

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

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



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,



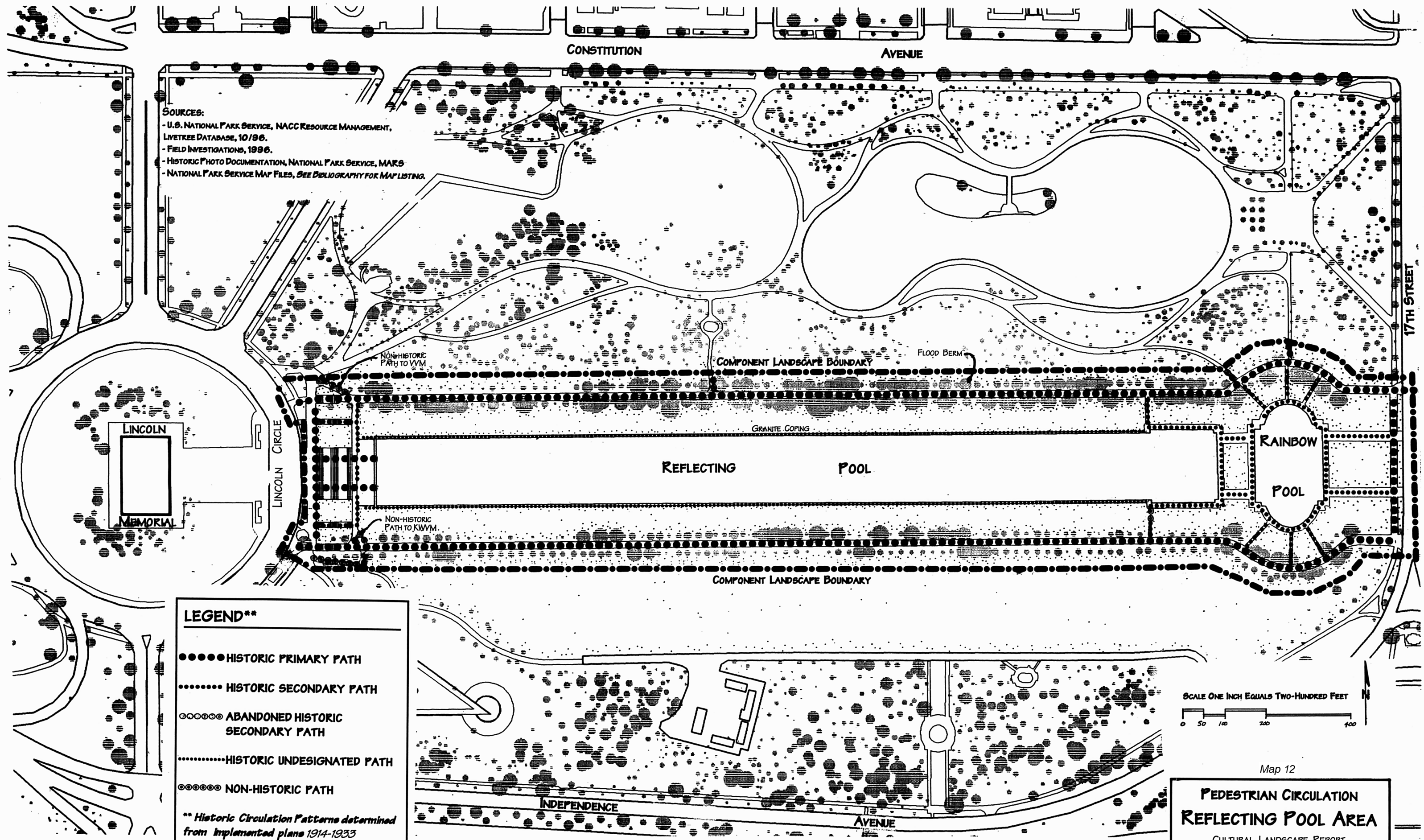
Figure 48 – Reflecting Pool steps and plaza on west end of pool, November 11, 1996. LINC 11-13.



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

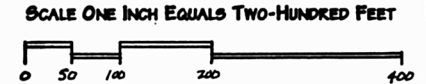


SOURCES:
 - U.S. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, NACC RESOURCE MANAGEMENT, LIVETREE DATABASE, 10/1986.
 - FIELD INVESTIGATIONS, 1986.
 - HISTORIC PHOTO DOCUMENTATION, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, MARKS
 - NATIONAL PARK SERVICE MAP FILES, SEE BIBLIOGRAPHY FOR MAP LISTING.

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



Map 12

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

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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.



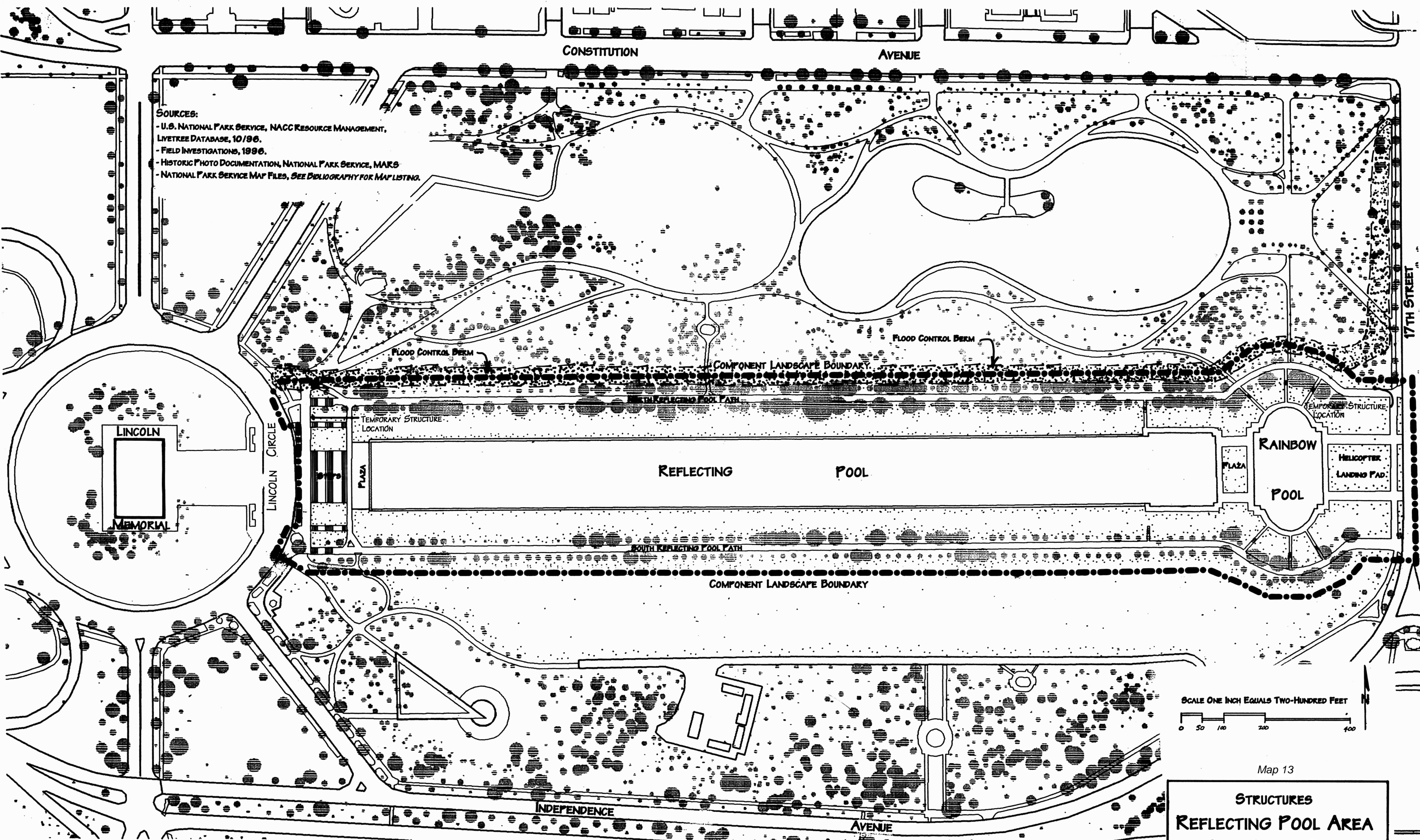
Figure 52 - Temporary structures on grassy terrace by Reflecting Pool steps, November 11, 1996. LINC 11-22.

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, 1986.
 - HISTORIC PHOTO DOCUMENTATION, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, MAPS
 - NATIONAL PARK SERVICE MAP FILES, SEE BIBLIOGRAPHY FOR MAP LISTING.

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

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STRUCTURES
REFLECTING POOL AREA
 CULTURAL LANDSCAPE REPORT
 LINCOLN MEMORIAL GROUNDS
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