

IV. Analysis and Evaluation

Introduction

The analysis and evaluation of the cultural landscape for the Lincoln Memorial grounds are based on an examination of the historical records and the documentation of existing landscape resources in the study area. A summary discussion of the cultural landscape components documents landscape patterns, relationships, and individual features within a site, which define the character of the designed landscape. With this information, the overall significance and integrity of the landscape is addressed according to national register criteria for landscapes.

To help present this complex information, there are two parts:

Overall Landscape	<i>Lincoln Memorial grounds</i>
Component Landscape	<i>Reflecting Pool area Lincoln Memorial circle and radial roads Watergate area</i>

The *overall landscape* is defined as the aggregate of sites (component landscapes) or features that define a cultural landscape which is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Whereas the *component landscape* is a definable physical component of a landscape that contributes to the significance of a National Register Property or in some cases, is individually eligible for the National Register. A *component landscape* can be further subdivided into smaller features and warrants individual documentation to adequately record the physical character of the property. These landscape features based on their significance and integrity are either *contributing* or *noncontributing* to the period of significance. For the majority of landscape characteristics, a contributing and noncontributing list is present which defines that particular characteristic. The list of contributing features can then be used to quantify the significant historic landscape for a national register nomination for the Lincoln Memorial grounds. Chapter five, "National Register Status," provides a more in depth discussion of the criteria that is followed for this procedure.

Overall Landscape Characteristics

Land Use

West Potomac Park is the part of the monumental core of the nation's capital and includes the Lincoln Memorial, Washington Monument and Jefferson Memorial. Once a part of the tidal "flats" of the Potomac River, the park was created from fill, dredged from the Potomac River. In 1902 the McMillan Commission defined a vision for the area that included not only parks but also memorials to great men and important events in American history. The Lincoln Memorial was the first such memorial to be constructed. It was sited on the continuation of the east/west axis planned by Pierre L'Enfant to extend from the capitol to the monument to George

Washington. Upon its completion, the Lincoln Memorial's classical form graced the river's edge as a symbol of reconciliation between the north and south. The parklike grounds of the commemorative landscape surrounding the memorial and other monuments were mostly designed to be used for passive recreation such as picnicking and walking. During the period of development, the Office of Public Buildings and Grounds set aside areas in West Potomac Park for active recreational activities. Areas north and northwest of the Lincoln Memorial were designated for activities such as golf. Bridle trails were also established along the Potomac River on the north, west and south sides of the memorial.

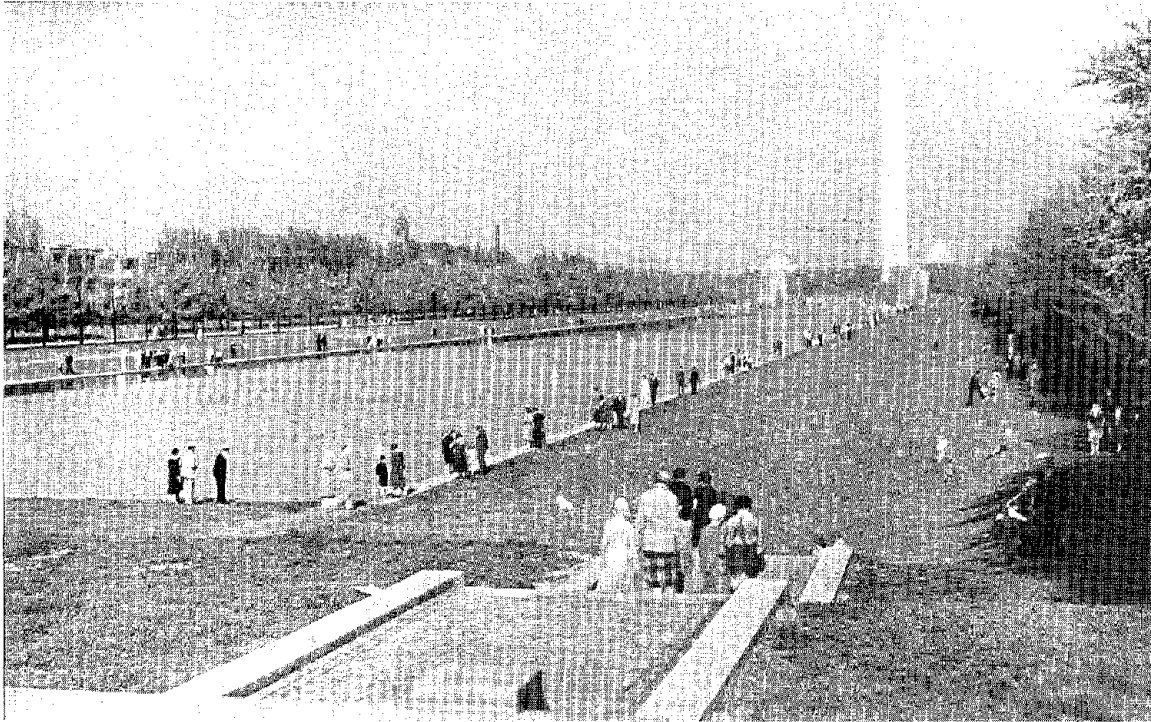


Figure 34 – Visitors enjoying the Reflecting Pool, 1931. Used by permission from the National Geographic Society.

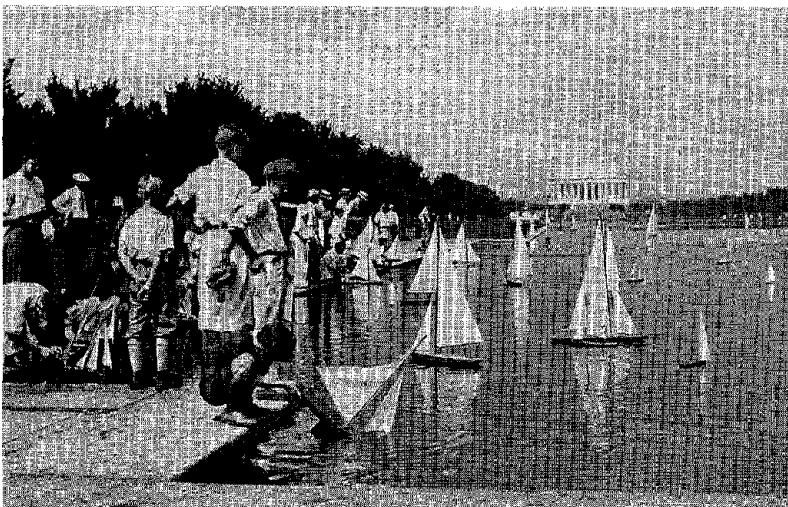


Figure 35 - Model sailboats in the Reflecting Pool, 1931. Used by permission from the National Geographic Society.

A recent addition to the monumental areas of West Potomac Park are concession facilities and information kiosks, designed to serve the large numbers of visitors to the park. The services are

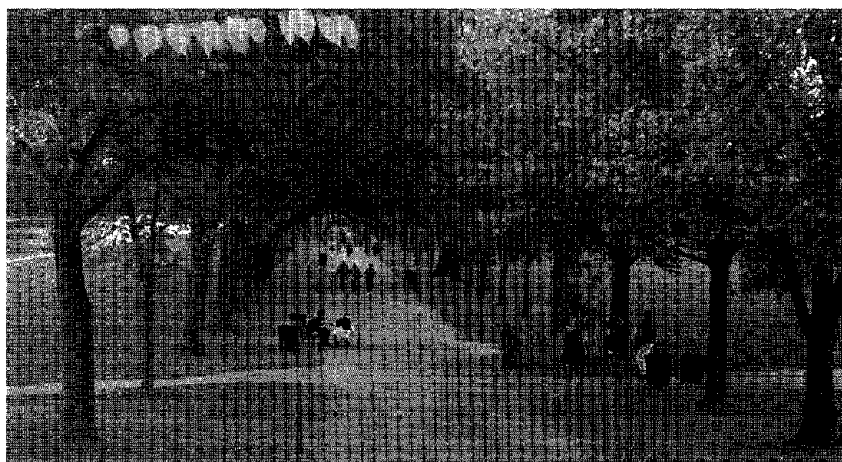
generally located near major pedestrian and vehicular circulation routes. At the Lincoln Memorial, visitor services are located southwest and northwest of the Reflecting Pool. Food concessionaires, tour bus fee collectors, a gift shop, first amendment rights vendors, and the National Park Service (NPS) ranger information facilities are the types of services available in these two areas. With the addition of non-contributing services, the park-like atmosphere near the main approachway to the Lincoln Memorial has been dramatically compromised. The National Park Service has attempted to control the impact of visitor services by clustering all these needs between the Reflecting Pool and the eastern side of the circular roadway. Even with this effort, the symbolic design of the approach to the memorial is congested.



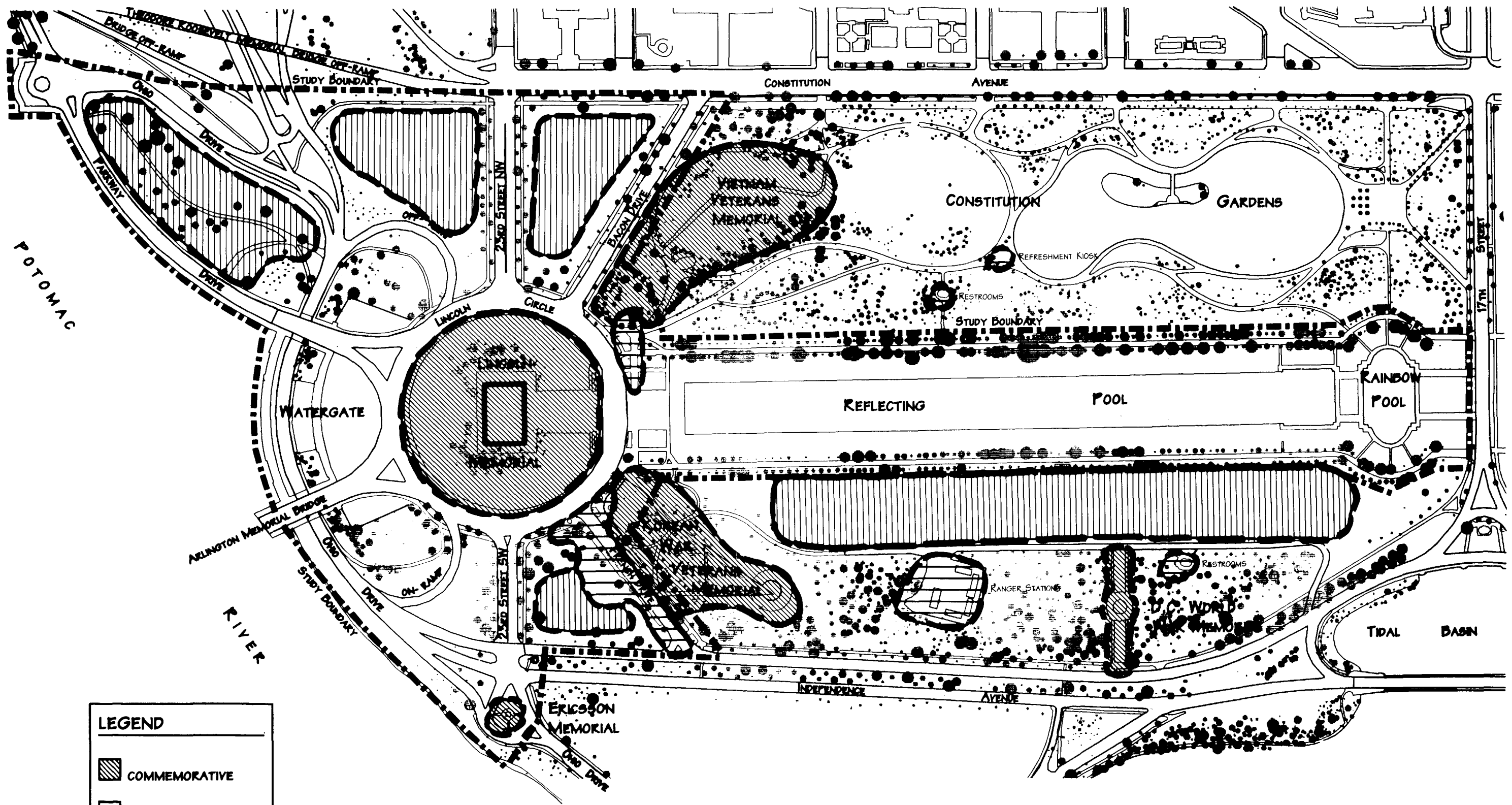
Figure 36 - Grassy area north of Lincoln Memorial is used for active recreation, November 1996. LINC 11-29.

Passive recreation is still the primary use of this commemorative landscape. Active recreational uses have continued into the present, but are maintained in open spaces away from areas of major tourist visitation. To separate diverse uses, park officials have designated fields for wide range of recreational opportunities. Use of the Lincoln Memorial grounds as a public forum developed over time, and considering the historical significance of the events staged there, precedence for such use has become well established. Large demonstrations and public assemblies will inevitably continue to be staged there for some time. See *Map 9 Overall Landscape - Land Use* for delineation of use areas.


Figure 37 - Visitors walking along the south Reflecting Pool path, November 1996. LINC 11-30.

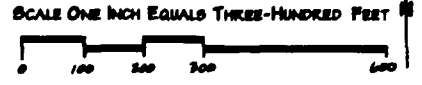


Contributing Features	Noncontributing Features
1. Lincoln Memorial commemorative landscape 2. Reflecting Pool passive recreation 3. Watergate area active recreation 4. Active recreation within grass panels, Lincoln Memorial radial roads	1. Service oriented area, French Drive, outside curb of Lincoln Circle



LEGEND

-  **COMMEMORATIVE**
-  **PASSIVE RECREATION**
-  **ACTIVE RECREATION**
-  **SERVICE**



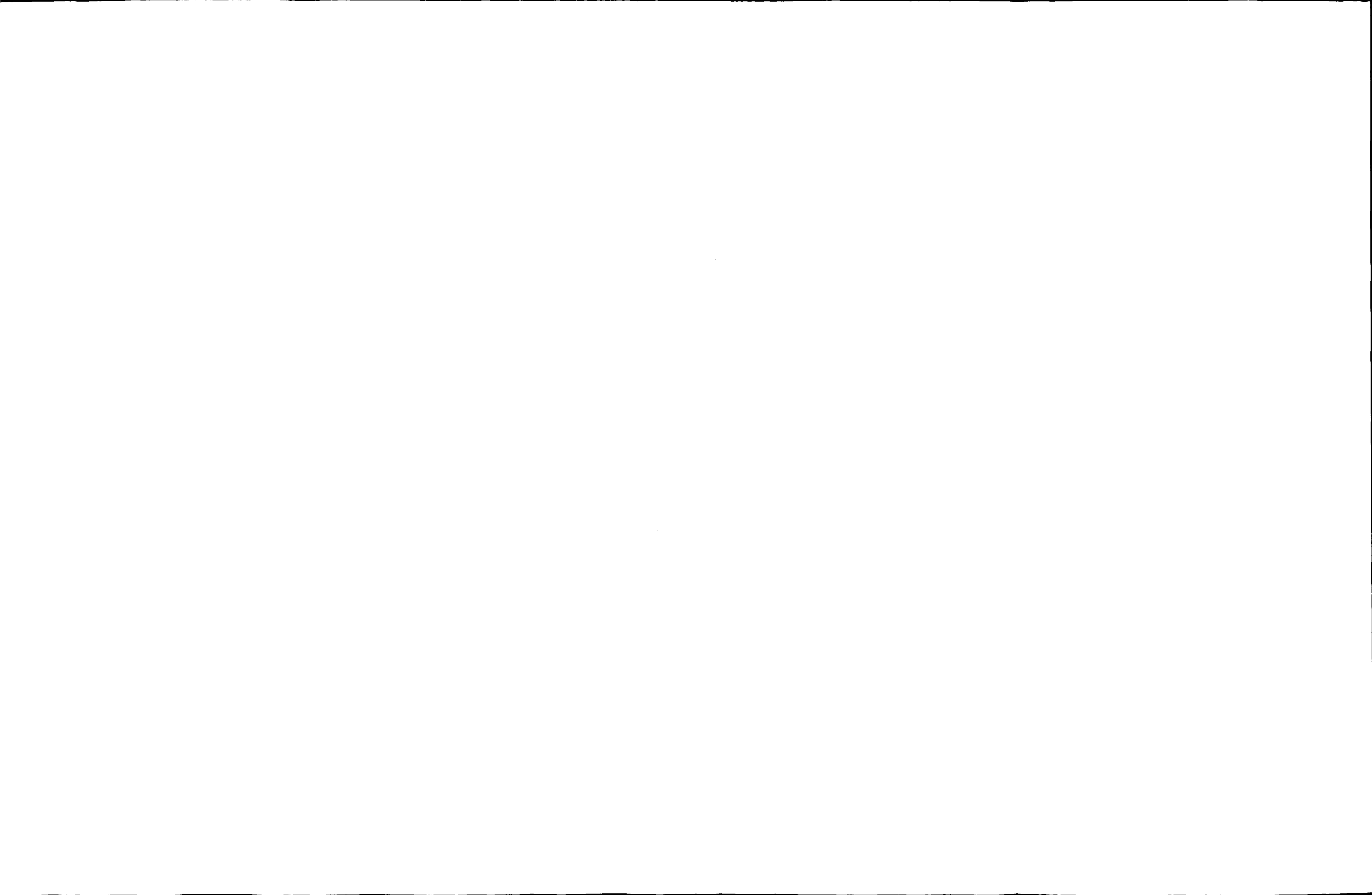
SOURCES:

- U.S. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, NACC RESOURCE MANAGEMENT, LIVETREE DATABASE, 10/86.
- FIELD INVESTIGATIONS, 1986.
- HISTORIC PHOTO DOCUMENTATION, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, MARS
- NATIONAL PARK SERVICE MAP FILES, SEE BIBLIOGRAPHY FOR MAP LISTING

Map 9

LAND USE
OVERALL LANDSCAPE

CULTURAL LANDSCAPE REPORT
LINCOLN MEMORIAL GROUNDS
PREPARED BY: M. JOSEPH DATE: OCTOBER 1986



Adjacent Lands

North and south of the Lincoln Memorial grounds are several other designed landscapes. Two contemporary memorials dedicated to the veterans of the Vietnam and Korean Wars are located northeast and southeast of the circular drive. A naturalistic park landscape called Constitution Gardens lies north of the Reflecting Pool, beyond the flood control embankment. These landscapes have changed the formal geometric character that the McMillan Commission and the National Capital Parks and Planning Commission intended for this portion of West Potomac Park. While both the Vietnam and Korean War memorials were designed to have a direct and symbolic relationship with the Lincoln Memorial building, they have little association with the park's historic landscape. The concept for Constitution Gardens contrasts even more with the original formal arrangement. On the other hand, the design of the District of Columbia War Memorial, which was constructed in 1931 on a site southeast of the Reflecting Pool, was developed according to many of the principles that relate to the design of the Lincoln Memorial grounds.

From 1913 to 1918 a row of tennis courts lay east of 17th Street and north of the area proposed for the Reflecting Pool. The courts were removed in 1918 when temporary buildings were constructed on this location for the government's war effort. To protect these structures and the other buildings along Constitution Avenue from periodic flooding, the National Park Service installed an earthen berm in 1938. The berm was located just north of the outer row of elms lining the walkway on the north side of the Reflecting Pool. Approximately 8 feet high, the berm effectively blocked views and access from the Reflecting Pool area to the north. This negative impact also changed the open character of the park. In 1970 the war buildings were removed. The "Downing-esque-inspired" landscape for Constitution Gardens (1976) replaced the war buildings. The curvilinear design of the gardens deviated from the character and feel of the design originally conceived for this space by the McMillan Commission and the planning commissions of the 1920s and 1930s. When the Vietnam Veterans Memorial was installed just west of Constitution Gardens in 1982, it further compromised the original plans. The asymmetrical design of this memorial contrasted with the surrounding grounds but had a visual relationship with both the Washington Monument and the Lincoln Memorial.

The area south of the Reflecting Pool developed in a different manner. The upper part of the space remained open, while the lower portion, flanked by an old road, was maintained as a tree grove. Even though there was no specified use for this area, its relationship to the design of Reflecting Pool area was important. Both the McMillan Commission and the National Capital Parks and Planning Commission emphasized the juxtaposition of open areas (grass fields) and enclosed areas (tree groves) in their plans. Within the trees, a classical pavilion was constructed to honor D.C. citizens killed in World War I. The area remained in this state until 1942 when the government built temporary buildings on the open land. In 1964 these "tempo" were removed and the area was once again an open grassy field. After 1964 the open field was used for special events and active recreation. Subsequent changes did not occur until 1995 with the installation of the Korean War Veterans Memorial on the western portion of the open field. As with the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, the Korean War Veterans Memorial had a symbolic relationship

with the Lincoln Memorial and Jefferson Memorial, but the layout of features conflicted with the historic design of the Lincoln Memorial grounds.



Figure 38 - Aerial view of the Korean War Memorial and its impact on the open grassy area south of the Reflecting Pool, April 1996. LINC 3-32.

Although the Vietnam and Korean memorials and Constitution Gardens are known for their distinct designs and cultural value, these were developed independently of the historic Lincoln Memorial grounds. In addition, the change in land use from passive to active recreation on the south side of the Reflecting Pool detracts from the original design planned for this area. See Map 9 *Overall Landscape - Land Use* for delineation of adjacent use areas.

Views and Vistas

As defined in the 1791 L'Enfant plan and subsequent McMillan Commission Plan of 1901, the most important designed vista is the main mall axis, from the steps of the Lincoln Memorial east to the Washington Monument and then from the Capitol to the Washington Monument to the Lincoln. To help frame the view and provide an unobstructed vista, double rows of elms were planted on either side of the Reflecting Pool. The vista narrowed at 17th Street where the street trees (American elm) framed the view to a controlled 160-foot opening (the same width of the Reflecting Pool). A continuation of this axis went from the west side of the Lincoln Memorial to the Watergate steps and across to the Virginia shoreline. Two other sight lines radiated from the rear side, or west side, of the Lincoln Memorial to maintain the symmetry of the design. One was to the southwest across the Potomac River to Arlington Cemetery and Arlington House, and the other was to the northwest to Parkway Drive. The fan-shaped view zone to the west is framed by white pines and elms, planted on the outside edge of the bridge and parkway approaches to Lincoln Circle. Views from the Ericsson Memorial, south of the Lincoln and along 23rd Street NW to the north provide secondary views to the Lincoln Memorial. All of these significant view zones are evident today in various degrees. However, the foundation plantings around the Lincoln Memorial are encroaching upon the openings at the base of the raised terrace wall on the north and south facades. This is more evident on the center of the north side of the memorial where the branches of hollies are arching over lower, horizontal-growing yews. After the completion of the Lincoln Memorial grounds in the 1930s, additional views from subsequent memorials to the Lincoln Memorial were emphasized based on their relationship to the Lincoln. This is evident from the Jefferson, Vietnam Veterans, and Korean War Veterans Memorials. Since these offsite views do not relate to the original design intent of the Lincoln Memorial grounds, they are noncontributing features to the overall

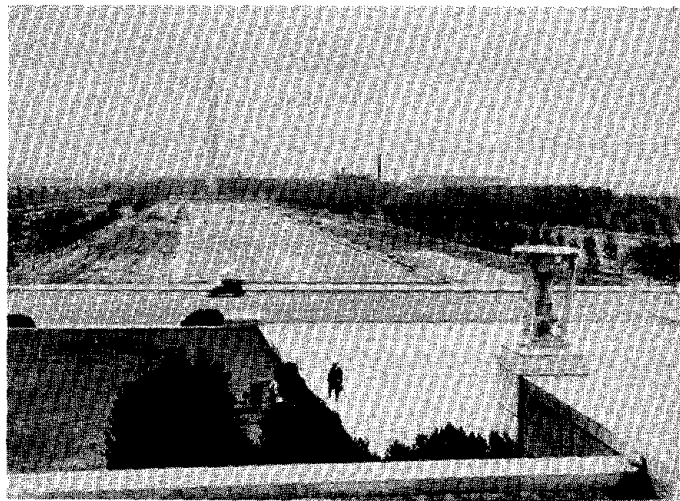


Figure 39 - Main mall axis view from the raised terrace of the Lincoln Memorial to the Washington Monument, October 27, 1922. MRC 3-2.

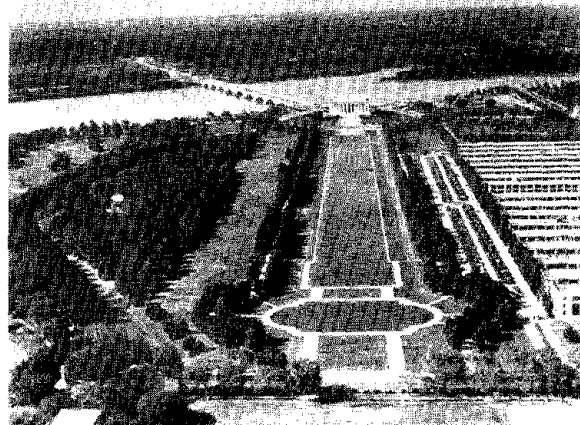


Figure 40 - View from the Washington Monument to the Lincoln Memorial, c. 1930. Trees along 17th Street left an opening for the main mall axis view. MRC 3-26.

landscape. See Map 10 *Overall Landscape - Views and Vistas* for graphic representation of contributing views.



Figure 41 - View from roof of Lincoln Memorial to the Virginia shoreline, March 11, 1996. LINC 6-22.

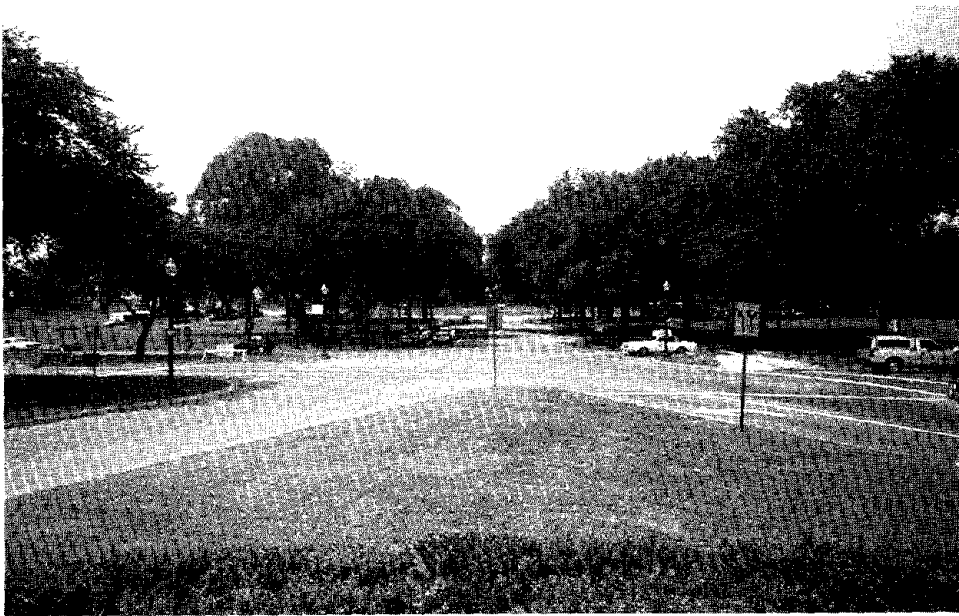
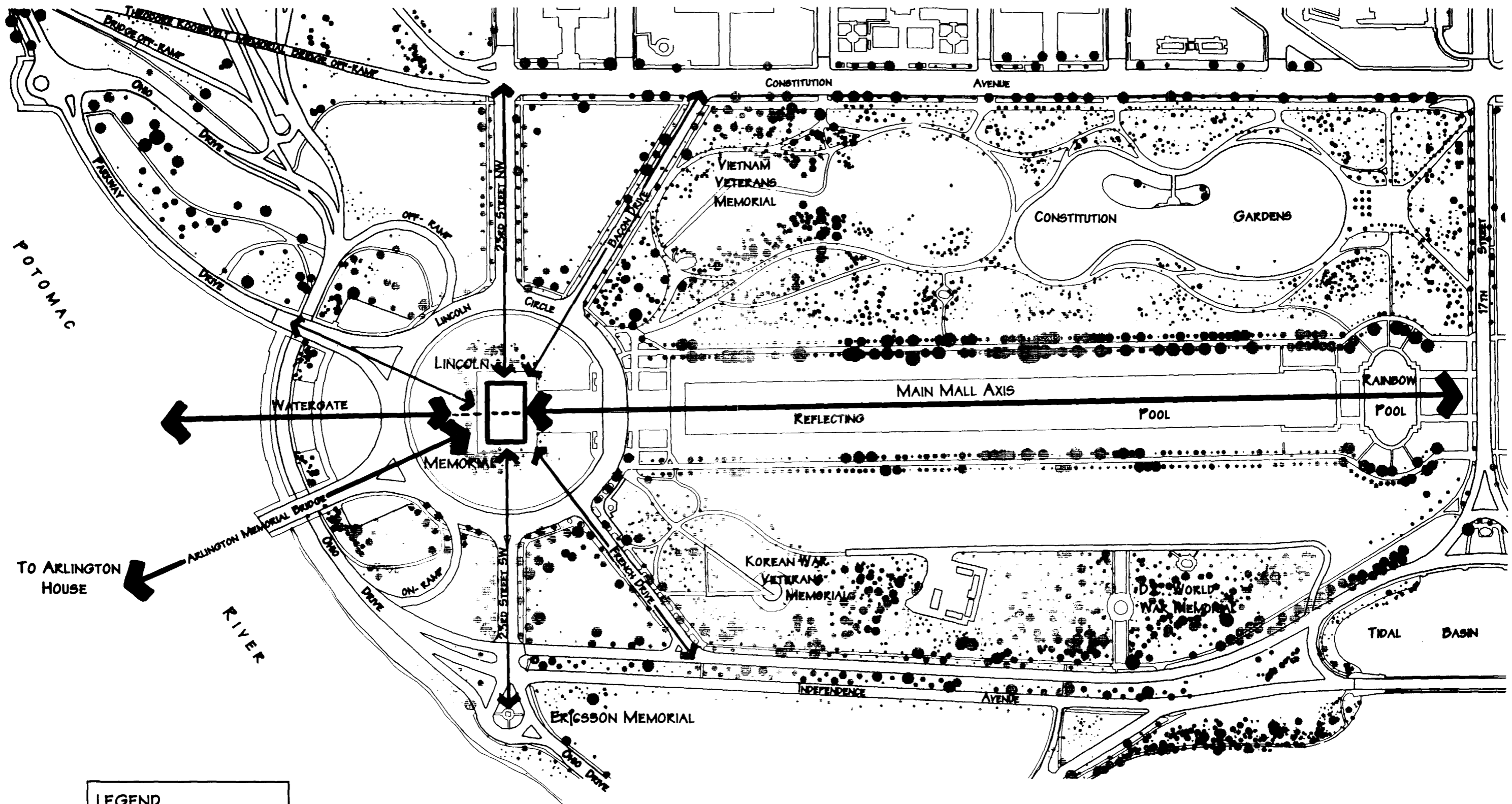


Figure 42 - Limited view of Lincoln Memorial from the Ericsson Memorial, June 1996. LINC 9-7.

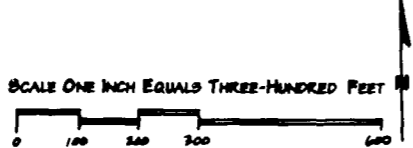
Contributing Features	Noncontributing Features
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Mall axis vista from and to the Lincoln Memorial to Washington Monument to U.S. Capitol.2. Vista from the Lincoln Memorial to Arlington House across Arlington Memorial Bridge (also opposing view back from Arlington House to the Lincoln Memorial)3. Vista from and to Parkway Drive4. Vista from radial roads to Lincoln Memorial and along radial roads from the Lincoln Memorial5. Vista from the Lincoln Memorial raised terrace south to the Ericsson Memorial and north to Constitution Avenue, along 23rd Street, NW axis (also opposing view from the Ericsson Memorial and Constitution Avenue to the Lincoln Memorial)6. Fan-shape vista from Lincoln Memorial west to the Virginia shoreline (also opposite view from the shoreline to the Lincoln Memorial)	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. View from and to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial to the Lincoln Memorial2. View from and to the Korean War Veterans Memorial



LEGEND

➔ MAJOR VISTA

➔ MINOR VISTA



SOURCES:

- U.S. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, NACC RESOURCE MANAGEMENT, LVTREE DATABASE, 10/86.
- FIELD INVESTIGATIONS, 1986.
- HISTORIC PHOTO DOCUMENTATION, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, MARS
- NATIONAL PARK SERVICE MAP FILES, SEE BIBLIOGRAPHY FOR MAP LISTING.

Map 10

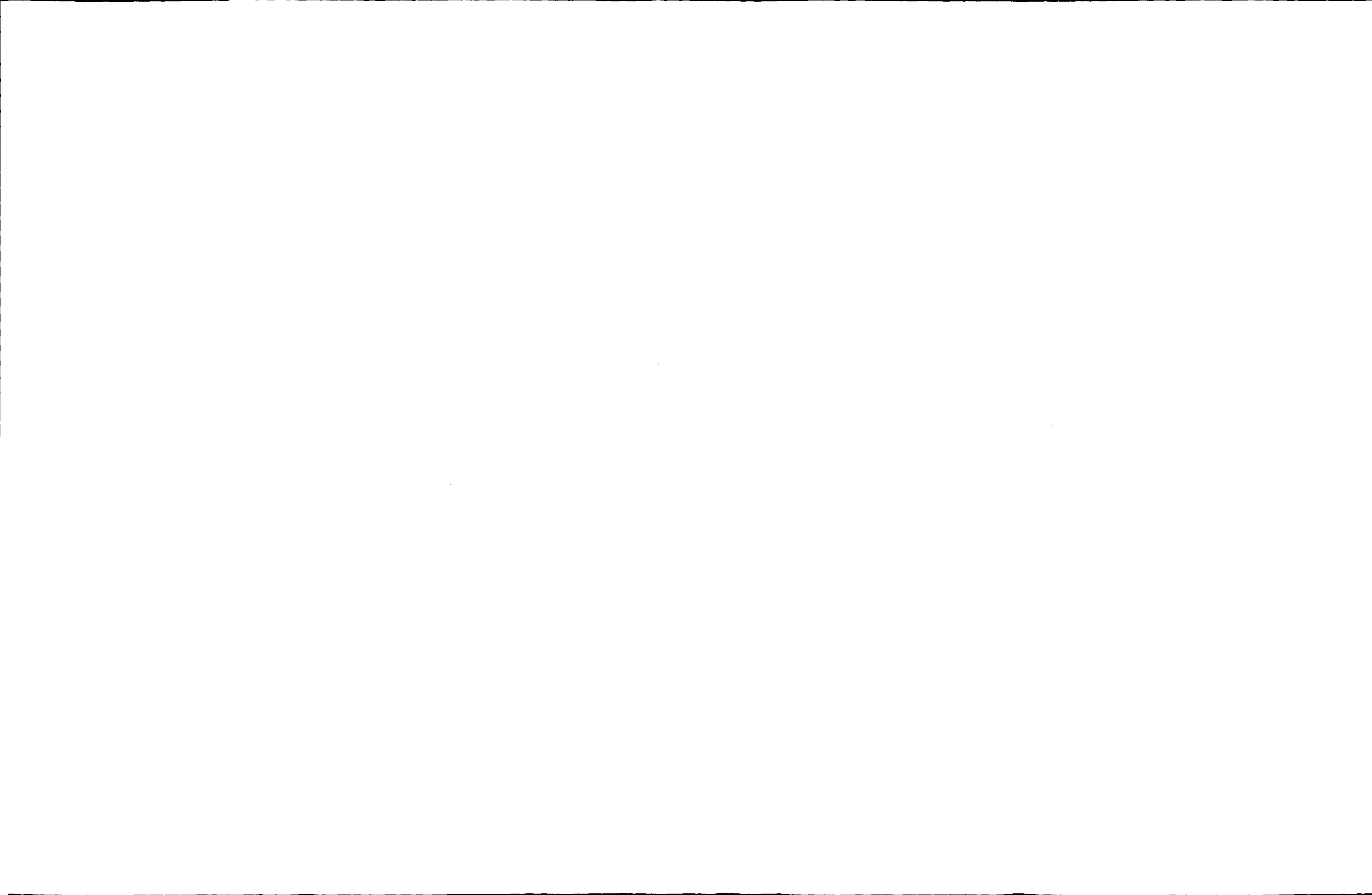
VIEWS & VISTAS

OVERALL LANDSCAPE

CULTURAL LANDSCAPE REPORT

LINCOLN MEMORIAL GROUNDS

PREPARED BY: M. JOSEPH DATE: OCTOBER 1986



Spatial Organization

The Lincoln Memorial is above the banks of the Potomac River in West Potomac Park at the western end of the main east/west axis of the Mall. The line of this axis and the lines of other secondary axes are based on the design developed by Pierre L'Enfant in 1791 for the nation's capital and the McMillan Commission's (1901-1902) subsequent adaptation of L'Enfant's concept. A raised terrace elevates the memorial to a point of prominence 14 feet above grade, where views of the Washington Monument and the Capitol and the vista across the Potomac River reinforce the axial relationships.

The linear arrangement is reinforced by the long reflecting pool that captures images of both the Lincoln Memorial and the Washington Monument on the surface of the water. Two avenues of elms, planted on terraced levels in parallel rows, delineate this pool and outline a smaller transverse pool. A formal plaza and a slightly curving set of granite steps, descending to the river,

connect the axis with the Potomac vistas. Spatially, the area immediately surrounding the memorial structure had been laid out in a symmetrical and geometric arrangement of drives, walks, and panels of lawn. These forms are enhanced by historic patterns of vegetation, such as the regular planting of American elms found along the roads radiating out from the circular drive.

Most of the spatial qualities of the Lincoln Memorial grounds have been retained, but development on the north and south of the Reflecting Pool

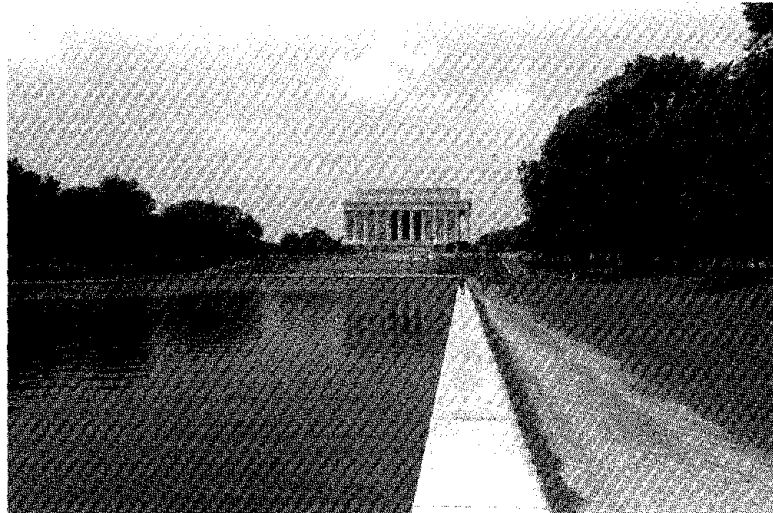


Figure 43 - Reflection of the Lincoln Memorial on the pool, June 1996. LINC 9-24.

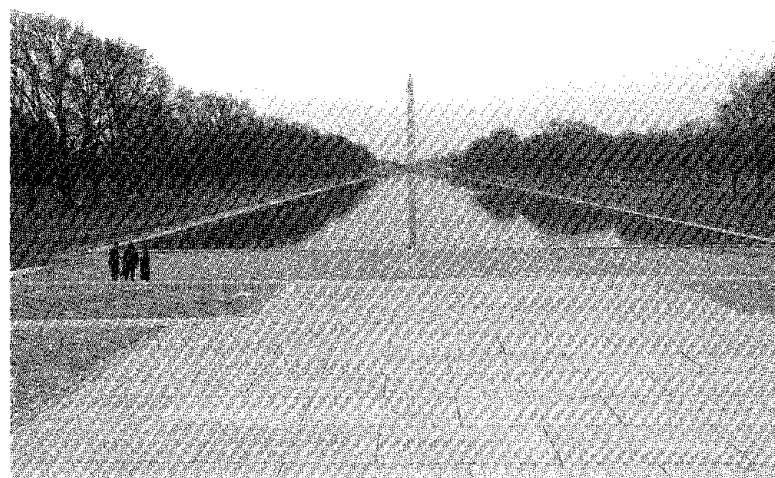


Figure 44- Reflection of Washington Monument on the pool, December 5, 1996. LINC 13-23.

have weakened the character of these qualities. Both the construction of temporary government buildings in 1918 and the installation of a flood control levee in 1938 created an undesirable sense of enclosure on the north side. The south side suffered from the same effect when temporary government buildings were built there in 1942. The introduction of these large-scale projects compromised the broad expanse of open space originally designed for both sides of the pools. When the temporary structures were removed in 1964 and 1970, the area south of the pools was left open. On the north, however, the levee remained to limit the views, enclose the avenue of elms, and separate the pool area from the rest of the park. Subsequent memorial projects, developed northeast and southeast of the circular drive, have segmented the area further. Because of their unique designs, the memorials to the veterans of the Korean and Vietnam wars have become singular spaces, enclosed by understory trees, with little visual relationship to the historic designed landscape of the Lincoln Memorial.

Component Landscape

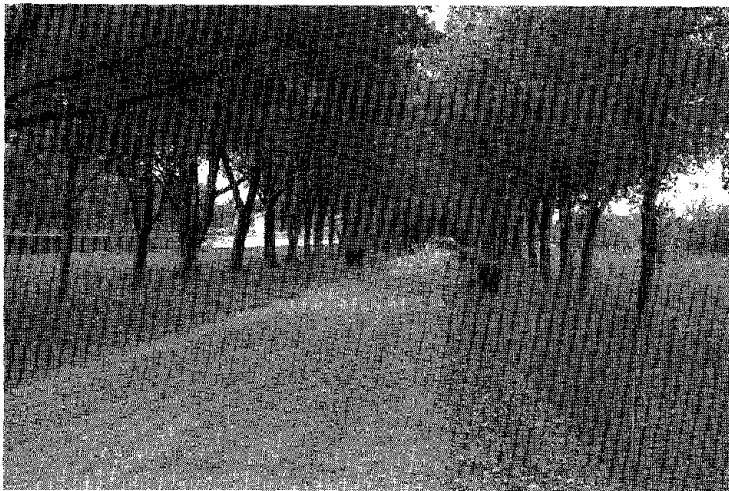
Reflecting Pool area

Vegetation

The landscape plan of 1916 for the lagoon, or Reflecting Pool area, called for a two rows of English elms (known then as *Ulmus campestris*) to be planted in parallel lines along the north and south sides. These rows were designed to further define the east/west axis between the Lincoln Memorial and the Washington Monument. The total space allotted for the pools and the double rows was set at 320 feet, with the width of the pool designed for 160 feet and the allee between the trees for 40 feet. A 15-foot concrete walk delineated the passage through the elms. In each row, individual trees were planted approximately 25 feet on center. The designers sited the rows of elms and a pair of concrete walks on the top of two terraced slopes, which paralleled the pools and rose 4 feet above them. The terraces extended the full length of the axis. At the smaller pool, the trees were placed in curved lines to complement the circular sections of its geometric outline. The four lines of elms ended just before their intersection with 17th Street, as shown on the 1916 Howard plan. At this north/south thoroughfare, an appropriate break in the street trees (*Ulmus americana*) on the west and east side of 17th Street kept the main visual axis between the monuments free of large-scale distractions and served to both emphasize and frame the view.⁸⁴

The planting plan from this 1916 landscape design remains essentially intact. However, a few losses and changes have occurred. Along 17th Street, the northeast line of trees framing the main axis view is no longer standing and have not been replaced. Over the years, the elms originally planted along the Reflecting Pool have died. Unlike 17th Street and the rest of the mall, which are planted with American elms, a different type of elm was selected for the Reflecting Pool area. Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr. recommended English elms for the double rows of trees along the Reflecting Pool, but documentation suggests that Dutch elm (*Ulmus x hollandica*), may have

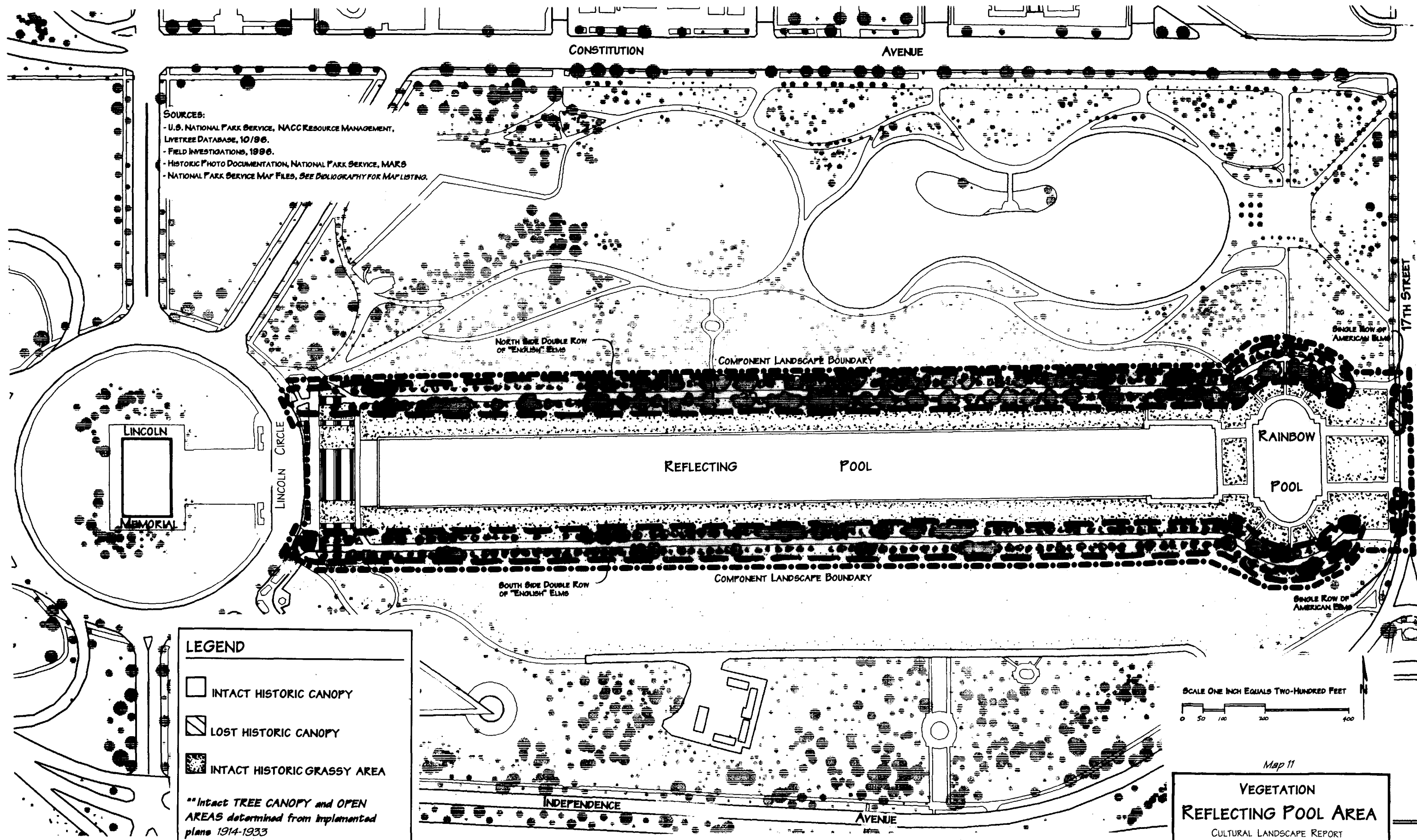
been planted originally.⁸⁵ Presently, most of the Reflecting Pool elms are Dutch elms with a few smoothleaf, American, English and Scotch elms (*Ulmus carpinifolia*, *Ulmus americana*, *Ulmus procera*, *Ulmus glabra*) planted in between. Olmsted's elm selection suggests a conscience decision to define a different tree form for this area. English elms that did not survive have been replaced in the same locations, but with other more sturdy and Dutch elm disease-resistant species. Such replanting has created a corridor of trees of varying heights, crowns and circumferences. The smaller number of mature elms on the south side of the Reflecting Pool may be due to compacted soil in this area. High levels of pedestrian traffic passing between the trees to the adjacent athletic fields, as well as the trees proximity to flood prone areas of the park, may have brought about this condition. On the north side there are more mature elms. These elms are subject to less drainage problems and less compaction from recreational and pedestrian activity. The presence of a flood control berm also discourages walking between the trees to Constitution Gardens. Only a few designated paths cross over the berm, which limits impact to the elms in this area.



The Reflecting Pool area is divided into three vegetation zones. These zones define the spatial composition of the tree canopy of the north and south paths, 17th Street corridor, and the lawn area. By breaking the vegetation into smaller areas, there is a better sense of the integrity from the original plans. See Map 11 *Reflecting Pool area - Vegetation* map for graphic representation.

Figure 45 – Elm walk on south side of Reflecting Pool, November 10, 1996. LINC 11-35.

Contributing Features	Noncontributing Features
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Double row of “English” elms trees along Reflecting Pool main walks 2. Remnant row of American elms along 17th Street 3. Open grassy areas around Reflecting Pool and Rainbow Pool 	



SOURCES:
 - U.S. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, NACC RESOURCE MANAGEMENT, LIVETREE DATABASE, 10/86.
 - FIELD INVESTIGATIONS, 1986.
 - HISTORIC PHOTO DOCUMENTATION, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, MAR 8
 - NATIONAL PARK SERVICE MAP FILES, SEE BIBLIOGRAPHY FOR MAP LISTING.

LEGEND

- INTACT HISTORIC CANOPY
- LOST HISTORIC CANOPY
- INTACT HISTORIC GRASSY AREA

*** Intact TREE CANOPY and OPEN AREAS determined from implemented plans 1914-1933*

SCALE ONE INCH EQUALS TWO-HUNDRED FEET
 0 50 100 200 400

Map 11
VEGETATION
REFLECTING POOL AREA
 CULTURAL LANDSCAPE REPORT
 LINCOLN MEMORIAL GROUNDS
 PREPARED BY: M. JOSEPH DATE: OCTOBER 1986



Pedestrian Circulation

Pedestrian circulation in the Reflecting Pool area has had a few minor changes since the paths were first laid out. The original plan called for two 15-foot-wide concrete paths situated under the double row of elms, running east to west to serve as the primary pedestrian route along the pools. On the west end of the walkway, two sets of steps brought pedestrians from the lower pool area up to the memorial circle. Sometime before 1964, an additional



Figure 46 – Young elms line concrete walks by Reflecting Pool, May 1929. MRC 2-40.

path, which ran parallel to the existing concrete walk on the south side, lay on the top of the terraced slope, outside the inner row of trees. The need for this 2-foot wide concrete path may have been based on the proximity of the temporary government buildings constructed on that side in 1942. Documentation indicates that the path along the terrace was removed in the early 1970s.

Two sets of three 6-foot-wide paths, extending in radial lines from the Rainbow Pool, provided connections to selected points along the main walks on both the north and south sides and promoted circulation around the pool. A concrete plaza area surrounded the Rainbow Pool, which gave visitors a closer vantage point from which to enjoy the fountain display.

Although narrow and not designed or designated for pedestrians, visitors also used the granite coping of the Reflecting Pool as an alternative walkway between the Lincoln Memorial and the Washington Monument.

Access to the Reflecting Pool from the memorial consists of a series of granite steps descending from the circle and adjacent sidewalk down to the pool's western



Figure 47 - Concrete walks radiating from the Rainbow Pool, April 1933. MRC 2-126.

edge. The line of these steps continues the line established on the opposite side of the circle by the main approachway leading up to the memorial structure. One broad stairway and two narrow stairs comprise the series. In 1924 a flagstone paver walk, leading from the set of narrow granite stairs and across the grassy strip bordering the pool, connected the descent to the granite coping. These pavers were removed in the 1970s, and in their place a new plaza was installed. As discussed earlier, two other sets of stairs, constructed of concrete, flanked the larger granite series. These steps connected the concrete paths between the double rows of elm trees with the walk around the memorial circle.

A comparison of circulation patterns from the 1920s to those in the 1990s shows relatively few changes. The most significant difference between the two time periods has been the replacement of the concrete surface on the elm walks with asphalt. This change was done in 1971. Other modifications concern the volunteer or social paths that once led from the main walkways to the temporary Navy and Munitions buildings on the north side of the pool and to the temporary government buildings on the south. These paths probably developed during the 1920s and 1940s,



Figure 48 – Reflecting Pool steps and plaza on west end of pool, November 11, 1996. LINC 11-13.

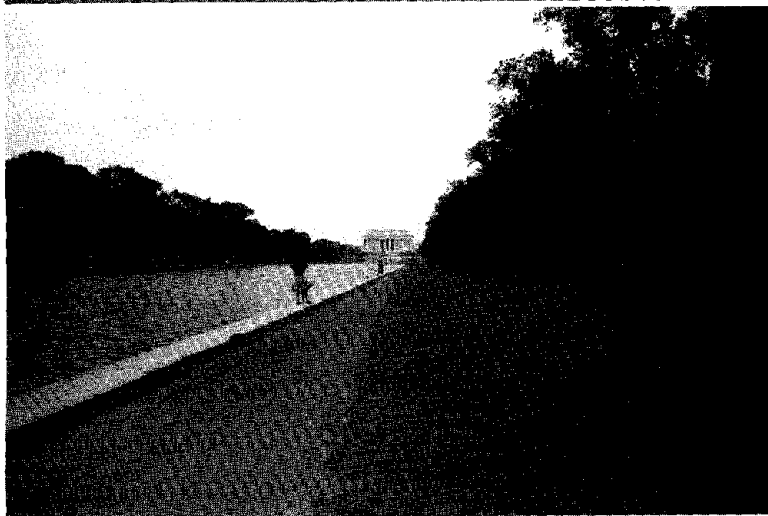
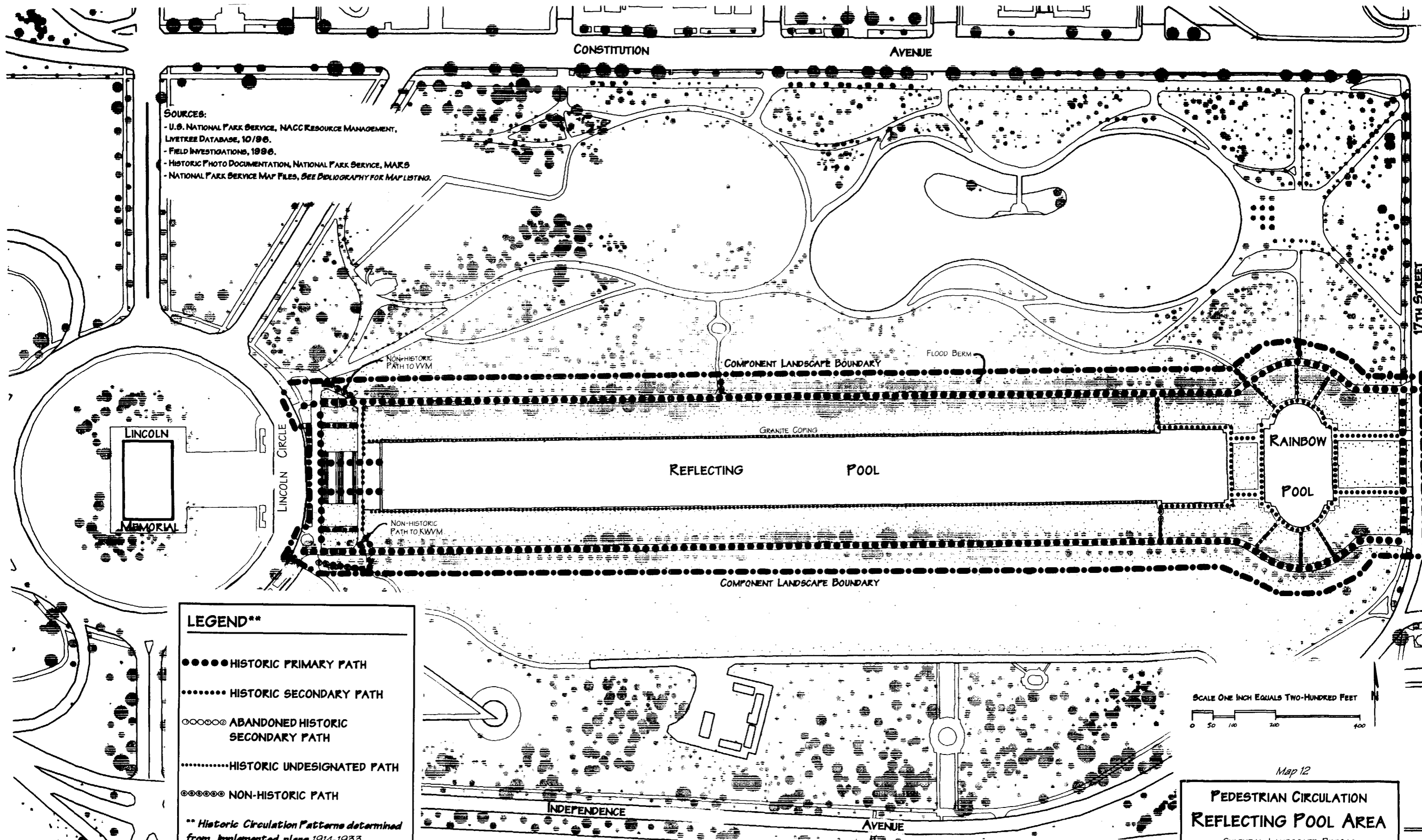


Figure 49 – Worn path adjacent to granite coping, June 1996. LINC 9-23.

respectively. When the temporaries were demolished in the 1964 and 1970, some of these pathways remained or were modified to meet the new circulation patterns for Constitution Gardens and the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. Another form of volunteer path has also developed in this area. Joggers and runners have worn dirt tracks on both sides of the paved walks. Joggers' paths have widened the pedestrian corridors along the Reflecting and Rainbow pools beyond the original design intent. Pedestrians have also created a worn path along the granite coping on the north and south sides of the pool. Near the Rainbow Pool, the initial layout of paths have been modified with the removal of one sidewalk. A portion of a paved walk located southwest of the plaza between the Reflecting and Rainbow Pools has been removed. Other additions to the circulation system responded to the need for an accessible route from Lincoln Circle down to the north and south Reflecting Pool walkways. Accessible ramps were installed on the north and south sides, outside of the concrete stairs leading down from the circular drive. See Map 12 *Reflecting Pool area - Pedestrian Circulation* for graphic representation of contributing and non-contributing features.

Contributing Features	Noncontributing Features
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Main paths that parallel the Reflecting Pool 2. Secondary paths to Rainbow Pool 3. Reflecting Pool steps from Lincoln Circle 4. Reflecting Pool granite coping 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Nonhistoric paths to Korean and Vietnam war memorials 2. Nonhistoric paths over flood berm 3. Worn paths along main paths that parallel the Reflecting Pool 4. Western Reflecting Pool plaza



SOURCES:
 - U.S. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, NACC RESOURCE MANAGEMENT, LIVE TREE DATABASE, 10/86.
 - FIELD INVESTIGATIONS, 1996.
 - HISTORIC PHOTO DOCUMENTATION, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, MARKS
 - NATIONAL PARK SERVICE MAP FILES, SEE BIBLIOGRAPHY FOR MAP LISTING.

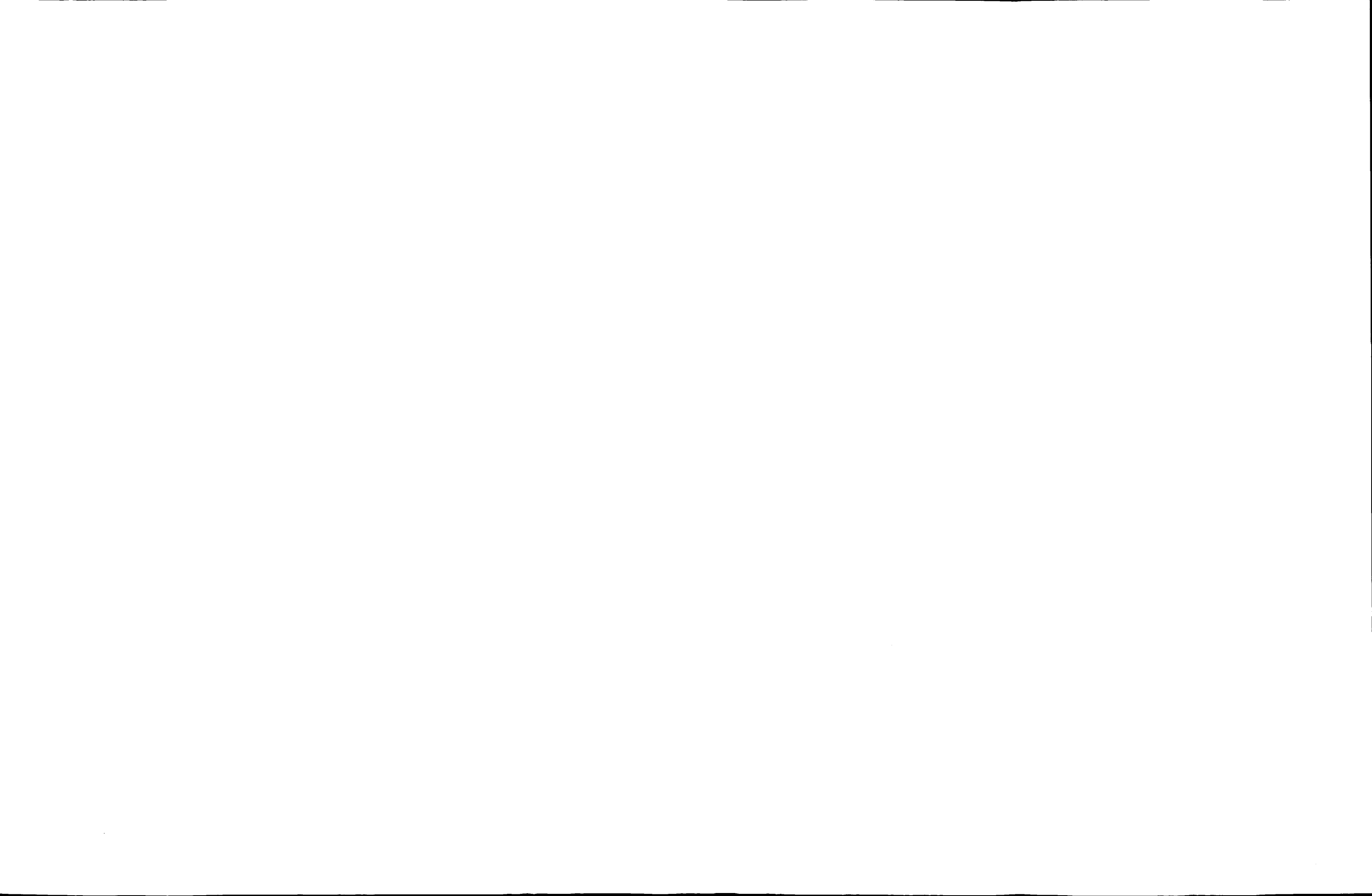
LEGEND**

- HISTORIC PRIMARY PATH
- HISTORIC SECONDARY PATH
- ABANDONED HISTORIC SECONDARY PATH
- · - · - HISTORIC UNDESIGNATED PATH
- NON-HISTORIC PATH

** Historic Circulation Patterns determined from implemented plans 1914-1933

SCALE ONE INCH EQUALS TWO HUNDRED FEET
 0 50 100 200 400

Map 12
PEDESTRIAN CIRCULATION
REFLECTING POOL AREA
 CULTURAL LANDSCAPE REPORT
 LINCOLN MEMORIAL GROUNDS
 PREPARED BY: M. JOSEPH DATE: OCTOBER 1996



Structures

For the purposes of this report, the Reflecting Pool, Rainbow Pool and stairs down to the pools, are all considered structural features.

The McMillan Commission's plans for the Reflecting Pool show a cruciform shape, with the cross arms of the pool outlined by double rows of deciduous trees. In addition, a larger, squared-off form was designed for both the eastern and the western end of the Reflecting Pool. During the planning phase, the cross arms were temporarily eliminated and only the "jog" at the east end was incorporated into the final drawings. Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr. had urged the Commission of Fine Arts to modify the older plan in favor of a less ornate and a more simplified basin. Furthermore, the presence of the Navy and Munitions buildings on the north side of the Reflecting Pool prohibited the implementation of the cruciform plan on this side. The outline of the smaller pool had a more ornate design that was defined by a rectangle with two half circles on the north and south ends. The forms of both the Reflecting and the Rainbow Pools have remained intact since their construction was completed in 1924. However, continuous improvements in the waterproofing, as well as regular cleaning and maintenance have been necessary over the years. The waterproofing material was first replaced in 1929. Since 1981 the park service has attempted to reduce levels of maintenance by using an ecological program to manage the pools.



Figure 50 – Rainbow Pool fountain display, April 20, 1934. Photo by Kelly. MRC 2-108.

Fountains were installed in the smaller pool, in 1924. An oval pattern of 124 nozzles sprayed approximately 25 feet in the air towards the middle of the pool creating a rainbow affect on sunny days. In addition to these jets, two other clusters of nine jets on the north and south side of the pool towered above forming a fountain 40 feet high. A year later, the Commission of Fine Arts inspected the fountain and indicated that the fountain's height and intensity of spray obscured the views to the Lincoln Memorial and Washington

Monument. A series of tests were conducted in 1934 to determine the most appropriate and effective display and to meet the CFA's requirements. In 1990 some of the nozzles were replaced with a straight head type. It is unknown if this has altered the jet display that was originally approved by the Commission of Fine Arts in the 1930s. Currently only the two clusters of jets on the north and south side of the pool are operating and the oval pattern on the outer edge of the pool is not used. Because of this the fountain no longer sprays at the height required to exhibit a rainbow effect but instead appears as a weak imitation of the past display.



Figure 51 – Rainbow Pool fountain as it appeared on November 11, 1996. LINC 11-10.

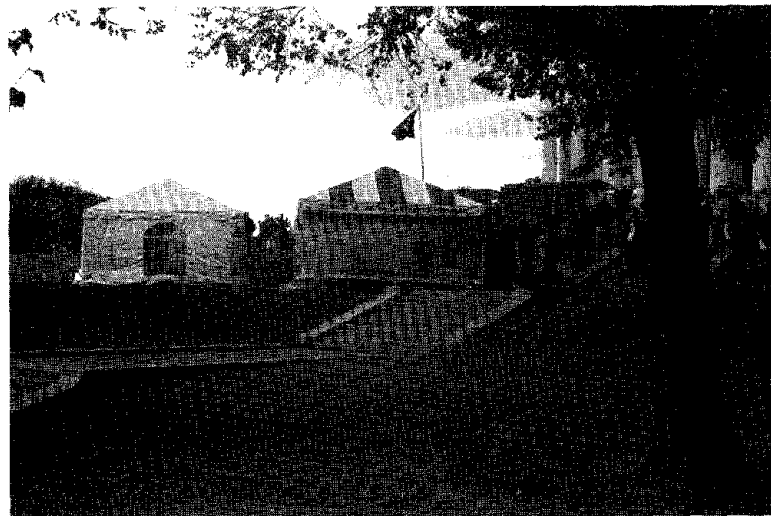


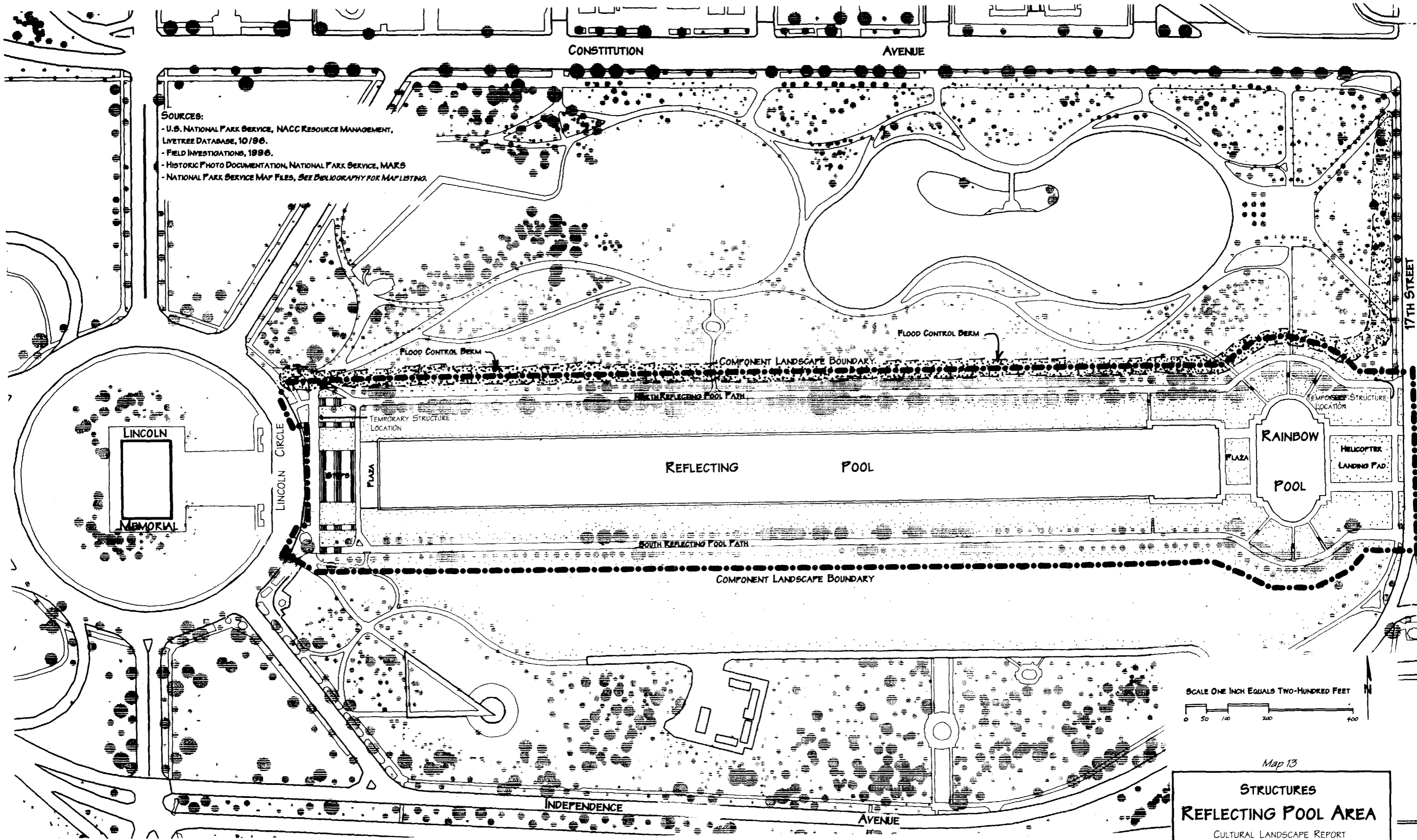
Figure 52 - Temporary structures on grassy terrace by Reflecting Pool steps, November 11, 1996. LINC 11-22.

the plaza at the top of the granite stairs. These are owned by vendors who have obtained a special use permit to sell t-shirts and other products under a First Amendment ruling. To reduce the impact on cultural and natural resources the NPS has tried to limit where the vendors operate. The unsightly tents obscure the view along east/west axis from the memorial, the approachway, and the Reflecting Pool. See Map 13 *Reflecting Pool area - Structures* for location of structural features.

Another structural feature is the Reflecting Pool stairs. These wide stairs of granite and cobblestone panels were completed in 1922 at the same time as the stepped approachway leading to the Lincoln Memorial. Although the circular roadway separates the two series of stairs, they are visually connected by their alignment on the east/west axis and by their comparable use of materials and design. The park service enlarged the plaza area at the base of the steps in 1970 by removing the flagstone walks, installed in 1924, and by installing new concrete walks and cobblestone panels with granite block edging that extended from the steps to the edge of the pool coping. This construction is the only substantial addition to the original structural fabric. Once the current rehabilitation of the approachway to the memorial building is completed, the concrete and cobblestone patterns at the Reflecting Pool steps will compare unfavorably in their present broken and patched condition.

In addition to the main structural features of the Reflecting Pool area, there are temporary structures located both north of the Rainbow Pool and in the northwest corner of

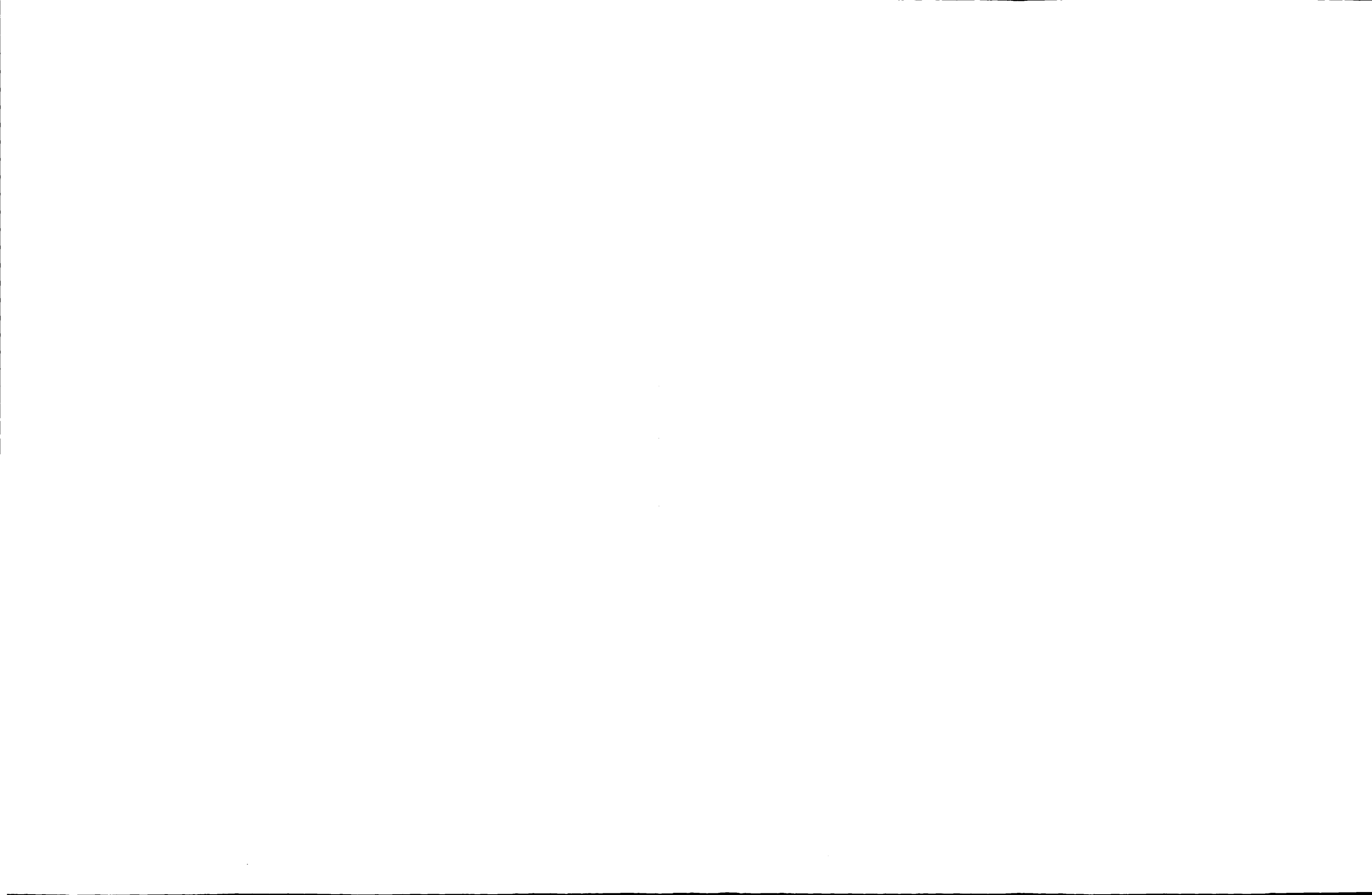
Contributing Features <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Reflecting Pool2. Rainbow Pool3. Reflecting Pool steps	Noncontributing Features <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Temporary structures for use by vendors
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SOURCES:
 - U.S. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, NACC RESOURCE MANAGEMENT, LIVETREE DATABASE, 10/86.
 - FIELD INVESTIGATIONS, 1996.
 - HISTORIC PHOTO DOCUMENTATION, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, MAR 6
 - NATIONAL PARK SERVICE MAP FILES, SEE BIBLIOGRAPHY FOR MAP LISTING.

SCALE ONE INCH EQUALS TWO-HUNDRED FEET
 0 50 100 200 400

Map 13
STRUCTURES
REFLECTING POOL AREA
 CULTURAL LANDSCAPE REPORT
 LINCOLN MEMORIAL GROUNDS
 PREPARED BY: M. JOSEPH DATE: OCTOBER 1996



Small-Scale Features

Benches. In the Reflecting Pool area, the earliest photographs show benches spaced evenly, approximately 50 feet apart, along the walkways and underneath the outer row of trees in the double rows of elms. A few benches were also placed under the inner rows of trees. All of the benches were situated facing the Reflecting Pool. Groups of benches were also placed around the Rainbow Pool for viewing the fountain in the summer months and for the use of ice skaters in the winter. The benches appear to have been moveable and not permanently mounted. The type of bench utilized during the 1920s and 1930s is similar to the present bench, a cast iron frame with a wooden slat seat and back. However, the smaller number of benches found along the walks today and their permanent, fixed positions reflect the change in contemporary uses. These changes include the removal of benches from around the Rainbow Pool and the reorientation of all seating underneath the inner rows of trees away from the Reflecting Pool, toward the walkways, facing the opposite benches under the outer rows of trees.



Figure 53 – Cast iron frame benches placed along elm walks, May 1929. MRC 2-48.



Figure 54 – Cast iron frame benches and tulip trash receptacles used today along elm walks, November 11, 1996. LINC 11-12.

Contributing Feature	Noncontributing Feature
1. Cast-iron frame wooden slat bench	1. Arrangement and overall number of benches

Trash Receptacles. A limited number of trash receptacles were originally placed around the Reflecting Pool area. Photo documentation shows that a wire mesh trash can, placed directly on the ground, may have been the first type used. By 1964, the Park had introduced the wood and steel “tulip” style trash can. Although the *Streetscape Manual* recommends that a tulip style trash can for general refuse and one for recyclables be placed on each side of every bench, this arrangement has not been followed. There is an inconsistency in the spacing, and number of trash receptacles per bench, and it appears to be haphazard placement. Even though there is not the recommended number of trash cans along the walks, there still are twice as many receptacles as benches lining the main walks along the Reflecting Pool.

<p>Contributing Feature</p>	<p>Noncontributing Features</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tulip style trash can 2. Tulip style recyclable can
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Lighting. Original plans did not designate lighting for the walkways and the Reflecting Pool. In 1935, temporary flood lights were set up at the eastern end and along the south side of the pool for night ice skating. “Twin-Twenty” lamps and posts, the double globe streetlight located along all major streets between the Capitol and the Potomac, were placed along the 17th Street corridor between Constitution Avenue and the Tidal Basin in the 1930s. The only lighting provided for the pool area is that coming from the “twin-twenty” globes on 17th Street and from lights adjacent to the study area.

Lack of direct lighting around the pools accentuates their reflective quality. Because of the subdued effect, the reflection of the Lincoln Memorial and the Washington Monument at night is both a breathtaking and memorable experience. Light emanating from the memorial, which was first lit from the inside in 1929, and from the grounds of the Washington Monument reinforce the structures as focal points and provide the soft light for the pools. The contrast in light also underscores the visual relationship between the memorial and the monument. Exterior lighting for the Washington Monument was installed by 1931, while exterior lighting at the Lincoln was developed in 1969.⁸⁶



Figure 55 - Reflecting Pool area devoid of lights. View from Washington Monument, April 1941. MRC 3-28.

<p>Contributing Features</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Twin-Twenty lamppost along 17th Street 	<p>Non-Contributing Features</p>
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Paving Materials. The walkways on the north and south sides of the pools were initially constructed of concrete. Photo documentation shows evidence of a square control joint pattern in the walks, which may have been planned to add design interest to the surface. Sometime in the

late 1960s the northern walk was repaved with bituminous asphalt instead of the concrete. To make the paving consistent, the southern walkway was also repaved in 1974 with asphalt. Pavement around the Rainbow Pool and on the walks leading to this area required repair at this time as well, but the concrete material paving was retained. The sidewalk along 17th Street, east of the Rainbow Pool, was changed early in 1991, when the National Park Service replaced the concrete walk and curb with an exposed aggregate concrete paving and granite curb as specified in the *Streetscape Manual*. At the west end of the Reflecting Pool, the 1971 paving had used the same construction techniques used for the cobblestone panels on the main approachway steps, but had substituted concrete for granite in the area around the panels. Square pattern control joints were also designed for the area between the pool and the base of the Reflecting Pool steps. Individual granite block pavers were added along the inner side of the concrete steps leading to the main walkways to control erosion from dirt trails worn along the sides.

<p>Contributing Features</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Concrete paving around Rainbow Pool 	<p>Noncontributing Features</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Asphalt paving for main allee path 2. Western Reflecting Pool plaza with cobblestone panels.
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Drinking Fountains. Original plans did not call for drinking fountains in this area, however, three accessible drinking fountains are near the Reflecting Pool. Two are along the northern walk north of the Rainbow Pool and one is southwest of the Reflecting Pool along the southern walk. Other fountains are nearby at the adjacent playing fields on the south and near the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and Korean War Veterans Memorial.

<p>Contributing Features</p>	<p>Noncontributing Features</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Haws drinking fountain
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Signs. In the Reflecting Pool area, the park has placed four large interpretive signs (two on each side) that describe the Reflecting Pool. The large metal signs (white lettering on brown background) block the view of the feature they are describing and are out of scale with the surrounding landscape. New interpretive signs are proposed for this area and will be a low-profile, tamper-resistant type, wayside.

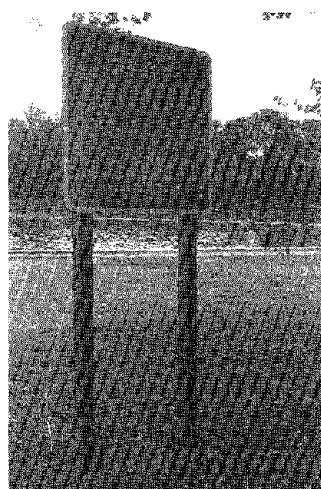
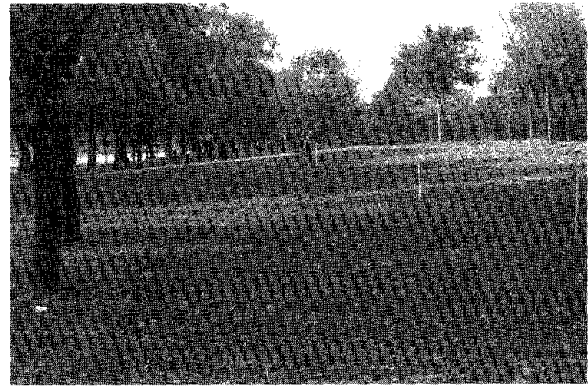
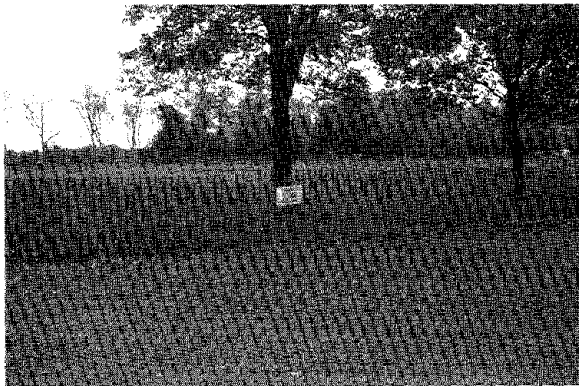


Figure 56 - Oversized interpretive signs by the Reflecting Pool, November 11, 1996. LINC 11-16.

<p>Contributing Features</p>	<p>Noncontributing Features 1. Reflecting Pool interpretive sign</p>
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Pedestrian Barriers. In pedestrian areas, three different types of barriers are used within the Reflecting Pool area: stake-and-rope; snow fence; and chain-link fence. Park maintenance has installed these fences for a variety of reasons but mostly for the control of visitor circulation. The stake and rope and/or snow fence provide temporary protection of newly seeded areas and control circulation during special events. Also the stake-and-rope appears to be a permanent feature around the Rainbow Pool, which marks a secure area around a helicopter landing pad on a grassy panel between 17th Street and the Rainbow Pool. Other temporary barriers are used seasonally, such as the chain-link fence, to prevent visitors from walking on newly seeded areas along the Reflecting Pool or to prevent visitors from entering the fireworks staging area in the Rainbow Pool area.



Figures 57 & 58 - Temporary snowfencing installed along pedestrian corridors to protect grass areas. Stake and rope installed on the flood berm to mark secure area for landing pad, November 11, 1996. LINC 11-11 & LINC 11-14.

<p>Contributing Features</p>	<p>Noncontributing Features 1. All types of traffic and pedestrian barriers</p>
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