

**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.*

<p><b>Contributing Feature</b></p> <p>1. Cast-iron frame wooden slat bench</p>	<p><b>Noncontributing Feature</b></p> <p>1. Arrangement and overall number of benches</p>
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**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><b>Contributing Feature</b></p>	<p><b>Noncontributing Features</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Tulip style trash can</li> <li>2. Tulip style recyclable can</li> </ol>
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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 17<sup>th</sup> 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 17<sup>th</sup> 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.<sup>86</sup>



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

<p><b>Contributing Features</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Twin-Twenty lamppost along 17<sup>th</sup> Street</li> </ol>	<p><b>Noncontributing Features</b></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 17<sup>th</sup> 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><b>Contributing Features</b></p> <p>1. Concrete paving around Rainbow Pool</p>	<p><b>Noncontributing Features</b></p> <p>1. Asphalt paving for main allee path 2. Western Reflecting Pool plaza with cobblestone panels.</p>
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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><b>Contributing Features</b></p>	<p><b>Noncontributing Features</b></p> <p>1. Haws drinking fountain</p>
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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><b>Contributing Features</b></p>	<p><b>Noncontributing Features</b> 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 17<sup>th</sup> 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><b>Contributing Features</b></p>	<p><b>Noncontributing Features</b> 1. All types of traffic and pedestrian barriers</p>
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## Lincoln Memorial circle and radial roads

### Vegetation

**Radial roads and outer circle.** In consultation with the Commission of Fine Arts and Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr (who was then serving on the Commission of Fine Arts) C.E. Howard, the landscape architect working for the Office of Public Building and Grounds, developed a tree planting plan for the area around the outside of the memorial circle and for the radial roads. The radial roads were eventually named 23<sup>rd</sup> Street NW, 23<sup>rd</sup> Street SW, Bacon Drive, and French Drive, with the two drives commemorating both the memorial's architect and the sculptor of the Lincoln statue. The 1916 plan featured a double row of trees, planted in opposite positions, on both sides of the radial roads. For the outer circle, the plan showed a single circular band of trees next to the circle in the grassy strip between the roadway and the sidewalk. Outside the sidewalk, four bands of trees were to be planted as though in concentric circles. However, in the second circular band, an incomplete curve of trees was indicated, which left a gap between the first and third band of trees.



*Figure 59 - Aerial view of first phase of planting American elms along the radial and eastern side of Lincoln Circle, 1927. MRC 1-54.*

When the first phase of the plan was implemented in the 1920s in the area east of 23<sup>rd</sup> Street, American elms (*Ulmus americana*) had been selected for the planting. Many trees were planted as “memorial trees” dedicated to outstanding individuals or groups as a living memorial. At that time, the proposed double row of oppositely planted trees on the radial roads was scaled back to planting in alternate positions, which reduced the number of trees and the density of the vegetation. The circular band of trees was followed

for the eastern half of the circle. During the second phase in the 1930s, designers made minor changes to the 1916 scheme for the western portion of the outer circle. A single circular band edged the curb, but instead of a quadruple band of elms, they called for a less dramatic double band to complete the circular design.



One other area beyond the memorial circle, the Ericsson Memorial site, received its own landscape treatment. When the Ericsson site was completed at the terminus of 23<sup>rd</sup> Street SW in 1932, the granite platform for the statue and the four sets of steps radiating out from the base, were enhanced with conifers. Three types of junipers (*Juniperus horizontalis*, *Juniperus sabina* var. *tamariscifolia*, *Juniperus squamata* 'Meyeri'), each displaying different growth habits, were planted.



**Figure 60 - Ericsson Memorial and newly planted junipers around base, c. 1932. MRC 1-136.**



**Figure 61 - Remnant concentric row of elms around Lincoln Circle, between 23rd Street NW and Bacon Drive, March 1996. LINC 6-27.**

Since the National Park Service's stewardship began in 1933, it has attempted to maintain the original planting plan for the radial roads. Because Dutch elm disease (DED) has killed many American elms around the Lincoln Memorial, disease-resistant varieties have been planted to replace quite a few original trees. Although the number of mature trees growing along the radial roads varies, the spreading canopy of these trees remains an effective design element in the landscape.

Unlike the radial roads, the original planting pattern around the outer circle is almost entirely lost. Only a few remnant elms remain to suggest the old design. While the quadruple band on the eastern part of the circle is evident between 23<sup>rd</sup> Street NW and Bacon Drive and 23<sup>rd</sup> Street SW and French Drive, the areas between the two drives and the Reflecting Pool no longer show any evidence of the old tree pattern. In these two areas, the distinctive landscape plans for Constitution Gardens and Korean War Veterans Memorial have encroached upon the old concentric design for the elms. Here newer plantings of native understory trees are clustered beneath a mixed

canopy of oaks, zelkovas, and maples (*Quercus* sp., *Zelkova serrata*, *Acer* sp.). The development of these other sites with such different plant selections has significantly altered the character of the overall design for the Lincoln Memorial grounds and has compromised the integrity of the original plan. West of 23<sup>rd</sup> Street, only a remnant of the old double band of elms is in place. The single circular band of elms between the 23<sup>rd</sup> Street NW west to the Watergate area is entirely lost because of the realignment of the outer circle curb for the 1940s on-ramp road. However, the single circular band of trees between the roadway and the sidewalk is mostly intact for the southwestern portion of the outer circle.

The only significant alteration to the original landscape plan occurred in 1953 when the outer edge of the circular roadway near the sidewalk above the Reflecting Pool was changed. Here a rectangular curb cut was eliminated, the circle was made continuous, and a pair of planting beds were installed on the north and south side of the sidewalk in the areas formerly shaped by the old squared-off curb. The park appears to have planted dwarf boxwood in the beds, which were replaced in 1977 with a little leaf holly, also known as inkberry (*Ilex glabra*.) At subsequent intervals, the park replaced the inkberry with Japanese hollies (*Ilex crenata*.) which occupy the planting bed today.

Around the Ericsson Memorial, the planting plan was changed substantially. Japanese holly replaced the original junipers, which once encircled the granite platform. Four walks, which radiated from the granite platform, also were lined with junipers, but these shrubs were also removed and now the walks are surrounded by grass. These changes have further downplayed the connection of the Ericsson Memorial to the Lincoln Memorial landscape.



**Figure 62 - Inappropriate trees and shrubs, planted under canopy of American elms, November 11, 1996. LINC 11-27.**



**Figure 63 - Shrub planting at top of Reflecting Pool steps, December 1996. LINC 17-35.**









**Figure 64 – Replacement shrubs around Ericsson Memorial changes the character of the original planting, February 1997. LINC 18-8.**

The radial roads and outer circle vegetation is segmented into zones which define the spatial composition of the tree canopy and location of the open grassy areas. By breaking the landscape features into smaller units, there is a better sense of the integrity from the original plan. See Map 14 *Radial Roads - Vegetation* for graphic representation.

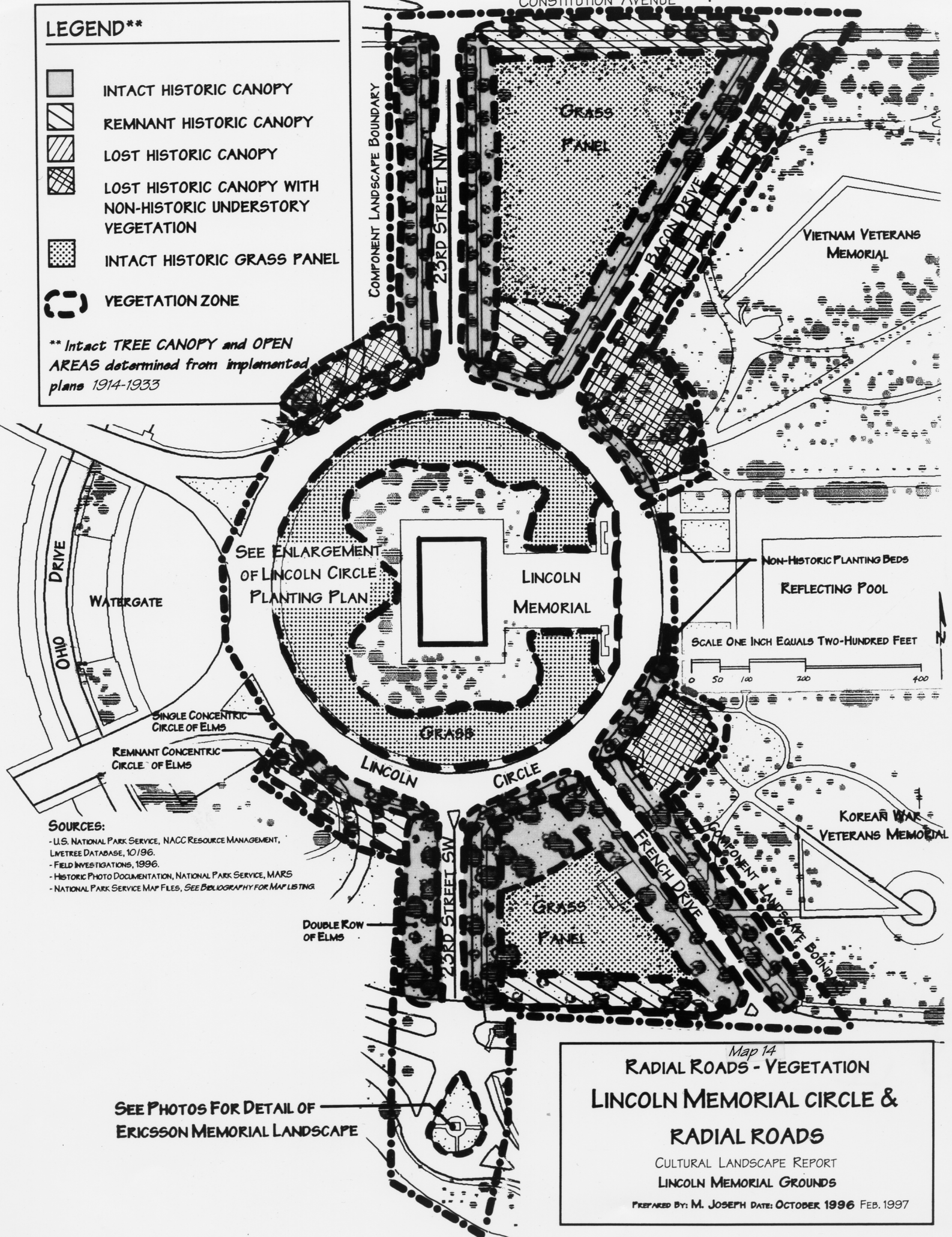
<p><b>Contributing Features</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Rows of American elms along radial roads</li> <li>2. Remnant circular band of American elms around Lincoln Circle</li> <li>3. Grass panels surrounded by rows of elms</li> <li>4. Grass island surrounding Ericsson Memorial</li> </ol>	<p><b>Noncontributing Features</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Shrub planting bed at top of Reflecting Pool steps</li> <li>2. Understory vegetation between Bacon Drive and the Reflecting Pool and French Drive and the Reflecting Pool</li> <li>3. Japanese holly (<i>Ilex crenata</i>) planted around Ericsson Memorial</li> </ol>
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**LEGEND\*\***

-  INTACT HISTORIC CANOPY
-  REMNANT HISTORIC CANOPY
-  LOST HISTORIC CANOPY
-  LOST HISTORIC CANOPY WITH NON-HISTORIC UNDERSTORY VEGETATION
-  INTACT HISTORIC GRASS PANEL
-  VEGETATION ZONE

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



- SOURCES:**
- U.S. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, NACC RESOURCE MANAGEMENT, LVTREE DATABASE, 10/196.
  - FIELD INVESTIGATIONS, 1996.
  - HISTORIC PHOTO DOCUMENTATION, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, MARS
  - NATIONAL PARK SERVICE MAP FILES, SEE BIBLIOGRAPHY FOR MAP LISTING

SEE PHOTOS FOR DETAIL OF ERICSSON MEMORIAL LANDSCAPE

Map 14  
**RADIAL ROADS - VEGETATION**  
**LINCOLN MEMORIAL CIRCLE &**  
**RADIAL ROADS**  
 CULTURAL LANDSCAPE REPORT  
 LINCOLN MEMORIAL GROUNDS  
 PREPARED BY: M. JOSEPH DATE: OCTOBER 1996 FEB. 1997

**Inner Circle.** In contrast to the radial roads, plans developed for the area immediately inside the circle used a variety of broadleaf evergreen shrubs and trees as foundation plantings for the memorial building. Since the structure had been constructed on a raised terrace and elevated some 14 feet above grade, vegetation was needed to both soften the edge of the granite walls of the raised terrace and to provide large masses of green at the base of the wall. These schemes were developed to bring the building more in scale with its surrounding landscape.



**Figure 65 - East side of Lincoln Memorial showing mature boxwood and yew shrubs, 1935, by Orren R. Loudon. Used by permission from the National Geographic Society.**

The first approved plan from 1920 showed plantings for the inner circle concentrated on the front, or east, side of the building, with a few shrubs along the north, south, and west sides. On the east side of the inner circle, two rectangular planting beds, each containing a granite bench and surrounded on three sides by walls of granite block, framed the entry to the memorial approachway. Two mature dwarf boxwood (*Buxus sempervirens* 'Suffruticosa') shrubs were planted within each of the walled beds beside the benches. Behind the benches a short dwarf box hedge served as a backdrop. An additional mature dwarf boxwood was placed adjacent to the far, outside wall of each planting bed. Behind the entry planting beds, hedges of dwarf boxwood lined the outer edges of the pavement along the entire length of the approachway. To accentuate the grade changes that occurred in the approachway, the design called for a larger dwarf boxwood to be placed adjacent to the successive sets of steps that marked each change in level. At the base of the raised terrace wall, groups of common boxwood (*Buxus sempervirens*) and English, Canadian, and Japanese yew (*Taxus* sp.) were planted. In addition to these massings, dwarf boxwood were planted in front of some the groups. The corners of the raised terrace wall were emphasized on the northeast and southeast with plantings extending out from the wall into

the grass lawn of the circular terrace. On the north and south sides, more openly planted specimens of American holly (*Ilex opaca*), common boxwood and English yew, were added to provide some greenery until a second planting phase could be completed. A mass planting of mugo pine (*Pinus mugo*) were added at the midpoints along the north and south sides where the transition between the first and second phase plantings would eventually occur. Another temporary measure included planting vines at the base and at the top of the raised terrace wall to quickly “green-up” a background for the less densely planted areas around the structure, especially on the west side.



**Figure 66 - West side or rear of Lincoln Memorial showing newly planted foundation plantings, c. 1932. MRC 2-20.**

The design in the second approved plan from 1931 was primarily for the rear of the memorial. Several broadleaf evergreen trees were selected for this side to supplement the overall planting and to create a different effect than that on the front. In addition to common box and dwarf box, American holly, and southern magnolia (*Magnolia grandiflora*) were used to complete the palette. To anchor the rear, magnolias were strategically sited, American hollies were intermixed near the magnolias and common and

dwarf boxwood were massed in front of them. This arrangement also projected into the rear lawn area, at the corners of the raised terrace wall, as it did in the front. According to the plan, an area located at the mid-point along the rear side of the raised terrace wall was to be free of planting, leaving an opening in the vegetation and an unobstructed view from the top of the raised terrace out to the river and toward the Virginia shoreline.

Replanting around the memorial occurred in 1936 to replace failing shrubs, mostly boxwood, and to add additional dwarf boxwood groupings on the front. At this time the south side of the approachway was replanted with a new dwarf boxwood hedge, while on the north selected dwarf box replacements were made. A second effort to replace diseased and dead plants occurred in 1944. This plan proposed the removal of the boxwood hedge on both sides of the approachway. A combination of a low yew hedge and eight larger yews to accent, like the boxwood before, the grade changes at the different sets of steps were to be planted instead. Based on photo documentation, the eight larger yews were never planted, and only the low yew hedge was planted to replace the previous boxwood hedge. Another significant change was the removal of the mugo pines, which had been growing on the north and south sides of the raised terrace wall. The pines were replaced by *Taxus cuspidata* 'Nana,' a more horizontal growing yew species.

In 1976, the existing yew hedge was removed and replanted once again with a more compact variety, *Taxus x media* 'Densiformis.' In addition to this replanting, several dwarf boxwood were removed from the front and transplanted to other undocumented locations around the building. Twelve yews were added to screen ground-level floodlights, located on either side of the approachway. During the late 1970s, 35 additional dwarf boxwoods, seven American hollies, and 22 yews were planted in unspecified areas around the building as replacements or filler plantings.

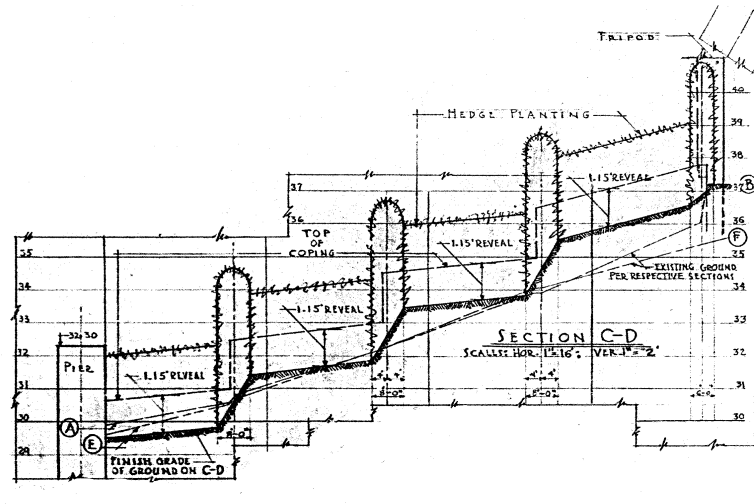


Figure 67 - Section showing desired character of replacement hedge along approachway, 1944. NPS Map 801/80347.

From the early 1930s to the 1980s, the front planting beds have been replanted several times. In the early years the dwarf boxwoods were replaced in-kind when they died. Sometime in the 1960s the low boxwood hedge was removed and replaced with a Japanese holly hedge. In 1976 the low holly hedge was replaced with original species, the dwarf boxwood. In a subsequent plan from 1977, the boxwood were proposed to be removed from the front planters and replaced with inkberry (*Ilex glabra*). It is not known if this change ever occurred. By 1994 the entire bed consisted of Japanese holly (*Ilex crenata*) edged with lilyturf (*Liriope spicata*). All the shrubs were removed during the 1995-1996 rehabilitation of the approachway and replaced in-kind in 1996.

The trees and shrubs surrounding the memorial currently exhibit different degrees of health and reflect a range of growing conditions. Along the front or east side, the plantings have suffered greatly from the effects of repeated construction activity and preparation for large-scale public events that have occurred in this area over time. The 1995-96 construction on the approachway has caused further damage to the foundation plantings. The lack of routine maintenance and regular pruning has also caused some of the plantings to appear ragged or



Figure 68- Existing west side foundation plantings, July 23, 1996. LINC 10-17.



overgrown. When the park revised the original plans by replacing the boxwood hedges with yews in 1945, they altered the character of the entry planting, yet retained some of the historic integrity by keeping a band of green hedge growing on both sides of the approachway. However, the addition of an American holly and the Japanese hollies to the front side and massings of yews to screen floodlights have further compromised the character of the planting design. Because replacement plantings have deviated from the original design, the landscape on the front side retains a lower degree of integrity. On the sides and rear of the memorial, the integrity of the plantings is mostly intact, although some boxwood planted near the magnolias and close to the raised terrace have been shaded out and are unhealthy, or have died. At the midpoint of the north and south sides, two thick masses of *Taxus cuspidata* ‘Nana’ provide the horticultural transition between the character of the two different planting areas. Even though these yews were planted to replace the original mugo pines, the design intent of keeping a lower growing conifer mass in this area is still evident. In other areas overgrown plant material, like some American hollies that were planted on either side of the horizontal-growing yew mass on the north face of the memorial, are encroaching upon the designed opening above the raised terrace. See Map 15 and Map 16 *Lincoln Circle - Vegetation* for the graphic representation of the front and back plantings.



*Figure 69 - Existing yew hedge along approachway and accessible ramp, January 3, 1997. LINC 16-21.*

<b>Contributing Features</b>	<b>Non-Contributing Features</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Intact historic planting around Lincoln Memorial</li> <li>2. Grass on raised terrace</li> <li>3. Grass on inner circle</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Nonhistoric form and genus of planting around Lincoln Memorial</li> <li>2. Nonhistoric location of planting around Lincoln Memorial</li> </ol>



