

**SOURCES:**

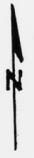
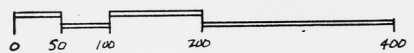
- U.S. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, NACC RESOURCE MANAGEMENT, LIVETREE DATABASE, 10/96.
- FIELD INVESTIGATIONS, 1996.
- HISTORIC PHOTO DOCUMENTATION, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, MARS
- NATIONAL PARK SERVICE MAP FILES, SEE BIOGEOGRAPHY FOR MAP LISTING

**LEGEND\*\***

- HISTORIC PRIMARY PATH
- ..... HISTORIC SECONDARY PATH
- HISTORIC SECONDARY PATH / NON-HISTORIC PRIMARY PATH
- ○ ○ ○ ○ ABANDONED HISTORIC PRIMARY PATH
- ◎ ◎ ◎ ◎ ◎ NON-HISTORIC PATH

*\*\* Historic Circulation Patterns determined from implemented plan 1914-1934*

SCALE ONE INCH EQUALS TWO-HUNDRED FEET



Map 24  
**PEDESTRIAN CIRCULATION  
 WATERGATE AREA**  
 CULTURAL LANDSCAPE REPORT  
 LINCOLN MEMORIAL GROUNDS  
 PREPARED BY: M. JOSEPH DATE: OCTOBER 1996 FEB. 1997

## Structures



*Figure 106 - Watergate concert barge located at the base of the Watergate steps, July 19, 1939. MRC 1-1.*

One of the most significant pieces of the McMillan Commission plan, the ceremonial Watergate, was realized with the completion of the Arlington Memorial Bridge in 1932. Although the implemented plan remained faithful to the concept, the reason for it and the changes made to the original design to accommodate

vehicular traffic around it, underscore the increasingly large effect automobiles had on the landscape design of West Potomac Park. For the purposes of this report, the Watergate structure includes the steps, the bridge abutment (Arlington Memorial Bridge) and parkway connections (Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway), the plaza walls and the wing walls. The steps, both the main and the lower leading to the river, and the walls are built of granite, as are the curbs edging the plaza sidewalk and lawn. The plaza sidewalk, however, is constructed of concrete, while the lower sidewalk facing Ohio Drive is of granite blocks. A second lower sidewalk at the river's edge, was originally constructed of granite blocks but was subsequently changed to concrete. Along the top of the wing and plaza walls, a balustrade of granite lines the perimeter of the plaza area. As mentioned previously two pairs of benches were set into the design of the balustrade on the north



*Figure 107 - Valor and Sacrifice statues flank entrance to Arlington Memorial Bridge, February 1997. LINC 18-5.*

and south wing walls. At the entry from the plaza to the bridge and to the parkway approach, two pairs of granite pedestals were incorporated into the structure. These were intended to be the bases for four monumental sculptures. The pedestals stood empty, the sculptures awaiting funding, until 1951, when the installation and dedication finally took place. The large figural works of art were allegorical representations of Valor, Sacrifice, Music and Harvest, and Aspiration and Literature.

Since the Watergate’s original purpose as a ceremonial entry to the nation's capital never developed, other uses were sought for the area. An open-air summer series of concerts were proposed for the steps. An orchestra shell was constructed on a barge, secured to pilings, at the water's edge in 1937 and again in 1938. A third orchestra shell was



constructed in 1947-48. Musical performances were held during the summer months until the 1970s, when traffic concerns and air traffic noise from National Airport became detrimental to the public's enjoyment of the events. Since this time the Watergate steps have been used very little, mostly standing as an architectural remnant from the McMillan plan.

**Figure 108 - Ceremonial Watergate steps and Arlington Memorial Bridge, January 3, 1997. LINC 16-36.**

Other structural uses were sought from the Watergate area. The Parkway Drive abutment served as a storage area and as the location for a public rest room.

Limited access to the storage area was provided in the 1930s for the park and is still used presently. The doorways to the restrooms were under the north side of the parkway approach abutment. They opened onto Ohio Drive. These rest rooms were only open during performances and since the concerts ended, they are no longer in service.

Both historic design intent and original structural integrity remain in the Watergate area. The only significant changes have been the elimination of the plaza access road, near the top of the main steps and the use of a different, non-historic color and texture on the concrete surface of the bridge sidewalks and the plaza sidewalks. See *Map 25 Watergate area - Structures* for location of structural features.

<b>Contributing Features</b>	<b>Noncontributing Features</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Arlington Memorial Bridge abutment</li> <li>2. Watergate steps</li> <li>3. Parkway Drive abutment</li> <li>4. Statuary on approachway pedestals (Valor, Sacrifice, Music and Harvest, and Aspiration and Literature)</li> <li>5. Watergate plaza wing walls</li> </ol>	