

DISTRICT of COLUMBIA WAR MEMORIAL

Cultural Landscape Assessment and Treatment Recommendations

The Mall, Washington, DC
National Park Service

Project Data

Date: 2005-2006

Size: 5± acres

Context: The Mall, Washington, DC



View from across Independence Avenue



Open view along the north/south axis



NPS Mounted Police talking to a boy standing inside the memorial

Project Description:

The District of Columbia War Memorial was built in 1931 to honor the more than 26,000 residents of Washington, DC who served in World War I. The memorial stands in West Potomac Park in a grove of trees between the Reflecting Pool and Independence Avenue and between the Korean War Memorial and the WWI Memorial. The circular, open-air, Doric structure, was designed as a memorial and a bandstand, from which each concert would be a tribute to those who served in the war. This memorial is owned by the District of Columbia and maintained by The National Park Service.

We were hired as a sub-consultant to prepare an Assessment of this cultural landscape, Treatment Recommendations, and an Analysis of Integrity and Significance. Our work supports an overall assessment and potential restoration of both the memorial and its surrounding landscape. Historically, the intent was to maintain a tall stand of trees with high branches under which people sat on the lawn to listen to the concerts. Since its inception, deferred maintenance and the introduction of flowering trees and shrubs has changed the sense of place and restricted sight lines. Until recently, this forgotten landmark had been overshadowed by the monumental scale of the newer memorials located on the National Mall.



Introduced flowering trees and shrubs screen views to the memorial from the adjacent wooded areas