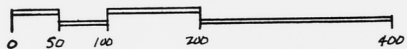


**SOURCES:**

- 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 BIBLIOGRAPHY FOR MAP LISTING

SCALE ONE INCH EQUALS TWO-HUNDRED FEET



Map 25  
**STRUCTURES**  
**WATERGATE AREA**  
 CULTURAL LANDSCAPE REPORT  
 LINCOLN MEMORIAL GROUNDS  
 PREPARED BY: M. JOSEPH DATE: OCTOBER 1996 FEB. 1997

**Small-Scale Features**

**Benches.** Historically no provisions were made for free-standing park benches in the Watergate area. Even today, there are no free-standing benches provided for visitors, instead visitors can sit on the Watergate steps or use a more permanent seats where granite benches were built into the plaza wing walls and along the bridge approach walls for Parkway Drive and Arlington Memorial Bridge. Because the location of the granite benches along busy roads is unappealing to visitors, the benches are rarely used.



*Figure 109 - Granite bench built into river wall along Parkway Drive, January 3, 1997. LINC 16-3.*



*Figure 110 - Granite benches built into Watergate plaza wing walls, April 1996. LINC 6-8.*

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| <p><b>Contributing Features</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Watergate granite benches, plaza wing walls and bridge approaches</li> <li>2. Watergate steps</li> </ol> | <p><b>Noncontributing Features</b></p> |
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**Trash Receptacles.** There are only a few trash receptacles placed throughout the Watergate area. The majority are located near the volleyball courts, where a high degree of recreational activity occurs during the summer months. Consistent with *Streetscape Manual* recommendations, the standard “tulip” receptacles are used in this area. In years past, numbers of receptacles were placed around the Watergate steps during the concert season and for special events.

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| <p><b>Contributing Features</b></p> | <p><b>Noncontributing Features</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. “Tulip” style trash receptacle</li> </ol> |
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*Figure 111 - Twin-twenty lamppost at old terminus for Constitution Avenue, March 1996. LINC 6-20.*

**Lighting.** As with the Lincoln Circle and the radial roads, streetlights were limited to specific locations along routes for vehicles. Designs for Arlington Memorial Bridge and Parkway Drive incorporated the “Washington Globe” lamp and 18-foot post. On the bridge the lights were spaced evenly in opposite positions, while in all other locations they were set in an alternate arrangement. Along Parkway Drive the lampposts were originally planned to be on granite bases. Later the bases were removed and the posts were set on grade according to the established pattern of installation elsewhere in the Lincoln Memorial area. The “Washington Globe” lamp and post also illuminated the Watergate plaza area, at the top of the steps. Along Constitution Avenue at the northern boundary of the park, “Twin-twenty” lamps and posts were installed.

This type of streetlight had been designated for all major city streets and avenues along the Mall and around the memorials. At the time of Constitution Avenue’s realignment for the freeway and bridge in the 1960s, highway planners retained only five “twin-twenties” near the western terminus point. “Cobra-style” highway lights, a standard light used for major roadway development at the time, were installed along the ramps and access roads associated with the design of the Theodore Roosevelt Bridge and the inner loop freeway.

The majority of the street lights installed in the 1930s and 1940s have remained in their original positions. A few lights were relocated within the Watergate plaza area, when it was reconfigured to accommodate the access ramps from Ohio Drive added during the construction of Independence Avenue in the 1940s. At



*Figure 112 - Washington Globe lamppost at the Watergate plaza, March 1996. LINC 6-14.*

this time triangular traffic islands were enlarged, the large grassy island in the center of the plaza was reduced, and the radius of the curbs along the plaza was altered to improve the flow of automobile traffic entering and exiting Lincoln Circle from the bridge and the parkway approaches. Other revisions occurred in the 1970s when two “Washington Globe” lights were added at the top of the Watergate steps and two more were installed around the grassy island.



*Figure 113 - Cobra style lamppost along Ohio Drive, January 3, 1997. LINC 16-7.*

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| <p><b>Contributing Features</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 18-foot Washington Globe lamppost, Arlington Memorial Bridge, Parkway Drive, Ohio Drive</li> <li>2. Twin-twenty lamppost, Constitution Avenue</li> </ol> | <p><b>Noncontributing Features</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Cobra lamppost, Theodore Roosevelt Bridge on/off ramps</li> <li>2. Nonhistoric location of 18-foot Washington Globe lamppost, Watergate plaza</li> </ol> |
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**Paving Materials.** Originally, all the sidewalks were concrete and the bridle paths were soil base, with exception of the granite block pavers at the base of the Watergate steps. After 1950 when horse riding was deemed too dangerous in West Potomac Park, some of the bridle paths were paved with asphalt to create a stable base for pedestrian and bicycle traffic. No original concrete sidewalks remain in the area. Recommendations for



*Figure 114 - Granite Watergate steps, June 1996. LINC 9-12.*



*Figure 115 - Granite block pavers at base of Watergate steps, c. 1939. MRC 1-5.*

sidewalks in the *Streetscape Manual* specify a granite curb and exposed aggregate concrete as the preferred material for all sidewalks within the Watergate area. These recommendations have been carried out. The color and texture of the new paving contrasts unfavorably with the granite material used for the wing walls, steps and bridge abutments. Only a few historic paving surfaces remain in use in the Watergate area, these include the granite block pavers at the base of the steps, as well as the granite steps themselves.

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| <p><b>Contributing Features</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Granite block pavers, base of steps</li> <li>2. Granite Watergate steps</li> </ol> | <p><b>Noncontributing Features</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Exposed aggregate concrete sidewalks</li> <li>2. Informal asphalt paths</li> </ol> |
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**Drinking Fountains.** During the development of the Watergate area in the 1930s, the installation of fountains was not included in the landscape proposal. Today, only one

drinking fountain, a Haws accessible style, is located within the Watergate area. The fountain is adjacent to the volleyball courts and the paved trail that bisects the grassy area surrounding the courts.

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| <p><b>Contributing Features</b></p> | <p><b>Noncontributing Features</b><br/>1. Haws Drinking Fountain</p> |
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**Signs.** There are a limited number of signs within the Watergate area. Today, and as the case historically, the majority of the signs are directed toward vehicular usage (regulatory signs). The remaining signs direct pedestrians and bicyclist to adjacent sites within West Potomac Park. A few pedestrian/bicyclist oriented signs advise visitors against crossing Lincoln Circle at dangerous points. The park service has also installed a small bulletin board next the volleyball courts to post information, rules and regulations.

Some of the memorial trees east of the Parkway Drive were tagged with memorial tree markers. Based on the 1996 field investigation, none of these markers were extant. For further information regarding the memorial tree markers, see *Lincoln Memorial circle and radial roads - Small-Scale Features – Signs* section.

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| <p><b>Contributing Features</b></p> | <p><b>Noncontributing Features</b><br/>1. Regulatory signs<br/>2. Bulletin board</p> |
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**Traffic and Pedestrian Barriers.** The park installed a post and chain barrier along the outer curb of the west side of Lincoln Circle to deter pedestrians and bicyclist from crossing the road at unsafe points from the bridge plaza area. Historically, there were painted crosswalks on both sides of the Watergate plaza for pedestrians to cross this section of the circular road, but because of the increase speed and volume of vehicles, pedestrians are now directed along the outer circle sidewalk.

Barriers are utilized on some of the vehicular routes as well. Wooden traffic barriers and cones are used during rush hour to control one-way traffic on Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway. This practice has been in effect since 1937. In addition to the daily “temporary” barriers, there were rustic guardrails placed along Ohio Drive after its completion in 1933.



*Figure 116 - Rustic timber guardrail along Ohio Drive, c. 1935. MRC 1-70.*

The only other barrier used in the Watergate area is near the volleyball courts. A low chain-link fence placed next to a yew hedge stops errant balls from rolling into the road from the adjacent volleyball courts.

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| <b>Contributing Features</b> | <b>Noncontributing Features</b><br>1. All traffic and pedestrian barriers |
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**Recreational Equipment.** The National Park Service has installed equipment required for baseball (or softball) games and volleyball matches in the areas designated for recreational use. Backstops and the posts for volleyball nets are the most prominent landscape features in these areas. Organized leagues mostly use these playing fields.

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| <b>Contributing Features</b> | <b>Noncontributing Features</b><br>1. Baseball backstops<br>2. Volleyball nets |
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