELEBRATIONS

For many decades, First Amendment permits have been issued to organizations and individuals that have placed holiday and religious symbols in President's Park and especially on the Ellipse. These have included the star and crescent and the menorah. While the organization placing the star and crescent no longer does so, the National Menorah, has been placed on the Ellipse each holiday season since 1979, and includes a lighting ceremony on the first night of Hanukkah of the 30-foot electric silver menorah. The lighting of the National Menorah cannot be considered a contributing resource within the park because the yearly First Amendment event did not begin until after the close of the period of significance (Office of the NPS Liaison to the White House, Personal communication, August 11, 2010).

#### Character-defining Features:

Feature: Annual lighting ceremony for the National Christmas Tree

Feature Identification Number: 144169

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 45508

Feature: Other Holiday Symbols and Celebrations

Feature Identification Number: 144171

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

#### Small Scale Features

Historic Conditions

ELLIPSE

U.S. Capitol Gatepost

In addition to the two Bulfinch Gatehouses installed on the U.S. Capitol grounds in 1828, Charles Bulfinch also designed at least eight matching sandstone gateposts. When the re-landscaping of the Capitol grounds made it necessary to move these features in 1880, one of these gateposts was installed to the south of the Bulfinch Gatehouse on the northwest corner of

15th Street, NW, and Constitution Avenue. It is the only gatepost located within the boundaries of President's Park South, but a pair was also relocated to the south side of Constitution Avenue on the grounds of the Washington Monument (Boyle 2001: 149).

#### Ellipse Meridian Stone

The Ellipse Meridian Stone is an 18-inch square granite block installed at the center of the Ellipse ca. 1921. It is inscribed "U.S. Meridian 1890" in reference to its historic function and the previous block set in this spot. Both the current stone and its predecessor were placed so as to line up with the center doorway of the White House, a north-south line that runs along the center of the principal vista between the White House and Jefferson Memorial and was originally intended as a national meridian, or baseline, for all geographic references within the United States. This line was originally marked from 1804 to 1872 by a large stone on what are now the Washington Monument grounds. This stone, dubbed the Jefferson Pier in honor of both Thomas Jefferson's presidency and his earlier involvement with the original survey of the District of Columbia, was reestablished shortly thereafter, but iron portions of the elevator within the Washington Monument interfered with sensitive compass needles when attempting to conduct a survey from this point. As a result, the United States Geographic Survey (USGS) and the Office of Public Buildings and Grounds jointly decided to establish a second station at the center of Ellipse, an area free of this magnetic disturbance (Ellipse Meridian Stone, LCS Structure No. 01-17, retrieved March 18, 2010).

The first Ellipse Meridian Stone, a granite block about twelve inches square at the bottom that tapered to some six inches at the top, was installed on March 8, 1889. Unfortunately, it was positioned according to the flagpole atop the White House, which was subsequently discovered to not be precisely centered on the building. As a result, the meridian stone was displaced 2' 2" from the proper line of the meridian. This error was presumably corrected in 1890, when the original Ellipse Meridian Stone was replaced with a much larger granite block measuring four inches high and nineteen inches square at the base, before tapering to about seventeen inches square at the top. This second stone was inscribed "Meridian" on one side and "1890" on the other. For reasons unknown, it had been replaced with the current marker by 1921. (Ellipse Meridian Stone, LCS Structure No. 01-17, retrieved March 18, 2010).

#### Zero Milestone

The Zero Milestone stands in the center of the sidewalk at the northernmost edge of the central Ellipse lawn, and was dedicated on June 4, 1923. A gift of the Lee Highway Association, its installation was authorized by an Act of Congress approved on June 5, 1920 (Ronsisville 1985: 50). The stone was installed to mark the official starting point for the measurement of highway distances from Washington, and in fact was a substitute for a similar marker proposed by L'Enfant for a location one mile east of the Capitol (Barsoum 2006).

Designed by architect Horace Peaslee, the stone also served to commemorate the starting point

for the first transcontinental motor convoy (Mackintosh 1980: 7.2). Mounted on top of the pillar is a single bronze compass sculpted by James Earl Fraser, the same artist who sculpted the Second Division Memorial. Inscriptions on the sides of the solitary, four-foot shaft of pink North Carolina granite attest to its role as the starting point for the measurement of United States highways. Also noted here is the stone's commemoration of the first two transcontinental motor convoys in 1919 and 1920, which departed from this spot (Mackintosh 1980: 7.2). Lt. Colonel Dwight David Eisenhower, who later became the thirty-fourth president of the United States, participated in the 1919 convoy, and his support of the Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1956 (also known as the National Interstate and Defense Highways Act, Public Law 84-627) can be directly attributed to his cross-country trek thirty-seven years earlier (Office of the NPS Liaison to the White House, Personal communication, July 22, 2010). Additionally, a bronze plaque set into the sidewalk along the north edge of the stone attests to the function and dedication of the Zero Milestone. It reads: "THE U.S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY / DETERMINED THE LATITUDE, LONGITUDE / AND ELEVATION OF THE ZERO MILESTONE / AUTHORIZED BY ACT OF CONGRESS JUNE 5, 1920 / DEDICATED JUNE 4, 1923."

#### Original Patentees of the District of Columbia Memorial

The Original Patentees of the District of Columbia Memorial was completed on April 25, 1936, on behalf of the National Society of Daughters of the American Colonists. Dedicated to the eighteen original patentees of land in the Washington, DC, area prior to 1700, it stands on the edge of the sidewalk on 15th Street, NW, midway between Constitution Avenue and E Street. Its erection was authorized under an Act of Congress approved on February 12, 1936. The Indiana granite base measures two-and-a-half feet high by three feet square, and is topped by a single granite shaft measuring four-and-a-half feet high and two feet square. The four faces of the shaft bear reliefs of tobacco, fish, corn, and a turkey in recognition of the livelihood of early settlers. The memorial was designed by Delos Smith, while the carvings on the shaft were created by Carl Mose (Mackintosh 1980: 7.2; Ronsisvalle 1985: 37).

#### Tonnetti and Zimon Statues

For a fairly brief period in the early twentieth century, four statues stood on the Ellipse, two of which were located alongside its south entrance, or at the approximate future site of the Haupt Fountains. These two figures, known as "Victory," were sculpted by Michael Tonnetti and installed in 1905 (Boyle 2001: 205). That same year, two more statues crafted by Bruno L. Zimon and known as "Genius of Architecture" and "Genius of Ceramic Art" were also relocated to the Ellipse area. All four of these features had originally come from the Louisiana Purchase Exposition held in St. Louis in 1904. They were moved to the capital and used as street decorations in the presidential inauguration of 1905 before being installed in President's Park South (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers 1905). Further research is required to determine the exact circumstances of their removal, but they were taken out of the park sometime later, probably during the early twentieth century.

### Street Lamps

The first evidence for the presence of street lamps on the Ellipse is in 1889, when seven high iron lampposts were installed on the outer edge of the Ellipse road. By 1894, these lamps were fully functioning and using electric power to light the Ellipse (Boyle 2001: 151-52). A 1917 photograph shows that at least some of the street lamps along the Ellipse road appear to have been single-light Millet-style features made of cast iron (Harris and Ewing 1917) (see Figure 13). As the name suggests, Francis Millet (who is memorialized in the Butt-Millet Memorial Fountain) played a large part in their design. First installed in 1912, these Millet-style lampposts were also located elsewhere in the park, and twin Bacon-style lampposts were added around its perimeter, along Constitution Avenue and 15th and 17th Streets, after that design was adopted in 1923 (Boyle 2001: 177).

### Fencing

Between 1845 and 1850, the Commissioner of Public Buildings noted the “enclosing of the reservation south of the President’s house with posts and railing of wood” (Commissioners of the Public Buildings, Dec. 12, 1845, Record Group 42, National Archives). This was probably a reference to a white picket fence surrounding the area that later became the Ellipse, and was likely the first such effort to mark the boundaries of the future President’s Park South (Boyle 2001: 61).

Beginning approximately in the 1850s up until the early 1880s, the Ellipse area was surrounded on three sides by white-washed plank fence, and came to be known as the White Lot (Boyle 2001: 102). The removal of this fence generally correlates with the final stages in the execution of a more formal and inviting design for the park, and the subsequent growth of its popularity among the visiting public.

In the succeeding years, various types of temporary fencing were used in this area for the purpose of supporting public events on the Ellipse. For example, a simple wooden post and rope fence was present during military drills photographed in 1919 (Harris and Ewing 1919a) (see Figure 19). By 1942, some small, temporary sections of tall chain-link fence were installed as backstops on the inner Ellipse in support of the baseball diamonds located there (Collins 1942).

### Benches

The first set of benches, or settees, were added to the President’s Park South landscape in 1884 (Boyle 2001: 150). An additional thirty settees were installed on the eastern side of the Ellipse in 1903 (Boyle 2001: 205). By 1939, metal benches with wooden slat seats and backs were present, some of which were associated with recreational activities on the Ellipse (Williams and Forbes 1939) (see Figure 21).



## SHERMAN PARK

### Street Lamps

By 1905, four gas lamps were installed directly across from each of the four corners of the General Sherman Statue, in the middle of the paths leading into the central, circular walk around the monument (Boyle 2001: 230). During the redesign of the Sherman Park landscape in 1934, five new street lamps were added to the south and west perimeters of the site. That same year, all of the lamps in the park were converted to electric power (Thursby 1999: 11).

### Stone Walls

Between 1900 and 1901, the iron fence that had previously surrounded Sherman Park was removed and replaced with granite coping that served as a boundary between the park and the adjacent streets (Thursby 1999: 8).

### Existing Conditions

Although the type and style of many of the small-scale features of President's Park South has changed over the years, their purpose in supporting its public use has remained largely the same.

## ELLIPSE

### U.S. Capitol Gatepost

The sandstone gatepost designed by Charles Bulfinch for the Capitol grounds still stands on the southeast corner of the Ellipse, northwest of the intersection between 15th Street, NW, and Constitution Avenue. It has changed only minimally and retains a high level of integrity to the historic period of significance. As a result, the gatepost contributes to the historic character of President's Park South.

### Ellipse Meridian Stone

The Ellipse Meridian Stone is still positioned at the center of the Ellipse. It has occupied this location since at least 1921, the approximate installation date of the current stone. Although it was originally set flush with the ground, the stone is now just below the level of the turf and largely obscured by the turf. It is necessary to peel back the grass in order to read the inscriptions on its face (Ellipse Meridian Stone, LCS Structure No. 01-17, retrieved March 18, 2010). Apart from this sinkage, the Ellipse Meridian Stone appears unaltered and retains a high level of integrity to the historic period of significance. It therefore contributes to the historic

character of the park.

#### Zero Milestone

The Zero Milestone still stands on the sidewalk at the northern-most edge of the Ellipse road, along the north-south axis with the White House and the Jefferson Memorial. Since the close of the period of significance a bronze plaque has been inset into the sidewalk to the northeast of the stone. It reads: "THE NATIONAL SYSTEM OF / INTERSTATE AND DEFENSE HIGHWAYS / SPECIAL CIVIL ENGINEERING / ACHIEVEMENT AWARD / PRESENTED BY THE / AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CIVIL ENGINEERS / 1974." Inserted within this inscription is a small shield bearing the text: "AMERICAN / SOCIETY OF / CIVIL / ENGINEERS / FOUNDED / 1852." The Zero Milestone retains a high level of integrity to the historic period of significance, and contributes to the historic character of the park.

#### Original Patentees of the District of Columbia Memorial

The Original Patentees of the District of Columbia Memorial continues to stand just east of the Boy Scout Commemorative Tribute, off of the sidewalk on 15th Street, NW. The east face of the memorial is heavily eroded due to the effects of car exhaust from the adjacent city street. Still, the memorial retains a high level of integrity to the period of significance, and contributes to the historic character of President's Park South.

#### John Saul Plaque

The John Saul Plaque is a bronze plaque, with a relief portrait bust, set on top of a low granite base to honor John Saul. An Irish immigrant, Saul was selected by Andrew Jackson Downing in 1851 to superintend his Washington projects, including the development of the Mall and other public areas in the city. Saul was a horticulturist who maintained nurseries in the city, and was a founding member and chairman of Washington's first parks commission. The plaque was first installed on the Ellipse along the E Street sidewalk between 17th Street, NW, and South Executive Avenue in 1976. The plaque was relocated to its current location on the east side of the Ellipse near the entrance into the park at the E Street sidewalk by the west crosswalk in 1979. The sculptor of the plaque is unknown.

The plaque was donated by Rose Saul Zalles, Saul's granddaughter. It was originally intended to be placed at one of two matching fountains proposed for the northwest and northeast quadrants of the Ellipse, as part of Mrs. Lyndon Johnson's beautification plans for Washington in the late 1960s. Mrs. Zalles commissioned the bronze plaque. Although designs for the fountains were produced, funding complications prohibited their installation (Boyle 2001: 313, 348-49; Office of the NPS Liaison to the White House, Personal communication, July 22, 2010).

The plaque does not contribute to the historic character of President's Park South.

#### National Christmas Tree Plaque

Directly north of the National Christmas Tree, inside the fence, stands a bronze plaque that reads: "National Christmas Tree, Transplanted October 11, 1978, Christmas Pageant of Peace Committee." This feature was installed since the tree was moved to this location on the Ellipse, and therefore does not contribute to the historic character of President's Park South.

#### Street Lamps and Traffic Lights

Four traffic lights are located on either side of E Street, one on each side to the east and west of the intersections with South Executive Avenue (see Figure 22). The National Park Service rehabilitated the lighting throughout the Ellipse in 1947, replacing old light standards and installing some new ones (Office of the NPS Liaison to the White House, Personal communication, June 1, 2010). Today, single-light Millet-style cast-iron street lamps line either side of the Ellipse road, E Street, and the perimeter of the park walks. Evenly-spaced street lamps lining the sidewalks of 15th Street, 17th Street, and Constitution Avenue are of the twin-light Bacon style. Both the Millet-style and Bacon-style lampposts were approved by the Fine Arts Commission and used throughout Washington, DC. They therefore provide a means of visually unifying the President's Park South with such important landscapes as the National Mall and Capitol grounds, and it is precisely this sense of cohesiveness that L'Enfant envisioned in his original, grand design of the federal city. For this reason, and the fact that all of the current lampposts are believed to have either been in place by 1947 or thereafter replaced in kind, the Millet-style and Bacon-style lampposts retain a high level of integrity to the period of significance, and contribute to the historic character of President's Park South.

#### Stone Walls

A low granite wall was installed in 2003 along the east and south sides of Sherman Park, or along the north side of E Street and the west side of 15th Street (Office of the NPS Liaison to the White House, Personal communication, June 1, 2010). A similar wall stretches for a brief span between the south end of West Executive Avenue and the point where the fence bordering the south White House Grounds curves south into the South Executive Avenue alignment. Another low wall, this one made from concrete, has marked the edge of the terrace surrounding the Visitor Pavilion since 1994. As features of the landscape installed since the period of significance, these features do not contribute to the historic character of President's Park South.

#### Fencing

Today, chain link and black metal fencing line many of the circulation corridors throughout the Ellipse. A metal post-and-chain fence intermittently marks portions of the park, specifically in locations where the circulation system leads outside the study boundaries to the city streets on

the east, west, and south sides of the Ellipse (see Figure 22). It was installed since 2000 in order to protect the roots of the nearby elm trees from soil compaction issues related to heavy visitor use of the park. The same fence continues along the south edge of the Ellipse road as it curves across the north edge of the central Ellipse lawn. The north edge of the path just south of here is marked by a metal rod fence.

Temporary black metal fencing also lines some of the lawn areas and frequently blocks the sidewalks along either side of E Street. Although a number of different fences mark the north side of the site along the E Street corridor, including a metal rod fence around the Zero Milestone area, no fencing exists around the park along 15th Street, 17th Street, or Constitution Avenue.

Temporary wooden snow fencing is installed along the edges of various lawn areas in the park on a seasonal basis, in order to protect and restore the turf most threatened by high volumes of foot traffic. A low stone wall surrounds the National Christmas Tree and was installed in the 1970's when the tree was moved back to a location on the Ellipse. The low stone wall is still present and serves as the border for the tree's planting bed. A metal rod fence was placed around the tree in 2001 due to soil compaction issues around the base of the tree (PMIS 27638).

As recent or temporary additions to the site, these features do not contribute to the historic character of the cultural landscape.

#### Benches, Trash Receptacles, Drinking Fountains, and Planters

Cast-iron benches with wooden slat seats line the outer perimeter of President's Park South, on the edges of the sidewalk along Constitution Avenue, 17th Street, and 15th Street. These benches are spaced at regular intervals in close proximity to trash receptacles (see Figure 22). There are nineteen of these benches standing along 15th Street, twenty-two on Constitution Avenue, and eighteen on 17th Street. An additional thirty-nine benches of the same type are located at wide intervals around the walkway along the Ellipse road, enclosing the central panel and generally arranged in groups of two or three. Cast-iron trash receptacles with slats are located at either end of these lines of benches and on either side of the walks leading into the Ellipse (see Figure 22). Several cast-iron drinking fountains are situated along the perimeter of the inner Ellipse sidewalk. On the sidewalk at the east ends of E Street and Hamilton Place stand several precast concrete planters. As more recent additions to the landscape of President's Park South, these features do not contribute to its historic character.

A series of eleven concrete, backless benches with wooden slat seats and commemorative medallions surround the Boy Scout Commemorative Tribute, to the east of the Ellipse. These benches do not contribute to the historic character of the cultural landscape (see above analysis of the Boy Scout Commemorative Tribute).

#### Recreational Features

The sand horseshoe pitches, tennis courts, volleyball court, and baseball fields located on the Ellipse throughout a part or most of the twentieth century are now gone, and therefore do not contribute to the historic character of President's Park South.

#### Temporary Bleachers

In conjunction with the Bicentennial celebration of 1976, a new system was established for visitors interested in touring the White House. Starting that year, a series of semi-permanent, covered bleachers were erected along the inner edge of the central Ellipse lawn, south of the Visitor Pavilion, in order to accommodate visitors awaiting the daily White House tour. The seasonal installation of these bleachers has now ceased, however, and visitors wait elsewhere (Boyle 2001: 349; Leach and Barthold 1993). As both more recent and no-longer-extant features, the temporary bleachers do not contribute to the historic character of President's Park South.

#### Lighting of the National Christmas Tree Features

Each year during the month of December, a number of features are erected in support of the ceremonies associated with the Lighting of the National Christmas Tree. These include fifty-six smaller trees representing the states and territories of the United States, arranged around the National Christmas Tree. A series of painted, identification signs mark the tree for each state or territory, and the trees themselves are accessed via plastic walks bordered by a white vinyl fence. A stage and blue plywood amphitheater are erected nearby, and temporary folding chairs are brought in for the main performance. Also included in the celebration are a nativity scene constructed from wood and plywood, and a brick fire pit for the Yule log. Speakers for the sound system are installed, as well. Most of these small-scale features have become a part of the Lighting of the National Christmas Tree only since the tree was moved back to the Ellipse in 1954 (National Park Service 2010). As a result, they do not contribute to the historic character of President's Park South.

#### Security Features

Temporary security barriers mark many of the pedestrian paths in the north section of the Ellipse and along E Street. Black security bollards were installed along the east, west, and north perimeter of the park and on the north side of E Street between 1999 and 2001, in order to prevent vehicles from potentially driving through the park to get close to the White House. Since 2001, concrete Jersey barriers have also been installed along the south side of E Street for security purposes. As a result of their addition within the past two decades, these security features are not compatible with the public use and purpose of the site, and do not contribute to the historic character of President's Park South.

#### Interpretive Features and Signs

A single interpretive wayside is present in President's Park South, standing just northeast of the National Christmas Tree, facing south. A number of other directional and parking signs for vehicles are spread out around the Ellipse and associated roads. As a fairly recent addition to President's Park South, these features do not contribute to the historic character of the cultural landscape.

#### SHERMAN PARK

##### Street Lamps

Since construction and redesign of Sherman Park in the early twentieth century, the location and type of street lamps in the park has shifted. In 1984, new Millet-style lampposts were added to Sherman Park (Boyle 2001: 350). Today, a total of twelve cast-iron, Millet-style lampposts line the geometrical walkways of the site at regular, symmetrical intervals, on the inside of the low Japanese holly hedge. These were installed during rehabilitation of the park in 1991 (Boyle 2001: 350).

As more recent additions to Sherman Park whose style and location is different from that of the original features, the street lamps at the site do not contribute to the historic character of President's Park South. Still, since similar lamps were present during the historic period of significance, these features are compatible with the overall historic character of the cultural landscape.

##### Stone Walls

Short sections of low granite wall round the corners on each side of the paths leading into the central plaza of Sherman Park from the park perimeter (see Figure 23). These walls measure roughly eighteen inches tall and terminate in volutes. As more recent additions to the landscape that were probably installed in the 1991 rehabilitation, these walls do not contribute to the park's historic character.

##### Fencing

Temporary metal bike racks stands along the east, west and north sides of Sherman Park. These fences were installed for security purposes since 2001, and do not contribute to the historic character of the cultural landscape. .

##### Trash Receptacles, Drinking Fountains, Planters and Benches

Closely-spaced rows of cast-iron benches with wooden slat seats stand on each side of the central plaza of Sherman Park, forming a line between the two ends of the granite walls

marking the corners of the four entrance paths. Five of these benches are located on the north and south sides, while six stand on the east and west sides. Cast-iron slatted trash receptacles stand at either end of each of these lines of benches. All of these features were installed during rehabilitation of the park in 1991, and therefore do not contribute to the historic character of the cultural landscape (Boyle 2001: 350). Nonetheless, their recreational purpose is compatible with the historic character of the site.

A single large, circular precast concrete planter stands in the center of the path at the top of the steps leading into the plaza from the southeast corner entrance to the site. As a feature added to the landscape since 2001, this planter does not contribute to the historic character of President's Park South.

A single, double-headed iron drinking fountain stands on the northeast edge of the walk leading northwest from the Sherman Statue. This feature was added in 2003, and therefore does not contribute to the historic character of the site (Office of the NPS Liaison to the White House, Personal communication, June 1, 2010).

#### FIRST DIVISION MONUMENT

Relatively few small-scale features have been added to the First Division Monument landscape since the historic period of significance. Three stone tree wells were installed in the steep slope south of the First Division Monument, one to the west in 1956, and two to the east in 1977 (Fernandez-Duque 2002: 9; Office of the NPS Liaison to the White House, Personal communication, June 1, 2010) (see Figure 24). The siting of the three tree wells appears to correspond with the historic locations of the linden trees planted around the First Division Monument. It may be that the wells were incorporated into the designs for the World War II and Vietnam War additions in order to preserve extant trees then in place. All three wells are currently occupied by lindens, but only two, the single opening to the west and the westernmost of the pair on the east side, seem to hold trees that might predate the construction of their wells. As more recent additions to the landscape, these features do not contribute to the historic character of President's Park South.

#### Character-defining Features:

Feature:	Ellipse Meridian Stone
Feature Identification Number:	144173
Type of Feature Contribution:	Contributing
IDLCS Number:	235413
Feature:	Zero Milestone
Feature Identification Number:	144175
Type of Feature Contribution:	Contributing
IDLCS Number:	11925

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Feature: Original Patentees of the District of Columbia Memorial

Feature Identification Number: 144177

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 7297

Feature: Millet-style and Bacon-style lampposts within the Ellipse and along 15th and 17th Streets and Constitution Avenue

Feature Identification Number: 144521

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Black iron fence around the south White House Grounds

Feature Identification Number: 144181

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: John Saul Plaque

Feature Identification Number: 144185

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Black metal temporary security fencing throughout President's Park South

Feature Identification Number: 144529

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Lighting of the National Christmas Tree features

Feature Identification Number: 144189

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Recreational features

Feature Identification Number: 144191

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Drinking fountains

Feature Identification Number: 144193

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Trash receptacles

Feature Identification Number: 144195



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Type of Feature Contribution:	Non Contributing
Feature:	Benches
Feature Identification Number:	144197
Type of Feature Contribution:	Non Contributing
Feature:	Concrete planters
Feature Identification Number:	144199
Type of Feature Contribution:	Non Contributing
Feature:	Security features, including bollards, fences, and barriers
Feature Identification Number:	144201
Type of Feature Contribution:	Non Contributing
Feature:	Fence around the National Christmas Tree
Feature Identification Number:	144203
Type of Feature Contribution:	Non Contributing
Feature:	Post-and-chain fence throughout President's Park South
Feature Identification Number:	144531
Type of Feature Contribution:	Non Contributing
Feature:	Traffic lights
Feature Identification Number:	144209
Type of Feature Contribution:	Non Contributing
Feature:	Millet-style lampposts in Sherman Park
Feature Identification Number:	144533
Type of Feature Contribution:	Non Contributing
Feature:	Wall around the edge of the Visitor Pavilion terrace
Feature Identification Number:	144213
Type of Feature Contribution:	Non Contributing
Feature:	Walls along the south sides of Sherman Park and South Executive Avenue
Feature Identification Number:	144215
Type of Feature Contribution:	Non Contributing

Feature: Interpretive features

Feature Identification Number: 144219

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Signs

Feature Identification Number: 144221

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

**Landscape Characteristic Graphics:**



*Figure 22: Views showing small-scale features: A. Looking east across E Street, from south of the First Division Memorial, and B. Looking south along 15th Street (NCR CLP February 4, 2010)*



*Figure 23: Looking northwest toward the General Sherman Statue, with the Treasury Building at the right (NCR CLP February 4, 2010)*



*Figure 24: Looking north toward the First Division Monument, with the Eisenhower Executive Office Building in the background (NCR CLP February 4, 2010)*

## **Archeological Sites**

### **Historic Conditions**

Before the site for the future President's Park South was inhabited by European settlers, the banks of Tiber Creek would have been an attractive area for American Indian occupation. Following its selection as the location for the federal city, however, much of this area was modified in order to create the gently sloping "garden park" envisioned by Pierre Charles L'Enfant. Previous archeological investigation of the Ellipse has revealed that this area is covered with landfill material. Along the north portion of the Ellipse, adjacent to E Street, fill deposits are believed to extend up to 20 feet below the surface. The thickness of this layer of fill decreases to the south, however, and the southern portion of the Ellipse is believed to have fill deposits of only three to six feet thick (LeeDecker and Bedell 2007: 1; Pousson and Hoepfner 1995).

### **Existing Conditions**

The archeological resources of President's Park South have remained almost entirely unchanged since 1947, largely because the ground of the site has been left undisturbed. Excavations conducted on the Ellipse in 1995 focused on the southern third of the site and primarily encountered fill material from the mid- to late-nineteenth century (Pousson and Hoepfner 1995). More recent excavations in 2007 uncovered largely domestic refuse, construction rubble, and other fill from around the 1870s, when the Ellipse was first beginning to emerge as a designed public park. This report concluded that although much of this area does not appear to retain integrity to its original form before the late nineteenth century, "patchy" areas where the original landscape is preserved may still exist (LeeDecker and Bedell 2007: 17).

According to Stephen Potter, NPS Regional Archeologist for the National Capital Region, the areas around the First Division Monument and Sherman Park also contain documented archeological resources. These include the White House stables of 1871 to 1911, at the First Division Monument, and an early-1900s stone wall at Sherman Park (Stephen Potter, Personal communication to Maureen Joseph, March 8, 2010).

As a result, any existing archeological resources throughout the park retain a moderate level of historic integrity to the historic period of significance, and contribute to the site's historic character.

### **Character-defining Features:**

Feature: Archeological resources of President's Park South

Feature Identification Number: 144223

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

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## Condition

### Condition Assessment and Impacts

**Condition Assessment:** Fair

### Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:

The condition of the President's Park South cultural landscape is currently determined to be fair. This assessment

“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 landscape characteristics will cause the inventory unit to degrade to a poor condition” (National Park Service 2009: 8.2 8.3).

This determination takes into account the cultural landscape condition, which includes the current condition of buildings and structures, natural systems and features, circulation, spatial organization, land use, cluster arrangement, topography, vegetation, views and vistas, constructed water features, small scale features, archeological sites, and cultural traditions at President's Park South. Thanks to the continuing presence of many of the characteristics that originally composed this site, the historic landscape retains a high level of integrity. However, the heavy and ongoing use of the area for parking and public events poses a threat to the site's historic character. Careful attention should be paid to the Comprehensive Design Plan (2000) in the ongoing maintenance of the landscape. In order to achieve a condition assessment of “good,” the park should address the following maintenance and use issues.

Remove and/or simplify any structures, barriers, or objects within the primary north south vista, along the 16th Street axis between the White House and the Jefferson Memorial.

Maintain the north south view between the Treasury Building and the General Sherman Statue

Maintain the north south view between the Eisenhower Executive Office Building and the First Division Monument

Maintain the view north from Constitution Avenue to the Second Division Memorial

Maintain the boundary formed by the existing fence line around the White House grounds as well as the associated, perimeter sidewalk.

Maintain the location of the Ellipse as originally conceived by Andrew Jackson Downing in 1851 and its current size and shape as implemented by the 1880s, identified today by the Ellipse roadway and associated border of elm trees.

With the exception of the National Christmas Tree and, if necessary, the relatively unobtrusive fence surrounding it, maintain the flat, open and uninterrupted character of the Ellipse, marked only by grassy lawn.

Maintain the location and historic integrity of the following primary memorials: General Sherman

Statue, First Division Monument, Second Division Memorial, and Zero Milestone.

Maintain the location and historic integrity of the following secondary memorials: Ellipse Meridian Stone, Butt Millet Memorial Fountain, and the Original Patentees of the District of Columbia Memorial.

Maintain the location and historic integrity of the Bulfinch Gatehouses (at the southeast and southwest corners of the Ellipse) and the location of the U.S. Capitol Gatepost (in the southeast corner of the Ellipse).

Maintain the layout and alignment of historic roads south of the White House Grounds, specifically in the following locations: intersection of South Executive Avenue and the Ellipse roadway; entry roads connecting to the Ellipse roadway in the northeast, southeast and southwest corners; relation of State Place and Hamilton Place to the east west drive that continues through the White House Grounds; relation of east end of E Street to Sherman Park; curvilinear layout of pedestrian paths on the east and west sides of President's Park South; pedestrian access to the northwest corner of the Ellipse road; and the pedestrian path leading along the current west end of E Street.

Maintain the layout, and replace in kind, the following arrangements of vegetation: elms on both sides of the Ellipse roadway; willow oaks around the General Sherman Statue; lindens south of the First Division Monument; loosely planted coniferous and deciduous trees on the east and west edges of the Ellipse; and high, arching street trees (such as elms) along 17th and 15th Streets and Constitution Avenue.

Maintain the location of the National Christmas Tree.

The Assessment Date refers to the date that the park superintendent concurred with the Condition Assessment.

## Impacts

<b>Type of Impact:</b>	Deferred Maintenance
<b>External or Internal:</b>	Internal
<b>Impact Description:</b>	During the spring and summer, weeds poke their heads through cracks in the pavement around the base of the General Sherman Statue. If left untreated, the buildup of soil and root systems in these tight spaces threatens to damage the structure. In addition, some of the wooden slats on the benches surrounding the monument are missing.
<b>Type of Impact:</b>	Structural Deterioration
<b>External or Internal:</b>	Internal

<b>Impact Description:</b>	Some of the paving and sections of the terrace around the General Sherman Statue are stained, cracked or broken due to age and heavy visitation.
<b>Type of Impact:</b>	Visitation
<b>External or Internal:</b>	Internal
<b>Impact Description:</b>	Description: President's Park South is one of the most heavily visited sites in the country, with thousands of visitors each day.
<b>Type of Impact:</b>	Other
<b>External or Internal:</b>	Internal
<b>Impact Description:</b>	The temporary security measures at President's Park South, although necessary to protect the White House and its occupants, severely compromise the visitor experience and historic integrity of this site. Layers of security fencing, particularly in the vicinity of the north-south vista south of the White House, and the restriction of pedestrian access to E Street, South Executive Avenue, and even the walks around Sherman Park prevent the public from enjoying this landscape as its designers intended.
<b>Type of Impact:</b>	Soil Compaction
<b>External or Internal:</b>	Internal
<b>Impact Description:</b>	Soil compaction and other issues have long afflicted the turf in the center of the Ellipse, which covers an area of 850 by 1000 feet. These concerns have been partially alleviated by the installation of an irrigation system, as well as a recent restoration project that replaced some of the compacted soil. New resource protection measures now are required for all activities and events. Still, underground steam lines built beneath the southern portion of the site continue to interfere with the health of the grass, promoting the growth of weeds and creating patches of brown, unhealthy turf due to high temperatures. These issues are compounded by the ongoing effects of heavy volume of foot traffic at the site. The uneven ground caused by these various factors further compromises the safety of the park for recreational athletes.
<b>Type of Impact:</b>	Pollution
<b>External or Internal:</b>	External



**Impact Description:**

Exhaust from cars has caused substantial erosion of the carved relief on the east side of the Original Patentees of the District of Columbia Memorial. Due to the site's heavy use by the visiting public, litter is also an ongoing concern.

## Treatment

### Treatment

#### Approved Treatment Document Explanatory Narrative:

The park currently has fourteen rehabilitation, stabilization or preservation projects in PMIS that could work to improve the condition of the cultural landscape at President's Park South.

A project called "Execute Turf Maintenance Program – President's Park" has been entered for processing at the park, listed as PMIS 1900. The PMIS project file was created on June 9, 1998. It includes conducting soil and turf grass research to establish baseline data, and determine soil oxygen status. These investigations are intended to improve methods in ameliorating soil compaction and support the installation of park turf that is able to tolerate heavy use conditions.

The project known as "Replace Trees and Shrubs within President's Park" is currently ongoing at the site, listed as PMIS 63270. The PMIS project file was created on August 10, 2000. It includes the in-kind replacement of trees and shrubs lost each year to old age, disease, or physical damage.

The project called "Clean and Wax Park Statues on a Routine Basis" is currently being processed as PMIS 75430. The PMIS project file was created on March 7, 2001. It includes the establishment of a contract to perform routine cleaning and waxing of the seven statues within President's Park every two years.

A project known as "Structural and Utility Rehabilitation of the Executive Residence and President's Park" is currently being processed for the site as PMIS 77009. The PMIS project file was created on April 20, 2001. It includes the rehabilitation of Sherman Park.

A project called "Rehab Historic Bulfinch Gate Houses" is currently being processed for the park as PMIS 97628. The PMIS project file was created on February 11, 2003. It includes restoration, stabilization, interior renovation, and roof replacement for the historic Bulfinch Gatehouses in the park.

The project called "Perform Cultural Cyclic Maintenance on Park Memorials, Monuments, and Statues" is currently being processed for the park as PMIS 122229. The PMIS project file was created on December 14, 2005. It includes the routine cleaning, repointing, painting, repair and other maintenance to the memorials, monuments and statues of President's Park South every two years.

The project called "Execute Hazardous Tree Trimming and Removal in President's Park" is currently being processed for the park as PMIS 145325 and 63279. The PMIS project file was created on March 28, 2008. It includes the allocation of cyclic funding for the pruning of President's Park South trees to remove hazardous limbs and promote health at least every three years.

The project known as "Replace Trees and Shrubs at the Ellipse Areas" is currently ongoing at the site, listed as PMIS 146609. The PMIS project file was created on October 1, 2008. It includes the replanting of missing trees and shrubs in the Ellipse area, according to planting plans.

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The project called "Repoint E Street Crosswalk and Add Post and Chain Along Sidewalk" is currently being processed for the park as PMIS 159124. The PMIS project file was created on December 16, 2009. It includes the cutting and pointing of 800 square feet of brick pavers on the E Street crosswalk, as well as the installation of 1,600 linear feet of post and chain fencing on the sidewalk along E Street in President's Park South.

The project known as "Replace Dead Shrubs and Rehab Landscaping at Ellipse Visitor Pavilion" is currently being processed for the site as PMIS 68169. The PMIS project file was created on January 31, 2001. It includes the replacement of dead shrubbery, pruning of existing vegetation, and installation of new plant materials to further define the landscape around the Ellipse Visitor Pavilion.

The project known as "Repave and Restriping of President's Park South Ellipse Areas" is currently being processed for the site as PMIS 122226. The PMIS project file was created on December 14, 2005. It includes the milling and repaving of roads throughout the Ellipse and the restriping of parking lines and crosswalks.

The project called "Repave Hamilton Place and South Exec." is currently being processed for the site as PMIS 135454. The PMIS project file was created on January 24, 2007. It includes the milling, repaving, and restriping of Hamilton Place and South Executive Avenue (on both east and west sides of the White House Grounds).

The project known as "Perform Landscaping Improvements to Northeast Quadrant of the Ellipse" is currently being processed for the site as PMIS 146577. The PMIS project file was created on September 30, 2008. It includes the removal of the National Christmas Tree when needed and the installation of a new one.

The project called "Replace Stone Paving at Southwest Pedestrian Entrance" is currently being processed for the site as PMIS 146648. The PMIS project file was created on October 6, 2008. It includes the replacement of the existing slate paving stones at the southwest pedestrian entrance to the Ellipse with a more appropriate stone type that matches the overall aesthetic of the site.

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**Citation Title:** National Register Nomination for the L'Enfant Plan of the City of Washington, District of Columbia  
**Year of Publication:** 1997  
**Citation Publisher:** National Park Service, Washington, DC

<b>Citation Author:</b>	LeeDecker, Charles and John Bedell
<b>Citation Title:</b>	Geoarcheological Investigations for the Ellipse Rehabilitation Project, President's Park, District of Columbia
<b>Year of Publication:</b>	2007
<b>Citation Publisher:</b>	The Louis Berger Group, Inc., Washington, DC
<b>Citation Author:</b>	L'Enfant, Pierre Charles
<b>Citation Title:</b>	Plan of the City of Washington
<b>Year of Publication:</b>	1791
<b>Citation Publisher:</b>	Library of Congress, Geography and Maps Division
<b>Citation Author:</b>	Mackintosh, Barry
<b>Citation Title:</b>	National Register Nomination for President's Park South
<b>Year of Publication:</b>	1980
<b>Citation Publisher:</b>	National Park Service, Washington, DC
<b>Citation Author:</b>	McNeil, Priscilla W.
<b>Citation Title:</b>	Rock Creek Hundred: Land Conveyed for the Federal City
<b>Year of Publication:</b>	1991
<b>Citation Publisher:</b>	Historical Society of Washington, DC
<b>Citation Author:</b>	Mills, Robert
<b>Citation Title:</b>	Guide to the Capitol of the United States
<b>Year of Publication:</b>	1834
<b>Citation Publisher:</b>	Washington, DC
<b>Citation Author:</b>	National Park Service
<b>Citation Title:</b>	Revised Detailed Planting Plan: Sherman Square & E Street Extended
<b>Year of Publication:</b>	1934
<b>Citation Publisher:</b>	Unpublished manuscript

- Citation Author:** National Park Service  
**Citation Title:** Rehabilitation of Grounds: 1st Division Memorial Site  
**Year of Publication:** 1954  
**Citation Publisher:** Unpublished manuscript
- Citation Author:** National Park Service  
**Citation Title:** Design Guidelines for the White House and President's Park  
**Year of Publication:** 1997  
**Citation Publisher:** National Park Service, Denver, CO
- Citation Author:** National Park Service  
**Citation Title:** Comprehensive Design Plan for the White House and President's Park  
**Year of Publication:** 2000  
**Citation Publisher:** National Park Service, Denver, CO
- Citation Author:** National Park Service  
**Citation Title:** Administrative History of the White House and President's Park, 1791-1983  
**Year of Publication:** 2001  
**Citation Publisher:** National Park Service, Denver, CO
- Citation Author:** National Park Service  
**Citation Title:** Cultural Landscapes Inventory Professional Procedures Guide  
**Year of Publication:** 2009  
**Citation Publisher:** National Park Service
- Citation Author:** National Park Service  
**Citation Title:** The National Christmas Tree  
**Year of Publication:** 2010  
**Citation Publisher:** <http://www.thenationaltree.org/event-history/lighting-ceremony/>

**Citation Author:** National Park Service  
**Citation Title:** Ellipse Meridian Stone  
**Citation Publisher:** National Park Service

**Citation Author:** O'Brien, William P.  
**Citation Title:** The White House & President's Park: Administrative History  
1791-1983  
**Year of Publication:** 2001  
**Citation Publisher:** National Park Service, Denver, CO

**Citation Author:** Office of the NPS Liason to the White House  
**Citation Title:** Personal Communication  
**Year of Publication:** 2010  
**Citation Publisher:** Unpublished correspondence

**Citation Author:** Olmsted, Frederick Law, Jr.  
**Citation Title:** Surroundings of Sherman Monument in Relation to Plans for Area  
North of Department of Commerce Building  
**Year of Publication:** 1931  
**Citation Publisher:** Unpublished manuscript

**Citation Author:** Olmsted Brothers  
**Citation Title:** Report to the President of the United States on Improvements and  
Policy of Maintenance for the Executive Mansion Grounds  
**Year of Publication:** 1935  
**Citation Publisher:** Olmsted Brothers - Landscape Architects, Brookline, MA

**Citation Author:** Potter, Steven  
**Citation Title:** Commoners, Tribute, and Chiefs: The Development of Algonquian  
Culture in the Potomac Valley  
**Year of Publication:** 1993  
**Citation Publisher:** University Press of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA

- Citation Author:** Potter, Steven  
**Citation Title:** Personal Communication to Maureen Joseph  
**Year of Publication:** 2010  
**Citation Publisher:** Unpublished correspondence
- Citation Author:** Pousson, John F. and Christine Hoepfner  
**Citation Title:** Archeological Evaluation, President's Park, Washington, DC  
**Year of Publication:** 1995  
**Citation Publisher:** National Park Service, Silver Spring, MD
- Citation Author:** Ronsisvalle, Joseph A.  
**Citation Title:** Sculpture in the Parks of the Nation's Capital  
**Year of Publication:** 1985  
**Citation Publisher:** National Park Service, Washington, DC
- Citation Author:** Scott, Pamela and Antoinette J. Lee  
**Citation Title:** Buildings of the District of Columbia  
**Year of Publication:** 1995  
**Citation Publisher:** Oxford University Press, New York, NY
- Citation Author:** Seale, William  
**Citation Title:** The President's House: A History  
**Year of Publication:** 2008  
**Citation Publisher:** White House Historical Association, Washington, DC
- Citation Author:** Thursby, Lori O.  
**Citation Title:** President's Park Notes, Statues Number 1: General William T. Sherman Statue  
**Year of Publication:** 1999  
**Citation Publisher:** National Park Service, Washington, DC

<b>Citation Author:</b>	Toner, Joseph M.
<b>Citation Title:</b>	Sketch of Washington in Embryo, Viz.: Previous to the Survey by Major L'Enfant
<b>Year of Publication:</b>	1874
<b>Citation Publisher:</b>	Unpublished manuscript
<b>Citation Author:</b>	Unknown
<b>Citation Title:</b>	Aerial Photograph of President's Park South, Looking North
<b>Year of Publication:</b>	1900
<b>Citation Publisher:</b>	Unpublished manuscript
<b>Citation Author:</b>	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Office of Public Buildings and Grounds
<b>Citation Title:</b>	Plan for the President's Park, Excluding Lafayette Park
<b>Year of Publication:</b>	1877
<b>Citation Publisher:</b>	Unpublished manuscript
<b>Citation Author:</b>	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Office of Public Buildings and Grounds
<b>Citation Title:</b>	Annual Reports of the Chief of Engineers
<b>Year of Publication:</b>	1905
<b>Citation Publisher:</b>	US Government Printing Office, Washington, DC
<b>Citation Author:</b>	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Office of Public Buildings and Grounds
<b>Citation Title:</b>	A Memorial: Major Archibald W. Butt; Francis Davis Millet, Washington, D.C.
<b>Year of Publication:</b>	1913
<b>Citation Publisher:</b>	Unpublished manuscript
<b>Citation Author:</b>	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Office of Public Buildings and Grounds
<b>Citation Title:</b>	Grounds South of the Executive Mansion: 15th St. - 17th St. N.W.
<b>Year of Publication:</b>	1919
<b>Citation Publisher:</b>	Unpublished manuscript

<b>Citation Author:</b>	White, Gwendolyn K.
<b>Citation Title:</b>	President's Park Notes, Memorials Number 2: Second Division Memorial
<b>Year of Publication:</b>	2005
<b>Citation Publisher:</b>	National Park Service, Washington, DC
<b>Citation Author:</b>	Williams, James B. and Ian Forbes
<b>Citation Title:</b>	Fees and Charges for Public Recreation: A Study of Policies and Practices
<b>Year of Publication:</b>	1939
<b>Citation Publisher:</b>	U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC



### Supplemental Information

**Title:** Project Management Information System (PMIS) 122226: "Repave and Restriping of President's Park South Ellipse Areas"

**Description:** Date of last update: March 25, 2009

Purpose: Mill and repave roads throughout the Ellipse and restripe parking lines and crosswalks

**Title:** Project Management Information System (PMIS) 122229: "Perform Cultural Cyclic Maintenance on Park Memorials, Monuments, and Statues"

**Description:** Date of last update: December 17, 2009

Purpose: Perform routine cleaning, repointing, painting, repair and other maintenance to the memorials, monuments, and statues of President's Park South every two years

**Title:** Project Management Information System (PMIS) 135433: "Repaint Security Bollards in President's Park, South"

**Description:** Date of last update: January 7, 2010

Purpose: Repaint the security bollards along the perimeter of the park

**Title:** Project Management Information System (PMIS) 135454: "Repave Hamilton Place and South Exec."

**Description:** Date of last update: February 20, 2008

Purpose: Mill, repave, and restripe Hamilton Place and South Executive Avenue (on both east and west sides of the White House Grounds)

**Title:** Project Management Information System (PMIS) 145325: "Execute Hazardous Tree Trimming and Removal in President's Park"

**Description:** Date of last update: October 29, 2009

Purpose: Prune the trees of President's Park South at least every three years in order to remove hazardous limbs and promote health

**Title:** Project Management Information System (PMIS) 146577: "Perform Landscaping Improvements to Northeast Quadrant of the Ellipse"

**Description:** Date of last update: December 17, 2009

Purpose: When necessary, remove the National Christmas Tree and replace it with a new one.

**Title:** Project Management Information System (PMIS) 146609: "Replace Trees and Shrubs at the Ellipse Areas"

**Description:** Date of last update: January 29, 2009

Purpose: Replant missing trees and shrubs in the Ellipse area, according to planting plans

**Title:** Project Management Information System (PMIS) 146648: "Replace Stone Paving at Southwest Pedestrian Entrance"

**Description:** Date of last update: February 17, 2010

Purpose: Replace the existing slate paving stones at the southwest pedestrian entrance to the Ellipse with a more appropriate stone type that matches the overall aesthetic of the site

**Title:** Project Management Information System (PMIS) 159124: "Repoint E Street Crosswalk and Add Post and Chain Along Sidewalk"

**Description:** Date of last update: December 19, 2009

Purpose: Cut and point 800 square feet of brick pavers on the E Street crosswalk, and install 1,600 linear feet of post and chain fencing on the sidewalk along E Street in President's Park South

**Title:** Project Management Information System (PMIS) 1900: "Execute Turf Maintenance Program – President's Park"

**Description:** Date of last update: January 25, 2008

Purpose: Soil and turf grass research

**Title:** Project Management Information System (PMIS) 63270: "Replace Trees and Shrubs within President's Park"

**Description:** Date of last update: October 29, 2009

Purpose: In-kind replacement of trees and shrubs

**Title:** Project Management Information System (PMIS) 63279: "Execute Hazardous Tree Trimming and Removal in President's Park"

**Description:** Date of last update: August 1, 2009

Purpose: Prune the trees of President's Park South at least every three years in order to remove hazardous limbs and promote health

**Title:** Project Management Information System (PMIS) 68169: "Replace Dead Shrubs and Rehab Landscaping at Ellipse Visitor Pavilion"

**Description:** Date of last update: October 2, 2009

Purpose: Replace dead shrubbery, prune existing vegetation, and install new plant materials to further define the landscape around the Ellipse Visitor Pavilion

**Title:** Project Management Information System (PMIS) 75430: "Clean and Wax Park Statues on a Routine Basis"

**Description:** Date of last update: December 17, 2009

Purpose: Clean and wax the seven statues within President's Park every two years

**Title:** Project Management Information System (PMIS) 77009: "Structural and Utility Rehabilitation of the Executive Residence and President's Park"

**Description:** Date of last update: October 29, 2009

Purpose: Replace lighting, benches, trash receptacles and water fountains in President's Park South

**Title:** Project Management Information System (PMIS) 97628: "Rehab Historic Bulfinch Gate Houses"

**Description:** Date of last update: September 18, 2009

Purpose: Restore and stabilize the historic Bullfinch Gatehouses at President's Park South including restoration, stabilization, interior renovation, and roof replacement

President's Park South

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